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SUBJECT: Early Report 9/14: CLINTON'S PRESIDENCY AND GLOBAL ECONOMY

TO: Doris O. Matsui (Doris O. Matsui@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
Coverage of the fallout from the release of the Starr report continued apace in the world press this morning. Once again, discussion centered on a number of themes, ranging from U.S. society and its attitudes toward moral/ethical issues, the current state of U.S. democracy and institutions, to the future legacy of President Clinton and the effect of the president's domestic travails on the U.S. superpower's credibility and ability to carry out its international responsibilities. Assessments of the president and his behavior continued to be mixed. While no analyst defended the president's admitted improper relationship with Monica Lewinsky, many commentators expressed sympathy for Mr. Clinton, contending that the charges against the president are not the stuff of impeachment. Others demurred, arguing that the president's actions warrant serious action by Congress. There was, however, consensus on both sides of the opinion spectrum that the president has been "damaged" by the Starr report revelations. Many editorialists believed that because of this, Mr. Clinton
will not be able to lead effectively, and should voluntarily resign. Editorialists repeated concerns that the "only superpower is...adrift and its leader distracted from world events." They expressed hope that Washington would return to "normal" soon so that it can concentrate on pressing international matters.

CLINTON ON GLOBAL ECONOMY: 'AMERICA RESUMED LEADERSHIP'

President Clinton's speech on the international economy at the New York Council on Foreign Relations yesterday garnered praise from media commentators, who nonetheless remained worried about further financial turmoil. Pundits in Britain, Italy, Spain and Israel said that the president had lit the "global economic leadership beacon" in his "milestone" speech and noted he appeared "lucid, combative and determined." Rome's leading business Il Sole-24 Ore headlined: "America Resumed Leadership Yesterday." Some analysts continued to worry, however, about the effect of the Lewinsky scandal on the President's capacity to lead. Observers in Britain, Italy and Spain argued that the U.S. and Europe have decided that the "pessimism which has prevailed in stock markets is exaggerated" and that the "recovery of confidence" is an essential element to global economy health. Pundits in France and Spain mentioned the need for reductions in interest rates, both among developed countries and in the U.S. A Hong Kong paper urged the G-7 meeting now being held in London to examine the role of international currency speculators. An Indian analyst agreed that "the need of the hour is to impose more specific regulations again currency speculation."

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-- Albania: 'Falling Into Anarchy?'

EDITORS: Kathleen J. Brahney, Diana McCaffrey and Bill Richey

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"President Takes A Lesson From The Lion King"

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back to his mission: to help bring order to a troubled world.... Back in Washington, however, the powers of darkness continued to close in. Members of the House judiciary committee began the task of trawling through more than 2000 pages of unpublished documents delivered by Mr. Starr last week. And Republicans in the House of Representatives continued to call for the president's resignation."

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"Gore Takes Supporting Role"

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FRANCE: "A Tidal Wave"

Andre Kaspi told listeners of government-run France Inter radio (9/15): "The situation is serious for the United States and for the rest of the world.... We are going into a very long process that will weaken the Clinton administration even more.... There may even be a third scandal over the campaign funding issue, affecting Clinton, Gore and their political circles.... If that third wave of investigation happens, it could be a tidal wave."

"A Big Empty Place At The Head Of The World"

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enemies."

GERMANY: "Morality And Business"

Nikolaus Blome stressed on the front page of right-of-center Die Welt of Berlin (9/15): "There is good reason that impeachment proceedures allow great latitude for interpretation about the offenses of a president; only a few crimes require that president be impeached. But Clinton has not been accused of any such type of crime. It is true that the president is guilty of serious character weaknesses. He lied in public and did not prevent staff aides from making false testimonies. But it is a issue of politics and not so much a question of morality whether this is enough of for an impeachment. And this is as it should be. An impeachment reverses the declared the political will of the voters, who have no chance to say what they want in such cases. And Americans have sent Clinton to the White House twice--without assuming that his private life is moral."

"Step Down"

Right-of-center Neue Rhein/Neue Ruhr Zeitung of Essen (9/14) argued: "Kenneth Starr hopes that if Congress does not impeach the president, Clinton will resign rather than expose his country to ridicule. Unfortunately, the ridicule exists. Even today, Clinton is no longer fully welcome everywhere.... The most powerful country in the world cannot afford an embattled president behind whose back people crack blue jokes..... Clinton, who has been a good president for his country, should now do his country a final service and make room for Vice President Al

Gore."

ITALY: "Our Friend Starr"

An editorial in provocative, classical liberal Il Foglio (9/15) ironically criticized all those who, over the last few days, have attacked Kenneth Starr's "puritanism" and "sexual McCarthyism" and defended Kenneth Starr: "Starr is a crude man, with a nasty smile, who has decided to make Bill Clinton pay for his well known propensity to lie and, perhaps, also for his new inclination to tears and his pitiful apologies.... The independent counsel was appointed and paid, according to American law, to ascertain whether the president was a liar.... Great Starr. He could be surpassed only by Hillary Clinton the day when she finally decides to pack up and abandon the famous feminist president."

"U.S. Media Asks President To Resign"

Ennio Caretto noted in his report from Washington in centrist, top-circulation Corriere della Sera (9/15): "Paradoxically, the American media are going against public opinion--an indication of the chaos faced by the U.S. superpower. About 30 dailies asked the president to resign, the last one being the highest-circulation USA Today"

RUSSIA: "Voluntary Resignation"

Dmitry Gornostayev remarked in centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (9/15): "Events suggest that a way to stop all speculation--political, if not intimate--would be for Bill Clinton to resign on his own."

CZECH REPUBLIC: "Mediocrity Prevails In The U.S."

A commentary in centrist Lidove noviny (9/15) said: "Independent investigator Kenneth Starr is nearing his goal--to get President Clinton to the stake. Clinton's end is probably in the offing, and the saddest fact is that it is not because of his incompetence or mistakes, but because of some grey mouse Monica Lewinsky who has served 'Grand Inquisitor' Starr so well.... The only solution in this situation is to have a flawless president who observes all possible rules and sticks to a double moral standard (if only those who have not sinned were to throw stones at Clinton, there would be very few stones indeed that would land on his head, if any). Mr. Starr and those of his sort would like to see such a man-robot in a top position. But a glimpse at history tells us that grey bureaucrats have never achieved anything. It will always be controversial personalities who will be the driving force and the winners."

NORWAY: "Scandal Damages U.S. Leadership"

Conservative Aftenposten remarked (9/13): "With crises on all sides, there is reason for concern when the world's foremost power is focusing so much of its attention on the president's sex life and the threat of impeachment. His position is incomparably embarrassing, but it is doubtful whether

there are grounds for impeachment. Impeachment should be a matter of political rather than sexual affairs. A more likely scenario is that a group of veteran Democrats advises him to step aside for Al Gore. The question is whether the people will feel that their interests can be served by a teetering president who is no longer able to exert significant leadership."

AUSTRALIA: "Private Shame, Public Virtue"

The liberal Sydney Morning Herald (9/15) opined, "Mr. Clinton's behavior with Ms. Lewinsky disgusts. But it has never had a public dimension to it sufficient to justify the money and effort expended by Mr. Starr and his team of investigators.... It never has been, and still is not, a sufficiently grave matter of public importance to warrant the pursuit of the president through the impeachment and removal process. That will not improve the health of the U.S. system of government, but weaken it even more than it has been already."

"Democrats Must Aid Mr. Clinton's Exit"

The conservative Brisbane Courier Mail (9/15) asserted: "The Democrats would be devastated if impeachment proceedings began in the House of Representatives before the elections.... But the longer Mr. Clinton remains, the longer the paralysis of the American government will be prolonged. He no longer has any moral authority.... There is now widespread revulsion not only at the revelations in the Starr report, but at the course of his investigation followed. It is to be hoped that no future president is subjected to such a demeaning process."

HONG KONG: "Starr Rating"

The English-language, independent South China Morning Post observed (9/15): "On one issue, there is no doubt: the American people remain as firmly opposed as ever to his impeachment. That does not justify Mr. Clinton's desperate attempts to cling to office. The credibility of the supposed leader of the free world has been shattered by these revelations of his deceitful conduct and the United States will never regain the respect befitting its status as a superpower

without a change of president.... But it does show Mr. Starr may have gone too far in making allegations that cannot stand up and in publishing an unnecessarily graphic account of the more sordid aspects of Mr. Clinton's sexual antics.... The consensus of legal opinion is that some of the allegedly impeachable offences, such as a failure to cooperate fully with Mr. Starr's inquiry, are weak, if not ridiculous."

THAILAND: "U.S. Lacks Legitmacy To Be Moral Leader"

Elite, business-oriented Phujatkarn said (9/15), "The majority of Americans are willing to allow Clinton to continue his presidency because their ultimate aims in life are their well-being and seeing the Dow Jones index average ever rising and yielding dividends.... Greed for wealth means more to them than the filthy sexual excess even in the White House.... Will Americans not feel any sense of shame to have him continue to run his office and boast human rights and humanitarianism around the world?... In our view, for as long as the United States and its leadership fail to solve

their own moral problems will it lack the legitimacy to flaunt itself an upholder of world's virtues."

COTE D'IVOIRE: "In Our Climes, Lying Goes Unpunished"

Ferro Bally wrote in independent Soir Info (9/14): "But for the world's misfortune, lying is not the 'exclusive right' of only the American president, and of the political leaders of the New Continent. This is a staple that is inherent to the political mores under all skies and particularly in Africa, concerning the conduct of public mattters. For example, there exists always an absolute blackout regarding the health of our leaders. Also, the leaders of ruling political parties daily lie to their activists when the electoral promises of the candidates are not met. The sole difference is that in genuine democracies, voters can chastise their political leders, whereas under our climes, lying goes unpunished."

BOLIVIA: "World Waiting For The Conductor Of The Orchestra"

Centrist Hoy carried a commentary by Humberto Vacaflor (9/13): "One could abhor or not what the famous independent prosecutor Starr has done; one could call him morbid...but the truth is that he has given a mortal blow to the strength of the presidency of the United States. Perhaps President Bill Clinton will come out unharmed from this storm, but what he will not be able to do is to conduct, in this hour of tension, the greatest economy of the world at a time when one of the worst economic crises is happening.... The capitalist world, that is to say, almost the entire planet, is waiting for the conductor of the orchestra. The United States

leads with the wand. But that leader needs to be clear-headed, without domestic problems caused by a morbid opposition."

HONDURAS: "Latin America Tied To Events In Washington"

Pro-government, liberal La Tribuna observed (9/14): "For Latin America, and especially those countries of the world which are currently suffering some degree of volatility within their financial systems, the events which took place in Washington last week are of the utmost importance. If impeachment procedures are begun against the president or if he is forced to resign it is almost certain that the government will not be able to push forward approval in Congress of the rules for signing a free trade agreement with our countries; nor will it get sufficient support for the International Monetary Fund, so important in order to prop up the falling Asian economies which if they don't get back on their feet, will become a dangerous liability to our own continent. "

CLINTON ON GLOBAL ECONOMY: 'AMERICA RESUMED LEADERSHIP'

BRITAIN: "Too Close For Comfort"

The liberal Guardian had this editorial (9/15): "President Clinton's recognition that this is 'the biggest financial challenge facing the world in half a century' could be a milestone on the way to a solution....

President Clinton has seemed until yesterday to be preoccupied with political survival and unaware that the United States could be dragged into the crisis. This is not because the American economy is particularly vulnerable. Its underlying economy is in rude health. This crisis is not about underlying strengths. It is about confidence."

FRANCE: "The G-7 Acts...Finally!"

Philippe Mudry opined in centrist La Tribune (9/15): "It appears that a coordinated drop in interest rates throughout developed nations will become a reality in the near future. Emerging nations that implement strong economic measures will be helped thanks to the IMF whose means will most certainly be increased.... The G-7 needs to start working quickly if it wants to keep the crisis from spreading even more."

ITALY: "America Resumed Leadership Yesterday"

New York correspondent Mario Platero copmmented in leading business Il Sole-24 Ore (9/15): "From the podium at the New York Council on Foreign Relations, Bill Clinton delivered one of the most important economic speeches of his presidency.... Notwithstanding his preoccupation with the Lewinsky scandal, the president appeared lucid, combative and determined."

"Europe And The U.S. Drive Stock Markets"

A commentary by Bruno Costi in conservative Il Tempo said (9/15): "It took almost a month...but it now seems that both the United States and the

leading European countries have decided that the crisis should be guided and resolved, and that the pessimism which has prevailed in stock markets is exaggerated.... Bill Clinton seems to have awakened from the torpor caused by Sexgate.... Yesterday he courageously took the initiative again, announcing a meeting of the G-7 to discuss support for the developing economies, mainly the Asian economies.... And central bank governors of the G-10, meeting in Switzerland...also intervened yesterday to encourage financial markets.... The meaning of this double message is a single one: confidence."

RUSSIA: "U.S. Ultra-Liberal Idea Fails"

Andrei Grachev filed from London for reformist weekly Moskovskiye Novosti (# 36, 9/13-20): "Compared to the Americans, the Western Europeans are less inclined to trust horror scenarios. As they watch Russian reform flounder, many of them gloat over the failure of America's ultra-liberal ideas being spread globally via the IMF. Some even expect Russia's new government to change its economic policy in favor of social-democratic concepts popular in Europe."

SPAIN: "Clinton Seeks to Inspire Market Confidence"

Independent El Mundo noted (9/15): "It seems clear that the recovery of confidence is an essential element.... The American president realizes that heading off a global recession will require the United States and Europe to drag the rest of the economies out of the doldrums by stimulating consumption. If interest rates are lowered in the United States, this

could also have a beneficial effect. Wall Street's eloquent reaction to Clinton's speech [yesterday] came in a substantial rise in share values."

THAILAND: "An Extraordinary Factor"

"Mister P" commented in largest circulation Thai Rath (9/15): "Finally, the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal seems to have snowballed into a factor that further undermines the already comatose world economy.... More importantly, the robust U.S. economy, strewn since Clinton took office with roses, has shown signs of uncertainty... We wish Clinton success in leading the U.S. economy out of rough waters, as his failure to do so would be devastating to the whole world."

HONG KONG: "U.S. Is Anxious; No Countermeasure Is Available"

The independent Hong Kong Economic Journal had this editorial (9/15): "Finally, the G7 is willing to sit down and discuss the crisis caused by the Asian financial storm. It is good news after all. However, we still do not know the agenda of the meeting. Is it to ask every country to further open up its market, or to enhance its efforts to curb international speculators' activities? Who are the international speculators? Which laws do they violate? Since the hedge funds are making legitimate investments in every country, what will the treasury secretaries and the presidents of central banks do to deal with them?"

SINGAPORE: "Spreading Financial Turmoil"

The pro-government Business Times concluded (9/15): "That such a president would be occupying the White House at a time when the global economy may be facing the most serious crisis since the 1920's is certainly a troubling prospect for America's world partners."

ISRAEL: "A True Leader's Statement"

Senior analyst Sever Plotker wrote in mass circulation, pluralist Yediot (9/15): "Feeling for a short while out of the reach of the ominous Lewinsky affair, U.S. President Bill Clinton yesterday lit, albeit belatedly, the global economic leadership beacon. In a thoroughly reasoned and brilliantly delivered address, Clinton listed the hazards facing national economies and offered ways to overcome them."

"God Bless America"

Business editor Gili Dinstein opined in popular, pluralist Maariv (9/15): "America has won hands down the global economic war. All of her economic enemies--headed by Russia and Japan--are coming apart at the seams while America's economy is stronger than ever. What spoils the festivities is none other than the U.S. president, who appears to have forgotten that...there are things that even he, the most powerful man in the world, must not do.... So while we keep our fingers crossed for this exceedingly warm, sympathetic president, who also happens to be 'good for the Jews' as the saying goes, the Americans are also keeping their fingers crossed for their economy."

INDIA: "Currency Affairs"

The centrist Telegraph had this editorial (9/15): "Perhaps nothing underscores the importance of financial factors in aggravating the global panic as the role of speculators.... There are no analogous restrictions on currency speculators.... There is a great fear countries will increasingly erect blanket barriers against the rest of the world in order to prevent the import of economic crises.... It was also advocated that stringent restrictions should be imposed on the operations of the foreign institutional investors. However, this sort of knee jerk reaction must be avoided because it ignores the benefits of globalization.... The need of the hour is to impose more specific regulations that are directed against currency speculation."

QATAR: "Beginning Of The End For The New World Order?"

Semi-independent Al-Watan had this editorial (9/15): "The international financial crisis persists and may be the beginning of the end for the new world order. This offers Arabs a historic opportunity.... Russia is heading towards a revival of a milder form of socialism inimical to the capitalism championed by the U.S. Southeast Asian countries have suffered from American investors, and Western Europe is less confident in American political and economic leadership. Arabs can work together to foster close, long-term, strategic ties with Russia, Japan, Malaysia, and Western Europe to prepare themselves for tomorrow."

BRIEF

ALBANIA: 'FALLING INTO ANARCHY?"

FRANCE: "A New Thorn For The West"

Dominique Bromberger said on government-run France Inter radio (9/15): "Albania is one of those nations where the absence of democratic experience, together with the isolation of dictatorships, have made it impossible for the rule of law to see the light... By letting things get out of hand in Kosovo, the West may no longer be able to do anything, even if it wanted to."

"Return Of The Rebels"

Marc Semo in left-of-center Liberation (9/15): "Europe's poorest nation may once again be sinking into chaos, with a million kalashnikovs in circulation.... The West's concern in light of a possible new period of unrest is all the more acute because Albania plays a key role in NATO's plans, were it to intervene in the Kosovo crisis."

GERMANY: "Albania Falling Into Anarchy?"

Stefan Bergmann commented on ARD-TV's (national channel one) late evening newscast "Tagesthemen" (9/14): "The fact that the poor house of Europe is about to fall into anarchy and chaos again is only one side of the coin. The other is that the West needs a stable Albania in order to resolve the Kosovo conflict. It should have alarmed Brussels and Washington that

former President Berisha exploited the Kosovo question to polarize Albania. Now Albania, too, must probably be sent to the international intensive care unit."

RUSSIA: "Unrest May Lead To New War In Balkans"

Yulia Berezovskaya commented in reformist Russkiy Telegraf (9/15): "If the unpredictable and authoritarian Berisha were back in power, the Serbian-Albanian feud would almost certainly intensify. He will sacrifice for a 'greater Albania' no less than Milosevic will sacrifice for a 'greater Serbia.' The Albanian revolution may again impel the West to consider violent actions. Last year Washington preferred to stay away from Albania, letting the Europeans handle an internal conflict there. Today NATO may have to adjust its Kosovo plans because of the events in Europe's poorest country."

SPAIN: "Vertigo In Tirana"

Liberal El Pais commented (9/15): "Once again armed citizens are roaming the streets of Tirana as alarms sound at NATO and EU headquarters....Albania has once again descended into mob violence and acts of retribution with unforeseeable consequences.... Given [the explosiveness of] the situation, the EU and the United States, the only ones able to restore order, must avoid another destabilization of Albania at all costs."

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FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION
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OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND MEDIA REACTION

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Patrick Sabatier commented in left-of-center Liberation (9/15): "Concern around the world is real as the only superpower is seen adrift and its leader distracted from world events.... While the power and influence of the United States can be separated from the man himself, and the credibility he carries, the point at issue does not have to do with simple morality. It is the White House that sets the course of foreign policy, more so than any of the members of the government.... The president's absence cannot be filled by any one, not even the very influential Robert Rubin.... Yet President Clinton is and remains the most powerful leader in the world, and no one should take this for granted, particularly among his enemies."

GERMANY: "Morality And Business"

Nikolaus Blome stressed on the front page of right-of-center Die Welt of Berlin (9/15): "There is good reason that impeachment proceedures allow great latitude for interpretation about the offenses of a president; only a few crimes require that president be impeached. But Clinton has not been accused of any such type of crime. It is true that the president is guilty of serious character weaknesses. He lied in public and did not prevent staff aides from making false testimonies. But it is a issue of politics and not so much a question of morality whether this is enough of for an impeachment. And this is as it should be. An impeachment reverses the declared the political will of the voters, who have no chance to say what they want in such cases. And Americans have sent Clinton to the White House twice--without assuming that his private life is moral."

"Step Down"

Right-of-center Neue Rhein/Neue Ruhr Zeitung of Essen (9/14) argued: "Kenneth Starr hopes that if Congress does not impeach the president, Clinton will resign rather than expose his country to ridicule. Unfortunately, the ridicule exists. Even today, Clinton is no longer fully welcome everywhere.... The most powerful country in the world cannot afford an embattled president behind whose back people crack blue jokes..... Clinton, who has been a good president for his country, should now do his country a final service and make room for Vice President Al Gore."

ITALY: "Our Friend Starr"

An editorial in provocative, classical liberal Il Foglio (9/15) ironically criticized all those who, over the last few days, have attacked Kenneth Starr's "puritanism" and "sexual McCarthyism" and defended Kenneth Starr: "Starr is a crude man, with a nasty smile, who has decided to make Bill Clinton pay for his well known propensity to lie and, perhaps, also for his new inclination to tears and his pitiful apologies.... The independent counsel was appointed and paid, according to American law, to ascertain whether the president was a liar.... Great Starr. He could be surpassed only by Hillary Clinton the day when she finally decides to pack up and abandon the famous feminist president."

"U.S. Media Asks President To Resign"

Ennio Caretto noted in his report from Washington in centrist, top-circulation Corriere della Sera (9/15): "Paradoxically, the American media are going against public opinion--an indication of the chaos faced by the U.S. superpower. About 30 dailies asked the president to resign, the last one being the highest-circulation USA Today"

RUSSIA: "Voluntary Resignation"

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Dmitry Gornostayev remarked in centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (9/15): "Events suggest that a way to stop all speculation--political, if not intimate--would be for Bill Clinton to resign on his own."

CZECH REPUBLIC: "Mediocrity Prevails In The U.S."

A commentary in centrist Lidove noviny (9/15) said: "Independent investigator Kenneth Starr is nearing his goal--to get President Clinton to the stake. Clinton's end is probably in the offing, and the saddest fact is that it is not because of his incompetence or mistakes, but because of some grey mouse Monica Lewinsky who has served 'Grand Inquisitor' Starr so well.... The only solution in this situation is to have a flawless president who observes all possible rules and sticks to a double moral standard (if only those who have not sinned were to throw stones at Clinton, there would be very few stones indeed that would land on his head, if any). Mr. Starr and those of his sort would like to see such a man-robot in a top position. But a glimpse at history tells us that grey bureaucrats have never achieved anything. It will always be controversial personalities who will be the driving force and the winners."

NORWAY: "Scandal Damages U.S. Leadership"

Conservative Aftenposten remarked (9/13): "With crises on all sides, there is reason for concern when the world's foremost power is focusing so much of its attention on the president's sex life and the threat of impeachment. His position is incomparably embarrassing, but it is doubtful whether there are grounds for impeachment. Impeachment should be a matter of political rather than sexual affairs. A more likely scenario is that a group of veteran Democrats advises him to step aside for Al Gore. The question is whether the people will feel that their interests can be served by a teetering president who is no longer able to exert significant leadership."

AUSTRALIA: "Private Shame, Public Virtue"

The liberal Sydney Morning Herald (9/15) opined, "Mr. Clinton's behavior with Ms. Lewinsky disgusts. But it has never had a public dimension to it sufficient to justify the money and effort expended by Mr. Starr and his team of investigators.... It never has been, and still is not, a sufficiently grave matter of public importance to warrant the pursuit of the president through the impeachment and removal process. That will not improve the health of the U.S. system of government, but weaken it even more than it has been already."

"Democrats Must Aid Mr. Clinton's Exit"

The conservative Brisbane Courier Mail (9/15) asserted: "The Democrats would be devastated if impeachment proceedings began in the House of Representatives before the elections.... But the longer Mr. Clinton remains, the longer the paralysis of the American government will be prolonged. He no longer has any moral authority.... There is now widespread revulsion not only at the revelations in the Starr report, but at the course of his investigation followed. It is to be hoped that no future president is subjected to such a demeaning process."

HONG KONG: "Starr Rating"

The English-language, independent South China Morning Post observed (9/15): "On one issue, there is no doubt: the American people remain as firmly opposed as ever to his impeachment. That does not justify Mr. Clinton's desperate attempts to cling to office. The credibility of the supposed leader of the free world has been shattered by these revelations of his deceitful conduct and the United States will never regain the respect befitting its status as a superpower

without a change of president.... But it does show Mr. Starr may have gone too far in making allegations that cannot stand up and in publishing an unnecessarily graphic account of the more sordid aspects of Mr. Clinton's sexual antics.... The consensus of legal opinion is that some of the allegedly impeachable offences, such as a failure to cooperate fully

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with Mr. Starr's inquiry, are weak, if not ridiculous."

THAILAND: "U.S. Lacks Legitmacy To Be Moral Leader"

Elite, business-oriented Phujatkarn said (9/15), "The majority of Americans are willing to allow Clinton to continue his presidency because their ultimate aims in life are their well-being and seeing the Dow Jones index average ever rising and yielding dividends.... Greed for wealth means more to them than the filthy sexual excess even in the White House.... Will Americans not feel any sense of shame to have him continue to run his office and boast human rights and humanitarianism around the world?... In our view, for as long as the United States and its leadership fail to solve their own moral problems will it lack the legitimacy to flaunt itself an upholder of world's virtues."

COTE D'IVOIRE: "In Our Climes, Lying Goes Unpunished"

Ferro Bally wrote in independent Soir Info (9/14): "But for the world's misfortune, lying is not the 'exclusive right' of only the American president, and of the political leaders of the New Continent. This is a staple that is inherent to the political mores under all skies and particularly in Africa, concerning the conduct of public mattters. For example, there exists always an absolute blackout regarding the health of our leaders. Also, the leaders of ruling political parties daily lie to their activists when the electoral promises of the candidates are not met. The sole difference is that in genuine democracies, voters can chastise their political leders, whereas under our climes, lying goes unpunished."

BOLIVIA: "World Waiting For The Conductor Of The Orchestra"

Centrist Hoy carried a commentary by Humberto Vacaflor (9/13): "One could abhor or not what the famous independent prosecutor Starr has done; one could call him morbid...but the truth is that he has given a mortal blow to the strength of the presidency of the United States. Perhaps President Bill Clinton will come out unharmed from this storm, but what he will not be able to do is to conduct, in this hour of tension, the greatest economy of the world at a time when one of the worst economic crises is happening.... The capitalist world, that is to say, almost the entire planet, is waiting for the conductor of the orchestra. The United States leads with the wand. But that leader needs to be clear-headed, without domestic problems caused by a morbid opposition."

