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TEXT
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT, SEPTEMBER 27, 1991

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KEY STORIES:

FRONT PAGES WERE DOMINATED BY THE IRAQI NUCLEAR
INSPECTIONS.

YUGOSLAVIA:

PRESS REPORTED THE PROGRESS OF THE CEASEFIRE AND LORD
CARRINGTON'S PEACE EFFORTS. THE TIMES REPORTED FROM
THE HAGUE AND ZAGREB: "LORD CARRINGTON, THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE YUGOSLAV PEACE CONFERENCE, YESTERDAY SAID THAT THE
COUNTRY'S WARRING REPUBLICS COULD BE REMODELLED INTO A
YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC UNION, ALONG THE LINES OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. RECOGNIZING THAT THE FRAGILE
CEASEFIRE WAS THE MOST HOPEFUL SIGN OF AN END TO THE
CONFLICT, LORD CARRINGTON SAID THE CONFERENCE MUST NOW
'BE ACCELERATED, IN SO FAR AS IT IS POSSIBLE'.
CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM ABOUT THE SHAKY CEASEFIRE INCREASED
YESTERDAY WHEN FEDERAL ARMY TROOPS AND ARMOR WITHDREW
FROM BARRACKS IN THE CROATIAN TOWN OF VINKOVCI, ONE OF
THE TENSEST AREAS..." THE GUARDIAN'S CORRESPONDENT
SAID "EUROPEAN LEADERS ALLOWED THEMSELVES A MODICUM OF
OPTIMISM..." THE INDEPENDENT'S TONY BARBER SAID: "THE
TIDE OF WAR TURNS, BUT NO END IS IN SIGHT..."

EUROPE:

IN "UNITY IN A BLOODSTAINED CONTINENT", THE
INDEPENDENT'S EDITORIAL COMMENTED: "...THE FACT THAT
BRITAIN, ALMOST ALONE IN EUROPE, DID NOT EXPERIENCE
NAZI INVASION AND OCCUPATION HELPS TO EXPLAIN THE GREAT
DIFFERENCE IN THE INTENSITY WITH WHICH BRITAIN AND
OTHER EUROPEANS THINK OF THE ENTERPRISE OF BUILDING A
NEW EUROPE. THE ESSENTIAL IDEA OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY WAS NOT TO PROMOTE TRADE OF HARMONIZE
TARIFFS, NOR EVEN TO SUBSIDIZE FARMERS. IT WAS TO END
WHAT NOW LOOKED LIKE EUROPEAN CIVIL WAR, AND ENSURE
THAT EUROPE SHOULD NEVER AGAIN HAVE TO FEAR MEN LIKE
KLAUS BARBIE AND HIS MASTERS.

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"PRECISELY BECAUSE BRITAIN DID NOT LIVE UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE SWASTIKA, BRITAIN HAS AN INSTINCT FOR THE WORKINGS OF DEMOCRACY THAT HAS A VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE TO THE EUROPEAN FUTURE; PRECISELY BECAUSE OUR FELLOW EUROPEANS DID LIVE UNDER THE HARROW OF OCCUPATION THEY MAY HAVE A FIRMER GRIP ON THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF EUROPEAN POLITICS - THE NEED FOR PEACE AND UNITY IN OUR ANCIENTLY DIVIDED AND BLOODSTAINED CONTINENT."

HOSTAGES:

AS FREED HOSTAGE JACKIE MANN TOLD OF HIS TREATMENT AND TORTURE DURING HIS 865 DAY'S CAPITIVITY IN THE LEBANON, THE TIMES' EDITORIAL, "A FUNNY THING HAPPENING", COMMENTED: "...WHEN THE RAF VC10 FLYNG HIM BACK HAD A HITCH IN ITS LANDING GEAR, MR. MANN OFFERED HIS SERVICES (AS A FORMER PILOT) TO THE FLIGHTDECK. IT WAS THE CLEAREST SIGNAL TO HIS COUNTRYMEN THAT HIS SPIRIT HAD SURVIVED; THAT AND HIS PRETENCE OF A DATE WITH AN AIR-STEWARDESS...

"AMERICANS LET EVERYTHING HANG OUT, CONTINENTALS MAY KISS, WEEP AND HUG, BUT EVERYTHING THE BRITISH WANT TO SAY ON THE TARMAC OF LIBERATION IS SAID IN THE UNDERSTATEMENT OF A HANDSHAKE AND A JOKE. A FUNNY SORT OF STRENGTH IT SIGNIFIES: AND A GREAT ONE."

THE INDEPENDENT CARRIED AN ARTICLE BY MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT ROBERT FISK. IN "TORTURED BY THE BRUTALIZED", HE SAID THAT ARAB PRISONERS HAVE BEEN TORTURED AAND THAT "...IN THIS CONTEXT, THE PRISONERS OF LEBANON - WHATEVER THEIR NATIONALITY - ARE AS MUCH VICTIMS OF POLITICAL TRAGEDY AS OF THE BRUTALITY OF KIDNAPPERS AND MILITIAMEN. THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF EVIL IN LEBANON. BUT HAD THE HOSTAGE HOLDERS AND THE PRISON GUARDS NOT BEEN INVISIBLY MUTILATED BY THE TERRIBLE EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE HERE, WOULD THEY TREAT THEIR CAPITVES SO CRUELLY? PERHAPS THE FREE PRISONERS - WESTERNER AND LEBANESE ALIKE - WILL HAVE TO SUGGEST WHETHER THE MORAL RESPONSE SHOULD BE REVENGE OR FORGIVENESS, IN A RUINED LAND WHERE JUSTICE IS AS RARE AS MERCY."

