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<td>008. cable</td>
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NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([Algeria and massacre...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

**FOLDER TITLE:**
[09/11/1997 - 09/26/1997]

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - U.S. POLICY--AMBASSADOR ROHATYN
ON FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS UN--REFORMS AND THE SECURITY
COUNCIL ALGERIA-- U.S. POSITION BOSNIA-- ELECTION RESULTS
CHINA--AFTERMATH OF 15TH PARTY CONGRESS
PARIS - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1997

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 021250

USIA

USIA FOR R/MR; I/RW; I/RNY (RANK); B/VOA; I/WEU; AF; STATE FOR
EUR/WE (JIM WOJTASIEWICZ)/P/SP; AF; INR; INR/EUC (ROWDYBUSH);
PM; OSC ISA OR ILN; FOR NEA; WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/WEUROPE; DOC
FOR ITA/EUR/FR AND PASS USTR/PA (ANN LUZZATO); USINCEUR FOR PAO;
NATO FOR USIS; MOSCOW FOR USIS; ROME FOR USIS/AIO; BRUSSELS FOR
USIS; USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE.

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: NONE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - U.S. POLICY--AMBASSADOR ROHATYN
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CHINA--AFTERMATH OF 15TH PARTY CONGRESS
PARIS - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1997
(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

1. U.S. POLICY--AMBASSADOR ROHATYN ON FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS
2. UN--REFORMS AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL
3. ALGERIA--U.S. POSITION
4. BOSNIA--ELECTION RESULTS
5. CHINA--AFTERMATH OF 15TH PARTY CONGRESS

(B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

VARIOUS EUROPEAN AND DOMESTIC ISSUES ARE HEADLINED, WITH THE FUTURE OF THE EURO AND FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS IN THE FOREFRONT.

EDITORIALISTS COMMENT ON "THE NEW APPEASEMENT" NOTED BETWEEN FRANCE AND GERMANY, WHILE RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO SPEAKS OF "TRUSTING CONFIDENCES" BETWEEN CHIRAC AND KOHL. PAUL GUILBERT WRITES IN HIS EDITORIAL: "THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE WEIMAR SUMMIT MADE THEIR JOINT MARCH TOWARD THE EURO THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE SUMMIT ...FRENCH FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER VEDRINE CONFIRMS THAT THE EURO HAS BECOME THE 'SYMBOL' OF BOTH NATIONS' MUTUAL DETERMINATION."

FRANCE'S NEW BUDGET GUIDELINES WILL BE DISCUSSED ON WEDNESDAY, LEADING THE ECONOMIC PRESS TO WRITE: "THIS MARKS THE FIRST DIFFICULT TEST FOR JOSPIN'S GOVERNMENT." MEANWHILE, AN OPINION POLL REVEALS THAT PRESIDENT CHIRAC RETAINS A GOOD PUBLIC IMAGE: 52 OF THE PEOPLE POLLED TRUST THE FRENCH PRESIDENT, 76 BELIEVE HE WILL GO THE END OF HIS MANDATE, AND 68 PER CENT THINK HE SHOULD ADDRESS THE NATION WHenever HE CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY.

THE ECONOMIC PRESS ANNOUNCES A MAJOR HOSTILE TAKEOVER IN THE FRENCH INSURANCE SECTOR BY PINAULT WHO WANTS TO TAKE OVER WORMS AND CIE FOR 28 BILLION FRANCS.


(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

U.S. POLICY--AMBASSADOR ROHATYN ON FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS

"STRONG RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE U.S."

AGENCE FRANCE PRESS REPORTS AFTER INTERVIEWING AMBASSADOR ROHATYN: "THE NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE CONSIDERS THAT LIONEL JOSPIN AND HIS GOVERNMENT ARE RATHER 'PRAGMATIC' AND THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN PARIS AND WASHINGTON WERE FUNDAMENTALLY 'VERY STRONG...' FOR AMBASSADOR ROHATYN, RECENT TENSIONS ON SUCH ISSUES AS NATO REFORMS DO NOT DOMINATE FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS...WHICH ARE 'CLEARLY BETTER THAN MOST PEOPLE THINK...' AMBASSADOR ROHATYN CONFIRMED THAT 'WASHINGTON IN NO WAY WANTED TO PUSH FRANCE OUT OF AFRICA OR TO REDUCE ITS INFLUENCE ON THE CONTINENT. THE U.S. WOULD LIKE TO COOPERATE WITH FRANCE IN AFRICA TO HELP THE CONTINENT'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY AND TO HELP IT ACHIEVE DEMOCRACY.'"
UN--REFORMS AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL

"THE UN HOSTAGE OF THE U.S."