HONDURAS: "Latin America Tied To Events In Washington"

Pro-government, liberal La Tribuna observed (9/14): "For Latin America, and especially those countries of the world which are currently suffering some degree of volatility within their financial systems, the events which took place in Washington last week are of the utmost importance. If impeachment procedures are begun against the president or if he is forced to resign it is almost certain that the government will not be able to push forward approval in Congress of the rules for signing a free trade agreement with our countries; nor will it get sufficient support for the International Monetary Fund, so important in order to prop up the falling Asian economies which if they don't get back on their feet, will become a dangerous liability to our own continent. "

CLINTON ON GLOBAL ECONOMY: 'AMERICA RESUMED LEADERSHIP'

BRITAIN: "Too Close For Comfort"

The liberal Guardian had this editorial (9/15): "President Clinton's recognition that this is 'the biggest financial challenge facing the world in half a century' could be a milestone on the way to a solution.... President Clinton has

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seemed until yesterday to be preoccupied with political survival and unaware that the United States could be dragged into the crisis. This is not because the American economy is particularly vulnerable. Its underlying economy is in rude health. This crisis is not about underlying strengths. It is about confidence."

FRANCE: "The G-7 Acts...Finally!"

Philippe Mudry opined in centrist La Tribune (9/15): "It appears that a coordinated drop in interest rates throughout developed nations will become a reality in the near future. Emerging nations that implement strong economic measures will be helped thanks to the IMF whose means will most certainly be increased.... The G-7 needs to start working quickly if it wants to keep the crisis from spreading even more."

ITALY: "America Resumed Leadership Yesterday"

New York correspondent Mario Platero copmmented in leading business Il Sole-24 Ore (9/15): "From the podium at the New York Council on Foreign Relations, Bill Clinton delivered one of the most important economic speeches of his presidency.... Notwithstanding his preoccupation with the Lewinsky scandal, the president appeared lucid, combative and determined."

"Europe And The U.S. Drive Stock Markets"

A commentary by Bruno Costi in conservative Il Tempo said (9/15): "It took almost a month...but it now seems that both the United States and the leading European countries have decided that the crisis should be guided and resolved, and that the pessimism which has prevailed in stock markets is exaggerated.... Bill Clinton seems to have awakened from the torpor caused by Sexgate.... Yesterday he courageously took the initiative again, announcing a meeting of the G-7 to discuss support for the developing economies, mainly the Asian economies.... And central bank governors of the G-10, meeting in Switzerland...also intervened yesterday to encourage financial markets.... The meaning of this double message is a single one: confidence."

RUSSIA: "U.S. Ultra-Liberal Idea Fails"

Andrei Grachev filed from London for reformist weekly Moskovskiye Novosti (# 36, 9/13-20): "Compared to the Americans, the Western Europeans are less inclined to trust horror scenarios. As they watch Russian reform flounder, many of them gloat over the failure of America's ultra-liberal ideas being spread globally via the IMF. Some even expect Russia's new government to change its economic policy in favor of social-democratic concepts popular in Europe."

SPAIN: "Clinton Seeks to Inspire Market Confidence"

Independent El Mundo noted (9/15): "It seems clear that the recovery of confidence is an essential element.... The American president realizes that heading off a global recession will require the United States and Europe to drag the rest of the economies out of the doldrums by stimulating consumption. If interest rates are lowered in the United States, this could also have a beneficial effect. Wall Street's eloquent reaction to Clinton's speech [yesterday] came in a substantial rise in share values."

THAILAND: "An Extraordinary Factor"

"Mister P" commented in largest circulation Thai Rath (9/15): "Finally, the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal seems to have snowballed into a factor that further undermines the already comatose world economy.... More importantly, the robust U.S. economy, strewn since Clinton took office with roses, has shown signs of uncertainty... We wish Clinton success in leading the U.S. economy out of rough waters, as his failure to do so would be devastating to the whole world."

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HONG KONG: "U.S. Is Anxious; No Countermeasure Is Available"

The independent Hong Kong Economic Journal had this editorial (9/15): "Finally, the G7 is willing to sit down and discuss the crisis caused by the Asian financial storm. It is good news after all. However, we still do not know the agenda of the meeting. Is it to ask every country to further open up its market, or to enhance its efforts to curb international speculators' activities? Who are the international speculators? Which laws do they violate? Since the hedge funds are making legitimate investments in every country, what will the treasury secretaries and the presidents of central banks do to deal with them?"

SINGAPORE: "Spreading Financial Turmoil"

The pro-government Business Times concluded (9/15): "That such a president would be occupying the White House at a time when the global economy may be facing the most serious crisis since the 1920's is certainly a troubling prospect for America's world partners."

ISRAEL: "A True Leader's Statement"

Senior analyst Sever Plotker wrote in mass circulation, pluralist Yediot (9/15): "Feeling for a short while out of the reach of the ominous Lewinsky affair, U.S. President Bill Clinton yesterday lit, albeit belatedly, the global economic leadership beacon. In a thoroughly reasoned and brilliantly delivered address, Clinton listed the hazards facing national economies and offered ways to overcome them."

"God Bless America"

Business editor Gili Dinstein opined in popular, pluralist Maariv (9/15): "America has won hands down the global economic war. All of her economic enemies--headed by Russia and Japan--are coming apart at the seams while America's economy is stronger than ever. What spoils the festivities is none other than the U.S. president, who appears to have forgotten that...there are things that even he, the most powerful man in the world, must not do.... So while we keep our fingers crossed for this exceedingly warm, sympathetic president, who also happens to be 'good for the Jews' as the saying goes, the Americans are also keeping their fingers crossed for their economy."

INDIA: "Currency Affairs"

The centrist Telegraph had this editorial (9/15): "Perhaps nothing underscores the importance of financial factors in aggravating the global panic as the role of speculators.... There are no analogous restrictions on currency speculators.... There is a great fear countries will increasingly erect blanket barriers against the rest of the world in order to prevent the import of economic crises.... It was also advocated that stringent restrictions should be imposed on the operations of the foreign institutional investors. However, this sort of knee jerk reaction must be avoided because it ignores the benefits of globalization.... The need of the hour is to impose more specific regulations that are directed against currency speculation."

QATAR: "Beginning Of The End For The New World Order?"

Semi-independent Al-Watan had this editorial (9/15): "The international financial crisis persists and may be the beginning of the end for the new world order. This offers Arabs a historic opportunity.... Russia is heading towards a revival of a milder form of socialism inimical to the capitalism championed by the U.S. Southeast Asian countries have suffered from American investors, and Western Europe is less confident in American political and economic

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leadership. Arabs can work together to foster close, long-term, strategic ties with Russia, Japan, Malaysia, and Western Europe to prepare themselves for tomorrow."

BRIEF

ALBANIA: 'FALLING INTO ANARCHY?"

FRANCE: "A New Thorn For The West"

Dominique Bromberger said on government-run France Inter radio (9/15): "Albania is one of those nations where the absence of democratic experience, together with the isolation of dictatorships, have made it impossible for the rule of law to see the light... By letting things get out of hand in Kosovo, the West may no longer be able to do anything, even if it wanted to."

"Return Of The Rebels"

Marc Semo in left-of-center Liberation (9/15): "Europe's poorest nation may once again be sinking into chaos, with a million kalashnikovs in circulation.... The West's concern in light of a possible new period of unrest is all the more acute because Albania plays a key role in NATO's plans, were it to intervene in the Kosovo crisis."

GERMANY: "Albania Falling Into Anarchy?"

Stefan Bergmann commented on ARD-TV's (national channel one) late evening newscast "Tagesthemen" (9/14): "The fact that the poor house of Europe is about to fall into anarchy and chaos again is only one side of the coin. The other is that the West needs a stable Albania in order to resolve the Kosovo conflict. It should have alarmed Brussels and Washington that former President Berisha exploited the Kosovo question to polarize Albania. Now Albania, too, must probably be sent to the international intensive care unit."

RUSSIA: "Unrest May Lead To New War In Balkans"

Yulia Berezovskaya commented in reformist Russkiy Telegraf (9/15): "If the unpredictable and authoritarian Berisha were back in power, the Serbian-Albanian feud would almost certainly intensify. He will sacrifice for a 'greater Albania' no less than Milosevic will sacrifice for a 'greater Serbia.' The Albanian revolution may again impel the West to consider violent actions. Last year Washington preferred to stay away from Albania, letting the Europeans handle an internal conflict there. Today NATO may have to adjust its Kosovo plans because of the events in Europe's poorest country."

SPAIN: "Vertigo In Tirana"

Liberal El Pais commented (9/15): "Once again armed citizens are roaming the streets of Tirana as alarms sound at NATO and EU headquarters....Albania has once again descended into mob violence and acts of retribution with unforeseeable consequences.... Given [the explosiveness of] the situation, the EU and the United States, the only ones able to restore order, must avoid another destabilization of Albania at all costs."

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Technology

*** Microsoft executive tried to persuade Netscape

U.S. Front Page Stories

*** Clinton phones world leaders on global economy

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A day after outlining a broad plan to tackle the spreading global financial crisis, President Clinton discussed economic policies Tuesday with the leaders of Canada, Brazil and Mexico, a senior administration official said. "The president wanted to get a first hand assessment from these leaders about their views on their own economies and the global economy as well," the official said. Clinton spoke Tuesday with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo. Markets in Latin America rose sharply Tuesday, buoyed by Clinton's comment Monday that the International Monetary Fund should be ready to come to the aid of crisis-hit Latin American countries. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556083611-9ca

*** Related: Clinton focused on world economic woes -Blair, see
http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556076963-ff5

*** Republicans press for release of Clinton videotapes

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Congressional Republicans pushed Tuesday for release of the videotape of President Clinton's grand jury testimony about Monica Lewinsky as the White House beefed up its effort to head off impeachment. At the same time, Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), who heads the House Judiciary Committee, warned Clinton supporters not to dig into the private lives of members of Congress to find embarrassing details. "Efforts to intimidate members of Congress or interfere with the discharge of their official duties in relation to the impeachment matter could constitute violation of federal criminal law," Hyde said. See
http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556082065-f8e
*** Also: Clinton beefs up his White House defense team, see
http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556078395-039

*** Hopes fade for fast answers in Swissair crash probe

TORONTO (Reuters) - Hopes for a quick explanation of what caused the mysterious crash of a Swissair jet off the coast of Nova Scotia faded Tuesday when Canadian investigators revealed the plane's cockpit voice recorder had failed to work during the crucial final minutes before impact. Investigators had hoped that the device, which picks up all sounds in the cockpit and records conversations from the

pilots' microphones, would provide vital clues as to why the Swissair MD-11 plunged into the Atlantic Ocean off Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia, two weeks ago, killing all 229 people on board. The plane's flight data recorder, which tracks information from key instruments, had failed at the same time. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556077942-f57

*** McGwire hits No. 63 to break tie with Sosa

ST. LOUIS (AP) - St. Louis Cardinals slugger Mark McGwire hit his major league-record 63rd home run Tuesday night, breaking out of a tie with the Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa. He connected as a pinch-hitter in the ninth inning of the first game of a doubleheader against Pittsburgh in St. Louis. Pittsburgh won the opener 8-6. Sosa went 1-for-5 with a single and two strikeouts in Chicago's 4-2 win over San Diego.

*** U.S. most at risk from Asia, Russia

FRANKFURT, Germany (Reuters) - Bundesbank board member Edgar Meister said the U.S. might be more at risk than Europe from the consequences of the financial turmoil plaguing Asia and Russia. In an interview with the German weekly Die Zeit, Meister also said Japan posed the greatest threat to the global economy. "If Japan falls deeper into crisis, there will be considerable problems for the world economy," Meister said. He said European central banks were not consulted before Japan's most recent interest rate cut. In his view, the

turbulence in Latin America was overdone. Asked about suggestions that capital controls should be imposed in emerging markets to promote stability, Meister said in many developing countries a slower market opening would have been better. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556084200-1f6

The U.S. Political Scene

*** Ferraro fails in comeback bid, Hubert Humphrey wins

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Geraldine Ferraro, the only woman in U.S. history ever nominated to run on a presidential ticket, lost her comeback bid Tuesday in the U.S. Senate race in New York and declared her political career over. Ferraro, who made history in 1984 when she was picked by Democrat Walter Mondale as his vice presidential running mate, decisively lost her political comeback bid. With most votes counted, Rep. Charles Schumer, a somewhat dour but respected legislator, won 50% of the vote to Ferraro's 27% and will face the Republican incumbent, Sen. Alfonse D'Amato in the Nov. 3 mid-term elections. Another storied name in U.S. politics took center stage in Minnesota. Hubert Humphrey III, son of the former vice president, emerged from a field of five to win the Democratic nomination for governor. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556083950-b08

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*** Clinton pledges to keep U.S. military strong

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Clinton discussed military readiness and funding with the nation's top generals and admirals Tuesday and vowed to ensure that U.S. armed forces will "dominate the battlefields of the future." Facing concerns that military budget restraints have gone too far, Clinton met in a windowless high-security room at Fort McNair in Washington with the commanders-in-chief of U.S. forces around the world and heard their concerns. With Defense Secretary William Cohen and Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the joint chiefs, beside him, Clinton said U.S. forces overseas facing potential combat situations were "highly ready" and that "our overall force is fully capable of carrying out our national military strategy." See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556078362-8bd

*** Clinton urges Congress to move quickly on farm aid

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Clinton urged Congress Tuesday to "find some way" quickly to aid farmers, caught in a sudden economic downturn while the rest of America enjoys prosperity. Farm income could fall by 12% this year, the result of a year-long slump in crop and livestock prices as well as losses from drought, hurricanes and

plant diseases. Lawmakers want to provide a bail-out but have been unable to agree on how much to spend or how to distribute it. Farm groups say several billion dollars will be needed for hard times that could persist for another year or two. The Senate has twice rejected the plan preferred by the administration - markedly more generous loans to farmers at harvest time. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556079483-99e

*** U.S. to begin 2.5 mln metric ton wheat donation plan

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The first U.S. donations of wheat to needy countries in a Clinton administration plan to boost sagging domestic wheat prices will soon leave the U.S., the Agriculture Department said Tuesday. Mary Chambliss, a deputy administrator in USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, said the department has informed the U.N. World Food Program that it is ready to ship 513,700 metric tons of wheat and 45,000 metric tons of wheat flour and bulgur, a type of cracked wheat, for donation overseas. In July, President Clinton announced a plan to help U.S. wheat farmers by buying 2.5 million metric tons of wheat to donate to needy countries. USDA officials have worked with the Agency for International Development to find destinations for the wheat. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556079482-a2a

*** House tax bill wins over some conservatives

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - On the theory that something is better than

nothing, a key conservative Republican tentatively backed House legislation Tuesday for a smaller tax cut than his group had pushed. After a meeting with House Republican leaders Tuesday, Rep. David McIntosh (R-Ind.), who leads the Conservative Action Team, said the $80 billion tax cut the House will consider this year was not so bad. "I just told ... leadership that I am very pleased with this development that we will have a tax bill this year, and a commitment to do a big bill next year," McIntosh said. "It's about 80% what I would have liked to have had, but in politics when you get 80% you go with it and then fight for the rest later." See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556079989-d58

*** On baseball's homer race, even Congress can agree

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Baseball's home run race, which has been credited with restoring the game's magic, gave Congress a reason Tuesday for bipartisan good cheer. The House passed resolutions on voice votes Tuesday praising Mark McGwire, the St. Louis Cardinal who last week broke Roger Maris' 37-year-old home run record, and Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs, who tied McGwire at 62 homers a few days later. Several lawmakers shared rhapsodic baseball memories, and Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.), summed up the feelings of many lawmakers when he told McGwire and Sosa, "Congress salutes you," and thanked them for "lifting all of us, including our children, this wonderful, wonderful year." See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556078957-365

*** Also: Clinton congratulates Sosa on tying homer record, see

http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556078789-2ca

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U.S. Business and Financial News

*** Dow ends firmer, awaits Greenspan testimony

The Dow rose for the third straight session Tuesday, bolstered by a rebound in Latin American stocks and hopes that global leaders are serious about tackling financial turmoil. The Dow closed up 79.04 points at 8024.39. On the New York Stock Exchange, advancing issues led decliners by 3-to-2 on modest volume of 717 million shares. The gains of the past three sessions have returned the Dow to positive terrain for the year. The Nasdaq closed up 12.28 points at 1677.97. The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index was up 7.92 points at 1037.64. The long bond was off 13/32 to yield 5.26%. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556077767-53c

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World Front Page Stories

*** UN Council condemns Iranian deaths in Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - The Security Council strongly condemned Tuesday the murder of nine Iranian diplomats in Afghanistan by

Taleban combatants and demanded other detained Iranians be released immediately. In a statement read at a formal meeting, the council also said the killings, which the Taleban says were carried out by colleagues not under its control, should be investigated immediately "with the participation of the United Nations." The 15-member body told the Taleban to stop fighting and resume negotiations, particularly in the Bamiyan area, and it said reports were mounting of mass killings of civilians in the north of the country. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556079197-a49

*** Also: U.S. backs hands-off policy in Afghanistan, see http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556077779-8b3

*** Congo's Kabila seeks army victory after talks fail

KINSHASA, Congo (Reuters) - Congolese President Laurent Kabila has returned to the capital Kinshasa, looking for a battlefield victory in his war with Rwandan-backed rebels after successive failures at peace talks. Speaking at a news conference before leaving a Southern African summit in Mauritius Tuesday, Kabila said the war had reached a decisive phase with loyalists gearing to attack Goma and other towns in eastern Congo held by the rebels. He lashed out against the fellow heads of state at the two-day summit of the Southern Africa Development Community for not formally condemning Rwanda and Uganda whom he accuses backing the rebels. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556079891-ce4

*** Also: Kabila says war in Congo at decisive stage, see http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556077882-03e

*** Tirana gunmen quit positions before deadline

TIRANA, Albania (Reuters) - Gunmen holding out against Albanian police at the opposition Democratic Party head office in Tirana fled their positions early Wednesday after Prime Minister Fatos Nano threatened to clear them by force. Two sandbagged positions, occupied since Sunday during political protest and street violence, were abandoned just hours after Nano told the armed men to lay down their arms by dawn or face the consequences. Former President Sali Berisha, the Democratic Party leader accused by the Albanian government of attempting to stage a coup Monday, left for his home at 7 a.m. accompanied by his son and bodyguards. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556085492-146

*** Also: Protesters defy ban, stage march in Albania, see http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556076734-fcd

*** Also: Violence not the answer, Italy warns Albania, see http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556076946-227

*** Financier Soros warns global crises far from over

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - International financier George Soros said Tuesday Russia's economic crisis would worsen, Brazil was on the brink, and the world's lender of last resort - the International Monetary Fund - was ill-equipped to fend off a global meltdown. Painting a bleak picture of the future for the world economy, Soros told U.S. lawmakers financial crises in Asia and Russia had spread to

Latin America, where panic was setting in, and Malaysia's foreign currency controls could setback Asia's recovery. The multibillionaire philanthropist, who chairs Soros Fund Management, warned that the global capitalist system was coming undone. He also said the U.S. Federal Reserve may need to cut interest rates to spur growth. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556080812-9a5

*** Also: Joint G7 rate move seen a remote prospect, see http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556078187-672

The World Political Scene

*** Update: Bosnia vote in disarray after result delay

SARAJEVO, Bosnia (Reuters) - Bosnia's general elections were thrown into disarray Tuesday when the international body running the vote cancelled the release of early results only hours after it called a news conference to announce them. Ambassador Robert Barry of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said only a small fraction of ballots cast in the Sept. 12-13 vote had been counted. "The fact is that we don't have any coherent information that would demonstrate trends to share with people right now," he told reporters. "And I don't know when we will." The postponement immediately drew fire from Bosnia's main Croat party, the HDZ. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556075898-6b4

*** Clinton holds talks on Iraq as tensions rise again

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Clinton met top foreign policy advisers and telephoned Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien Tuesday to discuss developments in Iraq as tensions escalated once again between Baghdad and Washington. "It's a serious situation," said one senior administration official. "We want UNSCOM back in inspecting Iraq. If Iraq wishes to have the sanctions removed they will have to let the UNSCOM inspectors back in." Clinton huddled with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Defense Secretary William Cohen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry Shelton and National Security Adviser Sandy Berger for a 40-minute briefing. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556082884-f17

*** U.S., Chinese defense heads discuss N. Korean missiles

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. and Chinese defense leaders discussed North Korean missile development Tuesday and signed an environmental cooperation agreement. Defense Secretary William Cohen and visiting Gen. Zhang Wannian, vice chairman of China's powerful Central Military Commission, said their talks on a range of issues were another step in forging better ties between Washington and Beijing. Cohen told a joint news conference they discussed the recent North Korean missile launch, the need to control the spread of weapons of mass destruction and the importance of combating terrorism, including use of chemical or biological agents. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556080295-a1d

*** Also: Japan will not review measures against N. Korea, see
http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556083755-853
*** Also: State Dept says N. Korean missile can't hit U.S., see
http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556077677-cd8

*** Muhammad Ali named a 'messenger of peace' by UN

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - Secretary-General Kofi Annan named three-time world heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali a "messenger of peace" Tuesday to help focus world attention on the work of the U.N. Ali, in turn, gave Annan a signed boxing glove before going to a ceremony with 400 schoolchildren and listening to performers from the hit Broadway musical "Bring in 'Da Noise Bring in 'Da Funk." Since his retirement from the ring, Ali, who has Parkinson's disease, which limits his speech, has delivered millions of dollars in food and medical relief to countries in Africa and Asia. He has also raised $50 million for charities in the U.S. and elsewhere. See
http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556078412-741

Sports

*** Griffey becomes fourth-youngest to get 1,000 RBIs

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Ken Griffey Jr. became the fourth-youngest player in major league history to reach 1,000 RBIs and hit his AL-best 52nd

homer Tuesday in the Seattle Mariners 12-7 win over the Minnesota Twins. Griffey drove in five runs. He hit a two-run single in the fourth inning to pass the 1,000 milestone. He added a three-run homer in a six-run seventh and has 1,004 RBIs in his 10 seasons. At 28 years and 10 months, Griffey got to 1,000 RBIs faster than anyone except Mel Ott, Jimmie Foxx and Lou Gehrig. Griffey also is the first in Seattle history with 1,000 RBIs. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556076849-5cc

*** Niners' Brown reinstated from suspended list

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - The San Francisco 49ers decided Tuesday to give wayward tackle Jamie Brown another chance. Brown was reinstated after serving a three-week suspension without pay for conduct detrimental to the team. The sanctions cost Brown about $30,000 in lost salary and stemmed from his late arrival to one exhibition game and skipping another altogether. Coach Steve Mariucci, who had suggested Brown might be cut once his suspension was over, said the tackle swayed him and other team officials by diligently following club directives and a workout regimen over the past 21 days.

*** Sweden announces team for Davis Cup defense

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) - Thomas Johansson, who got to the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open, was picked for the last spot on the team Sweden will use to defend its Davis Cup against Spain later this month. Coach Carl-Axel Hageskog said Tuesday that Jonas Bjorkman,

Magnus Larsson or Johansson will play singles, while Bjorkman and Niklas Kulti will play doubles. The series will be played Sept. 25-27 on the hard courts of a stadium near downtown Stockholm.

*** Royals' Muser gets contract extension

KANSAS CITY (AP) - The Kansas City Royals, despite uncertainty about their ownership, extended manager Tony Muser's contract Tuesday through 1999. Muser won his 100th game Tuesday, a 6-3 decision over Oakland. A former first baseman who spent parts of nine seasons with the Boston Red Sox, Chicago White Sox and Milwaukee Brewers, Muser was in his fifth season as a major league coach with the Chicago Cubs when he was hired as the Royals' manager.

*** Missouri fans must face music over band attack

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - When the Kansas marching band took the field for last weekend's game at Missouri its members were pelted with liquor bottles and had whiskey poured on their uniforms. "They don't want to go back," band director Robert Foster said. Larry Marks, director of Marching Mizzou, said members of the band staff are sending a letter of apology to the Kansas athletic department. Foster said the Jayhawks usually brought only a pep band to Missouri games because the Missouri/Kansas rivalry was so intense and the smaller unit was "not in full uniform, not such a large target, not such a vulnerable target - more mobile."