ISRAELI LOAN GUARANTEES:

THE INDEPENDENT CARRIED THE ONLY STORY ON THE PRESIDENT'S ATTEMPTS TO GET CONGRESSIONAL DISCUSSION OF LOAN GUARANTEES DELAYED. IN "BUSH ROUTS JEWISH LOBBY IN FIGHT OVER AID", WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT JOHN LICHFIELD REPORTED: "IN AN UNPRECEDENTED PUBLIC DEFEAT FOR THE AMERICAN JEWISH LOBBY, PRESIDENT BUSH ROUTED EFFORTS BY JERUSALEM TO FORCE EARLY AGREEMENT ON A TEN

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BILLION DOLLAR U.S. LOAN GUARANTEE TO ISRAEL. BOTH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND ITS SUPPORTERS IN THE U.S. CONGRESS NOW ACCEPT THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WILL DELAY ALL DECISIONS ON THE LOANS FOR FOUR MONTHS - WELL BEYOND THE INTENDED START OF A MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE..."

UNITED NATIONS:

THE FINANCIAL TIMES' LIONEL BARBER REPORTED FROM NEW YORK, "U.N. TAKES HESITANT MOVES TO ARMED INTERVENTION" AND SAID: "...THE QUESTION WHICH NO LONGER REMAINS TABOO IS: SHOULD THE PRINCIPLE OF MULTILATERAL INTERVENTION BE EXTENDED TO CONTAIN THE NEW FORCES OF NATIONALISM LET LOOSE BY THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM IN EUROPE AND ASIA - FORCES WHICH NOW CHALLENGE ESTABLISHED BORDERS, THREATEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND JEOPARDIZE STABILITY ACROSS THE CONTINENT? HAS THE U.N. A ROLE TO PLAY IN A MORE AMBITIOUS FORM OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY?...SOME COUNTRIES SUCH AS CHINA AND INDIA RECOGNIZE THE TREND - AND OBJECT STRONGLY - NOT LEAST BECAUSE THEY HAVE DIFFICULTIES WITH, SAY, TIBET AND SECESSIONIST-MINDED KASHMIR.

"MR. BUSH, WHO HAS ALWAYS HAD A SOFT SPOT FOR CHINA, APPEARED TO AGREE. AT THE END OF HIS SPEECH, HE SAID THE U.N. 'SHOULD NOT DICTATE THE PARTICULAR FORMS OF GOVERNMENT' FOR MEMBERS STATES, AND THAT IN HIS NEW WORLD ORDER, NOT NATION 'MUST SURRENDER ONE IOTA OF SOVEREIGNTY'. BUT BY THEN, OF COURSE, AS MR. BUSH MUST HAVE RECOGNIZED, THE GENIE OF INTERVENTIONISM WAS ALREADY OUT OF THE BOTTLE."

BROADCAST MEDIA:

EARLY MORNING TELEVISION AND RADIO CONTINUED TO REPORT THE PROBLEMS WITH THE U.N. INSPECTION OF IRAQI MISSILE SITES.

BBC TV'S CORRESPONDENT AT THE U.N., GAVIN ESLER REPORTED: "IN ACCEPTING WHAT DIPLOMATS CHARACTERIZE AS AN IRAQI CLIMBDOWN, THE U.N. DOES NOT WANT TO BE SEEN NEGOTIATING WITH BAGHDAD OVER THE CONDUCT OF WEAPONS SITES INSPECTION. BUT AFTER YET ANOTHER SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION, THE HOPE WAS THE STAND-OFF IN THE BAGHDAD CAR PARK MIGHT HAVE REACHED THE ENDGAME..."

"WITH AMERICAN F-111 WARPLANES ARRIVING IN EASTERN TURKEY, THE U.S. CONTINUES TO PLAY UP THE MILITARY ALONGSIDE THE DIPLOMATIC TRACK. THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION CHARACTERIZED THE IRAQI POLICY AS 'CHEAT AND RETREAT'..."

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"AND DIPLOMATS SEE PLENTY OF POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER CONFRONTATION, WITH ANOTHER U.N. TEAM SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL TO BAGHDAD TO BEGIN A HELICOPTER HUNT FOR SCUD MISSILE SITES. WHETHER THAT TEAM SHOULD GO IF THEIR COLLEAGUES ARE STILL DETAINED IS OPEN TO QUESTION."

A) TODAY'S MAJOR STORIES:

1. THE GULF
2. MIDDLE EAST
3. ROMANIA

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

1. THE GULF:

PRESS CONTINUES TO GIVE PROMINENCE TO THE HOLDING OF THE U.N. NUCLEAR INSPECTION TEAM IN A BAGHDAD CAR PARK, AND A NEW LETTER FROM THE IRAQIS TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL SAYING IT WOULD NOT ALLOW U.N. HELICOPTERS TO FLY OVER THE COUNTRY. THE TIMES SAID THE SECURITY COUNCIL "DECIDED NOT TO RISE TO THE CHALLENGE", AND THAT, "UNWILLING TO HEAR SUCH BAD NEWS, THE COUNCIL DECIDED THE IRAQI LETTER HAD CROSSED WITH A LETTER SENT TO BAGHDAD EARLIER IN THE DAY...AND CHOSE TO IGNORE IT."