"A BILLION DOLLARS FOR A LESSON IN MORALITY"

JEAN-JACQUES MEVEL IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (09/20): "MADELEINE ALBRIGHT'S REACTION TO TED TURNER'S OFFER IS AWAITED WITH MUCH INTEREST. THERE IS IN TED TURNER'S CHARITABLE GESTURE A LATENT LESSON IN MORALITY..."

ALGERIA-- U.S. POSITION

"ONE MASSACRE TOO MANY?"


BOSNIA-- ELECTION RESULTS

"MILOSEVIC: SERBIA'S REBORN MASTER"
MARC SEMO IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (09/20): "ONCE AGAIN
MILOSEVIC HAS SHOWN HIS MASTERY IN POLITICAL MANEUVERING... WHILE
LAST YEAR HE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN LEFT ON THE SIDE LINES, HE
HAS NOW MANAGED TO ELIMINATE THE OPPOSITION AND TO SECURE
SUNDAY'S ELECTIONS FOR HIMSELF... HIS MAJOR STRENGTH LIES IN THE
OPPOSITION’S WEAKNESS AND THEIR INTERNAL RIVALRIES..."

"A BAD OMEN FOR SERBIA"
PATRICE CHABANET IN REGIONAL LE JOURNAL DE HAUTE MARNE (09/22):
"ELECTIONS IN POLAND LAND US ON THE WELL-KNOWN GROUNDS OF
DEMOCRACY. THOSE IN SERBIA LEAVE US WITH A VERY DIFFERENT AFTER­
TASTE. THE VICTORY BY MILOSEVIC’S ELECTED CANDIDATE IS NOT A
GOOD OMEN FOR SERBIA ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT OR ON THE
INTERNATIONAL SCENE."

CHINA--AFTERMATH OF 15TH PARTY CONGRESS

"THE CHINESE ROCK"
ALAIN PEYREFITTE IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO "(09/22): "THE
PARTY CONGRESS HAS DECIDEDLY CONFIRMED DENG'S POLICY IN FAVOR OF
A SOCIALIST MARKET ECONOMY... THE IMF AND THE WORLD BANK HAVE
APPLAUDED THE DECISION... CHINA'S COMMUNIST PARTY IS CERTAIN IT
CAN MASTER THE HUGE DIFFICULTIES WHICH CHINA WILL HAVE TO FACE
IN ITS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REVOLUTION. IT WILL, ON CONDITION IT
HOLDS ON TO ITS STEADFAST POSITION." SNOW
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SUBJ: ALGERIAN MASSACRE AND JORDANIAN AMBUSH, SAUDI MEDIA REACTION, 9/24/97

1. SUMMARY: EDITORIALS APPEAR ON THE LATEST BLOODBATH SOUTH OF ALGIERS AND THE AMBUSH ON THE ISRAELI EMBASSY GUARDS IN AMMAN. AL-MADINA STRONGLY CONDEMNS THESE ACTIONS AS "COWARDLY" AND "DETRIMENTAL TO ALL ALGERIANS, ARABS AND MUSLIMS" AND CALLS UPON WESTERN NATIONS TO STOP GIVING SHELTER TO LEADERS OF EXTREMIST GROUPS IN THE NAME OF HUMAN RIGHTS. ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT STATES THAT THE ATTACK ON THE ISRAELI EMBASSY GUARDS IS A TYPE OF ACTION TO BE EXPECTED IN LIGHT OF INCREASE ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE AND OFFICIAL ARAB HESITANCE TO CONFRONT NETANYAHU, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDING NETANYAHU WITH THE PRETEXT TO CARRY OUT HIS "CONSPIRACY PLAN" ON THE REGION IN THE NAME OF SECURITY. A CARTOON BY KAHIL HAS THE ARAB WORLD
DANCING AND BILL CLINTON PLAYING THE SAXOPHONE TO MUSIC SHEETS ENTITLED "ISRAELI POP HITS" BEFORE A PLEASED ISRAELI CROWD. END SUMMARY.

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BLOCK QUOTES
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2. JEDDAH-BASED, RELIGIOUSLY CONSERVATIVE AL-MADINA: "ALGERIA'S MASSACRE IS A STRIKE AGAINST HUMANITY AND IT IS DETRIMENTAL TO ALL ALGhaniANS, ARABS AND MUSLIMS; THE CONDEMNATIONS FOR THESE KINDS OF MASSACRES FROM SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES CLAIMING TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE MEANINGLESS AS LONG AS AUTHORITIES IN THOSE COUNTRIES DO NOT ACT TO REMOVE THE SHELTER OF POLITICAL ASYLUM FOR LEADERS OF THOSE GROUPS IN ALGERIA WHO FIND SAFETY AND SECURITY ALLOWING THEM TO ADMINISTER THEIR EVIL ACTS. THE KILLING OF WOMEN, THE ELDERLY AND CHILDREN IS A COWARDLY ACT AND THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO CONFRONTING THESE COWARDS EXCEPT BY THE UNIFICATION OF THE ALGERIAN PEOPLE AND THE SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY."