Entertainment

*** McCartney's 'Hey Jude' notebook fetches $167,000

LONDON (Reuters) - A notebook with Paul McCartney's hand written lyrics for one of the Beatles' greatest hits, "Hey Jude," fetched 100,000 pounds (US$167,000) at a London auction Tuesday. The notebook, prize lot in a sale of pop memorabilia spanning the Beatles to the Spice Girls, was snapped up by a businessman bidding by telephone from Lancashire, northern England, a spokeswoman for auctioneers Sotheby's said. Alan Murphy bought the notebook for his daughter Nadina, who plays a character called Jude in a British TV soap opera. Sotheby's had earlier described the notebook as "one of the most important pieces of Beatles memorabilia ever to come on to the market." See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556077351-983

*** Struggling Reader's Digest to sell major works of art

PLEASANTVILLE, N.Y. (Reuters) - Readers Digest is putting 39 works from its storied art collection - including paintings by Monet, Van Gogh and Chagall - on the auction block as part of a plan to shore up the struggling publisher. Readers Digest Association Inc. said Sotheby's Holdings Inc. will auction the 39 impressionist, modern and contemporary masterpieces - valued at up to $100 million - in New

York Nov. 16 and 17. Company Chairman Thomas Ryder plans to detail a strategy Wednesday that calls for cutting operating costs, selling under-performing assets and developing growth initiatives. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556077808-fd0

*** Monet means money for Boston museum

BOSTON (Reuters) - Forget about the image of a starving artist. Instead think French Impressionism, water lilies, powerful brush strokes, brilliant color - Claude Monet dishware. The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston is hosting "Monet in the 20th Century," an extraordinary exhibit spanning the last 26 years of the artist's life. In addition to bringing together more than 80 works of art from British, French, Japanese, Russian and U.S. museums, the MFA has brought marketing techniques from Madison Avenue. The man who turned water lilies into wads of cash would probably approve of the umbrellas, scarves, ties, satchels, handbags, pins, earrings, necklaces, posters and stationery on sale at the MFA's gift shop. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556072816-738

*** Casino comes to the Promised Land

JERICHO, West Bank (Reuters) - Turn left near the Dead Sea on the road down from Jerusalem and you hit Jericho. Turn right and you eventually come to Sodom and Gomorrah. Scores of ritzy Israelis and publicity-shy Palestinians took the left exit Tuesday night to rub shoulders at the invitation-only opening of the first casino in the

Promised Land. Fire and brimstone rained down on the people of Sodom for their wicked ways, says the Bible, but the gamblers at the $50 million Oasis Casino were more concerned with blackjack. Jazz and the recorded strains of Frank Sinatra, the ultimate casino crooner, blared out, free alcohol flowed and a considerable quantity of female cleavage, apparently all Israeli, brought a touch of Tel Aviv to the West Bank. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556078398-455

Science and Medicine

*** Gulf War illness symptoms cited by non-Gulf vets

CHICAGO (Reuters) - Hundreds of U.S. military personnel have complained of symptoms characteristic of Gulf War illness even though they never served in that conflict, new research showed Tuesday. A study by the Centers for Disease Control found that 15% of 2,520 members of the Air Force had complained of symptoms similar to those associated with the mysterious medical affliction. None served in the 1990-91 U.S. military buildup and conflict against Iraq, the researchers said. The study of active-duty personnel, which began in 1994, also suggested that Gulf War illness among those who did serve in the conflict might be more widespread than first thought. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556077561-88a

*** Dusty mystery of Jupiter's rings is solved

PASADENA, Calif. (Reuters) - Astronomers said Tuesday they had discovered the origin of the planet Jupiter's rings - including one described as a hula-hoop wobbling around its "fat waist." In what they hailed as a major find, they said the three rings consisted of tiny dust particles kicked up by space rocks hitting Jupiter's four inner moons and dragged into orbit around the solar system's largest planet. Jupiter's rings, unlike the famous ones around the planet Saturn, cannot be seen from Earth. They were only detected by the Voyager 1 spacecraft in 1979 and their origins have been a puzzle to scientists ever since. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556077926-985

*** Mir cosmonauts make rare indoor spacewalk

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Cosmonauts on the Mir space station completed a rare spacewalk Wednesday inside the 12-year-old craft aimed at improving its ability to gather energy from the sun, officials said. Cosmonauts Gennady Padalka and Sergei Avdeyev, wearing bulky spacesuit gloves, took just 30 minutes to do the repairs inside the damaged Spektr module that flight planners expected would take nearly three hours. The crew entered Spektr seven minutes ahead of schedule and left two and a half hours earlier than planned. Spektr was punctured more than a year ago when Mir collided with a cargo resupply ship. The crew narrowly escaped death by sealing off the module from the rest of the station. See

http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556078519-8ef

*** Canada company to test shark cartilage for cancer

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A Canadian biotechnology company said Tuesday it was helping the U.S. National Cancer Institute in advanced human tests of a new cancer drug made from shark cartilage. The company, Montreal-based AEterna Laboratories Inc., said it would test the compound as an angiogenesis inhibitor - one of a highly vaunted new class of drugs that kill a tumor by starving it of its blood supply.
The drug, known as AE-941 or Neovastat, will start Phase III clinical trials - the last stage before application for U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval - in hospitals across the United States and Canada. See
http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556076890-007

*** Are mammograms for older women a waste, study asks

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Mammograms in elderly women - those over the age of 70 - may be a waste of time, serving only to make them anxious, doctors said Tuesday. A report published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute shows that mammograms detect cancer in fewer than one in 100 cases in elderly women. Karla Kerlikowske of the University of California San Francisco said such women are much more likely to die of heart disease, and perhaps should be saved the trauma of a mammogram. "There's no evidence that there's any benefit for someone 70 and older," she said. "You are asking someone to

undergo known risks - false positives, and small, insignificant lesions that lead to surgery, when you don't know that there's any benefit." See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556078638-d27

*** U.S. study queries prostate cancer therapy for some

CHICAGO (Reuters) - A study published Tuesday raised questions about a widely used prostate cancer radiation therapy in cases where there is a high risk the disease will spread. Researchers at Harvard Medical School said a study involving 1,872 men in Philadelphia and Boston found poorer outcomes for high-risk patients treated by implanting radioactive "seeds" in the gland, compared to those treated more aggressively. "These results suggest that a particular population of patients - those we can therapeutically determine to be 'high risk' - don't do as well with the seed therapy ... as with alternative forms of therapy," said Alan Wein of the University of Pennsylvania Cancer Center, the Harvard study's chief investigator. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556076375-f86

Technology

*** Microsoft executive tried to persuade Netscape

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A Microsoft Corp. executive testified his

company "absolutely" meant to persuade rival Netscape Communications Corp. not to compete against it in the market for Internet Web browsers, according to testimony cited in a court ruling this week. In a decision rejecting Microsoft's attempt to have government antitrust allegations thrown out, Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson said Monday the testimony created a "genuine dispute" about whether Microsoft may have violated the nation's antitrust laws. The testimony concerns a controversial meeting between executives of Netscape and Microsoft June 21, 1995. At the time, Netscape Communications manufactured the dominant browser for the Web, Netscape Navigator. See http://www.infobeat.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=2556078596-4d0

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CREATION DATE/TIME:16-SEP-1998 12:40:00.00

SUBJECT: Daily Digest: CLINTON: CRITICISM HIGH, BUT SYMPATHY UP

TO: Doris O. Matsui (Doris O. Matsui@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
The unfolding developments in independent counsel Kenneth Starr's inquiry into President Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky continued to attract intense scrutiny from media around the globe. The most recent emphasis was on the "fresh fight" brewing in the House Judiciary Committee over whether to release the videotape of President Clinton's testimony before a grand jury on August 17. Commentators judged that the possible broadcast of the tapes over U.S. airwaves would be yet another "humiliation" for the president, but disagreed on what impact the release of the tape might have. Turin's centrist, influential La Stampa held: "In the end, the images of a president put against the ropes by an [obssessed] investigator... may end up damaging prosecutor Starr more than Clinton." However, stressing that "politicians know that the weight of words rarely equals the shock of video," independent Le Soir of Brussels foresaw that "desertion" from the president's camp by Democratic Party members "might speed up" after the tape is made public. But even that paper concluded that it is difficult to predict the consequences of the video's release. Indeed, uncertainty about the fate of the president and the ability of the world's only superpower to carry out its international responsibilities loomed large as a theme in many editorials. Fears were compounded by views that even more damaging revelations lie ahead. Meanwhile, the intensity of various opinions on other germane themes of the Lewinsky saga

and the balance among them appeared to be shifting. Expressions of sympathy for the president--which all but evaporated after his television appearance last month during which he admitted to having had an "improper" relationship with Ms. Lewinsky--seemed to be resurfacing among an increasing number of commentators. At the same time, however, the level of criticism regarding the president remains quite high. Notably, many pundits on all sides of the debate believed it would be best if Mr. Clinton resigned from office--if not so much due to his alleged moral failings, but
because of the "political paralysis" that appears to have seized the U.S. government. Following are commentary highlights:

CRITICISM HIGH: A considerable number of analysts was highly critical of the president and his behavior. They believed Mr. Clinton, among other things, has only himself to blame for his predicament, forfeited his "moral authority," "respects nothing, or no one," and has acted "irresponsibly." "Is this the sort of president that the Americans want?," asked Lisbon's leading centrist Diario de Noticias. These opinionmakers found that the president's relationship with Ms. Lewinsky and his subsequent actions are grounds for impeachment--or at least resignation. BUT SYMPATHY UP: A growing segment of commentary expressed sympathy for the president and asserted that impeachment is not justified. Many minced no words in criticizing Kenneth Starr and the Republicans in Congress. There were also several observations made that there should be a recognized distinction between private and public misdeeds, and that the former do not merit public sanction. Many media voices repeated their concern that the long-term implications of Mr. Starr's investigation threaten to erode well

recognized protections of privacy and legitimize governmental intrusions into the private lives of citizens.

This survey is based on 67 reports from 40 countries, September 12-16.

EDITOR: Diana McCaffrey

EUROPE

BRITAIN: "Power Failure In The White House"

The independent Financial Times had this lead editorial (9/16): "Even if Bill Clinton survives the threat of impeachment, his capacity to exercise effective political leadership during the remainder of his term in office must be seriously in question. That would be a worrying prospect at any time. It is particularly so at a moment when hopes of stabilizing global economic turmoil hinge on Washington's ability to take the lead. How should the rest of the world cope with the uncertainties created by Mr. Clinton's plight, and what, if anything, can it do to reduce them?... The European Union's own institutional and political constraints prevent it from aspiring, at least in the foreseeable future, to rivalling American global leadership. But at a critical stage in America's political history and in the world economy, it needs to do all it can to ensure that leadership continues to be exercised as effectively and benignly as possible."

"Last Superpower Exits World Stage"

Chris Lockwood held in the conservative Daily Telegraph (9/16): "First

there were two superpowers. Then the Berlin Wall came down and there was one. Now, as America's presidency retreats into impotence and isolation, it increasingly looks as though there are none.... The reason for such inaction is simple, but frightening. America has lost its will to act overseas unless American interests or lives are directly affected, such as in the bombing of an embassy. The most senior American officials bluntly admit that the United States can no longer tolerate even single-figure casualties of war. Some superpower. This neo-isolationism has been building at least since America's humiliation in Somalia in 1992-93, where the superpower's dead soldiers were dragged through the Mogadishu streets. It has always taken a strong president to overcome Congress's reluctance to expend blood or treasure abroad. A crippled president has no chance."

"Don't Let This Randy Little Minx Topple The President"

The conservative tabloid Evening Standard (9/16) carried this op-ed opinion by Alan Clark, member of Parliament: "Most girls of 19 are randy little minxes, giving small thought that the object of their desire might be married to someone else. And Ms. Lewinsky seems to have been forward, even by today's standards.... Just as distasteful is the personality of 'the judge'. Ken Starr is openly and personally adversarial towards the president. Indeed, the whole manner of Starr's behavior, vindictive and unsavory in its relish, should cast doubt on the substance, still less the conclusions, of his report.... And because the United States is not a Third World dictatorship but a democracy, the greatest on earth, the likelihood remains that the people may still come to their senses."

"Crises On Hold As Clinton Diverted"

The centrist Independent commented (9/15): "Many governments are nervously watching the drama gripping the American presidency and its impact on the long list of world crises, actual and potential, all demanding American attention, some requiring solely American action. Diplomats prefer to insist that the wheels of foreign policy-making in Washington continue to turn as normal, despite the hurricane unleashed by Bill Clinton's misdeeds with Monica Lewinsky. To an extent that is true, given the well-oiled machinery of American government.... But at a certain point Mr. Clinton's active involvement is needed. And amid the worst crisis of his presidency, even his famous ability to 'compartmentalise' bad news and concentrate on pressing matters to hand may no longer be enough."

"President Takes A Lesson From The Lion King"

The independent Financial Times said this (9/15): "Garbage trucks packed with sand were rolled onto the streets of New York yesterday to provide a presidential shield in the event of a terrorist bomb attack. And while the barriers did little to protect a struggling President Bill Clinton from the wrath of an angry nation, they at least brought a temporary significance back to his mission: to help bring order to a troubled world.... Back in Washington, however, the powers of darkness continued to close in. Members of the House Judiciary Committee began the task of trawling through more

than 2,000 pages of unpublished documents delivered by Mr. Starr last week. And Republicans in the House of Representatives continued to call for the president's resignation."

"Starr Struck"

The liberal Guardian's editorial stated (9/15): "The Starr report is long and wrong. His perversion of the office of special prosecutor is a lesson to us all in how, without continuous review, assessment and chopping, governments can grow tentacles which cease to answer to the democratic nerve center which set them up.... The American public is responding. The polls say it rejects impeachment. Impatiently, Americans want their political class to resolve this issue and move on."

"Gore Takes Supporting Role"

The conservative Times noted (9/15): "Al and Tipper Gore were at the side of President and Hillary Clinton in New York yesterday, acting as if nothing had changed since their first joyful campaign bus ride together six years ago.... It was a classic example of the second-in-line as number-one ally, and it is what Washington expects of Mr. Gore. Yet try as he might to go through the rituals as if nothing were amiss, the Veep knows that he is suddenly under intense scrutiny. The Gores are inevitably weighing up the odds of their moving in the weeks or months ahead from the vice presidential mansion to the White House. They may try to stay above the fray, but they are very much a part of it."

FRANCE: "After The Novel, The Movie...."

Jean-Jacques Mevel commented in right-of-center Le Figaro (9/16): "In the obsessive pursuit of truth, the president finds himself totally isolated. He is alone, facing a justice system embodied by Kenneth Starr, his Republican enemies and his Democratic allies, all three strangely united and accomplices.... The humiliation which the president would have to endure if his videotaped testimony was televised has become a secondary issue.... The question is eminently political.... In the United States, perjury is a crime, and political circles have no moral qualms about what they should do."

"A Tidal Wave"

Andre Kaspi told listeners of government-run France Inter radio (9/15): "The situation is serious for the United States and for the rest of the world.... We are going into a very long process that will weaken the Clinton administration even more.... There may even be a third scandal over the campaign funding issue, affecting Clinton, Gore and their political circles.... If that third wave of investigation happens, it could be a tidal wave."

"A Big Empty Place At The Head Of The World"

Patrick Sabatier commented in left-of-center Liberation (9/15): "Concern around the world is real as the only superpower is seen adrift and its leader distracted from world events.... While the power and influence of

the United States can be separated from the man himself, and the

credibility he carries, the point at issue does not have to do with simple morality. It is the White House that sets the course of foreign policy, more so than any of the members of the government.... The president's absence cannot be filled by any one, not even the very influential Robert Rubin.... Yet President Clinton is and remains the most powerful leader in the world, and no one should take this for granted, particularly among his enemies."

GERMANY: "A President Is Being Destroyed"

Rainer Bonhorst observed in right-of-center Augsburger Allgemeine (9/16): "Nobody should be treated the way Bill Clinton was treated. Very embarrassing details of his sexual life were spread over the Internet where they are read by millions of people. This is not politics, this is not legal, this is the public destruction of a human being. No smear journalism has ever wallowed in such humiliating manner in private affairs as the pompous lawmakers in Congress and as independent counsel Kenneth Starr. In the global village, 'pillorying' which has come from medieval times, has got a new disgusting dimension. Even independent counsel Kenneth Starr would not be pleased if his sexual life--if there is any--were put in the Internet."

"Morality And Business"

Nikolaus Blome stressed on the front page of right-of-center Die Welt of

Berlin (9/15): "There is good reason that impeachment proceedures allow great latitude for interpretation about the offenses of a president; only a few crimes require that the president be impeached. But Clinton has not been accused of any such type of crime. It is true that the president is guilty of serious character weaknesses. He lied in public and did not prevent staff aides from making false testimonies. But it is an issue of politics and not so much a question of morality whether this is enough for an impeachment. And this is as it should be. An impeachment reverses the declared political will of the voters, who have no chance to say what they want in such cases. And Americans have sent Clinton to the White House twice--without assuming that his private life is moral."

"Step Down"

Right-of-center Neue Rhein/Neue Ruhr Zeitung of Essen (9/14) argued: "Kenneth Starr hopes that if Congress does not impeach the president, Clinton will resign rather than expose his country to ridicule. Unfortunately, the ridicule exists. Even today, Clinton is no longer fully welcome everywhere.... The most powerful country in the world cannot afford an embattled president behind whose back people crack blue jokes..... Clinton, who has been a good president for his country, should now do his country a final service and make room for Vice President Al Gore."

ITALY: "Videotapes Now At Center Of Violent Political Battle In Congress"

Washington correspondent Andrea di Robilant said in centrist, influential

La Stampa (9/16): "The video of Clinton's testimony before the Grand Jury is at the center of a violent political battle in Congress.... Nobody can really predict the impact of the video on public opinion. Polls indicate quite clearly that a majority of Americans can no longer stand this story. In the end, the images of a president put against the ropes by an investigator obsessed by the most intimate details of his sexual life may end up damaging prosecutor Starr more than Clinton, reinforcing the White House assertion that there is 'fury' against the president on the part of the Republicans.... The Democrats, encouraged by the White House, have begun to work at a compromise in order to avoid impeachment.... But admitting perjury may be, in the end, the price that Clinton will have to pay to the Republicans to save his presidency.... In the meantime, the president continues to show his repentance and contrition in public."

"Starr Investigating Other Fronts As Well"

In left-leaning, influential La Repubblica (9/16), New York correspondent Arturo Zampaglione wrote: "The video of Clinton's testimony before the Grand Jury is not the last trap in the road.... Starr continues to investigate on other fronts as well... According to former White House insider and (FOB) Dick Morris...Hillary will soon be committed for trial over the Whitewater scandal.... Is there a way to emerge from the impasse?... According to the Washington Post and many Congressmen, the answer can come from a rapid approval of what is called 'censure plus,' i.e., a parliamentary motion of condemnation and the request that Clinton

refund at least part of the $4.4 million spent by Starr during the seven months of his investigation."

"Our Friend Starr"

An editorial in provocative, classical liberal Il Foglio (9/15) ironically criticized all those who, over the last few days, have attacked Kenneth Starr's "puritanism" and "sexual McCarthyism" and defended Starr: "Starr is a crude man, with a nasty smile, who has decided to make Bill Clinton pay for his well known propensity to lie and, perhaps, also for his new inclination to tears and his pitiful apologies.... The independent counsel was appointed and paid, according to American law, to ascertain whether the president was a liar.... Great Starr. He could be surpassed only by Hillary Clinton the day when she finally decides to pack up and abandon the famous feminist president."

"U.S. Media Asks President To Resign"

Ennio Caretto noted in his report from Washington in centrist, top-circulation Corriere della Sera (9/15): "Paradoxically, the American media are going against public opinion--an indication of the chaos faced by the U.S. superpower. About 30 dailies asked the president to resign, the last one being the highest-circulation USA Today."

RUSSIA: "Voluntary Resignation"

Dmitry Gornostayev remarked in centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (9/15): "Events suggest that a way to stop all speculation--political, if not

intimate--would be for Bill Clinton to resign on his own."

AUSTRIA: "Sex And Politics: Two Categories"

Christoph Winder asked in independent Der Standard (9/15): "Which conclusions can be drawn from the private--or even from the most private, the sexual--behavior, for the other qualities of an politician? The answer is as simple as precise: none. We are talking of two completely different categories.... Even if it turns out that Bill Clinton was involved in an inappropriate act with Ms. Lewinsky...this would prove a certain frivolous conduct of office, but it does not say the least about his political performance. However the Clinton affair may end, it ought to be taken as an opportunity to reconsider the relationship between the private and the public sphere and to work towards a radical disentanglement of the two."

BELGIUM: "Clinton, A 'Lying King' In New York"

Colette Braeckman wrote under the headline above in independent Le Soir (9/16): "If the video of his deposition before the Grand Jury is broadcast, desertion might speed up.... Politicians know that the weight of words rarely equals the shock of video, but nobody takes the risk of predicting the consequences of this incest between democracy and voyeurism. Advantage to the prosecutor, thanks to the revelation of the embarrassment and anger of the witness, or advantage to the president, thanks to the display of the unhealthy fierceness of his accuser? "

"Savonarola Made In USA"

Jean Daloze observed in conservative Catholic La Libre Belgique (9/16):
"The rule that democracy should be a representative regime, i.e., imposing an intermediary body between citizens and state, has not been respected in the United States... Can we, in Belgium, consider the current American effervescence condescendingly? We have to be careful as we begin a reform of our judiciary system. Careful of the susceptibility of parliament and the system itself to the so-called popular sentiment... The monk, Savonarola, a criminal in the name of virtue, as well as Robespierre, are not totally dead."

"What Republicans Want"

New York correspondent Tom Ronse in independent De Morgen remarks (9/15):
"The majority of the Republican members of the Congress appear to prefer that the scandal lasts as long as possible for electoral purposes.... The most influential Republicans, however, appear to be less eager to do that. They are afraid that the public which, according to all polls, wants the affair to be ended, would take be criticial of the Republicans if the affair is dragging on.... Moreover, they are afraid that a long crisis might have unpleasant repercussions on America's interests, especially on the international scene. The image of a president who is increasingly being cornered and who focuses on his own defense instead of governing, may spark a climate of uncertainty which incites terrorism, and regional conflicts and chaos in the world economy. That is the reason why some Republican leaders are prepared to hold out the olive branch."

BULGARIA: "We All Gain From Clinton's Drama"

Mass-circulation Trud observed (9/15): "Both Kenneth Starr's report and President Clinton's explanations and apologies demonstrate the deep human drama the latter is experiencing. Clinton is a man who is unable to find satisfaction and balance in his emotional life. The rules of American democracy made Clinton talk publicly about this problem and he accepted it. Naturally, he is fighting to defend his position. Nevertheless, it is precisely the openness with which the whole crisis is developing, that gives the impression that American democracy will win no matter how this crisis ends. And, democracy in general will win as well."

CANADA: "Censure, Reprimand In Order"

The leading Globe and Mail (9/15) editorialized: "Impeachment is too heavy a punishment for an affair, but congressional censure or reprimand is the least Mr. Clinton should expect for lying to the public and to the courts. This is a president who needs a lot of pressure to make right his wrongs."

"From Lame Duck To Moral Cripple"

Jeffrey Simpson observed in the leading Globe and Mail (9/15): "Even if the president survives, as he probably will, the Clinton presidency as an effective instrument of U.S. leadership at home and abroad is over, done in by Bill Clinton himself."

CROATIA: "Clinton's Worst Week"

Influential, pro-government Vjesnik observed (9/12): "The most powerful man in the world is facing horrible temptations. Can he still be saved by his wife, who in the past few days has been repeating that she supports him and loves him? Although useful, it is no longer enough--because it can also be interpreted that Hillary Clinton is fighting against her return to Arkansas and to remain the first lady. What could, in fact, save the president? Only to truly repent and show it, which he still hasn't done despite numerous statements. However, most observers agree on one thing: the next seven to ten days will be critical.

"If Clinton survives this, he will probably remain in the 'saddle.'"

CZECH REPUBLIC: "Mediocrity Prevails In The U.S."

A commentary in centrist Lidove noviny (9/15) said: "Independent investigator Kenneth Starr is nearing his goal--to get President Clinton to the stake. Clinton's end is probably in the offing, and the saddest fact is that it is not because of his incompetence or mistakes, but because of some grey mouse Monica Lewinsky, who has served 'Grand Inquisitor' Starr so well.... The only solution in this situation is to have a flawless president who observes all possible rules and sticks to a double moral standard (if only those who have not sinned were to throw stones at Clinton, there would be very few stones indeed that would land on his head, if any). Mr. Starr and those of his sort would like to see such a

man-robot in a top position. But a glimpse at history tells us that grey bureaucrats have never achieved anything. It will always be controversial personalities who will be the driving force and the winners."

HUNGARY: "Resignation Or Censure"

Washington correspondent Gabor Lambert in the centrist conservative Magyar Nemzet said (9/15): "Besides impeachment, the other option would be if President Clinton, just like Nixon did earlier, resigned. This option was also raised by Trent Lott, who pointed out that even representatives of the president's own party suggested that. But it is the Republicans who publicly call for the U.S. president to leave. But, according to public polls, almost 70 per cent of the people find Clinton a good president and want him serve his term. The majority, however, agrees with some kind of a `punishment,' which could be a censure by the Congress, similar to the case of Andrew Jackson back in 1834."

NORWAY: "Scandal Damages U.S. Leadership"

Conservative Aftenposten remarked (9/13): "With crises on all sides, there is reason for concern when the world's foremost power is focusing so much of its attention on the president's sex life and the threat of impeachment. His position is incomparably embarrassing, but it is doubtful whether there are grounds for impeachment. Impeachment should be a matter of political rather than sexual affairs. A more likely scenario is that a group of veteran Democrats advises him to step aside for Al Gore. The question is whether the people will feel that their interests can be

served by a teetering president who is no longer able to exert significant leadership."

PORTUGAL: "Resign"

Columnist Lu?s Delgado editorialized in leading centrist Diario de Noticias (9/15): "Bill Clinton should resign from the presidency of the United States. For three reasons: 1. For shame. Only a shameless president, irresponsible, immature and pathologically ambitious would be able to remain in the White House under these circumstances.... 2. For dignity: A man without dignity, without greatness of mind and without the capacity to face reality does not deserve to be in the presidency. This should be basic for Americans. It is no longer relevant whether he performed well politically, but rather to know, in face of the events, that he still has human dignity. 3. For respect. For his country, for the world, for the presidency, and for the future. It is of less importance whether the issue is sexual, personal, marital, or if Kenneth Starr is a fanatic or a moralist. That stage is over. What matters now is that Clinton demonstrated that he respects nothing, and no one. Worse: at the crucial moment, when high-mindedness and nobility are required, Clinton was cowardly, dishonest, a liar, and irresponsible. Is this the sort of president that the Americans want?"

SERBIA-MONTENEGRO: "All Clinton's Lovers Have Not Been Revealed So Far"

Stojan Cerovic opined in independent Nasa Borba (9/14): "The heights of power have been shaken at the same time in Moscow and in Washington. In Russia thanks to the ruble, in the United States because of sex; which seems to illustrate an essential cultural difference between these two countries. Russians have never known how to deal rationally with money.... And in the United States, overwrought drama and conflict have developed over sexual matters."

SPAIN: "Obscenities"

Alfonso Ussia commented in conservative ABC (9/16): "'Monica is so ashamed of the pornographic nature of [Starr's] report that, if she could, she would leave the country forever.'... This statement by Monica's father fails to convince...nor does it tell the whole story. The remorseful vixen has now accepted a multi-million-dollar publishing contract to tell the story of her relationship with Clinton.... It is understandable that Monica Lewinsky should feel embarrassed by the lurid descriptions in Starr's report...and for having saved evidence for the purpose of blackmail...and for having jotted down the dates of their trysts...and for having cut a deal with the prosecutor in exchange for all this revolting material. I have no plans to erect a monument to Clinton, but in comparison to some other people, he is beginning to seem like a decent sort of guy."

TURKEY: "Morality And America"

Hadi Uluengin commented in mass-appeal Hurriyet (9/16): "There is a

difference between America and Europe in terms of moral values. America was founded under a series of Protestant-based religious sects, from Mormons to Baptists. These sects have one thing in common: Puritanism. They are obsessed with the belief that human beings are doomed to commit sins. That divine, moralistic approach is shaping today's America as well.... I do not have any objection to moralism, as long as it remains under sensible limits. However, in the U.S. example, moralism has just gone crazy. It is a horrible farce to see Clinton is being sent to the Inquisition under moral charges."

"Starr, A Player In A Consipracy"

Hadi Uluengin wrote in mass-appeal Hurriyet (9/15): "The biggest mistake President Clinton made was not his denial about the relationship with Monica. He did not act boldly toward the aggressive Special Counsel Starr; Clinton should have said that he would never discuss this issue with him. That was his big mistake, because it is obvious that Starr, who represents the part of America's extreme fundamentalism and its ideology, is a player in a conspiracy. It is very clear that Starr always hated Bill Clinton, who stood against the Vietnam War, approved of abortion and birth control policies, hired black advisors and focused on social issues.... Although it appears to be a sex-related scandal, the conflict actually is taking place between the two Americas. To put it in categories, it is between the KKK and the believers of a free New World."