2. MIDDLE EAST:

PRESS REPORTED PROCEEDINGS AT THE PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING IN ALGIERS, AND THE VISIT BY TWO MODERATE PALESTINIANS TO TRY AND PERSUADE THE MODERATES TO TAKE PART IN THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

3. ROMANIA:

RIOTING BY MINERS IN THE COUNTRY WAS REGARDED ALMOST AS A CONTINUATION OF THE REVOLUTION OF 1989. COMMENTATORS TEND TO THINK ROMANIA WILL NOT BE TRULY ON THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY UNTIL IT CLEARLY LEAVES BEHIND THE LAST VESTIGES OF THE CEAUDESCU REGIME.

C) HEADLINES:

1. THE GULF:

"HUGE NETWORK OF WESTERN FIRMS SUPPLYING IRAQ" (TIMES PAGE 1)

"WAITING GAME FOR CAR PARK PLAYERS" (TIMES PAGE 1)

"DEFIANT BAGHDAD TESTS U.N. PATIENCE" (TIMES)

"ISRAELIS PREPARE TO RETALIATE FOR FUTURE IRAQ MISSILE ATTACKS" (TIMES)

"PUTTING SADDAM ON TRIAL" (TIMES)

"IRAQ BANS FLIGHTS BY U.N. INSPECTORS" (GUARDIAN)

"IRAQ DEAL MAY FREE NUCLEAR INSPECTORS" (DAILY TELEGRAPH)

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"U.N. HOPES RISE FOR N-INSPECTORS" (FINANCIAL TIMES)
"DOCUMENTS MAY NAME 'NUCLEAR MASTERMIND'" (INDEPENDENT)
"KURDS SEE LITTLE CHANCE OF AUTONOMY DEAL"
(INDEPENDENT)
"WILL BUSH EVER GET THE MEASURE OF SADDAM'S EVIL?"
(DAILY MAIL)
"TIME TO ACT AGAINST IRAQ" (EVENING STANDARD)

2. MIDDLE EAST:

"'U.S. PLEDGES' ON PEACE BOOST ARAFAT" (GUARDIAN)
"PALESTINIANS READY TO JOIN PEACE TALKS" (DAILY TELEGRAPH)

3. ROMANIA:

"ROMANIA'S REAL REVOLUTION" (TIMES EDITORIAL)
"THE MINERS' REBELLION" (GUARDIAN EDITORIAL)
"MINERS STRIKE AGAIN" (DAILY TELEGRAPH EDITORIAL)

D) TEXTS:

1. THE GULF:

--"HUGE NETWORK OF WESTERN FIRMS SUPPLYING IRAQ"
(TIMES PAGE 1)

THE CONSERVATIVE TIMES' DEFENSE CORRESPONDENT AND WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT MARTIN FLETCHER REPORTED:
"HUNDREDS OF WESTERN COMPANIES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED BY UNITED NATIONS INSPECTORS AS HAVING SUPPLIED IRAQ WITH TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT FOR ITS CLANDESTINE NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM.

"DETAILS OF THE TRADE ARE EXPOSED IN DOCUMENTS SEIZED BY U.N. TEAM NOW DETAINED IN BAGHDAD. THE RECORDS GO BACK TO 1980 AND COVER FIRMS FROM DOZENS OF COUNTRIES, INCLUDING BRITAIN, AMERICA, GERMANY, FRANCE, SWITZERLAND, CHINA AND BRAZIL.

"LAST NIGHT, THE 44 INSPECTORS WITH THE BOXES OF PAPERS THEY CONFISCATED FROM THE IRAQI ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION ON TUESDAY WERE STILL BESIEGED IN A CAR PARK AT THE COMMISSION COMPOUND. IRAQ SAYS THE DOCUMENTS ARE THE PERSONNEL RECORDS AND NOT SUBJECT TO ANY U.N. RESOLUTIONS. BUT IT HAS OFFERED TO LET THE INSPECTORS GO WITH THE PAPERS, IF THEY AND BAGHDAD OFFICIALS COMPLETE A JOINT INVENTORY OF WHAT IS TAKEN, AN ARRANGEMENT ACCEPTED YESTERDAY BY THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL...

"MEANWHILE IRAQ APPEARED TO DEFY THE U.N. AGAIN LAST NIGHT WITH A LETTER REGISTERING ITS STIFF TERMS FOR THE USE OF U.N. HELICOPTERS BUT THE SECURITY COUNCIL DECIDED NOT TO RISE TO THE CHALLENGE.

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"THE FIRST CLUE TO THE BREADTH OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE PAPER EMERGED ON WEDNESDAY, WHEN COLIN POWELL, CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, DESCRIBED THEM AS A GOLDMINE THAT PROVIDED IRAQ WITH CONTACTS AROUND THE WORLD TO PROCURE NUCLEAR WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY..."