3. LONDON-BASED, PAN-ARAB ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT COMMENTING ON THE AMBUSH OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY GUARDS: "THE ONE WHO MONITORS THE "ARAB STREET" AND NOT ONLY THE "JORDANIAN STREET," WOULD BE ABLE TO DETECT BITTERNESS STEMING FROM THE CURRENT SITUATION...WE SHOULD VIEW THIS INCIDENT FROM TWO PERSPECTIVES. FIRST OF ALL, SUCH OPERATIONS ARE EXPECTED, AND WE ARE NOT SURPRISED BY THE ACCELERATED ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE. THIS COINCIDES WITH A TIMID ARAB HESITANCE IN DEVELOPING A POSITION, BUT EVEN MORE, A TENDENCY AMONG SOME ARAB PARTIES TO OVERLOOK BINYAMIN NETANYAHU'S GOVERNMENT'S SECRET AGREEMENTS WITH THE SETTLERS...THE SECOND PERSPECTIVE WHICH THESE OPERATIONS RAISE: WHETHER THEY PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE TIMING AND FRAMEWORK FOR NETANYAHU'S GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT ITS GREAT CONSPIRACY PLAN UNDER THE COVER OF SECURITY."

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CARTOON BY KAHL
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KATTOUF

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01
SSN: 3713
TOR: 970924113000 M2945688
DIST: SIT: NSC
Cable

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - ALGERIA BOSNIA AFRICA--UN INQUIRY INTO CONGO MASSACRES
PARIS - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1997

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 021448

USIA

USIA FOR R/MR; I/RW; I/RNY (FRANK); B/VOA; I/WEU; AF; STATE FOR EUR/WE (JIM WOJTASIEWICZ)/P/SP; AF; INR/P; INR/EUC (ROWDYBUSH); PM; OSC ISA FOR IILN; FOR NEA; WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/WIUROPE; DOC FOR ITA/EUR/FR AND PASS USTR/PA (ANN LUZZATO); USINCEUR FOR PAO; NATO FOR USIS; MOSCOW FOR USIS; ROME FOR USIS/AIO; BRUSSELS FOR USIS; USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE.

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: NONE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - ALGERIA BOSNIA AFRICA--UN INQUIRY INTO CONGO MASSACRES
PARIS - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1997

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:
1. ALGERIA
2. BOSNIA
3. AFRICA—UN INQUIRY INTO CONGO MASSACRES

(B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

ALGERIA IS INCREASINGLY BECOMING THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE
HEADLINED IN THE PRESS, AND THE MAJOR EDITORIAL SUBJECT ON RADIO
AND TELEVISION.
YESTERDAY'S NEW MASSACRE IN THE SUBURBS OF ALGIERS LEADS LEFT-
OF-CENTER LIBERATION TO ASK IN ITS FRONT PAGE HEADLINE: "WHAT
CAN BE DONE FOR ALGERIA?" WHILE RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO
TITLES: "ALGERIA: FROM ONE MASSACRE TO THE NEXT." (SEE PART C)

BOSNIA'S ELECTION RESULTS AND THE QUESTION OF NATO TROOP
WITHDRAWAL ARE COVERED. (SEE PART C)

THE UNITED NATIONS INQUIRY INTO MASSACRES OF HUTU REFUGEES IN
CONGO AND THE ALLEGED U.S. IMPLICATION IS ANALYZED IN LEFT-OF-
CENTER LIBERATION. (SEE PART C)

FRANCE'S 1998 BUDGET WILL BE VOTED TODAY BY THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY, MAKING THIS THE MAIN DOMESTIC STORY REPORTED. ECONOMIC
CENTRIST LA TRIBUNE HEADLINES: "A VERY MAASTRICH-ORIENTED FIRST
BUDGET FOR JOSPIN."
IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO, ANTOINE-PIERRE MARIANO WRITES IN
HIS EDITORIAL: "A BUDGET WHICH DOES NOT ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO EARN
MORE, KILLS INITIATIVE, TAXES SAVINGS, PUTS PRESSURE ON
FAMILIES, AND PENALIZES THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHILE BOOSTING THE
PUBLIC SECTOR EVEN MORE, IS NOT A GOOD BUDGET."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