EAST ASIA

JAPAN: "Clinton's Personal Problem Creates The Global Blues"

Moderate Tokyo Shimbun editorialized (9/15), "It appears that President Clinton's personal problem, stemming from his alleged attempt to cover up his 'inappropriate relationship' with a former White House intern, has become politicized and protracted.... Will Congress take action to impeach the president? After all, it will be public opinion that holds the key to congressional impeachment. At any rate, this is a problem to be settled domestically. More serious questions have been raised over whether the president's scandal will have negative effects on the rest of

the world. It has been pointed out that the president is already losing the authority to deal effectively with economic and social issues in Indonesia and Russia and with North Korea's suspected nuclear development."

AUSTRALIA: "Private Shame, Public Virtue"

The liberal Sydney Morning Herald (9/15) opined, "Mr. Clinton's behavior with Ms. Lewinsky disgusts. But it has never had a public dimension to it sufficient to justify the money and effort expended by Mr. Starr and his team of investigators.... It never has been, and still is not, a sufficiently grave matter of public importance to warrant the pursuit of the president through the impeachment and removal process. That will not improve the health of the U.S. system of government, but only weaken it even more than it has been already."

"Democrats Must Aid Mr. Clinton's Exit"

The conservative Brisbane Courier Mail (9/15) asserted: "The Democrats would be devastated if impeachment proceedings began in the House of Representatives before the elections.... But the longer Mr. Clinton remains, the longer the paralysis of the American government will be prolonged. He no longer has any moral authority.... There is now widespread revulsion not only at the revelations in the Starr report, but also at the course his investigation followed. It is to be hoped that no future president is subjected to such a demeaning process."

HONG KONG: "Starr Rating"

The English-language, independent South China Morning Post observed (9/15): "On one issue, there is no doubt: The American people remain as firmly opposed as ever to his impeachment. That does not justify Mr. Clinton's desperate attempts to cling to office. The credibility of the supposed leader of the free world has been shattered by these revelations of his deceitful conduct and the United States will never regain the respect befitting its status as a superpower without a change of president.... But

it does show Mr. Starr may have gone too far in making allegations that cannot stand up and in publishing an unnecessarily graphic account of the more sordid aspects of Mr. Clinton's sexual antics.... The consensus of legal opinion is that some of the allegedly impeachable offences, such as a failure to cooperate fully with Mr. Starr's inquiry, are weak, if not ridiculous."

INDONESIA: "It's A Moral Issue"

The leading English-language, independent Jakarta Post noted (9/15): "Starr has admitted that he included the graphic details to spice up his report in order to make his case for impeachment more convincing. The bottom line, in his review, is the fact that the president of the United States has lied to the public on numerous occasions. Clinton's sexual encounters with Lewinsky are not impeachable offenses and in this respect, Starr has refrained from making a moral judgement on the president.... It is sad to see that Clinton has defiled what is supposed to be the most powerful office in the world. It is even sadder, if not perplexing, to see Americans compromising their own standards by allowing a president of

dubious morality to stay in office. In the final analysis, it is not so much the fact that Clinton's lies has undermined his leadership. He lied understandably to avoid the embarrassment he would suffer if his behavior ever became public knowledge. While Clinton's lack of moral principles may not justify impeachment, it has certainly lowered the dignity and respect accorded to his once revered office."

SINGAPORE: "Politically Wounded President"

The Business Times editorial stated (9/15): "Even if the Clintonites pull off this best- case scenario, and the president survives the constitutional ordeal facing him, America and the world
could still be left with a president who would be politically badly wounded and who would lack any moral authority as well as public and congressional support and who would find it very difficult to advance his domestic and

foreign policy agendas. That such a president would be occupying the White House at a time when the global economy may be facing the most serious crisis since the 1920's is certainly a troubling prospect for America's world partners."

SOUTH KOREA: "Korea's U.S. Diplomacy: Focus From Clinton To Congress"

Washington correspondent Kil Joung-Woo of the pro-business Joong-Ang Ilbo (9/16) wrote: "The Clinton administration is a lame duck now. After the release of the Starr report, the authority of the president has nose-dived and the morale of administration officials is at an all time low. Regardless of President Clinton's fate, his ability to lead the country will be terribly limited. This phenomenon will become more conspicuous over issues where the White House and Congress have sharply different positions.... It now is important to think ahead about what our strategy will be in dealing with a lame-duck American administration. As we have seen at the latest U.S.-North Korea talks, Washington leans toward cajoling the North rather than taking a tough position.... We also have to think ahead about how to intervene with the Clinton administration when we decide its 'engagement policy' no longer serves us on North-South Korean relations.... So it is time for the Korean government to pay more attention to its relations with U.S. Republican leaders whose voices will be loud and clear at this time of President Clinton's crisis.... While we can sympathize with President Clinton's pain in dealing with the Congress and the American public, our national interests are our priority."

"When A President Loses Moral Authority"

Conservative Segye Ilbo editorialized (9/15): "It is unfortunate for all of us that President Clinton is fast losing his ability to lead the United States. Although we very much hope the United States will be able to restore its leadership as quickly as possible, we cannot wholeheartedly support a morally damaged president."

PHILIPPINES: "Starr's Inquisition"

Veteran journalist and former press secretary Teodoro Benigno wrote in the independent Philippine Star (9/16): "Kenneth Starr is a relic snatched from the Spanish Inquisition, mean and ruthless, whose gospel is Birchite, who looks on displaced semen on a woman's dress as the ultimate evil. Look at his face. With his spectacles, Starr could have passed as Herr Goebbels shouting 'sieg heil' with a Nazi strut."

" Kenneth Starr Is The Problem"

Willie Ng wrote in his column in the conservative Manila Bulletin (09/16): "There is an unspoken obsession of the American media to demonstrate that all, garbage man or president, must be treated equally. Have they overdone it? No person in history, however humble his station in life, has ever been subjected to the media-beating given...Clinton. No one before him has ever had a love affair publicly exposed in such detail, then dissected and analyzed, for nine months.... The fellow has admitted to the affair. Would a detailed description of his every act in the affair make him more liable? Was it necessary to strip the president of the United States of all

his dignity?... Starr has succeeded in making America look ridiculous."

THAILAND: "What The World Gets From The Clinton Case"

The lead editorial of elite Matichon commented (9/16): "A public official has nothing that is considered private, as whatever he does impacts national interests in some way or another. An incumbent public official must be ethically and morally upright and a good model for the society....

"One should think that the sex scandal, which has been publicized worldwide, may have shamed the president to the extreme. To the contrary, he is still standing tall, smiling and struggling for survival."

"U.S. Lacks Legitmacy To Be Moral Leader"

Elite, business-oriented Phujatkarn said (9/15), "The majority of Americans are willing to allow Clinton to continue his presidency because their ultimate aims in life are their well-being and seeing the Dow Jones index average ever rising and yielding dividends.... Greed for wealth means more to them than the filthy sexual excess even in the White House.... Will Americans not feel any sense of shame to have him continue to run his office and boast human rights and humanitarianism around the world?... In our view, for as long as the United States and its leadership fail to solve their own moral problems will it lack the legitimacy to flaunt itself an upholder of world's virtues."

SOUTH ASIA

BANGLADESH: "Hillary Clinton"

Centrist Muktakantha editorialized (9/16): "How is Hillary? Has she been able to forgive her husband? Apparently, even after the uproar she went to a retreat with her husband and daughter. Many have termed this is an effort to restore their marriage. Although it not sure how much of it has been restored, Hillary is appearing with her husband on some occasions in an effort to change public opinion. The Internet is deluged with reports on Clinton and Monica and side by side Hillary is being seen smiling beside her husband. Intelligent and tactful, Hillary is being ridiculed in the U.S. Hillary is known to our country, though maybe not as widely as Diana. She has many admirers around the world. They are not in good mood due to their concern for her.

"In the Midst of Crises"

The independent Financial Express opined (9/15): "Clinton may soon find himself confronted with another damaging inquiry. The Justice Department has begun a 90-day inquiry, based on the independent counsel law, into allegations of possible election improprieties. It is being alleged that Clinton illegally benefited from the Democratic advertisements during the presidential campaign. The influential media in USA seem to be imploring Clinton to step down. Most are inclined to say that even outside of the USA, the sex-and-lies-scandal has shattered the Clinton presidency. He will be weak president. Clinton hopes to escape with a congressional reprimand. The problem now concerns the nation, not the individual, the

New York Times said. If he does not resign, every squalid detail of his affairs with Lewinsky will continue to haunt him for the remaining period of his presidency."

INDIA: "It's Not Over Yet"

The influential, right-of-center Indian Express (9/16) reported that a "fresh fight" is brewing in the political arena over the so-called Clinton Tapes, with Republican leaders pressing to make it public to further "corner" Clinton. "It's not over yet, not by a long shot. The American saga of sex, lies and videotape rolls on relentlessly."

"A Philandering President Is Always A Security Risk"

Pro-BJP Urdu-language Pratap said (9/15): "What Clinton has done is nothing strange by the standards of American society, which allows its men and women to have and change any number of sexual partners.... The only reason for all the criticism...against (Clinton) is the special and sensitive nature of his office.

"Illicit sexual relations can involve serious security risks as well. History is replete with examples of women extracting state secrets through sexual intimacy. A philandering president is always a security risk."

PAKISTAN: "Bill Clinton Turns To God"

Eqbal Ahmad commented in the Karachi-based, independent Dawn (9/16): "The

Republican legislators, upon whom falls the onus of leading the impeachment bandwagon, should be the least desirous of impeaching the Democratic president. Their party will be in a better position to defeat the Democratic candidate if a discredited incumbent sits in the White House. Why should they give the Democrats a clean administration to defend in the next presidential election? So, ironically, his opposition happens to be Clinton's best ally."

SRI LANKA: "Clinton: Expense Of Spirit In A Waste Of Shame"

Under the above headline, Jayadeva commented in the English-language, independent Island (9/16): "The Bill and Monica revue has been generating humor, satire and irony. But, sadly, time may be past for such humour. For now William Jefferson Clinton is a confessed sinner, a contrite man who admits to having done some wrong, and seeks forgiveness. Nobody laughs, pokes fun, at sinners. Besides, as one British commentator had it the other day, America loves sinners."

AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE: "In Our Climes, Lying Goes Unpunished"

Ferro Bally wrote in independent Soir Info (9/14): "But for the world's misfortune, lying is not the 'exclusive right' of only the American president, and of the political leaders of the New Continent. This is a staple that is inherent to the political mores under all skies and particularly in Africa, concerning the conduct of public mattters. For example, there exists always an absolute blackout regarding the health of

our leaders. Also, the leaders of ruling political parties lie daily lie to their constituencies when the electoral promises of the candidates are not met. The sole difference is that in genuine democracies, voters can chastise their political leders, whereas under our climes, lying goes unpunished."

NIGERIA: "An Example Of Freedom Of Expression"

The Lagos-based, pro-labor, independent Vanguard concluded (9/16): "The unfortunate episode has shown once again how free the American society is. Nobody, not even the president of the world's most powerful state, is a sacred cow.... It is this kind of freedom that [should be] welcomed in those countries that still consider democracy an expensive option."

LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA: "The Media Attack Clinton, But (U.S.) People Support Him"

Ana Baron, Washington-based correspondent for leading Clarin held (9/15), "In the face of the details of the sexual relationship which President Bill Clinton had with Monica Lewinsky...there is a deep difference between the U.S. media--calling for his resignation or impeachment--and most of the U.S. people, who are totally against that possibility.... Between the choice of impeachment--which is always long and painful--and a censure motion--which could mean only one bad day for the president--Republicans have chosen the first option, although they haven't gone so far to ask for Clinton's resignation. Additionally, if Clinton resigns, current Vice

President Al Gore would take over and this alternative is not useful for Republicans.... There is another point to take into account. The president is not willing to abandon the fight."

BOLIVIA: "World Waiting For The Conductor Of The Orchestra"

Centrist Hoy carried a commentary by Humberto Vacaflor (9/13): "One could dislike or not what the famous independent prosecutor Starr has done; one could call him morbid...but the truth is that he has dealt a mortal blow to the strength of the presidency of the United States. Perhaps President Bill Clinton will come out unharmed from this storm, but what he will not be able to do is to conduct, in this hour of tension, the greatest economy of the world at a time when one of the worst economic crises is happening.... The capitalist world, that is to say, almost the entire planet, is waiting for the conductor of the orchestra. The United States leads with the wand. But that leader needs to be clear-headed, without domestic problems caused by a morbid opposition."

BRAZIL: "Political Hypocrisy"

Liberal Jornal do Brasil maintained (9/16): "U.S. society remains as consevative as ever, vis-a-vis individual or public morals. The success of the nation is based on its moral values and the belief that weakening them is the quickest path to corruption. It would prefer to have in the presidency a replica of Lincoln, but is sick and tired of the political hypocrisy. The president's popularity, if it continues to remain strong, would condemn the Republicans to four more years of ostracism."

"The Most Practical"

Center-right daily O Globo noted (9/15): "Humiliated by the report, Clinton has taken to humbling himself as often as possible, with repeated confessions and pathetic calls for forgiveness. He seems to know what he's doing, since public support for the administration is at 60% and nearly that many are in favor of public censure instead of impeachment. Would this be an eminently political solution for an essentially moral problem? Sure, but also a practical one, without the trauma of removing the elected leader--and visibly going against the will of the people."

CUBA: "Starr Investigation: False Puritanism"

Communist Party Granma said (9/12): "The House decided by a vote of 363-63 to make the 455 page document available on the Internet, a channel unthought of just a few years ago. Politics and a false puritanism overlapped to forge the two weapons of scandal and media into one instrument that has pilloried the current leader of the one superpower in the world. And even so, the puritanism in which U.S. society puts such value shows its twofacedness, as within the pages of today's publications are offered numerous intimate details of the Lewinsky-Clinton relationship."

ECUADOR: "Clinton Toppled Clinton"

Leading centrist El Comercio held (9/12): "The U.S. president has fallen even more than was imaginable into the eye of the storm.... Now, it is very

unlikely that public opinion--the same one that had supported his economic management, but is tired of this subject--will give him the support he needs.... In legal fields, contesting the 11 charges is considered a draining task for Clinton. This is why resignation appears to be a sensible formula. Beyond Clinton's political survival and the debate about the privacy of public personalities, the U.S. judicial system exhibited the mechanisms that make it reliable. Ecuador can learn a lesson, for here the justice system contains black holes which allow many politicians to keep themselves out of its reach."

"Sexgate And Transparency"

Leading centrist El Comercio said (9/15): "Modern societies have a monolithic vision of information. Various futurists did not hide their fears that the eruption of mass media will bring about something similar to totalitarian societies. In Ecuador, how close are we to this open pattern of communication? A good question for those who still believe that governments--because they received the majority of votes--are the ones to impose the agenda of the media. That perverse logic does not respect the framework of a society whose authors are in continuous interaction that must be reflected by the media in all its complexity. These days, various opinion leaders have demanded more information on the border subject, respecting the logical limitations imposed by the negotiation. What is

curious is that the government already promised to do that, but there is no concrete signal forthcoming. This could be a good opportunity to demonstrate that authorities are willing to subject themselves to the exercise of transparency."

"Sinister Starr"

Center-left Hoy commented (9/14): "The independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr has persecuted Clinton with an almost sinister obstinacy, noble for some, severe for others.... It is a trivial little story, ranging between sick and dirty, one of those in which few can throw the first stone at the sinner, but one that has been overblown because Clinton thought he could keep it hidden with elusive and audacious statements. The biggest power on earth could crumble down, tripped by a young woman who wanted to become famous as the lover of the president, first in front of her friends, and then before the amorphous monster of the global society."

HONDURAS: "Latin America Tied To Events In Washington"

Pro-government, liberal La Tribuna observed (9/14): "For Latin America, and especially those countries of the world which are currently suffering some degree of volatility within their financial systems, the events which took place in Washington last week are of the utmost importance. If impeachment procedures are begun against the president or if he is forced to resign, it is almost certain that the government will not be able to push forward approval in Congress of the rules for signing a free trade agreement with our countries. Nor will the administration get sufficient

support for the IMF, which has become so important in order to prop up the falling Asian economies that will become a dangerous liability to our own continent if they don't get back on their feet."

MEXICO: "Dirty War"

Independent populist daily El Porvenir held (9/16), "The Clinton-Lewinsky case shows to all of us how politicians, as democratic as they might claim to be, can cancel the results of an election. Regardless of whether Clinton lied about his relations with Monica Lewinsky, it should not affect his term of office as long as he is doing a good job--or even if he is not, given that he was elected to serve out four years and this decision has not been reversed by any vote of the people."

"The Lewinsky Effect Is Tearing Us Up"

Independent daily El Diario held (9/16), "Without doubt one of the bulwarks in the politics and economics of Dr. Zedillos has been the clear financial support of the White House. The possibility that Clinton might be removed from office has pushed our government's economists to the wall because, in the face of our northern neighbor's crisis, none of them has an alternative plan for rescuing our economy that does not depend on the White House."

PERU: "Clinton's Motives"

Peruvian Ambassador Jorge Morelli wrote in pro-government Expreso (9/15):

"Clinton the wolf is now stuck making constant apologies...because Protestants prefer to make their apologies in public. Even worse, the puritanism in the United States punishes those who lie to hide their sins with hell on earth; thus, perjury usually results in something worse than the original mistake. It is surprising how the U.S. system--not its people--tries to ignore the arguments of Clinton's lawyers that adultery is not a crime. And nobody seems to notice that the current inquisitorial process is offending the president's wife and daughter. Even if the current internal crisis passes, the United States, despite its global superiority, will continue losing power and prestige for the sole reason that its 'system' is questioning President Clinton's private life."

URUGUAY: "Embarrassing"

Top-circulation El Pa?s held (9/14): "Never before has the leader of the most powerful country in the world been exposed to the world's public opinion in such an embarrassing way. Congress has to decide wheather to impeach the president or not, but most probably, public opinion polls--revealing how the American people feel about this--will play a key role."

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6511 Ann Pincus, Director
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CLINTON AFTER STARR REPORT: CRITICISM HIGH, BUT SYMPATHY UP

The unfolding developments in independent counsel Kenneth Starr's inquiry
into
President Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky continued to
attract int
ense scrutiny from media around the globe. The most recent
emphasis was on the
"fresh fight" brewing in the House Judiciary Committee
over whether to release
the videotape of President Clinton's testimony
before a grand jury on August
17. Commentators judged that the possible
broadcast of the tapes over U.S. air

waves would be yet another "humiliation"
for the president, but disagreed on wh
at impact the release of the tape might
have. Turin's centrist, influential L
a Stampa held: "In the end, the images
of a president put against the ropes by
an [obssessed] investigator... may
end up damaging prosecutor Starr more than
Clinton." However, stressing
that "politicians know that the weight of words
rarely equals the shock of
video," independent Le Soir of Brussels foresaw that
"desertion" from the
president's camp by Democratic Party members "might speed
up" after the tape
is made public. But even that paper concluded that it is d
ifficult to
predict the consequences of the video's release. Indeed, uncertain
ty about
the fate of the president and the ability of the world's only superpo
wer to
carry out its international responsibilities loomed large as a theme in
many
editorials. Fears were compounded by views that even more damaging
revel
ations lie ahead. Meanwhile, the intensity of various opinions on other
german
e themes of the Lewinsky saga and the balance among them appeared to be
shiftin
g. Expressions of sympathy for the presidentwhich all but
evaporated after his
television appearance last month during which he
admitted to having had an "im
proper" relationship with Ms. Lewinskyseemed
to be resurfacing among an increas
ing number of commentators. At the same
time, however, the level of criticism
regarding the president remains quite
high. Notably, many pundits on all sides
of the debate believed it would be
best if Mr. Clinton resigned from officeif
not so much due to his alleged
moral failings, but because of the "political pa
ralysis" that appears to have
seized the U.S. government. Following are commen
tary highlights:

CRITICISM HIGH: A considerable number of analysts was highly critical of the
p
resident and his behavior. They believed Mr. Clinton, among other things,
has
only himself to blame for his predicament, forfeited his "moral
authority," "re
spects nothing, or no one," and has acted "irresponsibly."

"Is this the sort o
f president that the Americans want?," asked Lisbon's
leading centrist Diario d
e Noticias. These opinionmakers found that the
president's relationship with
Ms. Lewinsky and his subsequent actions are
grounds for impeachmentor at least
resignation. BUT SYMPATHY UP: A growing
segment of commentary expressed sympath
y for the president and asserted that
impeachment is not justified. Many mince
d no words in criticizing Kenneth
Starr and the Republicans in Congress. There
were also several observations
made that there should be a recognized distinct
ion between private and public
misdeeds, and that the former do not merit publi
c sanction. Many media
voices repeated their concern that the longterm implica
tions of Mr. Starr's
investigation threaten to erode well recognized protection
s of privacy and
legitimize governmental intrusions into the private lives of c
itizens.
This survey is based on 67 reports from 40 countries, September 1216.
EDITOR: Diana McCaffrey

EUROPE
X` hp x (#
BRITAIN: "Power Failure In The White House"

The independent Financial Times had this lead editorial (9/16): "Even if Bill
Clinton survives the threat of impeachment, his capacity to exercise
effective
political leadership during the remainder of his term in office
must be serious
ly in question. That would be a worrying prospect at any
time. It is particul
arly so at a moment when hopes of stabilizing global
economic turmoil hinge on
Washington's ability to take the lead. How should
the rest of the world cope w
ith the uncertainties created by Mr. Clinton's
plight, and what, if anything, c
an it do to reduce them?... The European
Union's own institutional and politic
al constraints prevent it from aspiring,
at least in the foreseeable future, to
rivalling American global leadership.
But at a critical stage in America's po
litical history and in the world
economy, it needs to do all it can to ensure t
hat leadership continues to be
exercised as effectively and benignly as possibl

e."

"Last Superpower Exits World Stage"

Chris Lockwood held in the conservative Daily Telegraph (9/16): "First there were two superpowers. Then the Berlin Wall came down and there was one. Now, as America's presidency retreats into impotence and isolation, it increasingly looks as though there are none.... The reason for such inaction is simple, but frightening. America has lost its will to act overseas unless American intere sts or lives are directly affected, such as in the bombing of an embassy. The most senior American officials bluntly admit that the United States can no long er tolerate even singlefigure casualties of war. Some superpower. This neoiso lationism has been building at least since America's humiliation in Somalia in 199293, where the superpower's dead soldiers were dragged through the Mogadishu streets. It has always taken a strong president to overcome Congress's relucta nce to expend blood or treasure abroad. A crippled president has no chance."

"Don't Let This Randy Little Minx Topple The President"

The conservative tabloid Evening Standard (9/16) carried this oped opinion by Alan Clark, member of Parliament: "Most girls of 19 are randy little minxes, gi ving small thought that the object of their desire might be married to someone else. And Ms. Lewinsky seems to have been forward, even by today's standards.. .. Just as distasteful is the personality of 'the judge'. Ken Starr is openly and personally adversarial towards the president. Indeed, the whole manner of Starr's behavior, vindictive and unsavory in its relish, should cast doubt on the substance, still less the conclusions, of his report.... And because the U nited States is not a Third World dictatorship but a democracy, the greatest on earth, the likelihood remains that the people may still come to their senses."

"Crises On Hold As Clinton Diverted"

The centrist Independent commented (9/15): "Many governments are nervously wat
ching the drama gripping the American presidency and its impact on the long lis
t of world crises, actual and potential, all demanding American attention, some
requiring solely American action. Diplomats prefer to insist that the wheels
of foreign policymaking in Washington continue to turn as normal, despite the h
urricane unleashed by Bill Clinton's misdeeds with Monica Lewinsky. To an exte
nt that is true, given the welloiled machinery of American government.... But
at a certain point Mr. Clinton's active involvement is needed. And amid the wo
rst crisis of his presidency, even his famous ability to 'compartmentalise' bad
news and concentrate on pressing matters to hand may no longer be enough."

"President Takes A Lesson From The Lion King"

The independent Financial Times said this (9/15): "Garbage trucks packed with
sand were rolled onto the streets of New York yesterday to provide a president
ial shield in the event of a terrorist bomb attack. And while the barriers did
little to protect a struggling President Bill Clinton from the wrath of an ang
ry nation, they at least brought a temporary significance back to his mission:
to help bring order to a troubled world.... Back in Washington, however, the p
owers of darkness continued to close in. Members of the House Judiciary Commit
tee began the task of trawling through more than 2,000 pages of unpublished doc
uments delivered by Mr. Starr last week. And Republicans in the House of Repre
sentatives continued to call for the president's resignation."

"Starr Struck"

The liberal Guardian's editorial stated (9/15): "The Starr report is long and wrong. His perversion of the office of special prosecutor is a lesson to us al
l in how, without continuous review, assessment and chopping, governments can g

row tentacles which cease to answer to the democratic nerve center which set th
em up.... The American public is responding. The polls say it rejects impeach
ment. Impatiently, Americans want their political class to resolve this issue
and move on."

"Gore Takes Supporting Role"

The conservative Times noted (9/15): "Al and Tipper Gore were at the side of P
resident and Hillary Clinton in New York yesterday, acting as if nothing had ch
anged since their first joyful campaign bus ride together six years ago.... It
was a classic example of the secondinline as numberone ally, and it is what Wa
shington expects of Mr. Gore. Yet try as he might to go through the rituals as
if nothing were amiss, the Veep knows that he is suddenly under intense scruti
ny. The Gores are inevitably weighing up the odds of their moving in the weeks
or months ahead from the vice presidential mansion to the White House. They m
ay try to stay above the fray, but they are very much a part of it."

X` hp x (# FRANCE: "After The Novel, The Movie...."
X` hp x (#
JeanJacques Mevel commented in rightofcenter Le Figaro (9/16): "In the obsess
ive pursuit of truth, the president finds himself totally isolated. He is alon
e, facing a justice system embodied by Kenneth Starr, his Republican enemies a
nd his Democratic allies, all three strangely united and accomplices.... The h
umiliation which the president would have to endure if his videotaped testimony
was televised has become a secondary issue.... The question is eminently poli
tical.... In the United States, perjury is a crime, and political circles have
no moral qualms about what they should do."

"A Tidal Wave"
X` hp x (#
Andre Kaspi told listeners of governmentrun France Inter radio (9/15): "The s
ituation is serious for the United States and for the rest of the world.... We

are going into a very long process that will weaken the Clinton administration
even more.... There may even be a third scandal over the campaign funding iss
ue, affecting Clinton, Gore and their political circles.... If that third wave
of investigation happens, it could be a tidal wave."
X` hp x (#
"A Big Empty Place At The Head Of The World"

Patrick Sabatier commented in leftofcenter Liberation (9/15): "Concern around
the world is real as the only superpower is seen adrift and its leader distrac
ted from world events.... While the power and influence of the United States c
an be separated from the man himself, and the

credibility he carries, the point at issue does not have to do with simple mora
lity. It is the White House that sets the course of foreign policy, more so th
an any of the members of the government.... The president's absence cannot be f
illed by any one, not even the very influential Robert Rubin.... Yet President
Clinton is and remains the most powerful leader in the world, and no one should
take this for granted, particularly among his enemies."