--"WAITING GAME FOR CAR PARK PLAYERS" (TIMES PAGE 1)

THE TIMES' DAVID WATTS REPORTED: "HOW DO YOU WHILE AWAY THE HOURS IN A BUS IN A BAGHDAD CAR PARK WITH MORE THAN 100 HUMORLESS IRAQI SECURITY MEN TO SPOIL YOUR FUN?"

"FOR THE RESOURCEFUL UNITED NATIONS NUCLEAR INSPECTORS USED TO OUT-THINKING SADDAM HUSSEIN, THERE IS MUCH TO DO: PLAY CHESS WITH BOTTLE TOPS OF AMERICAN FOOTBALL WITH TOILET ROLLS FOR A BALL. FOR THE REALLY BRAVE, THERE ARE ARABIC LESSONS, BUT DAVID KAY, THE LEADER OF THE GROUP, SAID LAST NIGHT: 'IT'S VERY MUCH AN UPHILL BATTLE. I DON'T THINK THEY'RE GOING TO IMPROVE MY LANGUAGE SKILLS VERY MUCH.'

"ALL THAT, OF COURSE TAKES PLACE IN BETWEEN QUEUING FOR THE ONE IRAQI-STYLE TOILET..."

--"DEFIANT BAGHDAD TESTS U.N. PATIENCE" (TIMES)

THE TIMES' CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK, JAMES BONE, REPORTED: "IRAQ LAST NIGHT APPEARED TO DEFY THE UNITED NATIONS ONCE AGAIN OVER THE USE OF U.N. HELICOPTERS BUT THE SECURITY COUNCIL DECIDED NOT TO RISE TO THE CHALLENGE.

"EVEN AS THE THREE-DAY SIEGE OF U.N. INSPECTORS IN A BAGHDAD CAR PARK SEEMED TO BE DRAWING TO A CLOSE, IRAQ SENT A NEW LETTER TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL REITERATING ITS EARLIER CONDITIONS ON THE USE OF HELICOPTERS BY THE U.N. INSPECTION TEAMS. UNWILLING TO HEAR SUCH BAD NEWS, THE COUNCIL DECIDED THE IRAQI LETTER HAD CROSSED WITH A LETTER SENT TO BAGHDAD EARLIER IN THE DAY BY ROLF EKEUS, CHAIRMAN OF THE U.N. SPECIAL COMMISSION CHARGED WITH DISARMING IRAQ, AND CHOSE TO IGNORE IT..."

--"ISRAELIS PREPARE TO RETALIATE FOR FUTURE IRAQI MISSILE ATTACKS" (TIMES)

THE TIMES' RICHARD BEESTON REPORTED FROM JERUSALEM: "ISRAEL WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY RESPOND MILITARILY AGAINST IRAQ IF THERE WERE RENEWED HOSTILITIES IN THE GULF REGION AND FRESH MISSILE ATTACKS ON ITS TERRITORY.

"ISRAELI MILITARY SOURCES AND OBSERVERS SAID YESTERDAY THAT THEY BELIEVED AN IRAQI OFFENSIVE AGAINST ISRAEL WAS UNLIKELY, BUT RECALLED THAT PRESIDENT SADDAM

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HUSSEIN HAD THE CAPABILITY AND THE POLITICAL NERVE TO ORDER A NEW SCUD ATTACK AGAINST ISRAEL...

"SENIOR MILITARY SOURCES SAID THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE READY BOTH DEFENSIVELY AND OFFENSIVELY FOR ANY EVENTUALITY AND IF ATTACKED WOULD RESPOND QUICKLY USING AIR AND GROUND FORCES...

"BUT ONE SENIOR OFFICER PREDICTED YESTERDAY THAT THE DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS WOULD BE SHORTLIVED IF THERE WERE FUTURE IRAQI MISSILE ATTACKS BECAUSE THE ISRAELI PUBLIC, MILITARY HIERARCHY AND GOVERNMENT WOULD INSIST ON RAPID AND DECISIVE RETALIATION..."

--"PUTTING SADDAM ON TRIAL" (TIMES)

THE TIMES CARRIED AN ARTICLE BY BRITISH CHIEF PROSECUTOR DURING THE NUREMBERG TRIALS, LORD SHAWCROSS: "...WHY DID THE ALLIES' NOT CARRY OUT THEIR INTENTION IN MRS. THATCHER'S WORDS - 'TO BRING SADDAM TO TRIAL FOR PERPETRATING THESE BRUTAL CRUELITIES, JUST AS HAPPENED AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR'? CERTAINLY THE REASON WAS NOT, AS SOME HAVE INFERRED FROM THE WORDS OF THE FOREIGN SECRETARY DOUGLAS HURD, THAT OUR FORCES COULD NOT BE RELIED UPON TO DO THEIR DUTY AFTER THE INTENSIVE BOMBING AFTER THE MASSACRE AT MUTLA RIDGE. THEY MAY HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO ENGAGE IN FURTHER BOMBINGS OF THIS SORT BUT NONE WAS NEEDED. GENERAL SCHWARZKOPF WANTED TO PUSH ON, BUT WAS NOT ALLOWED TO FOR POLITICAL REASONS: PARTLY THE FEAR OF TIMID OFFICIALS THAT THE BREAK-UP OF IRAQ MIGHT DESTABILIZE OTHER ISLAMIC STATES, PARTLY THE PRESIDENT'S DESIRE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE UNEXPECTEDLY LIGHT CASUALTIES AND TO GET THE BOYS BACK HOME.