ALGERIA

"KNOWING BEFORE TAKING ACTION"
GERARD DUPUY IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (09/24): "HOW CAN WE
SUPPORT, EVEN A LITTLE, THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT WHEN IT IS
SUSPECTED OF CRIMES COVERED UP BY MILITARY CENSORSHIP?...SINCE
THE ALGERIAN REGIME IS DEFINITELY OPPOSED TO JOURNALISTS, AN

INQUIRY HAS TO BE MADE BY NEUTRAL EXPERTS DESIGNATED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. WHAT CAN WE DO IN ALGERIA? WE MUST
START WITH LEARNING EXACTLY WHAT GOES ON."

"GENERAL LAMARI'S GAME"
JOSE GARCON IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (09/24): "THE INTERNAL
CONFLICT WITHIN MILITARY RANKS IN ALGERIA HAS WITHOUT A DOUBT
BEEN MADE WORSE BY THE OPEN U.S. SUPPORT TO ZEROUAL...THIS
SUPPORT IS NOT SO MUCH TRIGGERED BY A U.S. DESIRE TO HAVE AN
IMPACT ON THE ALGERIAN DOMESTIC SITUATION, BUT RATHER BY U.S.
REGIONAL STRATEGY. THE SURPRISING PROGRESS MADE BY JAMES BAKER IN THE CONFLICT IN WESTERN SAHARA HAS CERTAINLY FIGURED IN WASHINGTON'S DECISION TO SUPPORT ZEROUAL'S POSITION. A CHANGE AT THE HELM IN ALGERIA WOULD CERTAINLY BE A SETBACK TO THOSE NEGOTIATIONS...THIS U.S. SUPPORT AND THE DOMINANT ROLE PLAYED BY ZEROUAL HAVE LED TO THE WORST MILITARY CRISIS IN ALGERIA SINCE 1992.

UNCLASSIFIED SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 021448

USIA

USIA FOR R/MR; I/RW; I/RNY (FRANK); B/VOA; I/WEU; AF; STATE FOR EUR/WE (JIM WOJTASIEWICZ)/P/SP; AF; INR/P; INR/EUC (ROWDYBUSH); PM; OSC ISA FOR ILN; FOR NEA; WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/WEUROPE; DOC FOR ITA/EUR/FR AND PASS USTR/PA (ANN LUZZATO); USINCEUR FOR PAO; NATO FOR USIS; MOSCOW FOR USIS; ROME FOR USIS/AIO; BRUSSELS FOR USIS; USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE.

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: NONE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - ALGERIA BOSNIA AFRICA--UN INQUIRY INTO CONGO MASSACRES
PARIS - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1997

"WASHINGTON'S ACTIVISM AND FRANCE'S MINIMALIST APPROACH"
THIERRY OBERLE IN RIGHT-OF-CENTEMLE FIGACASVJQBQS
WISH NOT TO BECOME IMPlicated IN THE ALGERIAN SITUATION STEMS IN PART FROM THE COMPLEX POWER PLAY IN ALGERIA. WHO EXACTLY IS DVNXMHTREMISTS ALONE, OR ARE THE MSUBQS THE ONLY NATION TO HAVE MENTIONED CIVILIAN PROTECTION...WHEN BRINGING ITS SUPPORT TO ALGERIA'S 'MILITARY MEASURES' TO PROTECT ITS POPULATION..."

"ALGERIA'S MANY WARS"
ALAIN DUHAMEL ON PRIVATELY-RUN EUROPE ONE RADIO (09/29): "IN THE Labyrinth OF THIS VIOLENCE, SEVERAL CONFLICTS ARE UNRAVELING...FIRST AND FOREMOST, A CIVIL WAR BETWEEN ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS AND SECURITY FORCES...BUT THERE ALSO RIVALRIES WITHIN THE ARMY, BETWEEN THOSE WHO WANT TO HAVE A DIALOGUE AND THOSE WHO WANT A MAJOR 'CLEAN UP.'"

BOSNIA

"STAYING LONGER IN BOSNIA"
AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE QUOTES FRENCH FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER HUBERT VEDRINE: "THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION IS BEGINNING TO WONDER ABOUT THE SCHEDULED DATE FOR TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM BOSNIA. THIS MEANS THAT IT IS BEGINNING TO SEE THAT EXTENDING THE U.S. COMMITMENT IS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PEACE ACCORDS. THIS IS ALSO WHAT THE EUROPEANS THINK."