GERMANY: "A President Is Being Destroyed"

Rainer Bonhorst observed in rightofcenter Augsburger Allgemeine (9/16): "Nobod
y should be treated the way Bill Clinton was treated. Very embarrassing detail
s of his sexual life were spread over the Internet where they are read by milli
ons of people. This is not politics, this is not legal, this is the public des
truction of a human being. No smear journalism has ever wallowed in such humil
iating manner in private affairs as the pompous lawmakers in Congress and as in
dependent counsel Kenneth Starr. In the global village, 'pillorying' which has
come from medieval times, has got a new disgusting dimension. Even independen
t counsel Kenneth Starr would not be pleased if his sexual lifeif there is anyw
ere put in the Internet."

"Morality And Business"

Nikolaus Blome stressed on the front page of rightofcenter Die Welt of Berlin (9/15): "There is good reason that impeachment proceedures allow great latitud e for interpretation about the offenses of a president; only a few crimes requ ire that the president be impeached. But Clinton has not been accused of any s uch type of crime. It is true that the president is guilty of serious characte r weaknesses. He lied in public and did not prevent staff aides from making fa lse testimonies. But it is an issue of politics and not so much a question of morality whether this is enough for an impeachment. And this is as it should b e. An impeachment reverses the declared political will of the voters, who have no chance to say what they want in such cases. And Americans have sent Clinton to the White House twicewithout assuming that his private life is moral."

X` hp x (# "Step Down"

Rightofcenter Neue Rhein/Neue Ruhr Zeitung of Essen (9/14) argued: "Kenneth St arr hopes that if Congress does not impeach the president, Clinton will resign rather than expose his country to ridicule. Unfortunately, the ridicule exists . Even today, Clinton is no longer fully welcome everywhere.... The most powe rful country in the world cannot afford an embattled president behind whose bac k people crack blue jokes..... Clinton, who has been a good president for his country, should now do his country a final service and make room for Vice Presi dent Al Gore."

ITALY: "Videotapes Now At Center Of Violent Political Battle In Congress"
X` hp x (#
Washington correspondent Andrea di Robilant said in centrist, influential La Stampa (9/16): "The video of Clinton's testimony before the Grand Jury is at th e center of a violent political battle in Congress.... Nobody can really predi ct the impact of the video on public opinion. Polls indicate quite clearly tha t a majority of Americans can no longer stand this story. In the end, the imag es of a president put against the ropes by an investigator

obsessed by the mos
t intimate details of his sexual life may end up damaging
prosecutor Starr more
than Clinton, reinforcing the White House assertion
that there is 'fury' again
st the president on the part of the Republicans....
The Democrats, encouraged
by the White House, have begun to work at a
compromise in order to avoid impeac
hment.... But admitting perjury may be,
in the end, the price that Clinton wil
l have to pay to the Republicans to
save his presidency.... In the meantime,
the president continues to show
his repentance and contrition in public."

"Starr Investigating Other Fronts As Well"

In leftleaning, influential La Repubblica (9/16), New York correspondent
Artu
ro Zampaglione wrote: "The video of Clinton's testimony before the Grand
Jury i
s not the last trap in the road.... Starr continues to investigate on
other fr
onts as well... According to former White House insider and (FOB)
Dick Morris..
.Hillary will soon be committed for trial over the Whitewater
scandal.... Is t
here a way to emerge from the impasse?... According to the
Washington Post and
many Congressmen, the answer can come from a rapid
approval of what is called
'censure plus,' i.e., a parliamentary motion of
condemnation and the request t
hat Clinton refund at least part of the $4.4
million spent by Starr during the
seven months of his investigation."

"Our Friend Starr"

An editorial in provocative, classical liberal Il Foglio (9/15) ironically
cri
ticized all those who, over the last few days, have attacked Kenneth
Starr's "
puritanism" and "sexual McCarthyism" and defended Starr: "Starr is
a crude man
, with a nasty smile, who has decided to make Bill Clinton pay
for his well kn
own propensity to lie and, perhaps, also for his new
inclination to tears and h
is pitiful apologies.... The independent counsel
was appointed and paid, acco

rding to American law, to ascertain whether the president was a liar.... Great Starr. He could be surpassed only by Hillary Clinton the day when she finally decides to pack up and abandon the famous feminist president."

"U.S. Media Asks President To Resign"

Ennio Caretto noted in his report from Washington in centrist, topcirculation Corriere della Sera (9/15): "Paradoxically, the American media are going again st public opinionan indication of the chaos faced by the U.S. superpower. Abo ut 30 dailies asked the president to resign, the last one being the highestcirc ulation USA Today."

RUSSIA: "Voluntary Resignation"

Dmitry Gornostayev remarked in centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (9/15): "Events su ggest that a way to stop all speculationpolitical, if not intimatewould be for Bill Clinton to resign on his own."

AUSTRIA: "Sex And Politics: Two Categories"

Christoph Winder asked in independent Der Standard (9/15): "Which conclusions can be drawn from the privateor even from the most private, the sexualbehavior , for the other qualities of an politician? The answer is as simple as precise : none. We are talking of two completely different categories.... Even if it turns out that Bill Clinton was involved in an inappropriate act with Ms. Lewin sky...this would prove a certain frivolous conduct of office, but it does not s ay the least about his political performance. However the Clinton affair may en d, it ought to be taken as an opportunity to reconsider the relationship betwee n the private and the public sphere and to work towards a radical disentangleme nt of the two."

BELGIUM: "Clinton, A 'Lying King' In New York"

Colette Braeckman wrote under the headline above in independent Le Soir (9/16) : "If the video of his deposition before the Grand Jury is broadcast,

desertion
might speed up.... Politicians know that the weight of words
rarely equals th
e shock of video, but nobody takes the risk of predicting the
consequences of t
his incest between democracy and voyeurism. Advantage to
the prosecutor, thank
s to the revelation of the embarrassment and anger of
the witness, or advantage
to the president, thanks to the display of the
unhealthy fierceness of his acc
user? "

"Savonarola Made In USA"

Jean Daloze observed in conservative Catholic La Libre Belgique (9/16): "The
r
ule that democracy should be a representative regime, i.e., imposing an
interme
diary body between citizens and state, has not been respected in the
United Sta
tes... Can we, in Belgium, consider the current American
effervescence condesc
endingly? We have to be careful as we begin a reform of
our judiciary system.
Careful of the susceptibility of parliament and the
system itself to the socal
led popular sentiment... The monk, Savonarola, a
criminal in the name of virtu
e, as well as Robespierre, are not totally
dead."

"What Republicans Want"

New York correspondent Tom Ronse in independent De Morgen remarks (9/15):
"Th
e majority of the Republican members of the Congress appear to prefer that
the
scandal lasts as long as possible for electoral purposes.... The most
influenti
al Republicans, however, appear to be less eager to do that. They
are afraid t
hat the public which, according to all polls, wants the affair to
be ended, wou
ld take be criticial of the Republicans if the affair is
dragging on.... Moreo
ver, they are afraid that a long crisis might have
unpleasant repercussions on
America's interests, especially on the
international scene. The image of a pre
sident who is increasingly being
cornered and who focuses on his own defense in
stead of governing, may spark a

climate of uncertainty which incites terrorism,
and regional conflicts and
chaos in the world economy. That is the reason why
some Republican leaders
are prepared to hold out the olive branch."

BULGARIA: "We All Gain From Clinton's Drama"

Masscirculation Trud observed (9/15): "Both Kenneth Starr's report and
Preside
nt Clinton's explanations and apologies demonstrate the deep human
drama the la
tter is experiencing. Clinton is a man who is unable to find
satisfaction and
balance in his emotional life. The rules of American
democracy made Clinton ta
lk publicly about this problem and he accepted it.
Naturally, he is fighting t
o defend his position. Nevertheless, it is
precisely the openness with which t
he whole crisis is developing, that gives
the impression that American democrac
y will win no matter how this crisis
ends. And, democracy in general will win a
s well."

CANADA: "Censure, Reprimand In Order"

The leading Globe and Mail (9/15) editorialized: "Impeachment is too heavy
a
punishment for an affair, but congressional censure or reprimand is the
least
Mr. Clinton should expect for lying to the public and to the courts.
This is
a president who needs a lot of pressure to make right his wrongs."

"From Lame Duck To Moral Cripple"

Jeffrey Simpson observed in the leading Globe and Mail (9/15): "Even if the
p
resident survives, as he probably will, the Clinton presidency as an
effectiv
e instrument of U.S. leadership at home and abroad is over, done in
by Bill Cl
inton himself."

CROATIA: "Clinton's Worst Week"

Influential, progovernment Vjesnik observed (9/12): "The most powerful man
in the world is facing horrible temptations. Can he still be saved by his
wife
, who in the past few days has been repeating that she supports him and
loves h
im? Although useful, it is no longer enoughbecause it can also be

interpreted t
hat Hillary Clinton is fighting against her return to Arkansas
and to remain th
e first lady. What could, in fact, save the president? Only
to truly repent an
d show it, which he still hasn't done despite numerous
statements. However, mo
st observers agree on one thing: the next seven to
ten days will be critical.

"If Clinton survives this, he will probably remain in the 'saddle.'"

CZECH REPUBLIC: "Mediocrity Prevails In The U.S."

A commentary in centrist Lidove noviny (9/15) said: "Independent
investigator
Kenneth Starr is nearing his goalto get President Clinton to
the stake. Clint
on's end is probably in the offing, and the saddest fact is
that it is not beca
use of his incompetence or mistakes, but because of some
grey mouse Monica Lewi
nsky, who has served 'Grand Inquisitor' Starr so
well.... The only solution in
this situation is to have a flawless president
who observes all possible rules
and sticks to a double moral standard (if
only those who have not sinned were t
o throw stones at Clinton, there would
be very few stones indeed that would la
nd on his head, if any). Mr. Starr
and those of his sort would like to see suc
h a manrobot in a top position.
But a glimpse at history tells us that grey bu
reaucrats have never achieved
anything. It will always be controversial person
alities who will be the
driving force and the winners."

HUNGARY: "Resignation Or Censure"

Washington correspondent Gabor Lambert in the centrist conservative Magyar
Nem
zet said (9/15): "Besides impeachment, the other option would be if
President C
linton, just like Nixon did earlier, resigned. This option was
also raised by
Trent Lott, who pointed out that even representatives of the
president's own p
arty suggested that. But it is the Republicans who publicly
call for the U.S. p
resident to leave. But, according to public polls, almost
70 per cent of the pe
ople find Clinton a good president and want him serve

his term. The majority, h
owever, agrees with some kind of a `punishment,'
which could be a censure by t
he Congress, similar to the case of Andrew
Jackson back in 1834."

NORWAY: "Scandal Damages U.S. Leadership"

Conservative Aftenposten remarked (9/13): "With crises on all sides, there is reason for concern when the world's foremost power is focusing so much of its
attention on the president's sex life and the threat of impeachment. His posit
ion is incomparably embarrassing, but it is doubtful whether there are grounds
for impeachment. Impeachment should be a matter of political rather than sexu
al affairs. A more likely scenario is that a group of veteran Democrats advise
s him to step aside for Al Gore. The question is whether the people will feel
that their interests can be served by a teetering president who is no longer a
ble to exert significant leadership."

X` hp x (# PORTUGAL: "Resign"
X` hp x (#
Columnist Lu1s Delgado editorialized in leading centrist Diario de Noticias
(9/15): "Bill Clinton should resign from the presidency of the United States.
For three reasons: 1. For shame. Only a shameless president, irresponsible, i
mmature and pathologically ambitious would be able to remain in the White Hous
e under these circumstances.... 2. For dignity: A man without dignity, without
greatness of mind and without the capacity to face reality does not deserve t
o be in the presidency. This should be basic for Americans. It is no longer re
levant whether he performed well politically, but rather to know, in face of t
he events, that he still has human dignity.
3. For respect. For his country,
for the world, for the presidency, and for the future. It is of less importan
ce whether the issue is sexual, personal, marital, or if Kenneth Starr is a fa
natic or a moralist. That stage is over. What matters now is that Clinton demo
nstrated that he respects nothing, and no one. Worse: at the crucial moment,
when highmindedness and nobility are

required, Clinton was cowardly, dishonest
, a liar, and irresponsible. Is
this the sort of president that the Americans w
ant?"

SERBIAMONTENEGRO: "All Clinton's Lovers Have Not Been Revealed So Far"

Stojan Cerovic opined in independent Nasa Borba (9/14): "The heights of
power
have been shaken at the same time in Moscow and in Washington. In
Russia than
ks to the ruble, in the United States because of sex; which seems
to illustrat
e an essential cultural difference between these two countries.
Russians have
never known how to deal rationally with money.... And in the
United States, ov
erwrought drama and conflict have developed over sexual
matters."

SPAIN: "Obscenities"

Alfonso Ussia commented in conservative ABC (9/16): "'Monica is so ashamed of
the pornographic nature of [Starr's] report that, if she could, she would
leave
the country forever.'... This statement by Monica's father fails to
convince..
.nor does it tell the whole story. The remorseful vixen has now
accepted a mu
ltimilliondollar publishing contract to tell the story of her
relationship wit
h Clinton.... It is understandable that Monica Lewinsky
should feel embarrass
ed by the lurid descriptions in Starr's report...and
for having saved evidence
for the purpose of blackmail...and for having
jotted down the dates of their t
rysts...and for having cut a deal with the
prosecutor in exchange for all this
revolting material. I have no plans to
erect a monument to Clinton, but in com
parison to some other people, he is
beginning to seem like a decent sort of guy
."

TURKEY: "Morality And America"
X` hp x (#

Hadi Uluengin commented in massappeal Hurriyet (9/16): "There is a
difference
between America and Europe in terms of moral values. America was
founded under
a series of Protestantbased religious sects, from Mormons to

Baptists. These
sects have one thing in common: Puritanism. They are
obsessed with the belief
that human beings are doomed to commit sins. That
divine, moralistic approach
is shaping today's America as well.... I do not
have any objection to moralism
, as long as it remains under sensible limits.
However, in the U.S. example, m
oralism has just gone crazy. It is a
horrible farce to see Clinton is being s
ent to the Inquisition under moral
charges."

"Starr, A Player In A Consipracy"
X` hp x (#
Hadi Uluengin wrote in massappeal Hurriyet (9/15): "The biggest mistake
Presid
ent Clinton made was not his denial about the relationship with Monica.
He did
not act boldly toward the aggressive Special Counsel Starr; Clinton
should h
ave said that he would never discuss this issue with him. That was
his big mis
take, because it is obvious that Starr, who represents the part of
America's ex
treme fundamentalism and its ideology, is a player in a
conspiracy. It is very
clear that Starr always hated Bill Clinton, who stood
against the Vietnam War,
approved of abortion and birth control policies,
hired black advisors and focu
sed on social issues.... Although it appears to
be a sexrelated scandal, the c
onflict actually is taking place between the
two Americas. To put it in catego
ries, it is between the KKK and the
believers of a free New World."

EAST ASIA

JAPAN: "Clinton's Personal Problem Creates The Global Blues"

Moderate Tokyo Shimbun editorialized (9/15), "It appears that President
Clinto
n's personal problem, stemming from his alleged attempt to cover up
his 'inapp
ropriate relationship' with a former White House intern, has become
politicized
and protracted.... Will Congress take action to impeach the
president? After
all, it will be public opinion that holds the key to
congressional impeachmen
t. At any rate, this is a problem to be settled

domestically. More serious qu
estions have been raised over whether the
president's scandal will have negativ
e effects on the rest of

the world. It has been pointed out that the president is already losing the
au
thority to deal effectively with economic and social issues in Indonesia
and Ru
ssia and with North Korea's suspected nuclear development."

AUSTRALIA: "Private Shame, Public Virtue"

The liberal Sydney Morning Herald (9/15) opined, "Mr. Clinton's behavior
with
Ms. Lewinsky disgusts. But it has never had a public dimension to it
sufficie
nt to justify the money and effort expended by Mr. Starr and his
team of inves
tigators.... It never has been, and still is not, a
sufficiently grave matter
of public importance to warrant the pursuit of the
president through the impea
chment and removal process. That will not improve
the health of the U.S. system
of government, but only weaken it even more
than it has been already."

"Democrats Must Aid Mr. Clinton's Exit"

The conservative Brisbane Courier Mail (9/15) asserted: "The Democrats would
be devastated if impeachment proceedings began in the House of
Representatives
before the elections.... But the longer Mr. Clinton remains,
the longer the pa
ralysis of the American government will be prolonged. He no
longer has any mor
al authority.... There is now widespread revulsion not
only at the revelations
in the Starr report, but also at the course his
investigation followed. It i
s to be hoped that no future president is
subjected to such a demeaning proces
s."

HONG KONG: "Starr Rating"

The Englishlanguage, independent South China Morning Post observed (9/15):
"O
n one issue, there is no doubt: The American people remain as firmly
opposed a
s ever to his impeachment. That does not justify Mr. Clinton's
desperate attem
pts to cling to office. The credibility of the supposed

leader of the free wor
ld has been shattered by these revelations of his
deceitful conduct and the Uni
ted States will never regain the respect
befitting its status as a superpower w
ithout a change of president.... But
it does show Mr. Starr may have gone too
far in making allegations that
cannot stand up and in publishing an unnecessari
ly graphic account of the
more sordid aspects of Mr. Clinton's sexual antics...
. The consensus of
legal opinion is that some of the allegedly impeachable off
ences, such as a
failure to cooperate fully with Mr. Starr's inquiry, are weak,
if not
ridiculous."

INDONESIA: "It's A Moral Issue"

The leading Englishlanguage, independent Jakarta Post noted (9/15): "Starr
ha
s admitted that he included the graphic details to spice up his report in
orde
r to make his case for impeachment more convincing. The bottom line, in
his rev
iew, is the fact that the president of the United States has lied to
the public
on numerous occasions. Clinton's sexual encounters with Lewinsky
are not impe
achable offenses and in this respect, Starr has refrained from
making a moral j
udgement on the president.... It is sad to see that Clinton
has defiled what i
s supposed to be the most powerful office in the world.
It is even sadder, if
not perplexing, to see Americans compromising their
own standards by allowing
a president of dubious morality to stay in office.
In the final analysis, it
is not so much the fact that Clinton's lies has
undermined his leadership. H
e lied understandably to avoid the
embarrassment he would suffer if his behavi
or ever became public knowledge.
While Clinton's lack of moral principles may
not justify impeachment, it has
certainly lowered the dignity and respect accor
ded to his once revered
office."

SINGAPORE: "Politically Wounded President"

The Business Times editorial stated (9/15): "Even if the Clintonites pull

off
this best case scenario, and the president survives the constitutional
ordeal
facing him, America and the world
could still be left with a president who would be politically badly wounded
and
who would lack any moral authority as well as public and congressional
support
and who would find it very difficult to advance his domestic and
foreign polic
y agendas. That such a president would be occupying the White
House at a time w
hen the global economy may be facing the most serious crisis
since the 1920's i
s certainly a troubling prospect for America's world
partners."

SOUTH KOREA: "Korea's U.S. Diplomacy: Focus From Clinton To Congress"
X` hp x (#
Washington correspondent Kil JoungWoo of the probusiness JoongAng Ilbo
(9/16)
wrote: "The Clinton administration is a lame duck now. After the
release of t
he Starr report, the authority of the president has nosedived
and the morale o
f administration officials is at an all time low.
Regardless of President Cli
nton's fate, his ability to lead the country will
be terribly limited. This p
henomenon will become more conspicuous over
issues where the White House and C
ongress have sharply different
positions.... It now is important to think ah
ead about what our strategy
will be in dealing with a lameduck American admini
stration. As we have
seen at the latest U.S.North Korea talks, Washington lea
ns toward cajoling
the North rather than taking a tough position.... We also
have to think
ahead about how to intervene with the Clinton administration when
we decide
its 'engagement policy' no longer serves us on NorthSouth Korean
rel
ations.... So it is time for the Korean government to pay more attention
to i
ts relations with U.S. Republican leaders whose voices will be loud and
clear a
t this time of President Clinton's crisis.... While we can
sympathize with Pr
esident Clinton's pain in dealing with the Congress and the
American public, ou
r national interests are our priority."
X` hp x (#

"When A President Loses Moral Authority"

Conservative Segye Ilbo editorialized (9/15): "It is unfortunate for all of
us
that President Clinton is fast losing his ability to lead the United
States.
Although we very much hope the United States will be able to restore
its leade
rship as quickly as possible, we cannot wholeheartedly support a
morally damage
d president."

PHILIPPINES: "Starr's Inquisition"

Veteran journalist and former press secretary Teodoro Benigno wrote in the
ind
ependent Philippine Star (9/16): "Kenneth Starr is a relic snatched from
the Sp
anish Inquisition, mean and ruthless, whose gospel is Birchite, who
looks on di
splaced semen on a woman's dress as the ultimate evil. Look at
his face. With
his spectacles, Starr could have passed as Herr Goebbels
shouting 'sieg heil'
with a Nazi strut."

" Kenneth Starr Is The Problem"

X` hp x (#Willie Ng wrote in his column in the conservative Manila Bulletin (0
9/16):
"There is an unspoken obsession of the American media to demonstrate tha
t
all, garbage man or president, must be treated equally. Have they overdone
i
t? No person in history, however humble his station in life, has ever been
sub
jected to the mediabeating given...Clinton. No one before him has ever
had a l
ove affair publicly exposed in such detail, then dissected and
analyzed, for ni
ne months.... The fellow has admitted to the affair. Would
a detailed descrip
tion of his every act in the affair make him more liable?
Was it necessary to s
trip the president of the United States of all his
dignity?... Starr has succe
eded in making America look ridiculous."

THAILAND: "What The World Gets From The Clinton Case"
X` hp x (#
The lead editorial of elite Matichon commented (9/16): "A public official
has
nothing that is considered private, as whatever he does impacts national
inter

ests in some way or another. An incumbent public official must be ethically an
d morally upright and a good model for the society....

"One should think that the sex scandal, which has been publicized worldwide, ma
y have shamed the president to the extreme. To the contrary, he is still stand
ing tall, smiling and struggling for survival."

"U.S. Lacks Legitmacy To Be Moral Leader"

Elite, businessoriented Phujatkarn said (9/15), "The majority of Americans are
willing to allow Clinton to continue his presidency because their ultimate aim
s in life are their wellbeing and seeing the Dow Jones index average ever risin
g and yielding dividends.... Greed for wealth means more to them than the filt
hy sexual excess even in the White House.... Will Americans not feel any sense
of shame to have him continue to run his office and boast human rights and hum
anitarianism around the world?... In our view, for as long as the United Stat
es and its leadership fail to solve their own moral problems will it lack the l
egitimacy to flaunt itself an upholder of world's virtues."

SOUTH ASIA

X` hp x (# BANGLADESH: "Hillary Clinton"
X` hp x (#
Centrist Muktakantha editorialized (9/16): "How is Hillary? Has she been able
to forgive her husband? Apparently, even after the uproar she went to a retre
at with her husband and daughter. Many have termed this is an effort to restor
e their marriage. Although it not sure how much of it has been restored, Hilla
ry is appearing with her husband on some occasions in an effort to change publi
c opinion. The Internet is deluged with reports on Clinton and Monica and side
by side Hillary is being seen smiling beside her husband. Intelligent and tac
tful, Hillary is being ridiculed in the U.S. Hillary is known to our country,
though maybe not as widely as Diana. She has many admirers around the world.
They are not in good mood due to their

concern for her.

"In the Midst of Crises"
X` hp x (#
The independent Financial Express opined (9/15): "Clinton may soon find himse
lf confronted with another damaging inquiry. The Justice Department has begun
a 90day inquiry, based on the independent counsel law, into allegations of pos
sible election improprieties. It is being alleged that Clinton illegally benef
ited from the Democratic advertisements during the presidential campaign. The i
nfluential media in USA seem to be imploring Clinton to step down. Most are in
clined to say that even outside of the USA, the sexandliesscandal has shattered
the Clinton presidency. He will be weak president. Clinton hopes to escape wi
th a congressional reprimand. The problem now concerns the nation, not the ind
ividual, the New York Times said. If he does not resign, every squalid detail
of his affairs with Lewinsky will continue to haunt him for the remaining perio
d of his presidency."

INDIA: "It's Not Over Yet"
X` hp x (#
The influential, rightofcenter Indian Express (9/16) reported that a "fresh fi
ght" is brewing in the political arena over the socalled Clinton Tapes, with R
epublican leaders pressing to make it public to further "corner" Clinton. "It
's not over yet, not by a long shot. The American saga of sex, lies and videot
ape rolls on relentlessly."

"A Philandering President Is Always A Security Risk"

ProBJP Urdulanguage Pratap said (9/15): "What Clinton has done is nothing str
ange by the standards of American society, which allows its men and women to ha
ve and change any number of sexual partners.... The only reason for all the
criticism...against (Clinton) is the special and sensitive nature of his offic
e.

"Illicit sexual relations can involve serious security risks as well. History

is replete with examples of women extracting state secrets through
sexual intim
acy. A philandering president is always a security risk."

PAKISTAN: "Bill Clinton Turns To God"
X` hp x (#
Eqbal Ahmad commented in the Karachibased, independent Dawn (9/16): "The
Repu
blican legislators, upon whom falls the onus of leading the impeachment
bandwa
gon, should be the least desirous of impeaching the Democratic
president. The
ir party will be in a better position to defeat the
Democratic candidate if a
discredited incumbent sits in the White House.
Why should they give the Democ
rats a clean administration to defend in the
next presidential election? So,
ironically, his opposition happens to be
Clinton's best ally."

SRI LANKA: "Clinton: Expense Of Spirit In A Waste Of Shame"
X` hp x (#
Under the above headline, Jayadeva commented in the Englishlanguage,
independe
nt Island (9/16): "The Bill and Monica revue has been generating
humor, satire
and irony. But, sadly, time may be past for such humour. For
now William Jef
ferson Clinton is a confessed sinner, a contrite man who
admits to having done
some wrong, and seeks forgiveness. Nobody laughs,
pokes fun, at sinners. Besid
es, as one British commentator had it the other
day, America loves sinners."