"THERE IS ONE IMPORTANT LESSON TO BE LEARNED FROM WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE GULF AND THE FAILED MOSCOW COUP: THE NEED FOR A STANDING INTERNATIONAL COURT WITH CRIMINAL JURISDICTION. HAD SUCH A COURT BEEN IN EXISTENCE, THE ALLIED COULD HARDLY HAVE IGNORED THEIR DUTY TO BRING SADDAM TO TRIAL..."

"GIVEN GOODWILL BETWEEN THE GREAT POWERS, SUCH A COURT COULD BE SET UP NOW TO DEAL WITH SUCH WELL-ESTABLISHED CRIMES AS WAGING AGGRESSIVE WAR, GENOCIDE AND SO ON. WITHOUT IT - AND PERHAPS EVENTUALLY AN INTERNATIONAL POLICE FORCE - THE NEW WORLD ORDER SOME HAVE TALKED BRAVELY ABOUT WILL REMAIN A MIRAGE."

--"IRAQ BANS FLIGHTS BY U.N. INSPECTORS" (GUARDIAN)

THE LIBERAL GUARDIAN'S HELLA PICK REPORTED FROM NEW YORK: "IRAQ, IN A FRESH ATTEMPT TO DEFTY THE SECURITY COUNCIL LAST NIGHT TOLD THE UNITED NATIONS THAT IT WOULD NOT ALLOW U.N. HELICOPTERS TO RESUME THEIR FLIGHTS IN SEARCH OF IRAQ'S WEAPONS OF MASS

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DESTRUCTION, BEFORE 'AN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE COMPETENT IRAQI AUTHORITIES AND ROLF EKEUS'...

"THIS FLIES IN THE FACE OF WRITTEN ASSURANCES, GIVEN BY BAGHDAD THIS WEEK THAT IT WOULD COMPLY WITH 'ALL RELEVANT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS' AUTHORIZING THE U.N. TO MAKE ITS OWN SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATION WITHOUT INTERFERENCE.

"THE LATEST IRAQI MESSAGE APPEARED TO DASH HOPES THAT THE 44 BESIEGED U.N. INSPECTORS IN BAGHDAD HAD COME CLOSE TO REGAINING THEIR FREEDOM IN POSSESSION OF THE EVIDENCE THEY HAVE FOUND ABOUT THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM..."

--"IRAQ DEAL MAY FREE NUCLEAR INSPECTORS" (DAILY TELEGRAPH)

THE CONSERVATIVE DAILY TELEGRAPH'S HUGH DAVIES REPORTED FROM NEW YORK: "A DEAL WAS BEING NEGOTIATED LAST NIGHT TO END THE THREE-DAY DETENTION OF 44 UNITED NATIONS INSPECTORS BY IRAQI SECURITY FORCES IN A BAGHDAD CAR PARK.

"BUT IT SEEMED LIKELY TO BE AN AGONIZING PROCESS WITH PROBLEMS EMERGING OVER AT LEAST TWO IRAQI DEMANDS IN AN OFFER TO BREAK THE IMPASSE.

"IN ADDITION THERE WAS NO LET UP IN THE PROPAGANDA PRESSURE ON THE TEAM, WITH 5,000 DEMONSTRATORS FIELDLED FOR THE SECOND DAY.

"THERE WAS OPTIMISM IN NEW YORK THAT A SOLUTION WAS AT HAND. THE SECURITY COUNCIL AGREED TO AN IRAQI PROPOSAL THAT THE INSPECTORS ALLOW AUTHORITIES TO MAKE A LIST OF PAPERS THEY CONFISCATED ON TUESDAY AS LONG AS THE TEAM WAS FREED IMMEDIATELY...

"U.N. OFFICIALS HAVE NO OBJECTION TO IRAQ MAKING AN INVENTORY, BUT ARE BALKING AT A DEMAND THAT PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO-TAPES BE ADDED. THE TEAM TOOK THE PICTURES AS THEY UNCOVERED SECRET FILES.

"INFORMATION ABOUT THE CACHE CAME FROM AN IRAQI DEFECTOR, U.S. SOURCES SAID. IT WAS UNCLEAR IF HE WAS THE SAME SCIENTIST WHO TOLD THE CIA OF THE LOCATION OF TWO ATOMIC WEAPONS SITES..."

--"U.N. HOPES RISE FOR N-INSPECTORS" (FINANCIAL TIMES)

THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL TIMES' MICHAEL LITTLEJOHNS REPORTED FROM NEW YORK: "HOPES ROSE LAST NIGHT FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE BITTER DISPUTE BETWEEN IRAQ AND THE UNITED NATIONS OVER THE DETENTION OF A

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U.N. INSPECTION TEAM AT THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR ENERGY HEADQUARTERS IN BAGHDAD..."

--"DOCUMENTS MAY NAME 'NUCLEAR MASTERMIND'"
(INDEPENDENT)

THE CENTRIST INDEPENDENT'S LEONARD DOYLE IN NEW YORK REPORTED: "THE UNITED NATION HOPES TO UNCOVER THE IDENTITY OF THE MYSTERIOUS MASTERMIND BEHIND IRAQ'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM FOR THE DOCUMENTS ITS 44 INSPECTORS ARE TENACIOUSLY HOLDING IN THE BESIEGED CAR PARK IN BAGHDAD.