"IN BOSNIA HOPE WILL NOT COME FROM THE VOTERS"
LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE IN ITS EDITORIAL(09/24): "THE WEST
WANTED ELECTIONS NO MATTER WHAT. WELL, THE ELECTIONS HAVE NOW TAKEN PLACE, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THESE ELECTIONS HAVE NOT SERVED THE WEST'S INTENTIONS...THE MIRACLE DID NOT HAPPEN...THE WEST NEEDED TO BANISH THE EXTREMISTS FROM THE ELECTORAL DEBATE AND NOT TO APPEAR AS IF IT FEARED THE WAR CRIMINALS AND THEIR INFLUENCE...THE MAJOR POWERS WILL NOW HAVE TO STAY LONGER IN ORDER TO KEEP THE PEACE, WITH THE HELP OF MEN LIKE MILOSEVIC, WhOSE STATUS IS QUESTIONED ONLY BY THE WORST EXTREMISTS..."

AFRICA--UN INQUIRY INTO CONGO MASSACRES

"WASHINGTON'S COMPLEX SITUATION"
STEPHEN SMITH IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (09/24): "THE INQUIRY INTO THE MASSACRES OF HUTU REFUGEES IN FORMER ZAIRE IS BECOMING AN ISSUE WITH MAJOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL STAKES. ON ONE SIDE THERE IS THE MAJORITY OF AFRICAN STATES, AND EVEN NON-ALIGNED THIRD WORLD NATIONS, ALL SUPPORTING KABILA...ON THE OTHER, THERE ARE THE UNITED NATIONS AND WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION ASKING FOR CLARIFICATION OF WHAT TOOK PLACE...IN THE MIDDLE, ONE FINDS THE U.S., CAUGHT IN THE TRAP OF ITS OWN AFRICAN POLICY, WHICH HAS ALLEGEDLY IMPLICATED IT IN THE MASSACRES. WHILE WASHINGTON TRIES TO APPEASE ITS AFRICAN ALLIES AND TO MINIMIZE THE ROLE PLAYED BY ITS MILITARY ASSISTANCE, U.S. PUBLIC OPINION IS PRESSING FOR CLARIFICATION." SNOW

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 1448
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**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([Algeria and massacre...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

**FOLDER TITLE:**

[09/11/1997 - 09/26/1997]

**RESTRICTION CODES**

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

| P1 | National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA] |
| P2 | Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA] |
| P3 | Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA] |
| P4 | Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA] |
| P5 | Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA] |
| P6 | Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA] |

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

| b(1) | National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA] |
| b(2) | Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA] |
| b(3) | Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA] |
| b(4) | Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA] |
| b(6) | Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA] |
| b(7) | Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA] |
| b(8) | Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA] |
| b(9) | Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA] |
SUBJ: LONDON MEDIA REPORT, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1997

A) BROADCAST MEDIA

ON NORTHERN IRELAND, BBC RADIO REPORTED 9/25:

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 LONDON 011117

USIA

PERISHABLE INFORMATION - DO NOT SERVICE
USIA FOR I/GWEU; R/C; R/MR; WEU; NEA; VOA NEWS/CA; PL
LSECRET; B/TV/WP;
STATE FOR EUR/P AND PLS PASS ACDA/PA; EUR/PA; EUR/P/SP;
EUR/WE; EUR/NE; IO/CU; NEA/P; EB/TT; INR/P; PM; S/IR;
CSD ISA FOR ILN; FOR NEA; OASD/PA;
USDOC PASS USTR/PA
WHITEHOUSE FOR NSC-WEUROPE, NSC FOR BERGER;
USMISSION USNATO FOR USIS
PARIS FOR USIS; UNESCO; OECD;
VIENNA PASS USDEL-CSCE;
E.O.12958:N/A
SUBJECT: LONDON MEDIA REPORT, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1997

A) BROADCAST MEDIA

ON NORTHERN IRELAND, BBC RADIO REPORTED 9/25:

"WHEN THE HISTORY IS EVENTUALLY WRITTEN OF THIS LATEST ATTEMPT TO
BRING PEACE TO NORTHERN IRELAND, IT MAY BE THAT YESTERDAY WAS A
REAL TURNING POINT. THE NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY, MO MOWLAM, WHO
HAS OFTEN BEEN IN DESPAIR, SAID IT WAS AN HISTORIC STEP FORWARD..."

B) MAJOR PRESS STORIES

1. NORTHERN IRELAND
2. SAUDI-BRITISH RELATIONS
3. BOSNIA
4. ALGERIA
5. U.S.-E.U. TRADE

C) SUMMARY

1. NORTHERN IRELAND

A "BREAKTHROUGH" AT THE STORMONT TALKS SHARED THE FRONT PAGES TODAY
WITH THE FUROR OVER THE SENTENCING OF TWO BRITISH NURSES ACCUSED
OF MURDER IN SAUDI ARABIA. THE ISSUE OF DECOMMISSIONING OF WEAPONS
HAS BEEN SET ASIDE SO THAT TALKS-ABOUT-TALKS AND PROCEDURAL
WRANGLING CAN GIVE WAY TO SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS STARTING NEXT
WEEK.

