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E.O. 12356 N/A

TEXT

TAGS: ECPS, PREL, CA, IS, GZ, MARR, UR, AU, PGOV
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - U.S. PROPOSAL FOR PEACE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST; SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR DEMILITARIZATION OF
THE ARCTIC; KURT WALDHEIM

1. THE RECENT U.S. PROPOSAL FOR ACHIEVING PEACE IN THE
ISRAELI OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WAS THE SUBJECT OF A
FEBRUARY 18 GLOBE AND MAIL EDITORIAL ENTITLED "MIDEAST
POSTURES." PARTIAL TEXT FOLLOWS:

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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2. "THE CRUCIAL ARAB STATES HAVE SPOKEN IN UNISON ON THE RECENT U.S. PROPOSAL FOR A MODIFIED CAMP DAVID ACCORD TO SETTLE THE CRISIS CREATED BY THE PALESTINIAN UPRISING.... AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR MIDDLE EAST TALKS IS GAINING CREDIBILITY IN SPITE OF THE DANGER THAT OPPONENTS WILL SIMPLY SQUARE OFF AGAINST EACH OTHER WITHOUT CONCEDING ANY IDEOLOGICAL GROUND. A CONFERENCE COULD PROVIDE COVER FOR KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN, WHOSE CO-OPERATION IS CRUCIAL TO ANY RESOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION BUT WHO WOULD BE COMMITTING POLITICAL SUICIDE IF HE TOOK PART IN DIRECT TALKS WITH ISRAEL. IT WOULD ALSO GIVE THE SUPERPOWERS AN ACCEPTABLE FORUM IN WHICH TO TRADE OFF THEIR CONCERNS..

3. "NO MATTER HOW DISTASTEFUL IT MAY BE TO SOME, THE PARTICIPATION OF THE SOVIET UNION IS CRUCIAL. SYRIA IS VITAL PLAYER IN THE ARAB WORLD WITH SUFFICIENT POWER TO WRECK ANY AGREEMENT IT OPPOSES. IT IS ALSO A CLIENT STATE OF THE SOVIET UNION. IF THE SOVIETS TAKE UP THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE SYRIANS WILL HAVE A HARD TIME RESISTING....

4. "THE ARABS ARE ALSO CLEARLY STAKING OUT THEIR BARGAINING POSITIONS IN ADVANCE OF U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE SHULTZ'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION, SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS MONTH. IF MR. SHULTZ AND HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE CAN AGREE ON BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR THE NEXT MOVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE ARABS AS WELL AS ISRAEL WILL FEEL MOUNTING PRESSURE TO CO-OPERATE.

5. "IN SPITE OF THE CURRENT CRISIS, THERE ARE SIGNS OF STABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. EGYPT HAS BEEN WELCOMED BACK INTO THE ARAB FOLD AFTER ALMOST A DECADE OF OSTRACISM INITIATED BY ITS PEACE AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL. SYRIA, ONCE THE HARDEST ARAB HEART SET AGAINST EGYPT AND ISRAEL, IS NOW PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT TAKING PART IN A PEACE PROCESS INVOLVING BOTH OF THEM. THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN MAKING DIPLOMATIC OVERTURES TO ISRAEL.... THE PALESTINIAN UPRISING HAS CHANGED THE MIDDLE EAST EQUATION. NO ONE - NOT ISRAEL, NOT THE ARAB STATES, NOT THE PLO - IS STANDING ON FAMILIAR GROUND. OPENINGS EXIST, AND THEY SHOULD BE EXPLOITED. MR. SHULTZ AND MR. SHEVARDNADZE HAVE THE NEXT MOVE."

6. THE RECENT SOVIET PROPOSAL TO CANADA FOR DEMILITARIZATION OF THE ARCTIC WAS THE SUBJECT OF TWO FEBRUARY 18 EDITORIALS. MONTREAL GAZETTE EDIT ENTITLED "NO HARM IN TALKING" OPINED IN PART:

7. "OTTAWA SHOULD WELCOME MOSCOW'S PROCLAIMED DESIRE TO TALK ABOUT IMPROVING RELATIONS IN THE ARCTIC. THE SOVIET UNION WANTS TO TALK ABOUT HOW TO REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN THE ARCTIC AND TO INCREASE TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN ARCTIC NATIONS. AND CERTAINLY THERE'S NO HARM IN TALKING. INDEED, CANADA HAS MUCH TO LEARN FROM THE SOVIETS ABOUT THE ARCTIC;

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INCREASED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION COULD BE MOST USEFUL. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THE MILITARY PROPOSALS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE MAKING, THERE IS LESS THERE THAN MEETS THE EYE....