"THE STANDOFF DRAGGED ON LAST NIGHT, DESPITE PROGRESS MADE IN NEW YORK ON A COMPROMISE, UNDER WHICH THE INSPECTORS WILL BE FREED, WITH THE DOCUMENTS, VIDEOTAPE AND FILM, ONCE A JOINT INVENTORY OF THE ARTICLES THEY ARE MOVING HAS BEEN MADE. ONLY THEN ARE THE INSPECTORS, WHO HAVE BEEN LIVING AND SLEEPING IN A BUS FOR FOUR DAYS, EXPECTED TO BE PERMITTED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOTEL.

"THE U.N IS ALSO EXPECTED TO START HELICOPTER MISSIONS OVER IRAQ AS EARLY AS SUNDAY, FOLLOWING THE IRAQI CLIMBDOWN ON THIS QUESTION BUT IT MAY NOT SEND MORE EXPERTS INTO IRAQ UNTIL ITS INSPECTORS ARE RELEASED..."

"DOCUMENTS DISCOVERED BY THE NUCLEAR INSPECTORS THIS WEEK DETAIL CONTRACTS WHICH FOREIGN COMPANIES SIGNED WITH IRAQ, WHILE IT SECRETLY OBTAINED THE TECHNOLOGY TO MANUFACTURE HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM FOR NUCLEAR BOMBS.

"BRITAIN AND FRANCE HAVE PUT PRESSURE ON THE U.N. NOT TO PUBLISH THE INFORMATION ITS INSPECTORS OBTAINED IN IRAQ, IN AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP A VEIL OF SECRECY OVER THE DETAILS OF IRAQ'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM. THE U.S, BY CONTRAST, IS SAID TO BE IN FAVOR OF PUBLISHING THE NAMES OF COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS FOUND TO HAVE HELPED IRAQ'S NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS PROGRAM.

"DAVID KAY, THE LEADER OF THE INSPECTION TEAM, HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR MONTHS ALREADY FOR THE IDENTITY OF THE MAN HE CALLS THE 'MISSING MANAGER-VISIONARY' OF IRAQ'S RACE TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WARHEADS. HE IS ALSO TRYING TO UNCOVER MORE DETAILS ABOUT IRAQ'S CLANDESTINE PROCUREMENT NETWORK THROUGH WHICH IT ALLEGEDLY OBTAINED DESIGN INFORMATION AND PARTS FOR ADVANCED AND HIGHLY CLASSIFIED SECOND-GENERATION CENTRIFUGE TECHNOLOGY MANUFACTURED BY A EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM IN THE NETHERLANDS..."

--"KURDS SEE LITTLE CHANCE OF AUTONOMY DEAL"
(INDEPENDENT)

THE CENTRIST INDEPENDENT'S HUGH POPE REPORTED FROM

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RAWANDUZ, IRAQ: "KEY KURDISH LEADERS NOW BELIEVE THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON AUTONOMY WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN BAGHDAD ARE ALMOST CERTAIN TO FAIL. THE CHIEF KURDISH NEGOTIATOR, DR. SAMI ABDURRAHMAN, PREVIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT AN AGREEMENT BEING SIGNED WITH PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEI, SAID HE NOW BELIEVES THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE OF REACHING AN ACCORD ACCEPTABLE TO THE KURDS..."

--"WILL BUSH EVER GET THE MEASURE OF SADDAM'S EVIL?"
(DAILY MAIL)

THE CONSERVATIVE TABLOID DAILY MAIL CARRIED AN ARTICLE BY "EXPERT IN MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS", JOHN LAFFIN: "WHEN THE HISTORY OF THE 20TH CENTURY IS WRITTEN, SADDAM HUSSEIN WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE SEEN AS ITS MOST CONSUMMATE BRINKMAN, A POLITICIAN WHO KNEW EXACTLY HOW FAR TO PUSH HIS LUCK.

"IN CONTRAST GEORGE BUSH, A LEADER WHO COMMANDS THE MOST POWERFUL MILITARY MACHINE IN HISTORY, MIGHT WELL BE SEEN AS A HUFFER AND A PUFFER, A MAN WHO PROMISED BUT NEVER DELIVERED..."

"GEORGE BUSH THREATENS MILITARY REPRISALS IF THE HAPLESS TEAM IS NOT RELEASED WITH ITS BOXES OF INFORMATION..."

"ACCORDING TO A TRUSTED ANTI-SADDAM SOURCE IN BAGHDAD, IT CONTAINS INFORMATION THAT ITS MEANINGLESS, THE SCIENTIFIC EQUIVALENT OF NEWSPRINT CUT, PACKED AND WARPED TO LOOK LIKE BANK NOTES IN A CON TRICK..."

"THE REAL INFORMATION FOR WHICH THE U.N. TEAM HAS BEEN SO DILIGENTLY RESEARCHING REMAINS CAREFULLY HIDDEN, WHILE THE INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY TO PROCESS IRAQ'S NUCLEAR BLUEPRINTS AND BRING THEM TO HORRIFYING REALITY IS SAFE.

"IN ANY CASE, THE U.N. CAN DO NOTHING ABOUT SADDAM'S MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE - THE AMOUNTS OF MONEY HE HOLDS IN SWISS BANK ACCOUNTS TO FINANCE HIS TERROR WEAPONS..."