2. SAUDI-BRITISH RELATIONS

A GROWING RIFT IN BRITISH RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA WAS THE
SUBJECT OF EXTENSIVE COVERAGE AND EDITORIAL OPINION TODAY. AT
ISSUE IS THE FATE OF TWO BRITISH NURSES FACING FLOGGING OR THE
DEATH PENALTY AFTER BEING CHARGED WITH MURDER. AT STAKE ARE
DIPLOMATIC AND TRADE RELATIONS, SPECIFICALLY ARMS CONTRACTS AND THE
THOUSANDS OF BRITISH JOBS DEPENDENT UPON THEM. BRITISH FOREIGN
SECRETARY ROBIN COOK WAS CRITICISED FOR ADOPTING A HIGH MORAL TONE
IN HIS ATTITUDE TO THE SAUDI AUTHORITIES OVER THE ISSUE.

3. BOSNIA

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER SANDY BERGER WAS REPORTED "SIGNALLING" IN
HIS GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY SPEECH THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS
PREPARING TO PROLONG ITS MILITARY ENGAGEMENT IN BOSNIA BEYOND NEXT
JUNE'S SCHEDULED WITHDRAWAL OF NATO FORCES.

4. ALGERIA

TWO ITEMS IN THE "GUARDIAN" REFLECTED INCREASING COVERAGE OF THE
ATROCITIES IN ALGERIA.

5. U.S.-E.U. TRADE

EUROPEAN UNION AND AMERICAN TRADE NEGOTIATORS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE MADE PROGRESS ON RESOLVING TRANSATLANTIC DISPUTES OVER CUBA, IRAN UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 05 LONDON 011117

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E.O.12958:N/A
SUBJECT: LONDON MEDIA REPORT, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1997

AND LIBYA.

D) TEXT

1. NORTHERN IRELAND
"DEADLOCK BROKEN IN ULSTER"

THE LIBERAL "GUARDIAN" FRONTPAGED THIS REPORT 9/25:

"NORTHERN IRELAND'S POLITICAL PARTIES FINALLY AGREED A LANDMARK COMPROMISE LAST NIGHT, ENABLING THEM TO BREAK LONG-STANDING DEADLOCK AND MOVE INTO FULL ALL-PARTY TALKS NEXT WEEK ON THE PROVINCE'S FUTURE...

"THE AGREED FORMULA, THRASHED OUT DURING A DAY OF HIGH DRAMA AND FRANTIC BARTERING AT STORMONT, MEANS THE PROCESS, STUCK AT THE TALKS-ABOUT-TALKS STAGE FOR 16 MONTHS, CAN AT LAST MOVE ON..."

"BLAIR HAILS ULSTER TALKS AGREEMENT"

THE CONSERVATIVE "DAILY TELEGRAPH" HAD THIS FRONT PAGE REPORT 9/25:

"UNIONISTS LAST NIGHT DROPPED THEIR LONG-STANDING INSISTENCE THAT TERRORIST WEAPONS BE HANDED OVER DURING THE NORTHERN IRELAND TALKS AND PAVED THE WAY FOR FULL-SCALE NEGOTIATIONS, ENDING 15 MONTHS OF PROCEDURAL WRANGLING...

"THE DECISION WAS A MAJOR SUCCESS FOR THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE IT CAME AS THE ULSTER UNIONIST PARTY'S CHALLENGE TO SINN FEIN'S PRESENCE IN THE TALKS WAS REJECTED...
"ALTHOUGH AGREEMENT ON A SETTLEMENT -- DUE TO BE PUT TO A REFERENDUM IN MAY -- IS A CONSIDERABLE WAY OFF, THE FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCUSSION HAVE NOW BEEN LAID..."
2. SAUDI-BRITISH RELATIONS

"SOFTLY, SOFTLY IN SAUDI"

THE CONSERVATIVE "TIMES" HAD THIS OP-ED COMMENTARY BY COLUMNIST MAGNUS LINKLATER ON 9/25:

"SAVING THE TWO BRITISH NURSES FROM POSSIBLE EXECUTION AND PUBLIC FLOGGING SHOULD BE THE COMBINED OBJECTIVE OF BOTH SAUDI AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS. WHETHER THEY CAN ACHIEVE IT MAY NO LONGER BE ENTIRELY IN THEIR HANDS. BOTH ARE UNDER ENORMOUS PRESSURE FROM PUBLIC OPINION, WHETHER IN SAUDI ARABIA OR IN BRITAIN.