8. "THE CATCH IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO SUGGESTION THAT (THE SOVIET PLANS) WOULD MEAN RELOCATING THE MASSIVE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 01433

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SOVIET MILITARY CONCENTRATION ON THE KOLA PENINSULA IN THE SOVIET ARCTIC.... ANY SERIOUS PLAN TO DEMILITARIZE THE ARCTIC WOULD HAVE TO TAKE THE KOLA PENINSULA INTO ACCOUNT. AND ANY DEAL INVOLVING THE KOLA PENINSULA BASES WOULD HAVE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH A MAJOR U.S.-SOVIET DEAL ON BALLISTIC MISSILES, BECAUSE THE BASES THERE ARE SO FUNDAMENTAL TO THE STRATEGIC BALANCE. SO THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM FOR SKEPTICISM. MOSCOW'S PROPOSALS SEEM TO BOIL DOWN TO PRESERVING THE SOVIET MILITARY CONCENTRATION IN THE ARCTIC WHILE PROHIBITING NATO FROM DOING MUCH TO COUNTER THE SOVIET FORCES THERE. THIS IS NOT A DEAL THAT NATO IS APT TO ACCEPT...."

9. PARTIAL TEXT OF TORONTO SUN EDIT ENTITLED "COLD COMFORT" FOLLOWS:

10. ".... IF ANY DOUBTS REMAIN ABOUT OUR NEED FOR NEW SUBS OF ANY VARIETY, THEY'RE SWEEPED AWAY BY THE KREMLIN'S NO. 2 MAN IN OTTAWA. ALEXEY MAKAROV'S TRYING TO SWEET-TALK US INTO SINKING BEATTY'S SUB FLEET BEFORE IT'S EVEN BUILT.... MAKAROV'S APPEAL TO REASON CALLS FOR A REDUCTION IN FORCES AND INCREASED NORTHERN CO-OPERATION. ALL PURE GLASNOST, THE WAY GORBACHEV LIKES TO PLAY THE PR GAME. WE'RE ALL FOR IT PROVIDING THE SOVIETS LEAD BY EXAMPLE....

11. "MAKAROV SAYS BEATTY'S TRYING TO RUN A COLD SHOWER OVER GORBACHEV'S PEACEFUL INTENTIONS. GUESS THAT'S JUST ONE MORE REASON WHY WE LIKE HIM. AND DISTRUST THE SOVIETS WHO HAVE MORE NUCLEAR SUBS STUCK UP THEIR SLEEVES AND UNDER OUR ICE THAN THE REST OF THE WORLD COMBINED. IN FACT, CANADA CAN RELY ON ONLY ONE COUNTRY IN THIS QUESTION OF ARCTIC SOVEREIGNTY: ITSELF. THE AMERICANS STILL INSIST ON THEIR RIGHT OF 'INNOCENT PASSAGE' UP NORTH AS WELL AS IN THE PERSIAN GULF. IF OUR BEST FRIENDS WON'T RECOGNIZE OUR CLAIMS, WHO WILL?"

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12. AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM'S** REACTION TO THE FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSION INVESTIGATING HIS WARTIME PAST WAS DISCUSSED IN AN OTTAWA CITIZEN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "WALDHEIM EXCESS." EXCERPTS INCLUDE:

13. "TO AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM'S** WELL-DOCUMENTED SHORTCOMINGS, WE MUST NOW ADD THE SIN OF ARROGANCE. IN THE FACE OF A DAMNING REPORT FROM AN INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF HISTORIANS, RESIGNATION THREATS FROM AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR FRANZ VRANITSKY, AND GROWING PRESSURE WITHIN HIS OWN COUNTRY, WALDHEIM STIFFLY CONTINUES TO DEFEND HIS DUBIOUS PAST AND HIS PRESENT POSITION. NOT ONLY THAT, HE HAS THE GALL TO BE ANGRY....

14. "THE WORLD WOULD HAVE MORE SYMPATHY IF WALDHEIM SHOWED A SCRAP OF REMORSE OR REPENTANCE FOR HIS ROLE IN THE WAR. INSTEAD, SOME OF HIS SUPPORTERS ARE BLAMING THE UPROAR ON THE WORLD JEWISH COMMUNITY. WE WAIT IN VAIN FOR WALDHEIM TO DENOUNCE THAT PARTICULAR SLANDER. THE LONGER HE REMAINS, THE MORE DAMAGE HE DOES TO AUSTRIA'S REPUTATION. THERE IS AN UNPLEASANT NOTE OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN SOME OF THE REMARKS MADE IN HIS DEFENCE, AND SIGNS OF UGLY POLARIZATION WITHIN HIS COUNTRY. WALDHEIM IS MISTAKEN IF HE THINKS THE CRITICISM WILL DIE AWAY, OR THE WORLD WILL FORGET."
THURBER

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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