"POOR PRESIDENT BUSH. HAVING SO CONFIDENTLY CLAIMED THE VICTORY IN THE GULF WAR, HE NOW FINDS HIMSELF FINESSED AT EVERY TURN BY AN OPPONENT HE DESPISES.

"THE PROBLEM IS THAT HE AND HIS WHITE HOUSE ADVISERS HAVE LEARNT NOTHING ABOUT THE ARAB MIND. AMONG ARABS, A THREAT UNFULFILLED HAS ALWAYS BEEN SEEN AS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS - YET BUSH WAVES A BIG STICK FREQUENTLY AND THEN TAMELY LOWERS IT..."

--"TIME TO ACT AGAINST IRAQ" (EVENING STANDARD EDITORIAL)

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THE LONDON EVENING STANDARD EDITORIALIZED YESTERDAY, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26, : "...WHEN IS THE U.N. GOING TO REALIZE THAT THE IRAQI DICTATOR IS A LIAR AND A CHEAT? IF SADDAM DOES NOT COME CLEAN AND CONTINUES TO THWART INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS, THE AMERICAN BOMBERS SHOULD BE SENT TO FINISH THE JOB THAT WAS LEFT UNDONE IN THE GULF WAR."

2. MIDDLE EAST:

--"'U.S. PLEDGES' ON PEACE BOOST ARAFAT" (GUARDIAN)

THE LIBERAL GUARDIAN'S DAVID HIRST IN ALGIERS AND IAN BLACK IN JERUSALEM REPORTED: "THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION CHAIRMAN, YASSER ARAFAT, AND HIS MODERATES ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT PLAYED A TRUMP CARD IN THEIR CAMPAIGN TO WIN APPROVAL OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE.

"AT A SHORT, SECRET APPEARANCE BEFORE THE PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL IN ALGIERS, FAISAL HUSSEINI AND HANAN ASHRAWI, TWO PERSONALITIES FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WHO HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE JAMES BAKER, REPORTEDLY BROUGHT NEWS OF PROGRESS IN AMERICAN 'ASSURANCES' TO THE PALESTINIANS.

"BUT IN JERUSALEM IT EMERGED THAT MR. HUSSEINI AND MRS. ASHRAWI FACED PUNISHMENT BY THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES AFTER THEIR TRIP...

"THE PRESENCE OF THE TWO IN ALGIERS RUBS IN THE POINT THAT JERUSALEM WOULD LIKE TO IGNORE: THAT WHILE IT REFUSES TO DEAL WITH THE PLO, THE ORGANIZATION IS IN ALL BUT NAME A FULL PARTNER IN THE PEACE PROCESS..."

--"PALESTINIANS READY TO JOIN PEACE TALKS" (DAILY TELEGRAPH)

THE CONSERVATIVE DAILY TELEGRAPH'S ANTON LA GUARDIA REPORTED FROM JERUSALEM: "THE PALESTINIAN PARLIAMENT-IN-EXILE WAS SAID TO BE CLOSE TO AGREEMENT ON ATTENDING MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS LAST NIGHT AS ISRAEL THREATENED TO IMPRISON TWO SENIOR PALESTINIAN REPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE ALGIERS MEETING...

"PALESTINIAN DELEGATES IN ALGIERS SAID THE TWO ACTIVISTS WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING TO NUDGE HARDLINERS INTO SUPPORTING THE U.S.-SPONSORED PEACE PLAN DURING A CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY OF MORE THAN 400 EXILED PALESTINIANS.

"REPORTS LAST NIGHT INDICATED THAT THE PLO LEADERSHIP HAD DROPPED ITS INSISTENCE ON FORMALLY NAMING THE PALESTINIAN DELEGATION. ISRAEL HAS INSISTED THE PLO

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MUST NOT BE INVOLVED IN THE TALKS, BUT THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE ORGANIZATION WILL HAVE TO GIVE ITS TACIT APPROVAL OF THE DELEGATES..."

3. ROMANIA:

--"ROMANIA'S REAL REVOLUTION" (TIMES EDITORIAL)

THE CONSERVATIVE TIMES EDITORIALIZED: "...THE 'REVOLUTION WHICH NEVER HAPPENED' IN 1989 MAY NOW BE AT HAND. THE WANTON VIOLENCE OF THE MINERS, WHO EVEN ATTACKED THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING IN BUCHAREST, IS A REMINDER THAT THERE IS NOTHING ROMANTIC ABOUT REAL REVOLUTIONS..."

"AS THE GLAMOR THAT ATTACHED TO THE MAN WHO DEPOSED CEAUCESCU WORE OFF AND HOPES OF WESTERN AID DWINDLED, MR ILIESCU HAS BEEN FORCED TO RELY ON HIS PREDECESSOR'S POWER BASE: THE SECURITATE. RENAMED AND PURGED, LESS VISIBLE THAN UNDER CEAUSESCU, THE SECRET POLICE IS STILL POWERFUL..."