AFRICA
X` hp x (#
COTE D'IVOIRE: "In Our Climes, Lying Goes Unpunished"
X` hp x (#
Ferro Bally wrote in independent Soir Info (9/14): "But for the world's
misfor
tune, lying is not the 'exclusive right' of only the American
president, and o
f the political leaders of the New Continent. This is a
staple that is inhere
nt to the political mores under all skies and
particularly in Africa, concernin
g the conduct of public mattters. For
example, there exists always an absolut
e blackout regarding the health of
our leaders. Also, the leaders of ruling po
litical parties lie daily lie to
their constituencies when the electoral promi

ses of the candidates are not
met. The sole difference is that in genuine demo
cracies, voters can chastise
their political leders, whereas under our climes,
lying goes unpunished."

X` hp x (# NIGERIA: "An Example Of Freedom Of Expression"

The Lagosbased, prolabor, independent Vanguard concluded (9/16): "The
unfortu
nate episode has shown once again how free the American society is.
Nobody, no
t even the president of the world's most powerful state, is a
sacred cow....
It is this kind of freedom that [should be] welcomed in those
countries that st
ill consider democracy an expensive option."

LATIN AMERICA
X` hp x (#
ARGENTINA: "The Media Attack Clinton, But (U.S.) People Support Him"

Ana Baron, Washingtonbased correspondent for leading Clarin held (9/15), "In
t
he face of the details of the sexual relationship which President Bill
Clinton
had with Monica Lewinsky...there is a deep difference between the
U.S. mediacal
ling for his resignation or impeachmentand most of the U.S.
people, who are tot
ally against that possibility.... Between the choice of
impeachmentwhich is alw
ays long and painfuland a censure motionwhich
could mean only one bad day for t
he presidentRepublicans have chosen the
first option, although they haven't gon
e so far to ask for Clinton's
resignation. Additionally, if Clinton resigns, c
urrent Vice President Al
Gore would take over and this alternative is not usefu
l for Republicans....
There is another point to take into account. The preside
nt is not willing to
abandon the fight."

BOLIVIA: "World Waiting For The Conductor Of The Orchestra"

Centrist Hoy carried a commentary by Humberto Vacaflor (9/13): "One could
dis
like or not what the famous independent prosecutor Starr has done; one
could c
all him morbid...but the truth is that he has dealt a mortal blow to
the streng
th of the presidency of the United States. Perhaps President Bill

Clinton will
come out unharmed from this storm, but what he will not be able
to do is to co
nduct, in this hour of tension, the greatest economy of the
world at a time wh
en one of the worst economic crises is happening.... The
capitalist world, th
at is to say, almost the entire planet, is waiting for
the conductor of the orc
hestra. The United States leads with the wand. But
that leader needs to be c
learheaded, without domestic problems caused by a
morbid opposition."

X` hp x (# BRAZIL: "Political Hypocrisy"

Liberal Jornal do Brasil maintained (9/16): "U.S. society remains as
consevat
ive as ever, visavis individual or public morals. The success of
the nation is
based on its moral values and the belief that weakening them
is the quickest
path to corruption. It would prefer to have in the
presidency a replica of Lin
coln, but is sick and tired of the political
hypocrisy. The president's popula
rity, if it continues to remain strong,
would condemn the Republicans to four m
ore years of ostracism."

"The Most Practical"
X` hp x (#
Centerright daily O Globo noted (9/15): "Humiliated by the report, Clinton
ha
s taken to humbling himself as often as possible, with repeated confessions
and
pathetic calls for forgiveness. He seems to know what he's doing, since
publi
c support for the administration is at 60% and nearly that many are in
favor o
f public censure instead of impeachment. Would this be an eminently
political
solution for an essentially moral problem? Sure, but also a
practical one, wi
thout the trauma of removing the elected leaderand
visibly going against the w
ill of the people."

CUBA: "Starr Investigation: False Puritanism"

Communist Party Granma said (9/12): "The House decided by a vote of 36363 to
m
ake the 455 page document available on the Internet, a channel unthought of
ju

st a few years ago. Politics and a false puritanism overlapped to forge the t
wo weapons of scandal and media into one instrument that has pilloried the cur
rent leader of the one superpower in the world. And even so, the puritanism
in which U.S. society puts such value shows its twofacedness, as within the pa
ges of today's publications are offered numerous intimate details of the Lewin
skyClinton relationship."

ECUADOR: "Clinton Toppled Clinton"

Leading centrist El Comercio held (9/12): "The U.S. president has fallen even
more than was imaginable into the eye of the storm.... Now, it is very unlikel
y that public opinionthe same one that had supported his economic management, b
ut is tired of this subjectwill give him the support he needs.... In legal fie
lds, contesting the 11 charges is considered a draining task for Clinton. This
is why resignation appears to be a sensible formula. Beyond Clinton's politica
l survival and the debate about the privacy of public personalities, the U.S. j
udicial system exhibited the mechanisms that make it reliable. Ecuador can lea
rn a lesson, for here the justice system contains black holes which allow many
politicians to keep themselves out of its reach."

"Sexgate And Transparency"

Leading centrist El Comercio said (9/15): "Modern societies have a monolithic
vision of information. Various futurists did not hide their fears that the er
uption of mass media will bring about something similar to totalitarian societi
es. In Ecuador, how close are we to this open pattern of communication? A good
question for those who still believe that governmentsbecause they received the
majority of votesare the ones to impose the agenda of the media. That pervers
e logic does not respect the

framework of a society whose authors are in contin
uous interaction that must
be reflected by the media in all its complexity. The
se days, various opinion
leaders have demanded more information on the border s
ubject, respecting the
logical limitations imposed by the negotiation. What is
curious is that the
government already promised to do that, but there is no con
crete signal
forthcoming. This could be a good opportunity to demonstrate that

authorities are willing to subject themselves to the exercise of
transparency.
"

"Sinister Starr"

Centerleft Hoy commented (9/14): "The independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr
has
persecuted Clinton with an almost sinister obstinacy, noble for some,
severe f
or others.... It is a trivial little story, ranging between sick
and dirty, o
ne of those in which few can throw the first stone at the sinner,
but one that
has been overblown because Clinton thought he could keep it
hidden with elusive
and audacious statements. The biggest power on earth
could crumble down, trip
ped by a young woman who wanted to become famous as
the lover of the president,
first in front of her friends, and then before
the amorphous monster of the gl
obal society."

HONDURAS: "Latin America Tied To Events In Washington"

Progovernment, liberal La Tribuna observed (9/14): "For Latin America, and
esp
ecially those countries of the world which are currently suffering some
degree
of volatility within their financial systems, the events which took
place in
Washington last week are of the utmost importance. If impeachment
procedures
are begun against the president or if he is forced to resign, it
is almost cert
ain that the government will not be able to push forward
approval in Congress o
f the rules for signing a free trade agreement with
our countries. Nor will
the administration get sufficient support for the
IMF, which has become so imp

ortant in order to prop up the falling Asian
economies that will become a dang
erous liability to our own continent if they
don't get back on their feet."
X` hp x (#
X` hp x (# MEXICO: "Dirty War"

Independent populist daily El Porvenir held (9/16), "The ClintonLewinsky
case
shows to all of us how politicians, as democratic as they might claim to
be, ca
n cancel the results of an election. Regardless of whether Clinton
lied about
his relations with Monica Lewinsky, it should not affect his term
of office as
long as he is doing a good jobor even if he is not, given that
he was elected t
o serve out four years and this decision has not been
reversed by any vote of t
he people."

"The Lewinsky Effect Is Tearing Us Up"

Independent daily El Diario held (9/16), "Without doubt one of the bulwarks
in
the politics and economics of Dr. Zedillos has been the clear financial
suppor
t of the White House. The possibility that Clinton might be removed
from offic
e has pushed our government's economists to the wall because, in
the face of o
ur northern neighbor's crisis, none of them has an alternative
plan for rescuin
g our economy that does not depend on the White House."

PERU: "Clinton's Motives"

Peruvian Ambassador Jorge Morelli wrote in progovernment Expreso (9/15):
"Cli
nton the wolf is now stuck making constant apologies...because
Protestants pref
er to make their apologies in public. Even worse, the
puritanism in the United
States punishes those who lie to hide their sins
with hell on earth; thus, per
jury usually results in something worse than the
original mistake. It is surpr
ising how the U.S. systemnot its
peopletries to ignore the arguments of Clinton
's lawyers that adultery is
not a crime. And nobody seems to notice that the c
urrent inquisitorial

process is offending the president's wife and daughter. E
ven if the current
internal crisis passes, the United States, despite its globa
l superiority,
will continue losing power and prestige for the sole reason that
its 'system'
is questioning President Clinton's private life."
X` hp x (#
URUGUAY: "Embarrassing"
X` hp x (#
Topcirculation El Pa1s held (9/14): "Never before has the leader of the
most
powerful country in the world been exposed to the world's public
opinion in s
uch an embarrassing way. Congress has to decide wheather to
impeach the presi
dent or not, but most probably, public opinion
pollsrevealing how the American
people feel about thiswill play a key
role."

##
X` hp x (#%#Xx\ P6QyXP#

========== END ATTACHMENT 2 ==========

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: USIA_Media_Reaction (USIA_Media_Reaction@notes1.usia.gov@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:16-SEP-1998 08:09:00.00

SUBJECT: Early Report 9/16: CLINTON AND GLOBAL ECONOMY

TO: Lori L. Anderson (Lori L. Anderson@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
The unfolding developments in independent counsel Kenneth Starr's inquiry into President Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky continued to attract intense scrutiny from worldwide media. The emphasis this morning was on the "fresh fight" brewing in the House Judiciary Committee over whether to release the videotape of President Clinton's testimony before the Grand Jury on August 17. Commentators said that the possible broadcast of the tapes over U.S. airwaves would be yet another "humiliation" for the president, but disagreed on what impact the tape might have on U.S. public opinion. Turin's centrist, influential La Stampa held: "In the end, the images of a president put against the ropes by an investigator obsessed by the most intimate details of his sexual life may end up damaging prosecutor Starr more than Clinton." However, stressing that "politicians know that the weight of words rarely equals the shock of video," independent Le Soir of Brussels foresaw that Democratic Party "desertion might speed up." But even that paper concluded that it is difficult to predict the consequences of the video's release. Meanwhile, the intensity of various opinions on other germane themes of the Lewinsky saga and the balance among them appeared to be shifting. For example, while a considerable number of analysts believed Mr. Clinton's relationship with Ms. Lewinsky and his subsequent actions are grounds for impeachment, or at least resignation, a growing segment of commentary expressed sympathy for the president and

aimed their criticism at Kenneth Starr.

GLOBAL ECONOMY: CLINTON, LATIN AMERICA, CURRENCY CONTROLS

In comment on the global financial crisis, analysts focused on President Clinton's leadership, the economic problems of Latin America, and the question of controls over currency trading. Noting that "social disorder is lurking not far beneath the surface" in some countries in Asia, Russia and Latin America, the independent Hong Kong Standard welcomed "President Clinton's six-point emergency plan to combat this crisis." Commentators in Hong Kong, Spain, Argentina and Brazil, however, saw the president as reasserting leadership on the global financial crisis to move beyond his domestic political woes. Pundits in Spain and France judged that because American banks' "exposure in the [Latin American] region reaches about $80 billion," the "crisis is hitting emerging nations in America's back yard." Paris's right-of-center Le Figaro observed that if "Latin America was tempted to go back to a controlled market, Washington's model of development would suffer greatly." Pundits in Malaysia, France and Brazil said "the idea of regulating financial markets is slowly making headway."

BRIEFS

-- Ross To Middle East: 'Crisscrossing Region' To What Avail?

-- Bosnian Elections: Concern Over Fate Of Dayton Accords

EDITORS: Kathleen J. Brahney, Diana McCaffrey and Bill Richey

STARR REPORT: 'VIDEO NOW AT CENTER OF VIOLENT CONGRESSIONAL BATTLE'

BRITAIN: "Power Failure In The White House"

The independent Financial Times had this lead editorial (9/16): "Even if Bill Clinton survives the threat of impeachment, his capacity to exercise effective political leadership during the remainder of his term in office must be seriously in question. That would be a worrying prospect at any time. It is particularly so at a moment when hopes of stabilizing global economic turmoil hinge on Washington's ability to take the lead. How should the rest of the world cope with the uncertainties created by Mr. Clinton's plight, and what, if anything, can it do to reduce them?... The European Union's own institutional and political constraints prevent it from aspiring, at least in the foreseeable future, to rivalling American global leadership. But at a critical stage in America's political history nd in the world economy, it needs to do ll it can to ensure that leadership continues to be exercised as effectively and benignly as possible."

"Last Superpower Exits World Stage"

Chris Lockwood held in the conservative Daily Telegraph (9/16): "First there were two superpowers. Then the Berlin Wall came down and there was one. Now, as America's presidency retreats into impotence and isolation, it increasingly looks as though there are none.... The reason for such inaction is simple, but frightening. America has lost its will to act

overseas unless American interests or lives are directly affected, such as in the bombing of an embassy. The most senior American officials bluntly admit that the United States can no longer tolerate even single-figure casualties of war. Some superpower. This neo-isolationism has been building at least since America's humiliation in Somalia in 1992-93, where the superpower's dead soldiers were dragged through the Mogadishu streets. It has always taken a strong president to overcome congress's reluctance to expend blood or treasure abroad. A crippled president has no chance."

"Don't Let This Randy Little Minx Topple The President"

The conservative tabloid Evening Standard (9/16) carried this op-ed opinion by Alan Clark, Member of Parliament: "Most girls of 19 are randy little minxes, giving small thought that the object of their desire might be married to someone else. And Ms. Lewinsky seems to have been forward, even by today's standards.... Just as distasteful is the personality of 'the judge'. Ken Starr is openly and personally adversarial towards the president. Indeed, the whole manner of Starr's behavior, vindictive and unsavory in its relish, should cast doubt on the substance, still less the conclusions, of his report.... And because the United States is not a Third World dictatorship but a democracy, the greatest on earth, the likelihood remains that the people may still come to their senses."

FRANCE: "After The Novel, The Movie...."

Jean-Jacques Mevel commented in right-of-center Le Figaro (9/16): "In the obsessive pursuit of truth, the president finds himself totally isolated.

He is alone, facing a justice system embodied by Kenneth Starr, his Republican enemies and his Democratic allies, all three strangely united and accomplices.... The humiliation which the president would have to endure if his videotaped testimony was televised has become a secondary issue.... The question is eminently political.... In the United States, perjury is a crime, and political circles have no moral qualms about what they should do."

GERMANY: "A President Is Being Destroyed"

Rainer Bonhorst observed in right-of-center Augsburger Allgemeine (9/16): "Nobody should be treated the way Bill Clinton was treated. Very embarrassing details of his sexual life were

spread over the Internet where they are read by millions of people. This is not politics, this is not legal, this is the public destruction of a human being. No smear journalism has ever wallowed in such humiliating manner in private affairs as the pompous lawmakers in Congress and as independent counsel Kenneth Starr. In the global village, 'pillorying' which has come from medieval times, has got a new disgusting dimension. Even independent counsel Kenneth Starr would not be pleased if his sexual life--if there is any--were put in the Internet."

ITALY: "Videotapes Now At Center Of Violent Political Battle In Congress"

Washington correspondent Andrea di Robilant said in centrist, influential La Stampa (9/16): "The video of Clinton's testimony before the Grand Jury

is at the center of a violent political battle in Congress.... Nobody can really predict the impact of the video on public opinion. Polls indicate quite clearly that a majority of Americans can no longer stand this story. In the end, the images of a president put against the ropes by an investigator obsessed by the most intimate details of his sexual life may end up damaging prosecutor Starr more than Clinton, reinforcing the White House assertion that there is 'fury' against the president on the part of the Republicans.... The Democrats, encouraged by the White House, have begun to work at a compromise in order to avoid impeachment.... But admitting perjury may be, in the end, the price that Clinton will have to pay to the Republicans to save his presidency.... In the meantime, the president continues to show his repentance and contrition in public."

"Starr Investigating Other Fronts As Well"

In left-leaning, influential La Repubblica (9/16), New York correspondent Arturo Zampaglione wrote: "The video of Clinton's testimony before the Grand Jury is not the last trap in the road.... Starr continues to investigate on other fronts as well... According to former White House insider and (FOB) Dick Morris.... Hillary will soon be committed for trial over the Whitewater scandal.... Is there a way to emerge from the impasse?... According to the Washington Post and many Congressmen, the answer can come from a rapid approval of what is called 'censure plus,' i.e., a parliamentary motion of condemnation and the request that Clinton refund at least part of the $4.4 million spent by Starr during the seven months of his investigation."

BELGIUM: "Clinton, A 'Lying King' In New York"

Colette Braeckman wrote under the headline above in independent Le Soir (9/16): "If the video of his deposition before the Grand Jury is broadcast, desertion might speed up.... Politicians know that the weight of words rarely equals the shock of video, but nobody takes the risk of predicting the consequences of this incest between democracy and voyeurism. Advantage to the prosecutor, thanks to the revelation of the embarrassment and anger of the witness, or advantage to the president, thanks to the display of the unhealthy fierceness of his accuser? "

"Savonarola Made In USA"

Jean Daloze observed in conservative Catholic La Libre Belgique (9/16): "The rule that democracy should be a representative regime, i.e., imposing an intermediary body between citizens and state, has not been respected in the United States... Can we, in Belgium, consider the current American effervescence condescendingly? We have to be careful as we begin a reform of our judiciary system. Careful of the susceptibility of parliament and the system itself to the so-called popular sentiment... The monk, Savonarola, a criminal in the name of virtue, as well as Robespierre, are not totally dead."

SPAIN: "Obscenities"

Alfonso Ussia commented in conservative ABC (9/16): "'Monica is so ashamed of the pornographic nature of [Starr's] report that, if she could, she

would leave the country forever.'...

"This statement by Monica's father fails to convince...nor does it tell the whole story. The remorseful vixen has now accepted a multi-million-dollar publishing contract to tell the story of her relationship with Clinton.... It is understandable that Monica Lewinsky should feel embarrassed by the lurid descriptions in Starr's report...and for having saved evidence for the purpose of blackmail...and for having jotted down the dates of their trysts...and for having cut a deal with the prosecutor in exchange for all this revolting material. I have no plans to erect a monument to Clinton, but in comparison with some other people, he is beginning to seem like a decent sort of guy."

JAPAN: "Clinton's Personal Problem Creates The Global Blues"

Moderate Tokyo Shimbun editorialized (9/15), "It appears that President Clinton's personal problem, stemming from his alleged attempt to cover up his 'inappropriate relationship' with a former White House intern, has become politicized and protracted.... Will Congress take action to impeach the president? After all, it will be public opinion that holds the key to congressional impeachment. At any rate, this is a problem to be settled domestically. More serious questions have been raised over whether the president's scandal will have negative effects on the rest of the world. It has been pointed out that the president is already losing the authority to deal effectively with economic and social issues in Indonesia and Russia and with North Korea's suspected nuclear development."

THAILAND: "What The World Gets From The Clinton Case"

The lead editorial of elite Matichon commented (9/16): "A public official has nothing that is considered private, as whatever he does or is involved with impact national interests in some way or another. An incumbent public official must be ethically and morally upright and a good model for the society.... One should think that the sex scandal, which has been publicized worldwide, may have shamed the president to the extreme. To the contrary, he is still standing tall, smiling and struggling for survival."

INDIA: "It's Not Over Yet"

The influential, right-of-center Indian Express (9/16) reported that a "fresh fight" is brewing in the political arena over the so-called Clinton Tapes, with Republican leaders pressing to make it public to further "corner" Clinton. "It's not over yet, not by a long shot. The American saga of sex, lies and videotape rolls on relentlessly."

"A Philandering President Is Always A Security Risk"

Pro-BJP Urdu-language Pratap said (9/15): "What Clinton has done is nothing strange by the standards of American society, which allows its men and women to have and change any number of sexual partners.... The only reason for all the criticism...against (Clinton) is the special and sensitive nature of his office. Illicit sexual relations can involve serious security risks as well. History is replete with examples of women

extracting state secrets through sexual intimacy. A philandering president is always a security risk."

PAKISTAN: "Bill Clinton Turns To God"

Eqbal Ahmad commented in the Karachi-based, independent Dawn (9/16): "The Republican legislators, upon whom falls the onus of leading the impeachment bandwagon, should be the least desirous of impeaching the Democratic president. Their party will be in a better position to defeat the Democratic candidate if a discredited incumbent sits in the White House. Why should they give the Democrats a clean administration to defend in the next presidential election? So, ironically, his opposition happens to be Clinton's best ally."

PERU: "Clinton's Motives"

Peruvian Ambassador Jorge Morelli wrote in pro-government Expreso (9/15): "Clinton the wolf is now stuck making constant apologies...because Protestants prefer to make their apologies in public. Even worse, the puritanism in the United States punishes those who lie to hide their sins with hell on earth; thus, perjury usually results in something worse than the original mistake. It is surprising how the U.S. system--not its people--tries to ignore the arguments of Clinton's lawyers that adultery is not a crime. And nobody seems to notice that the current inquisitorial process is offending the president's wife and daughter. Even if the current internal crisis passes, the United States, despite its global superiority, will continue losing power and prestige for the sole reason

that its 'system' is questioning President Clinton's private life."

GLOBAL ECONOMY: CLINTON, LATIN AMERICA, CURRENCY CONTROLS

HONG KONG: "World Must Act To Avert Slump"

The independent, English-language Hong Kong Standard (9/16) had this editorial: "Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Southeast Asia, Russia and now various parts of Latin America are in the grip of a financial crisis; all have come under attack from hedge funds. Most of their people are now in pain; social disorder is lurking not far below the surface in countries. Europe and the United States cannot escape this growing crisis.... It is for this reason that many people and governments are welcoming President Clinton's six-point emergency plan to combat this crisis."

"Clinton Plays Cutting Interest Rates Card"

The independent Hong Kong Economic Times (9/16) had this editorial: "What does U.S. President Clinton urgently need? A crisis. The bigger the crisis, the better, because it will draw the United States into the international crisis. Therefore, the attention of the American people will shift away from his sex scandal. It will also give him an opportunity to convey the image of a wise world leader, and to redress his good-for-nothing and depraved image.... Clinton has to wait until the American people feel harm to their own interests. His action will then be 'appreciated.'"

INDONESIA: "IMF And Foreign Exchange Control"

Business-oriented Bisnis Indonesia said (9/16): "Bank of Indonesia Governor Syahril Sabirin declared that the government will not enact even partial currency controls. In fact, Asia Pacific IMF Director Neiss' statement on the feasibility of limited foreign currency control merits consideration. Although no consensus has yet been reached on the issue within the IMF, at least we could expect loosening of the IMF 'shackle' a bit to allow us to make the best choice for ourselves."

MALAYSIA: "From Economics Guru To Students"

The government-influenced English-language New Straits Times ran this editorial (9/16): "How the wheel turns. Still ringing in everyone's ears are the strident denunciations by the U.S. administration and its mouthpiece, the IMF, of the exchange control initiatives and the benign interest rate regime the National Economic Council put into place through (the central bank) Bank Negara on 9/1.... But on Monday, President Clinton made a call for an urgent meeting of the leading industrial nations to devise a strategy to encourage global growth.... Clinton hinted strongly that he favored a lowering of interest rates. How does this revision of monetary policy jell with the continued prescription of the United States and the IMF for ailing economies, including Malaysia, that they pursue a tight monetary policy with its attendant high interest rates to weather bad times? Is it a case of 'Do as I tell you but not as I do?'... Then there is

the matter of the international financial architecture.... How swiftly their stand has changed."

FRANCE: "Clinton Waves A Red Flag About Latin America"

Pierre Yves Dugua remarked in right-of-center Le Figaro (9/16): "Anticipating the situation, President Clinton has asked the IMF to be ready for emergency loans to Latin America.... The White House message is extremely clear. Now that the crisis is hitting emerging nations in America's backyard, the challenges of the world financial crisis have gone up a notch.... Yet beyond the economic and financial repercussions of a Latin American crisis, there is a major political dimension at stake for the United States. All the countries in that part of the world are now democracies where governments and political tendencies can change. If, after ten years of an open market economy and deregulation, Latin America was tempted to go back to a controlled market, Washington's model of development would suffer greatly."

"The Liberal Bubble"

Laurent Joffrin noted in left-of-center Liberation (9/16): "The idea of regulating financial markets is slowly making headway. Finally."

GERMANY: "Crisis Patchwork"

Right-of-center Frankfurter Allgemeine (9/16) carried this editorial: "The seven leading industrialized countries now want to make proposals on how to

resolve the problems in the international finance markets. President Clinton even ordered his Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin to organize a global crisis summit. But there is not a great scope of action for a coordinated policy of the G-7. The monetary conditions in Europe, the United States, and Japan differ widely and do not allow coordinated monetary steps.... Instead of curing the symptoms, the reasons for the financial and economic problems must be tackled in a resolute way. Protectionism and the control of capital flow cannot be the means to achieve this goal. International organizations such as the IMF should only offer help for self-help. But the signal emanating from this G-7 summit does not point into this direction. Financial assistance still dominates and not the necessary reforms. But the key to overcoming the crisis is called 'confidence.' The promise of further loans alone, however, will not

create this confidence."

"A Crisis, Not A Disaster"

Josef Joffe had this to say in an editorial in centrist Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich (9/16): "In addition to reading the 445 pages of the Starr Report, Bill Clinton took the time to take care of politics. While the G-7 was meeting in London, he took the initiative and proclaimed a six-point program to save the global economy.... And the G-7 in London also adopted an appeal for economic growth.... Unlike in the '30s, the global economy is not thinking of repeating the mistakes from the past. In the '30s, the states reacted to the crash of banks which had sucked the money out of a global economy, thus speeding up the shortage of money.

Today, they are thinking of making money cheaper and increasing the money volume. The question is whether this approach will be successful. Look for instance to Japan. The country is able to produce 20 percent of the global product. It is not expensive money that slows down growth but an overregulated, anti-competitive and nepotistic economy. And the second danger from the '30s, which Clinton and the G-7 did hardly mention, is protectionism. If trade is strangled, cheap loans will be of no use."

RUSSIA: "Clinton Says Inflation Is Not A Danger"

Marina Borisova wrote in reformist Vremya-MN (9/16): "Analysts are skeptical about the U.S. administration's desire to play the role of savior who would rescue the world from a global economic crisis. Many think that the place of world leader is vacant. And American 'rescue

plans' merely increase the nervousness especially at a time when the United States has managed to cough up just $3-4 billion for the IMF instead of the targeted $18 billion. Not surprisingly, neither Mexico nor Brazil are in a hurry to claim the promised $15 billion in aid, although crisis in Latin America is worsening."