"SUCH HAS BEEN THE OUTCRY OVER THE GRUESOME PROSPECT OF A WESTERN WOMAN BEING SUBJECTED TO 500 LASHES IN FRONT OF A SAUDI CROWD THAT QUIET DIPLOMACY NO LONGER SEEMS AN OPTION. YET THAT IS THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH THE TWO ACCUSED WOMEN CAN, IN THE LONGER RUN, BE EXTRADITED WITHOUT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT LOSING FACE IN THE EYES OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S WEALTHIEST NATIONS."

"BLOW TO Q40 BILLION WEAPONS PROGRAM"
UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 05 LONDON 011117

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E.O. 12958: N/A
SUBJECT: LONDON MEDIA REPORT, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1997

THE LIBERAL "GUARDIAN" HAD THIS REPORT BY DEFENSE CORRESPONDENT DAVID FAIRHALL 9/25:

"SHARES IN BRITISH AEROSPACE, THE PRIME CONTRACTOR FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S Q40 BILLION ARMS PROGRAM WITH SAUDI ARABIA, FELL SHARPLY YESTERDAY AS PROTESTS ERUPTED OVER THE FLOGGING SENTENCE IMPOSED ON A BRITISH NURSE.

"THE GULF KINGDOM HAS PROVIDED A RICH GRAVY TRAIN FOR BRITISH INDUSTRY, ESPECIALLY ARMS MANUFACTURERS, AND ANYTHING WHICH menaces TO UPSET THAT CAUSES ALARM IN LONDON'S FINANCIAL MARKET...

"THE RAMIFICATIONS OF SUCH ARMS DEALS STRETCH INTO MANY OTHER CORNERS OF BRITISH INDUSTRY, THROUGH THE SUPPORT AND CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS THAT GO WITH THEM."
"COOK'S DILEMMA OVER NURSES"

THE CONSERVATIVE TABLOID "EXPRESS" HAD EDITORIALIZED 9/25:

"NO FOREIGN SECRETARY HAS EVER TAKEN UP OFFICE WITH SUCH
ASPIRATIONS AS ROBIN COOK. WITHIN DAYS, HE ANNOUNCED THAT NEW
LABOUR WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE HARD-HEADED CYNICISM OF
PAST OCCUPANTS OF HIS JOB.

"INSTEAD HE PROCLAIMED THAT BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY WOULD IN FUTURE,
BE DRIVEN BY HIGH IDEALS RATHER THAN A RUTHLESS ASSESSMENT OF
NATIONAL INTEREST.

"HE RISKS INFURIATING ONE OF BRITAIN'S CLOSEST ALLIES, A COUNTRY
WHICH PROVIDES AN EXPORT MARKET FOR BILLIONS OF POUNDS (STERLING)
OF OUR GOODS. TENS, IF NOT HUNDREDS, OF THOUSANDS OF JOBS DEPEND
ON SAUDI GOODWILL...

"NEW LABOUR IS LEARNING FAST THAT THE WORLD IS A NASTY PLACE. AND
MR. COOK IS LEARNING QUICKLY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND
OPPOSITION. IN OPPOSITION, IT IS POSSIBLE TO EXPRESS ALL SORTS OF
FINE-SOUNDING SENTIMENTS."

"COOK'S FOLLY"

THE MASS-CIRCULATION CONSERVATIVE TABLOID "SUN" EDITORIALIZED 9/25:

"WHAT HE LACKS IN STATURE, ROBIN COOK MAKES UP FOR IN VOLUME. THE
FOREIGN SECRETARY FALLS INTO THE TRAP OF MEGAPHONE DIPLOMACY.

"HE TELLS THE SAUDIS THAT IF THEY GIVE A BRITISH NURSE 500 LASHES
IT COULD HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON ANGLO-SAUDI RELATIONS'.
"WHAT DOES HE HAVE IN MIND -- A TRADE BOYCOTT? BOOTING OUT THEIR
AMBASSADOR? AND ALL BECAUSE THE SAUDIS HAVE ACTED WITHIN THEIR OWN
LAWS AND RELIGION? NO WONDER THEY'RE ANGRY AT COOK'S EMPTY AND
MEANINGLESS WORDS."

UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 05 LONDON 011117

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VIENNA PASS USDEL-CSCE;

E.O.12958:N/A
SUBJECT: LONDON MEDIA REPORT, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1997

3. BOSNIA
"CLINTON AIDE SAYS U.S. MUST EXTEND STAY IN BOSNIA"

THE CONSERVATIVE "TIMES" REPORTED FROM WASHINGTON 9/25:

"PRESIDENT CLINTON'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, SETTING THE STAGE FOR A PROTRACTED POLITICAL BATTLE WITH CONGRESS, HAS SIGNALLED THAT AMERICA MUST BE READY TO KEEP TROOPS IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA WELL BEYOND THE SCHEDULED WITHDRAWAL TO NATO FORCES IN JUNE.

"SANDY BERGER, IN A CLEAR EFFORT TO PREPARE THE UNITED STATES FOR THE APPARENTLY INEVITABLE CONTINUATION OF AN AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE, SAID THE WEST MUST REMAIN ENGAGED IN BOSNIA BOTH TO PRESERVE PEACE IN THE BALKANS AND THE CREDIBILITY OF THE NATO ALLIANCE."

4. ALGERIA

"WEST VOICES SHOCK BUT LITTLE ELSE"

THE LIBERAL "GUARDIAN" REPORTED 9/25:

"RITUAL CALLS FOR AN END TO THE BLOODSHED IN ALGERIA AND THE COLLECTIVE WRINGING OF HANDS WERE THE WEST'S REACTION YESTERDAY TO THE LATEST MASSACRE IN THAT COUNTRY, IN WHICH AT LEAST 200 PEOPLE WERE KILLED. THE COMMON RESPONSE FROM DIPLOMATS WAS: IT IS FOR THE ALGERIANS THEMSELVES TO SORT IT OUT'."

"ESCALATION OF BLOOD"

THE SAME PAPER HAD THIS OP-ED COLUMN BY MIDDLE EAST COMMENTATOR DAVID HIRST 9/25:

"THE THING THAT MOST SHOCKS ABOUT THE ALGERIAN CIVIL WAS IS ITS TERRIFYING FEROCITY AND, ABOVE ALL PERHAPS, THE FACT THAT, ON THE INSURGENTS' SIDE, IT IS OSTENSIBLY CONDUCTED IN THE NAME OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT RELIGIONS.

"NATURALLY ENOUGH, IT IS THAT WHICH COMMANDS THE HEADLINES, SINCE THIS IS A WAR THE OUTSIDE WORLD KNOWS SO LITTLE ABOUT, FOR IT IS CONDUCTED FAR FROM INTERNATIONAL SCRUTINY, BOTH BECAUSE OF THE INHERENT DIFFICULTY OF COVERING SUCH A CONFLICT AND BECAUSE THE REGIME SO RIGOROUSLY EXCLUDES OR CONTROLS THE OUTSIDE OBSERVER."

5. U.S.-E.U. TRADE

"U.S.-E.U. PEACE' HOPE"

THE INDEPENDENT "FINANCIAL TIMES" HAD THIS REPORT FROM WASHINGTON 9/25:

"THE UNITED STATES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION FACE AN UPHILL TASK IN THEIR EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT THAT WOULD PUT AN END TO TRANSATLANTIC DISPUTES OVER CUBA, IRAN AND LIBYA, ACCORDING UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 05 LONDON 011117

USIA
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PARIS FOR USIS; UNESCO; OECD;
VIENNA PASS USDEL-CSCE;

E.O.12958:N/A
SUBJECT: LONDON MEDIA REPORT, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1997

TO SIR LEON BRITTAN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION.

"WE ARE NOW NEGOTIATING TO CONVERT THE ARMISTICE INTO A LASTING
PEACE', HE SAID IN WASHINGTON, REFERRING TO THE LAST-MINUTE DEAL
WHICH AVERTED A FORMAL E.U. COMPLAINT TO THE WTO... THE TWO SIDES
HAVE SET THEMSELVES A TARGET OF MAKING A DEAL BY OCTOBER 15,
WITHOUT WHICH THE E.U. MAY AGAIN HAVE RECURS TO THE WTO." SMITH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 05
<SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 05
<SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 05
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**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([Algeria and massacre...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

**FOLDER TITLE:**

[09/11/1997 - 09/26/1997]

2009-1295-F
ke2091

**RESTRICTION CODES**

- Presidential Records Act - 44 U.S.C. 2204(a)
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  - PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
  - RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

- Freedom of Information Act - 5 U.S.C. 552(b)
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<td>Re: [Support Cable for Middle East Brief] (9 pages)</td>
<td>09/26/1997</td>
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**COLLECTION:**
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([Algeria and massacre...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

**FOLDER TITLE:**
[09/11/1997 - 09/26/1997]

**RESTRITION CODES**
- Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]
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