"MR. ROMAN, WHO EVEN AFTER HIS RESIGNATION STILL LEADS A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT AND SHOULD NOT YET BE WRITTEN OFF, IS TYPICAL OF THE NEW ELITE. HE HAS PRESENTED HIMSELF AS A TECHNOCRAT. HE INTRODUCED THE FRAMEWORK OF A MARKET ECONOMY, BUT RELIED TOO MUCH ON WESTERN INVESTMENT IN A FEW LARGE CONCERNS. ROMANIANS HAVE LITTLE TO SHOW FOR THESE POLICIES. THE MINERS ARE BOTH DENOUNCING THE FRONT'S REFORM COMMUNISM AND DEMANDED THAT THEIR LIVING STANDARDS ARE PROTECTED. THE MINERS AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL WORKERS SENSE THAT THE LAST TWO YEARS HAVE BEEN A TRANSITIONAL PHASE BETWEEN COMMUNISM AND CAPITALISM. BUT THEY DO NOT APPEAR TO REALIZE THAT TRULY RADICAL GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO STOP SUBSIDIZING THEM.

"THE OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE LED BY ELDERLY DISSIDENTS AND EXILES SUCH AS CORNELIU COPOSU AND ION RATIU, MEN OF INTEGRITY BUT WITHOUT CHARISMA. THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO JOIN A GRAND COALITION TO SAVE MR. ILIESCU, BUT WITHOUT NEW ELECTIONS THEY LACK THE POWER BASE TO GOVERN IN HIS PLACE. ROMAN DESPERATELY NEEDS POLITICAL STABILITY, BUT WILL ONLY FIND IT ONCE THE RELICS OF THE CEAUSESCU EAR GIVE WAY TO A COALITION OF THE TECHNOCRATS AND THE OPPOSITION, UNDER A HEAD OF STATE WHO IS BOTH ABOVE THE PARTIES AND BEYOND REPROACH."

--"THE MINERS' REBELLION" (GUARDIAN EDITORIAL)

THE LIBERAL GUARDIAN EDITORIALIZED: "...THIS FRESH ROMANIAN CRISIS (IN TRUTH, IT NEVER WENT AWAY ALTHOUGH OUR ATTENTION WAS TURNED ELSEWHERE) HAS MUCH BROADER IMPLICATIONS FOR EASTERN EUROPE..."

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"WITH 160 PERCENT INFLATION AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A MILLION UNEMPLOYED BEFORE LONG, THE PRESSURE FOR EXTREME SOLUTIONS WILL GROW. POLITICALLY THIS HAS ALREADY BEEN FELT IN THE REVIVAL OF ETHNIC TENSIONS AND ANTI-SEMITISM. THE RIGHT-WING PRESS IS CLAIMING THAT THERE ARE TOO MANY JEWS IN GOVERNMENT. BOTH THE HUNGARIAN MINORITY AND THE THREE MILLION ROMANIAN GYPSIES HAVE BEEN TARGETS. NOTHING CAN DIMINISH THE TRIUMPH OF POPULAR POWER WHICH REMOVED NICOLAE CEASESCU FROM THE SCENE, BUT THE OLD CATEGORIES HAVE NOW BEEN ROUNDLY OVERTAKEN. RAMPAGING, OR RAGING, THE MINERS ARE NOT THE SOLUTIONS. NEITHER IS THE REMOVAL OF MR. ROMAN, OR ANYONE ELSE, THE SALVATION FOR A COUNTRY GRIPPED BY LARGER FORCES WE FEAR, BUT CANNOT YET ADEQUATELY NAME."

--"MINERS STRIKE AGAIN" (DAILY TELEGRAPH EDITORIAL)

THE CONSERVATIVE DAILY TELEGRAPH EDITORIALIZED: "THE GENIE UNBOTTLED IN SUPPORT OF THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT LAST SUMMER HAS RETURNED TO PLAGUE IT. THEN, PRESIDENT ION ILIESCU WAS HAPPY TO CONDONE VIOLENT ATTACKS BY THE MINERS ON HIS OPPONENTS. NOW, THOSE SAME MINERS HAVE FORCED HIS PIME MINISTER, PETRE ROMAN AND HIS GOVERNMENT, TO RESIGN AND ARE CALLING FOR THE PRESIDENT TO FOLLOW SUIT. THE ILIESCU REGIME HAS NEVER ENJOYED MUCH SUPPORT IN THE WEST, WHERE IT IS SEEN AS HAVING HIJACKED THE POPULAR REVOLT AGAINST THE CEAUSESCUS IN FAVOR OF DISAFFECTED COMMUNISTS AND MILITARY LEADERS..."

"ONCE AGAIN, IT HAS BEEN SHOWN THAT GOVERNMENTS LACKING OVERWHELMING POPULAR SUPPORT HAVE LITTLE CHANCE OF IMPLEMENTING RADICAL ECONOMIC POLICY."

"THE RIOTING IN BUCHAREST THIS WEEK ALSO STEMS FROM MR. ROMAN'S FAILURE TO SEE HIS PAINFUL REFORMS TO THE ELECTORATE. HE NOW SEEMS DESTINED TO JOIN THOSE IN EASTERN EUROPE WHO PRESIDED OVER THE TRANSITION BETWEEN COMMUNIST RULE AND SOMETHING ELSE, THOUGH IN HIS CASE THE LOSS WILL BE DAMAGING RATHER THAN BENEFICIAL. FEWER TEARS NEED BE SHED OVER PRESIDENT ILIESCU IF HE FALLS VICTIM TO THE MOB." COURTNEY##

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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