SPAIN: "Clinton Looks Abroad"

Commercial Expansion opined (9/16): "Under an implacable siege at home by journalists and politicians, Bill Clinton has decided to reappear on the world scene by taking on the international economic crisis and offering some ideas to solve it. This somewhat transparent attempt to reassert his

world leadership is apparently the only gambit he can devise to head off an impeachment process in the House of Representatives.... Foreign policy and, especially, international economic policy provide Clinton with a means to burnish his image."

"The Latin American Fuse"

Independent El Mundo stressed (9/16): "There has hardly been a day in the last few weeks that has not brought some worrisome news about the economic situation in Latin America. Yesterday it was learned that Argentina is negotiating a $6 billion loan with the World Bank in order to be able to meet its obligations between now and March, 1999. Brazil's reserves have diminished by about $25 billion in the last few months, which has given rise to disquieting rumors about the solvency of this Latin giant.... American banks would be seriously affected by a payment moratorium by Latin countries if it came about because of a serious devaluation of their currencies. Their exposure in the region reaches about $80 billion, ten times what is at stake in Russia."

ARGENTINA: "From Lewinsky To An Economic Summit"

Jorge Elias, Washington-based correspondent for daily-of-record La Nacion, commented (9/15): "Clinton's initiative, amid the whirlwind of criticism...ratifies that...Clinton needs to work as a president, disregarding as much as he can the details of the [Starr] report, to show his enemies, both Republicans and Democrats, that he is able to continue being the U.S. president...taking care of national security."

BRAZIL: "The Empire Awakens"

According to the lead editorial in liberal Folha de Sao Paulo (9/15): "By focusing on the global crisis, he also tries to influence public opinion much more than Congress, where his impeachment became a probability to be discussed. However, the political dimension goes beyond Clinton's domestic difficulties, because it has to do also with the future of democracy and of the support of liberal principles worldwide. Clinton's appeal serves to restrain the spread of panic. However, it is yet to be seen, whether there will be enough means and time available to go from rhetoric to action...and the containment of the crisis.

A coordinated effort of the major rich and emerging economies (meeting as the G-22) is still lacking in order to create a new world financial system, which Clinton seems to propose. Such reform however, is the most complex and fundamental challenge--it is also that which requires more time to mature. With the United States waking up, a space is open to discipline the global casino."

ROSS TO MIDDLE EAST: 'CRISSCROSSING REGION' TO WHAT AVAIL?

ISRAEL: "Not A Personal Failure"

Nationalist columnist Yosef Harif wrote in popular, pluralist Maariv (9/16): "The State Department's spokesman noted Monday that Ambassador Ross was encountering serious difficulties. In simple language: Ross concedes failure. It should be said to Ross' credit that this is no personal failure. No one could have done a better job .... President Clinton's mind is simply not on how to cross the 't's and dot the 'i's in the Palestinian track.... This explains why Ross has been crisscrossing the region for over a week now without being able to bridge the 'small' gaps between Israel and the Palestinians.... In his past visits, Ross never allowed himself to move around idly."

WEST BANK: "Details Of Ross' Proposal On Redeployment"

Fuad Abu Hijleh opined in semi-official Al-Hayat Al-Jadida (9/16): "Dennis Ross is going to Alexandria to ask the Egyptian leadership to exert pressure on our leadership to accept the 'Israeli changes' to the American initiative. He will then go to Amman to seek the Jordanian leadership's mediation to convince Yasser Arafat to soften the Palestinian stance. Ross' trips to Egypt and Jordan come from an Israeli request, which he cannot disobey.... We wish to tell Ross before concluding his round that the Palestinian position cannot tolerate, under any circumstances, a reduction in the withdrawal percentages adopted by Washington."

EGYPT: "Ross On Egypt's Role"

Pro-government Al-Ahram maintained (9/16): "U.S. envoy Dennis Ross has put an end to the Israeli claim that Egypt is obstructing the Palestinians from reaching an agreement with the Israelis.... Had it not been embarrassing, the U.S. envoy would have said frankly and openly that Israel is the one responsible for the stumbling of the peace process as a result of the difficulties and obstacles that Israel is putting in the way.... Israel will not reach...secure...co-existence with her neighbors unless she relinquishes her ambitions to control and usurp her neighbors' rights."

BOSNIAN ELECTIONS: CONCERN OVER FATE OF DAYTON ACCORDS

BRITAIN: "No Retreat"

The liberal Guardian commented (9/16): "Bosnia's latest elections, the third since the Dayton agreement...were almost a potential threat. The risk was that over the last three years of peace the cautious effort by Western governments to weaken the country's hardline nationalists would backfire. As a result, the country would slip back into the clutches of men who prefer partition to the unitary state which the Dayton agreement proclaimed. Although the results from last weekend's voting are far from complete, the picture which seems to be emerging is disappointing.... There may be a temptation to withdraw the 32,000 foreign troops who have kept the peace in Bosnia since 1995 and abandon the huge investment the West has made in reconstruction. This would be a serious mistake. The imperative is to forge ahead. Regardless of which parties hold office in

Bosnia, the Dayton principles remain in force. The West's mistake was to set too much store by holding elections in Bosnia long before the conditions were ripe. When almost half the electorate are refugees, you cannot have a democratic poll."

RUSSIA: "Nationalists Win In Bosnia"

Dmitry Gornostayev observed in centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (9/16): "The forces that have come to power in Bosnia are the very ones which in their time tried to establish the dominance of one of the three nationalities--the Serbs, Croats and Muslims--over the other two. This may arouse concern about growing hostility on Bosnia's political scene. Although the election was fairly peaceful and was welcomed by the West in the person of NATO Secretary General Javier Solana, the fate of Bosnia prompts more fears than hopes that national and religious strife will come to an end."

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with ESMTP id <01J1V8CK6YRK0083YD@PMDF.EOP.GOV> for anderson_l@a1.eop.gov;
Wed, 16 Sep 1998 08:06:57 -0400 (EDT)
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by STORM.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.1-12 #29131)
with SMTP id <01J1V8C3YABQ0015WZ@STORM.EOP.GOV> for anderson_l@a1.eop.gov;
Wed, 16 Sep 1998 08:06:36 -0400 (EDT)
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usia.gov/products/medreac.htm

#Xn\ P6Qy&P#Wednesday, September 16, 1998

X` hp x STARR REPORT: 'VIDEO NOW AT CENTER OF VIOLENT CONGRESSIONAL BATTLE'
X` hp x
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iry
into President Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky continued to
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other germane themes of the Lewinsky saga and the balance among t
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appeared to be shifting. For example, while a considerable number of
anal
ysts believed Mr. Clinton's relationship with Ms. Lewinsky and his
subsequent a
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growing segment
of commentary expressed sympathy for the president and
aimed their criticism at
Kenneth Starr.
X` hp x
X` hp x GLOBAL ECONOMY: CLINTON, LATIN AMERICA, CURRENCY CONTROLS

In comment on the global financial crisis, analysts focused on President
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BRIEFS

Ross To Middle East: 'Crisscrossing Region' To What Avail?
Bosnian Elections: Concern Over Fate Of Dayton Accords
X` hp x
EDITORS: Kathleen J. Brahney, Diana McCaffrey and Bill Richey

X` hp x

STARR REPORT: 'VIDEO NOW AT CENTER OF VIOLENT CONGRESSIONAL BATTLE'
X` hp x
BRITAIN: "Power Failure In The White House"

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GERMANY: "A President Is Being Destroyed"

Rainer Bonhorst observed in rightofcenter Augsburger Allgemeine (9/16): "Nobod
y should be treated the way Bill Clinton was treated. Very
embarrassing detail
s of his sexual life were

spread over the Internet where they are read by millions of people. This
is no
t politics, this is not legal, this is the public destruction of a
human being.
No smear journalism has ever wallowed in such humiliating
manner in private a
ffairs as the pompous lawmakers in Congress and as
independent counsel Kenneth
Starr. In the global village, 'pillorying'
which has come from medieval times,
has got a new disgusting dimension.
Even independent counsel Kenneth Starr wo
uld not be pleased if his sexual
lifeif there is anywere put in the Internet."

ITALY: "Videotapes Now At Center Of Violent Political Battle In Congress"

Washington correspondent Andrea di Robilant said in centrist, influential La
Stampa (9/16): "The video of Clinton's testimony before the Grand Jury
is at th
e center of a violent political battle in Congress.... Nobody can
really predi
ct the impact of the video on public opinion. Polls indicate
quite clearly tha
t a majority of Americans can no longer stand this story.
In the end, the imag
es of a president put against the ropes by an
investigator obsessed by the mos
t intimate details of his sexual life may
end up damaging prosecutor Starr more
than Clinton, reinforcing the White
House assertion that there is 'fury' again
st the president on the part of
the Republicans.... The Democrats, encouraged
by the White House, have
begun to work at a compromise in order to avoid impeac
hment.... But
admitting perjury may be, in the end, the price that Clinton wil
l have to
pay to the Republicans to save his presidency.... In the meantime,
the
president continues to show his repentance and contrition in public."

"Starr Investigating Other Fronts As Well"

In leftleaning, influential La Repubblica (9/16), New York correspondent Artu
ro Zampaglione wrote: "The video of Clinton's testimony before the Grand Jury i
s not the last trap in the road.... Starr continues to investigate on other fr
onts as well... According to former White House insider and (FOB) Dick Morris..
.. Hillary will soon be committed for trial over the Whitewater scandal.... I
s there a way to emerge from the impasse?... According to the Washington Post and many Congressmen, the answer can come from a rapid approval of what is call
ed 'censure plus,' i.e., a parliamentary motion of condemnation and the reques
t that Clinton refund at least part of the $4.4 million spent by Starr during t
he seven months of his investigation."

BELGIUM: "Clinton, A 'Lying King' In New York"

Colette Braeckman wrote under the headline above in independent Le Soir (9/16)
: "If the video of his deposition before the Grand Jury is broadcast, desertion
might speed up.... Politicians know that the weight of words rarely equals th
e shock of video, but nobody takes the risk of predicting the consequences of t
his incest between democracy and voyeurism. Advantage to the prosecutor, thank
s to the revelation of the embarrassment and anger of the witness, or advantage
to the president, thanks to the display of the unhealthy fierceness of his acc
user? "

"Savonarola Made In USA"

Jean Daloze observed in conservative Catholic La Libre Belgique (9/16): "The r
ule that democracy should be a representative regime, i.e., imposing an interme
diary body between citizens and state, has not been respected in the United Sta
tes... Can we, in Belgium, consider the current American effervescence condesc
endingly? We have to be careful as we begin a reform of our judiciary system.
Careful of the susceptibility of parliament and the system itself to the socal

led popular sentiment... The monk,
Savonarola, a criminal in the name of virtu
e, as well as Robespierre, are
not totally dead."
X` hp x
SPAIN: "Obscenities"
X` hp x
Alfonso Ussia commented in conservative ABC (9/16): "'Monica is so ashamed
of
the pornographic nature of [Starr's] report that, if she could, she
would leave
the country forever.'...

"This statement by Monica's father fails to convince...nor does it tell the
who
le story. The remorseful vixen has now accepted a multimilliondollar
publishi
ng contract to tell the story of her relationship with Clinton....
It is und
erstandable that Monica Lewinsky should feel embarrassed by the
lurid descript
ions in Starr's report...and for having saved evidence for
the purpose of black
mail...and for having jotted down the dates of their
trysts...and for having cu
t a deal with the prosecutor in exchange for all
this revolting material. I ha
ve no plans to erect a monument to Clinton,
but in comparison with some other p
eople, he is beginning to seem like a
decent sort of guy."

JAPAN: "Clinton's Personal Problem Creates The Global Blues"

Moderate Tokyo Shimbun editorialized (9/15), "It appears that President
Clinto
n's personal problem, stemming from his alleged attempt to cover up
his 'inapp
ropriate relationship' with a former White House intern, has
become politicized
and protracted.... Will Congress take action to impeach
the president? After
all, it will be public opinion that holds the key to
congressional impeachmen
t. At any rate, this is a problem to be settled
domestically. More serious qu
estions have been raised over whether the
president's scandal will have negativ
e effects on the rest of the world.
It has been pointed out that the president
is already losing the authority
to deal effectively with economic and social i
ssues in Indonesia and Russia
and with North Korea's suspected nuclear developm

ent."

THAILAND: "What The World Gets From The Clinton Case"

The lead editorial of elite Matichon commented (9/16): "A public official has nothing that is considered private, as whatever he does or is involved with impact national interests in some way or another. An incumbent public official must be ethically and morally upright and a good model for the society.... One should think that the sex scandal, which has been publicized worldwide, may have shamed the president to the extreme. To the contrary, he is still standing tall, smiling and struggling for survival."

INDIA: "It's Not Over Yet"

The influential, rightofcenter Indian Express (9/16) reported that a "fresh fight" is brewing in the political arena over the socalled Clinton Tapes, with Republican leaders pressing to make it public to further "corner" Clinton. "It's not over yet, not by a long shot. The American saga of sex, lies and videotape rolls on relentlessly."

"A Philandering President Is Always A Security Risk"

ProBJP Urdulanguage Pratap said (9/15): "What Clinton has done is nothing strange by the standards of American society, which allows its men and women to have and change any number of sexual partners.... The only reason for all the criticism...against (Clinton) is the special and sensitive nature of his office. Illicit sexual relations can involve serious security risks as well. History is replete with examples of women extracting state secrets through sexual intimacy. A philandering president is always a security risk."

X` hp x PAKISTAN: "Bill Clinton Turns To God"

Eqbal Ahmad commented in the Karachibased, independent Dawn (9/16): "The Republican legislators, upon whom falls the onus of leading the impeachment bandwa

gon, should be the least desirous of impeaching the Democratic president. The ir party will be in a better position to defeat the Democratic candidate if a discredited incumbent sits in the White House. Why should they give the Democrats a clean administration to defend in the next presidential election? So, ironically, his opposition happens to be Clinton's best ally."

X` hp x
PERU: "Clinton's Motives"

Peruvian Ambassador Jorge Morelli wrote in progovernment Expreso (9/15): "Clinton the wolf is now stuck making constant apologies...because Protestants prefer to make their apologies in public. Even worse, the puritanism in the United States punishes those who lie to hide their sins with hell on earth; thus, perjury usually results in something worse than the original mistake. It is surprising how the U.S. systemnot its peopletries to ignore the arguments of Clinton's lawyers that adultery is not a crime. And nobody seems to notice that the current inquisitorial process is offending the president's wife and daughter. Even if the current internal crisis passes, the United States, despite its global superiority, will continue losing power and prestige for the sole reason that its 'system' is questioning President Clinton's private life."

X` hp x
GLOBAL ECONOMY: CLINTON, LATIN AMERICA, CURRENCY CONTROLS

HONG KONG: "World Must Act To Avert Slump"

The independent, Englishlanguage Hong Kong Standard (9/16) had this editorial:
"Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Southeast Asia, Russia and now various parts of Latin America are in the grip of a financial crisis; all have come under attack from hedge funds. Most of their people are now in pain; social disorder is lurking not far below the surface in countries. Europe and the United States cannot escape this growing crisis.... It is for this reason that many people and governments are welcoming President

Clinton's sixpoint emergency plan to comb
at this crisis."
X` hp x
"Clinton Plays Cutting Interest Rates Card"

The independent Hong Kong Economic Times (9/16) had this editorial: "What
doe
s U.S. President Clinton urgently need? A crisis. The bigger the
crisis, the
better, because it will draw the United States into the
international crisis.
Therefore, the attention of the American people will
shift away from his sex s
candal. It will also give him an opportunity to
convey the image of a wise wo
rld leader, and to redress his
goodfornothing and depraved image.... Clinton
has to wait until the
American people feel harm to their own interests. His a
ction will then be
'appreciated.'"

INDONESIA: "IMF And Foreign Exchange Control"

Businessoriented Bisnis Indonesia said (9/16): "Bank of Indonesia
Governor S
yahril Sabirin declared that the government will not enact even
partial currenc
y controls. In fact, Asia Pacific IMF Director Neiss'
statement on the feasibi
lity of limited foreign currency control merits
consideration. Although no c
onsensus has yet been reached on the issue
within the IMF, at least we could ex
pect loosening of the IMF 'shackle' a
bit to allow us to make the best choice f
or ourselves."

MALAYSIA: "From Economics Guru To Students"

The governmentinfluenced Englishlanguage New Straits Times ran this
editorial
(9/16): "How the wheel turns. Still ringing in everyone's ears
are the stride
nt denunciations by the U.S. administration and its
mouthpiece, the IMF, of th
e exchange control initiatives and the benign
interest rate regime the Nationa
l Economic Council put into place through
(the central bank) Bank Negara on 9/1
.... But on Monday, President Clinton
made a call for an urgent meeting of th
e leading industrial nations to
devise a strategy to encourage global growth..

.. Clinton hinted strongly
that he favored a lowering of interest rates. How
does this revision of
monetary policy jell with the continued prescription of
the United States
and the IMF for ailing economies, including Malaysia, that th
ey pursue a
tight monetary policy with its attendant high interest rates to we
ather
bad times? Is it a case of 'Do as I tell you but not as I do?'... The
n
there is

the matter of the international financial architecture.... How swiftly
their s
tand has changed."

FRANCE: "Clinton Waves A Red Flag About Latin America"

Pierre Yves Dugua remarked in rightofcenter Le Figaro (9/16):
"Anticipating t
he situation, President Clinton has asked the IMF to be
ready for emergency loa
ns to Latin America.... The White House message is
extremely clear. Now that
the crisis is hitting emerging nations in
America's backyard, the challenges o
f the world financial crisis have gone
up a notch.... Yet beyond the economic
and financial repercussions of a
Latin American crisis, there is a major polit
ical dimension at stake for
the United States. All the countries in that part
of the world are now
democracies where governments and political tendencies can
change. If,
after ten years of an open market economy and deregulation, Latin
America
was tempted to go back to a controlled market, Washington's model of
d
evelopment would suffer greatly."

"The Liberal Bubble"

Laurent Joffrin noted in leftofcenter Liberation (9/16): "The idea of
regulati
ng financial markets is slowly making headway. Finally."

GERMANY: "Crisis Patchwork"

Rightofcenter Frankfurter Allgemeine (9/16) carried this editorial: "The
seve
n leading industrialized countries now want to make proposals on how to
resolve

the problems in the international finance markets. President Clinton even ord
ered his Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin to organize a global crisis summit. B
ut there is not a great scope of action for a coordinated policy of the G7. Th
e monetary conditions in Europe, the United States, and Japan differ widely and
do not allow coordinated monetary steps.... Instead of curing the symptoms, t
he reasons for the financial and economic problems must be tackled in a resolu
te way.
Protectionism and the control of capital flow cannot be the means to a
chieve this goal. International organizations such as the IMF should only offe
r help for selfhelp. But the signal emanating from this G7 summit does not poi
nt into this direction. Financial assistance still dominates and not the neces
sary reforms. But the key to overcoming the crisis is called 'confidence.' Th
e promise of further loans alone, however, will not create this confidence."

"A Crisis, Not A Disaster"

Josef Joffe had this to say in an editorial in centrist Sueddeutsche Zeitung o
f Munich (9/16): "In addition to reading the 445 pages of the Starr Report, Bi
ll Clinton took the time to take care of politics. While the G7 was meeting in
London, he took the initiative and proclaimed a sixpoint program to save the g
lobal economy.... And the G7 in London also adopted an appeal for economic gro
wth.... Unlike in the '30s, the global economy is not thinking of repeating th
e mistakes from the past. In the '30s, the states reacted to the crash of bank
s which had sucked the money out of a global economy, thus speeding up the shor
tage of money.
Today, they are thinking of making money cheaper and increasing the money volume. The question is whether this approach will be successful. Look
for instance to Japan. The country is able to produce 20 percent of the g
lobal product. It is not expensive money that slows down growth but an overreg
ulated, anticompetitive and nepotistic economy. And the second

danger from the
'30s, which Clinton and the G7 did hardly mention, is
protectionism. If trade
is strangled, cheap loans will be of no use."

RUSSIA: "Clinton Says Inflation Is Not A Danger"

Marina Borisova wrote in reformist VremyaMN (9/16): "Analysts are
skeptical a
bout the U.S. administration's desire to play the role of savior
who would resc
ue the world from a global economic crisis. Many think that
the place of world
leader is vacant. And American 'rescue

plans' merely increase the nervousness especially at a time when the
United St
ates has managed to cough up just $34 billion for the IMF instead
of the target
ed $18 billion. Not surprisingly, neither Mexico nor Brazil
are in a hurry to
claim the promised $15 billion in aid, although crisis in
Latin America is wors
ening."

SPAIN: "Clinton Looks Abroad"

Commercial Expansion opined (9/16): "Under an implacable siege at home by
jour
nalists and politicians, Bill Clinton has decided to reappear on the
world scen
e by taking on the international economic crisis and offering
some ideas to so
lve it. This somewhat transparent attempt to reassert his
world leadership is
apparently the only gambit he can devise to head off
an impeachment process i
n the House of Representatives.... Foreign policy
and, especially, internation
al economic policy provide Clinton with a
means to burnish his image."

"The Latin American Fuse"

Independent El Mundo stressed (9/16): "There has hardly been a day in the
las
t few weeks that has not brought some worrisome news about the economic
situat
ion in Latin America. Yesterday it was learned that Argentina is
negotiating a
$6 billion loan with the World Bank in order to be able to
meet its obligation
s between now and March, 1999. Brazil's reserves have
diminished by about $25

billion in the last few months, which has given rise to disquieting rumors about the solvency of this Latin giant.... American banks would be seriously affected by a payment moratorium by Latin countries if it came about because of a serious devaluation of their currencies. Their exposure in the region reaches about $80 billion, ten times what is at stake in Russia."

ARGENTINA: "From Lewinsky To An Economic Summit"

Jorge Elias, Washingtonbased correspondent for dailyofrecord La Nacion, commented (9/15): "Clinton's initiative, amid the whirlwind of criticism...ratifies that...Clinton needs to work as a president, disregarding as much as he can the details of the [Starr] report, to show his enemies, both Republicans and Democrats, that he is able to continue being the U.S. president...taking care of national security."

BRAZIL: "The Empire Awakens"

According to the lead editorial in liberal Folha de Sao Paulo (9/15): "By focusing on the global crisis, he also tries to influence public opinion much more than Congress, where his impeachment became a probability to be discussed. However, the political dimension goes beyond Clinton's domestic difficulties, because it has to do also with the future of democracy and of the support of liberal principles worldwide. Clinton's appeal serves to restrain the spread of panic. However, it is yet to be seen, whether there will be enough means and time available to go from rhetoric to action...and the containment of the crisis.
A coordinated effort of the major rich and emerging economies (meeting as the G22) is still lacking in order to create a new world financial system, which Clinton seems to propose. Such reform however, is the most complex and fundamental challengeit is also that which requires more time to mature. With the United States waking up, a space is open to discipline the global casino."

X` hp x

BRIEFS

ROSS TO MIDDLE EAST: 'CRISSCROSSING REGION' TO WHAT AVAIL?

ISRAEL: "Not A Personal Failure"
X` hp x
Nationalist columnist Yosef Harif wrote in popular, pluralist Maariv (9/16): "The State Department's spokesman noted Monday that Ambassador Ross was encountering serious difficulties. In simple language: Ross concedes failure. It should be said to Ross' credit that this is no personal failure. No one could have done a better job .... President Clinton's mind is simply not on how to cross the 't's and dot the 'i's in the Palestinian track.... This explains why Ross has been crisscrossing the region for over a week now without being able to bridge the 'small' gaps between Israel and the Palestinians.... In his past visits, Ross never allowed himself to move around idly."
X` hp x
WEST BANK: "Details Of Ross' Proposal On Redeployment"
X` hp x
Fuad Abu Hijleh opined in semiofficial AlHayat AlJadida (9/16): "Dennis Ross is going to Alexandria to ask the Egyptian leadership to exert pressure on our leadership to accept the 'Israeli changes' to the American initiative. He will then go to Amman to seek the Jordanian leadership's mediation to convince Yasser Arafat to soften the Palestinian stance. Ross' trips to Egypt and Jordan come from an Israeli request, which he cannot disobey.... We wish to tell Ross before concluding his round that the Palestinian position cannot tolerate, under any circumstances, a reduction in the withdrawal percentages adopted by Washington."
X` hp x
EGYPT: "Ross On Egypt's Role"

X` hp x Progovernment AlAhram maintained (9/16): "U.S. envoy Dennis Ross has p
ut
an end to the Israeli claim that Egypt is obstructing the Palestinians from
reaching an agreement with the Israelis.... Had it not been embarrassing,
the
U.S. envoy would have said frankly and openly that Israel is the one
responsibl
e for the stumbling of the peace process as a result of the
difficulties and ob
stacles that Israel is putting in the way.... Israel
will not reach...secure..
.coexistence with her neighbors unless she
relinquishes her ambitions to contro
l and usurp her neighbors' rights."

X` hp x BOSNIAN ELECTIONS: CONCERN OVER FATE OF DAYTON ACCORDS

X` hp x BRITAIN: "No Retreat"

The liberal Guardian commented (9/16): "Bosnia's latest elections, the
third s
ince the Dayton agreement...were almost a potential threat. The
risk was that
over the last three years of peace the cautious effort by
Western governments t
o weaken the country's hardline nationalists would
backfire. As a result, the
country would slip back into the clutches of
men who prefer partition to the un
itary state which the Dayton agreement
proclaimed. Although the results from l
ast weekend's voting are far from
complete, the picture which seems to be emerg
ing is disappointing....
There may be a temptation to withdraw the 32,000 fore
ign troops who have
kept the peace in Bosnia since 1995 and abandon the huge in
vestment the
West has made in reconstruction. This would be a serious mistake.
The
imperative is to forge ahead. Regardless of which parties hold office in

Bosnia, the Dayton principles remain in force. The West's mistake was to
set
too much store by holding elections in Bosnia long before the
conditions were r
ipe. When almost half the electorate are refugees, you
cannot have a democrati
c poll."
X` hp x

RUSSIA: "Nationalists Win In Bosnia"
X` hp x
Dmitry Gornostayev observed in centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (9/16): "The
forc
es that have come to power in Bosnia are the very ones which in their
time trie
d to establish the dominance of one of the three
nationalitiesthe Serbs, Croats
and Muslimsover the other two. This may
arouse concern about growing hostility
on Bosnia's political scene.
Although the election was fairly peaceful and wa
s welcomed by the West in
the person of NATO Secretary General Javier Solana, t
he fate of Bosnia
prompts more fears than hopes that national and religious str
ife will come
to an end."

X` hp x ###Xx\ P6QyXP#

========== END ATTACHMENT 2 ==========

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: cqwa15375 (cqwa15375@cq.com@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-SEP-1998 03:37:00.00

SUBJECT: Nitealert Report - ingrid

TO: Ingrid M. Schroeder (Ingrid M. Schroeder@eop [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
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! Nite-Alert Created for INGRID SCHROEDER - OMB

! 17-SEP-1998 02:34:04

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! This is a DAILY nitealert

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! ------ Searching the BILLTRACK database ------

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! --- For Legislative Action on Bills You Are Tracking ---

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! Using the Bill List INGRID

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! --- COMMITTEE and FLOOR SCHEDULE Searching with your key words ---

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1 of 23 items CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/17/98

INSTITUTIONAL REMOVAL PROGRAM

Future House committees * New *

(SCHEDULE 09/18/98; Judiciary -- Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims)

Item Key: 118

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INSTITUTIONAL REMOVAL PROGRAM * New *

Immigration and Claims Subcommittee (Chairman Smith, R-Texas) of House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on the Institutional Removal Program (IRP). The IRP is administered by the Immigration and Naturalization Service which goes into prisons and other detention institutions and identifies inmates who are illegal aliens, so when their sentence is up, they can quickly be deported.

Sept. 18 9:30 am 2237 Rayburn Bldg.

Information verified as of 09:02pm 09/16/98

2 of 23 items CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/17/98

INSTITUTIONAL REMOVAL PROGRAM

House Committees * Postponed *

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98; Judiciary -- Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims)

Item Key: 35

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INSTITUTIONAL REMOVAL PROGRAM * Postponed *

Immigration and Claims Subcommittee (Chairman Smith, R-Texas) of House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on the Institutional Removal Program (IRP). The IRP is administered by the Immigration and Naturalization Service which goes into prisons and other detention institutions and identifies inmates who are illegal aliens, so when their sentence is up, they can quickly be deported.

Sept. 17 Time TBA 2226 Rayburn Bldg.

Information verified as of 08:58pm 09/16/98

3 of 23 items CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/17/98

CHANGES IN NATURALIZATION PROCESS

Other news events * New *

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98)

Item Key: 63

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CHANGES IN NATURALIZATION PROCESS * New *

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., join the

Campaign for American Citizenship in a news conference on Citizenship Day to support reforms for the naturalization process. Other participants include Reps. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y.; Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla.; and Patsy Mink, D-Hawaii.

Sept. 17 1:00 pm B-340 Rayburn Bldg.

Contact: Judy Mark at 202-544-0004 ext. 14

Information verified as of 08:58pm 09/16/98

4 of 23 items CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/17/98

JUDICIARY BILLS NOMINATION

Full Committee Markup & Vote

Senate Committees * Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98; Judiciary)

Item Key: 15

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JUDICIARY BILLS NOMINATION * Revised *

Full Committee Markup & Vote

Senate Judiciary Committee (Chairman Hatch, R-Utah) will mark up pending

legislation and vote on pending nominations.

Sept. 17 9:30 am SD-226 Dirksen Bldg.

Agenda:

S2151 - A bill to clarify federal law to prohibit the dispensing or distribution of a controlled substance for the purpose of causing, or assisting in causing, the suicide, euthanasia or mercy killing of any individual.

SRes 256 - A resolution to refer S2274 entitled "A bill for the relief of Richard M. Barlow of Santa Fe, N.M." to the chief judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims for a report thereon.

S2392 - A bill to encourage the disclosure and exchange of information about computer processing problems and related matters in connection with the transition to the Year 2000.

S1727 - A bill to authorize the comprehensive independent study of the effects on trademark and intellectual property rights holders of adding new a generic top-level domains and related dispute resolution procedures.

S1637 - A bill to expedite state review of criminal records of applicants for bail enforcement officer employment, and for other purposes.

HR3494 - A bill to amend title 18, U.S. Code, with respect to violent sex crimes against children, and for other purposes.

HR3303 - A bill to authorize appropriations for the Department of Justice for fiscal years 1999, 2000, and 2001; to authorize

appropriations for fiscal years 1999 and 2000 to carry out certain programs administered by the Department of Justice; to amend title 28 of the U.S. Code with respect to the use of funds available to the Department of Justice, and for other purposes.

Nominations:

Robert B. King - to be circuit judge for the Fourth Circuit, W.V.

William B. Traxler Jr. - to be circuit judge for the Fourth Circuit, S.C.

Richard M. Berman - to be district judge for the Southern District, New York

H. Dean Buttram - to be district judge for the Northern District, Ala.

Donovan W. Frank - to be district judge for the District of Minnesota

Alvin K. Hellerstein - to be district judge for the Southern District, New York

Inge Prytz Johnson - to be district judge for the Northern District, New York

Colleen McMahon - to be district judge for the Southern District, New York

William H. Pauley III - to be district judge for the Southern District, New York

Thomas J. Whelan - to be district judge for the Southern District, Calif.

Robert Bruce Green - to be U.S. attorney for the Eastern

district, Okla.

Scott Richard Lassar - to be U.S. for the Northern

District, Ill.

James A. Tassone - to be district judge for the Southern

District, Florida

Information verified as of 08:58pm 09/16/98

5 of 23 items CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/17/98

IMMIGRATION REVISION

Other news events * New *

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98)

Item Key: 57

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IMMIGRATION REVISION * New *

The Campaign for American Citizenship will sponsor a rally with members

of Congress and immigrants to demand changes in immigration law.

Sept. 17 1:00 pm SR-325 Russell Bldg.

Contact: Judy Mark at 202-544-0004, ext. 14.

Information verified as of 08:58pm 09/16/98

6 of 23 items CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/17/98

PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS

Senate Committees * Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98; Environment & Public Works)

Item Key: 39

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PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS * Revised *

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Chairman Chafee, R-R.I.) will hold a hearing on the General Services Administration's FY99 Capital Investment and Leasing Program, on the FY99 courthouse construction requests of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and proposed legislation dealing with public buildings reform.

Sept. 17 9:00 am SD-406 Dirksen Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL:

Robert A. Peck - commissioner, Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration; Norman H. Stahl - chairman, Committee on Security and Facilities, Judicial Conference of the United States, Concord, N.H. PANEL:

A. Peter Burleigh - acting representative to the United Nations, U.S. Mission to the United Nations; Michael Ponsor - U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts; B. Avant Edenfield - U.S. District Court, Southern District of Georgia

Information verified as of 08:58pm 09/16/98

7 of 23 items CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/17/98

ENERGY: PANEL TO MULL CHECK-OFF PLAN FOR OILHEAT INDUSTRY R&D

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98)

Item Key: 10

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ENERGY: PANEL TO MULL CHECK-OFF PLAN FOR OILHEAT INDUSTRY R&D

By CQ Staff

A House Commerce panel today will mark up legislation that would allow the oilheat industry to establish an industry-funded check-off program to raise research and development funds.

The bill (HR3610) to be considered by the Subcommittee on Energy and Power is intended to raise $20 million annually to support activities such as research and development, safety, training and consumer education. Supporters say the industry would pass on savings to customers. The measure also would promote energy efficiency for a safer, cleaner environment, improve consumer and worker safety and lower fuel costs. The measure is similar to a 1996 check-off program for the propane industry.

Don Allen, president of E.T. Lawson, who testified before the committee earlier this year, says oilheat is the one remaining major heating fuel without a federal subsidy or industry program.

"The diverse nature of our industry means that no single company has a large enough stake to fund a nationwide program," he said.

"As a result, industry is at a significant competitive disadvantage" and the measure is needed to "enable oilheat to compete on a level playing field with other energy sources."

In the United States, the oilheat industry is composed of more than 7,000 businesses which employ close to 250,000 workers, Allen said.

Opponents to the bill believe the money may not be used for research and development. "Rather than collect a pool of money to support R&D, we believe that the focus of this effort is to provide significant dollars to fund anti-gas advertising," asserted Craig G. Matthews, executive vice president of MarketSpan Corp., which supplies energy to the New York City area, where the natural gas and heating oil industries are vying to serve a highly competitive residential heating market.

8 of 23 items CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/17/98

NATIONAL ID CARD

House Committees * Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98; Government Reform & Oversight -- Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs)

Item Key: 30

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NATIONAL ID CARD * Revised *

National Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee (Chairman McIntosh, R-Ind.) of House Government Reform and Oversight Committee will hold a oversight hearing on the Department of Transportation's proposal to create a national identification card, which U.S. citizens would use for banking, Medicare and Social Security

services.

Sept. 17 10:00 am 2247 Rayburn Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL:

Celene Cross - identity theft victim; Marvin Young - identity theft victim; Gregory T. Nojeim - legislative counsel, American Civil Liberties Union

PANEL:

Brian Flaherty - state representative, Connecticut; Richard Holcomb - commissioner, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles PANEL:

Representative, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Information verified as of 08:58pm 09/16/98

9 of 23 items CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/17/98

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS: WAYS AND MEANS PANEL SET TO MARK UP GOP TAX PROPOSAL

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98)

Item Key: 3

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ECONOMIC AFFAIRS: WAYS AND MEANS PANEL SET TO MARK UP GOP TAX PROPOSAL

By CQ Staff

The long-awaited Republican tax cut will take center stage in a House Ways and Means Committee markup today.

The committee will mark up legislation (HR4579) offering an $80 billion net tax cut during the next five years. It is designed to help schools, low-income communities and senior citizens, as well as more traditional GOP constituencies such as farmers and small businesses.

The Senate Finance Committee may yet schedule and mark up its version of a GOP tax cut this week.

The bill pushed by Ways and Means Chairman Bill Archer, R-Texas, would primarily benefit middle-income households earning between $40,000 and $100,000, according to an estimate by the Joint Committee on Taxation. Republicans call it the "90-10" plan, because it would reserve 90 percent of the projected budget surplus for Social Security, while using 10 percent for tax cuts.

"It sets money aside to save Social Security and it gives middle-income Americans the tax relief they so badly deserve," Archer

said.

Archer added that the tax cut would be funded mostly by tapping the surplus, with $5.6 billion coming from cutting deductions for real estate investment trusts and regulated investment companies.

But the plan drew immediate fire from Democrats. Echoing President Clinton, they insisted that Congress should not tap the surplus until it finds a long-range plan for shoring up the Social Security trust fund, which will otherwise run out of money in 2032.

The proposal would save married couples $28.1 billion over five years by giving them a standard deduction that would be twice that of individuals. Married couples could exclude $400 of interest and dividends from taxable income, with individuals excluding $200 -- a tax cut of about $15 billion over five years.

Businesses would get several breaks, including a 100 percent deduction of health insurance premium for the self-employed ($5.1 billion over five years), an estate tax exemption of $1 million ($17.9 billion), increased deductions for farmers and small businesses ($1.1 billion), and a 20-month extension of the research tax credit ($4 billion).

The plan would also give new tax incentives to businesses in certain low-income neighborhoods ($1 billion) and would provide more bonding authority for school construction and other state and local government

activities ($2.5 billion).

Social Security. The committee also will mark up a measure (HR4578) to set aside for Social Security 90 percent of any federal surplus accumulated over this decade, starting with the current fiscal year. At the end of each fiscal year, funds would be put into a special fund to be created within the Treasury Department so that from fiscal year 1998 through 2008, an aggregate of 90 percent of the total budget surplus would be earmarked to bolster the solvency of Social Security. The surplus is currently estimated to total $1.6 trillion over the decade.

10 of 23 items CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/17/98

COLLINS BREAKFAST

Other news events * Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98)

Item Key: 21

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COLLINS BREAKFAST * Revised *

American League of Lobbyists will sponsor a breakfast meeting with Rep. Mac Collins, R-Ga., who will discuss issues before the Ways and Means Committee, on which he serves.

Sept. 17 8:15 am Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Ave. NW

Contact: Patti Jo Baber at 703-960-3011

Note: Reservations are required

Information verified as of 08:58pm 09/16/98

11 of 23 items CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/17/98

LAW/JUDICIARY: BILL WOULD REAUTHORIZE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FOR THREE YEARS

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98)

Item Key: 9

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LAW/JUDICIARY: BILL WOULD REAUTHORIZE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FOR THREE YEARS

By CQ Staff

The Senate Judiciary Committee today will take up the House-passed three-year reauthorization of the Justice Department (HR3303).

Since 1979, the last time an authorization was passed, Justice Department policy has been set by legislative language added to appropriations bills. Despite the department's request for a five-year authorization, the House Judiciary Committee approved a three-year plan because it said lawmakers could not accurately project the financial needs of the department beyond 2001.

The bill closely follows the department's budget request for fiscal 1999 by providing $15.5 billion, with 5 percent increases for fiscal years 2000 and 2001.

The measure also seeks to change some department policies. For example, it directs the attorney general to transfer 200 lawyers from Washington to district offices around the country. The department has criticized this provision.

The proposal also calls for a two-year reauthorization of several programs set to expire at the end of fiscal 1998, such as combating violence against women, expediting the deportation of aliens denied asylum and additional training for public safety officers.

Permanent authorization would be given to other functions, including the purchase of automobiles, firearms, ammunition, uniforms and other items considered necessary for department operations.

The bill would repeal the open-ended permanent authorization of the U.S. Marshals Service, which has been unique in department functions.

The service would receive narrower permanent authority similar to that given other department divisions.

The House passed the legislation by voice vote on June 22.

12 of 23 items CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/17/98

COMMERCE: GETTING HELP WITH THE YEAR 2000 COMPUTER PROBLEM

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98)

Item Key: 4

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COMMERCE: GETTING HELP WITH THE YEAR 2000 COMPUTER PROBLEM

By CQ Staff

The Senate Judiciary Committee today will mark up a proposal that represents a compromise with industry and the Clinton administration on sharing information about efforts to fix the Year 2000 computer glitch.

The Year 2000 problem, which could have debilitating consequences for consumers, businesses and governments, stems from the use of two digits instead of four in computer date fields.

If left uncorrected, it could cause computers to go haywire or shut down when the date changes to Jan. 1, 2000.

Lawmakers and industry representatives say many companies have been reluctant to share information about how to fix the year 2000 problem or disclose their progress in repairing their computer systems because of fear of being sued.

As a result, the administration offered legislation (S2392) introduced by Sen. Robert F. Bennett, R-Utah, to provide companies with some protection from litigation when they provide information.

But some business groups, including the National Association of Manufacturers, said the administration's bill did not go far enough, and instead backed a bill (HR4455) by Reps. David Dreier, R-Calif., and Anna G. Eshoo, D-Calif.

The new compromise -- which has been embraced by the administration, industry and key Senate and House members involved in the issue -- would not allow what are known as "Year 2000 readiness disclosure statements" and other similar statements to be used against a company in court if they are later found to be incorrect. In such cases, plaintiffs would have to present clear and convincing evidence that the statements were provided recklessly or with intent to deceive.

The proposal also protects the statements from being used to prove

that the information was untrue or incorrect but does not restrict their use in all aspects of litigation. However, the Dreier bill would make it much more difficult to use such statements in litigation.

"This lessens the fear of lawsuits and promotes the sharing of information," said Senate Judiciary Chairman Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah.

DOMAIN NAMES: The Senate Judiciary Committee today will mark up legislation (S1727) calling for a federal analysis of the effects on trademark holders of adding new generic domain names on the Internet.

The bill would direct the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study that takes into account different needs of Internet users.

As much as $800,000 would be authorized for the study, which would have to be completed within a year of the measure's enactment.

13 of 23 items CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/17/98

COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BILLS

Subcommittee Markup

House Committees * Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98; Judiciary -- Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law)

Item Key: 37

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COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BILLS * Revised *

Subcommittee Markup

Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee (Chairman Gekas, R-Pa.) of House Judiciary Committee will mark up pending legislation.

Sept. 17 Fo:00 llowing subcommittee hearing, 2226 Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda:

SJRes 51 - A joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the Potomac Highlands Airport Authority Compact entered into between the states of Maryland and West Virginia.

HR4049 - A bill to amend titles 5 and 28, U.S. Code, to provide for a limitation on sanctions imposed by agencies and courts in certain circumstances.

HR4096 - A bill to amend title 5, U.S. Code, to provide for Congressional review of rules establishing or increasing taxes.

HR ____ - a bill clarifying that the limitation on state income taxation of governmental pension income applies to possessions of the United States.

Information verified as of 08:58pm 09/16/98

AFRICA RESOLUTIONS

Subcommittee Markup

House Committees * Postponed *

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98; International Relations -- Subcommittee on Africa)

Item Key: 38

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AFRICA RESOLUTIONS * Postponed *

Subcommittee Markup

Africa Subcommittee (Chairman Royce, R-Calif.) of House International Relations Committee will mark up legislation under its jurisdiction.

Sept. 17 1:30 pm 2255 Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda:

HCONRes 309 - A concurrent resolution condemning the forced abduction of

Ugandan children and their use as soldiers.

HRes 518 - A resolution calling for free and transparent elections in

Gabon.

Note: This markup has not been rescheduled.

Information verified as of 08:58pm 09/16/98

15 of 23 items CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/17/98

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS: SUBSTITUTE WOULD MAKE AGENCIES INTERPRET RULES MORE CLEARLY

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98)

Item Key: 11

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GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS: SUBSTITUTE WOULD MAKE AGENCIES INTERPRET RULES MORE CLEARLY

By CQ Staff

A House Judiciary subcommittee today will mark up a substitute to a bill (HR4049) that would require agencies to give notice of their interpretations of ambiguous rules.

Under the proposal, no agency or court would be able to impose civil or criminal sanctions if a rule or regulation: is not available to the public or known to the regulated community; does not give fair warning of what is prohibited or required; or has been the subject of misleading interpretation by officials.

The substitute is expected to be offered by George W. Gekas, R-Pa., chairman of the Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee, which will consider the bill. It would specify that "misleading" statements would have to written and must have come from an agency. It also would clarify the requirements for publicizing a rule.

An agency would get credit for offering notice of the conduct that the rule prohibits or requires if a reasonable person could understand the standards "with reasonable certainty."

The original bill used the phrase "ascertainable certainty," but some lawmakers said the word "reasonable" was more clear.

16 of 23 items CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/17/98

POPULATION GROWTH

Other news events * New *

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98)

Item Key: 49

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POPULATION GROWTH * New *

The Renewable Natural Resources Foundation will hold a conference on human population growth and the impacts on the sustainability of renewaqble natural resources.

Sept. 17 9:00 am George Washington University, Marvin Center, 800 21st St. NW.

Contact: Kim Hughes at 202-994-6467.

Highlights:

9am:

Carl Haub - Population Reference Bureau

2:30pm:

Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark.

Information verified as of 08:58pm 09/16/98

LAW/JUDICIARY: BILL AIMS TO LIMIT CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO CYBER-PORNOGRAPHY

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98)

Item Key: 7

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LAW/JUDICIARY: BILL AIMS TO LIMIT CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO CYBER-PORNOGRAPHY

By CQ Staff

A House panel today will mark up a bill designed to fight pornography, seeking to limit the vast amount of material that is available on the World Wide Web.

The markup comes after the House voted last week to release on the Internet the text of Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr's report to Congress containing numerous graphic details of a sexual relationship between President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky.

The bill (HR3783) before the Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications would make it a federal crime and would subject providers to a $50,000 fine each day for each violation if they do not take steps to block access of material deemed "harmful to minors."

That definition includes sexually oriented photographs, writings, images and other materials that "lack serious literary, artistic,

political or scientific value."

The sponsor, Michael G. Oxley, R-Ohio, said the bill does not restrict the content of web sites. Rather, it seeks to ensure that only adults visit the estimated 60,000 sites featuring "explicit and obscene material" that are easily accessible by children.

Oxley said the bill recognizes that the vastness of the Internet makes it difficult for parents to constantly monitor its use by their children.

Oxley said the problem could be solved easily with the use of personal identification numbers or other adult access codes. The bill also would allow parents to sue providers of such material in civil court.

18 of 23 items CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/17/98

YEAR 2000 PROBLEM AND PENION PLANS/MUTUAL FUNDS

Senate Committees * New *

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98; Year 2000 Technology Problem)

Item Key: 61

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YEAR 2000 PROBLEM AND PENION PLANS/MUTUAL FUNDS * New *

Senate Special Year 2000 Technology Problem Committee (Chairman Bennett, R-Utah) will hold a hearing on the potential threat of the millennium bug on the solvency of U.S. pension plans and mutual funds; and to review activities of fund mangers to protect Americans investments.

Sept. 17 9:30 am SD-192 Dirksen Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled: Laura Unger - commissioner, Securities and Exchange Commission; James McMullen - Department of Labor; Matthew Fink - Investment Company Institute; Don Kittell - Securities Industry Association; Eugene Maloney - Federated Investors; Jim Wolf - TIAA-CREF; Vincent Brown - California Public Employees Retirement System; Bert McConnell - Fidelity Investments; John Towers - State Street Corp.; Thomas Rowland - Capital Group Companies; Micchael Waterford - DST Systems

Information verified as of 08:58pm 09/16/98

HOUSE SET FOR DEBATE ON IMF, FAMILY PLANNING

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98)

Item Key: 1

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HOUSE SET FOR DEBATE ON IMF, FAMILY PLANNING

By CQ Staff

Contentious battles over funding for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and overseas family planning assistance will dominate today's scheduled House consideration of the fiscal 1999 foreign operations appropriations bill.

Last night, the Rules Committee recommended a rule to govern the debate on the bill (HR4569) that, if adopted by the full House, will block Democrats from offering an amendment to add an additional $14.5 billion in credit for the IMF to the $3.5 billion already in the bill. That would bring the total funding for the IMF up to the $18 billion level requested by the Clinton administration.

The White House and its backers in Congress, including many Republicans, say full funding for the IMF is urgently needed to replenish the lending institution's coffers, depleted by financial crises in Asia, Russia and Latin America.

But House critics say previous funding has done little to stop and may have worsened the overseas crises and that the United States should insist the IMF conduct its operations with greater transparency and accountability in exchange for the additional money.

Democrats also are unhappy with how the Rules panel handled the international family planning assistance provisions.

The bill would reinstate a policy, dating back to the Reagan and Bush administrations, of banning aid to family planning groups that perform, lobby on or otherwise advocate policies on abortion, even if they use their own money.

In a slight relaxation of that standard, the president would be allowed to waive the section of the bill related to groups that perform abortions. But if he did, spending on family planning programs would be limited to $356 million a year, $29 million below current spending.

The recommended rule will allow Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., to offer an amendment to remove the restrictions on family planning groups as long as they use their own money, but the rule also will allow Christopher H. Smith, R-N.J., to offer a secondary amendment to Pelosi's proposal that effectively would change the bill right back to its original form.

President Clinton has threatened to veto any legislation that includes the abortion curbs.

Other provisions in the $12.5 billion bill would revamp U.S. policy toward Azerbaijan, lifting a 6-year-old ban on direct foreign assistance to that country's government. The bill also cuts off funds to an international organization supplying North Korea's energy needs.

The Senate passed a bill (S2334) last week that includes roughly the same amount of spending on U.S. foreign aid activities but also includes the administration's full $18 billion request for the IMF and does not contain the anti-abortion provisions.

BILLS BUMPED: The addition of the foreign operations spending bill most likely will bump from the schedule at least two other pieces of legislation that had been slated for action.

One bill (HR3737) would boost the allotment of visas granted to high-tech workers. The other bill (HR4006) aims to block doctors from dispensing drugs to help someone commit suicide. The bills still could come up this week, but only if the foreign operations bill is suddenly pulled.

EDUCATION BLOCK GRANTS: Time permitting, the House may begin work today on a bill that would turn 31 federal education programs -- such as Goals 2000 and the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund -- into block grants to the states. The measure (HR3248), which is opposed by most Democrats, also would require that 95 percent of the funds be used for classroom instruction.

FINANCIAL CONTROLS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Subcommittee Hearing

Future Senate committees * New *

(SCHEDULE 09/28/98; Judiciary -- Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts)

Item Key: 86

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FINANCIAL CONTROLS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE * New *

Subcommittee Hearing

Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee (Chairman Grassley, R-Iowa) of Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on the effectiveness of financial controls in place within the Department of Defense in light of several recent internal fraud cases.

Sept. 28 1:00 pm SD-226 Dirksen Bldg.

Information verified as of 09:02pm 09/16/98

ENVIRONMENT: PANEL TO CONSIDER PILOT PLAN FOR CULLING MARYLAND RODENTS

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98)

Item Key: 12

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ENVIRONMENT: PANEL TO CONSIDER PILOT PLAN FOR CULLING MARYLAND RODENTS

By CQ Staff

A House Resources panel will mark up a bill today aimed at eradicating nutria (semi-aquatic rodents) from some parts of Maryland in order to restore ecological balance.

The measure (HR4337) would authorize $2.9 million over three years for the Interior Department to administer a pilot eradication program.

The nutria, indigenous to South America and introduced to Maryland in the 1940s, were harvested for their durable fur.

However, since the decline of the fur industry and with no natural enemies in the area, the rodent population has skyrocketed to more than 150,000 in the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, causing serious

environmental degradation.

Erica Feller, an aide to bill sponsor Wayne T. Gilchrest, R-Md., said nutria eat the roots of marsh grass, a vital component to land preservation along the Eastern Shore. According to Blackwater biologist Keith Weaver, the lost vegetation increases salinity and makes further vegetation impossible.

Consequently, lost marsh land endangers the habitats of waterfowl and fish, which in turn jeopardize the winter habitats of bald eagles.

Each winter, the Blackwater refuge has the second-largest concentration of bald eagle nesting on the East Coast, said Weaver, and, "The ramifications are far-reaching."

The Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee will consider the bill, which also would establish a research program to learn more about nutria and how to eradicate them humanely from the Blackwater and Tudor Farms areas near the Eastern Shore, Feller said. The research also would apply to nutria control in other states.

HOUSE FLOOR Sept. 17

Senate/House floor * Tentative *

(SCHEDULE 09/17/98; House Floor)

Item Key: 174

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HOUSE FLOOR * Tentative *

Sept. 17

CONVENES AT 10AM.

HR4006 A bill to clarify federal law to prohibit the dispensing or distribution of a controlled substance for the purpose of causing, or assisting in causing, the suicide or euthanasia, of any individual. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

HR4569 An original bill making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for other purposes. -- MAY BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

HR3736 A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to make changes relating to H-1B nonimmigrants. -- MAY BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

NOTE: HJRes128, the FY99 short-term continuing resolution may begin consideration.

HOUSE FLOOR Sept. 18

Future Senate/House floor * Tentative *

(SCHEDULE 09/18/98; House Floor)

Item Key: 175

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HOUSE FLOOR * Tentative *

Sept. 18

CONVENES AT 9AM.

HR3736 A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to make changes relating to H-1B nonimmigrants. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

HR3248 A bill to provide dollars to the classroom. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

There are no more items to read.

You are in SCHEDULE

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! ------ Searching the COMMITTEES database ------

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! For New Markups or other Committee Action on Bills You Are Tracking

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Approximate Connect Time: 0 Hour(s) 3 Minute(s)

========== ATTACHMENT 1 ==========
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