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GATT

1. THE BUSINESS-ORIENTED AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW TODAY EDITORIALIZED, "SIX YEARS AFTER...THE GATT TALKS, THE SIGNPOSTS ON THE TWISTING ROAD FROM PUNTA DEL ESTE HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO READ.... EVEN IF A NEW GATT AGREEMENT IS CONCLUDED BY THE END OF THE YEAR...THE AGREEMENT MAY NOT INCLUDE THE LIBERALIZATION OF WORLD AGRICULTURAL TRADE THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SEEKS. WHERE THIS LEAVES AUSTRALIA WAS OUTLINED IN STARK TERMS LAST WEEK BY THE SNAPE REPORT...COMMISSIONED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE... RECOGNIZING THE LOOMING THREAT, THE REPORT SAID THAT A BREAKDOWN OF THE GATT TALKS MIGHT FORCE AUSTRALIA TO SEEK NEW BILATERAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS, OR A ROLE IN ONE OF THE DEVELOPING REGIONAL GROUPS."

NAFTA

2. THE LIBERAL SYDNEY MORNING HERALD'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT FILED TODAY, "THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE'S COLLEAGUES TOLD (SIMON) CREAM (AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES) IN A CLOSED MEETING IN WASHINGTON THAT TRADE MIGHT BECOME A MAJOR ISSUES IN THE CAMPAIGN IF PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNED NAFTA WITH CANADA AND MEXICO BEFORE THE NOVEMBER 3 ELECTION. MR. CLINTON HAS PUBLICLY SUPPORTED NAFTA AND SAYS HE IS COMMITTED TO FREE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior
Reviewer

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TRADE, BUT HIS ASSOCIATES WARNED THAT IF HE OPPOSED 'ISSUES OF DETAIL' IN THE AGREEMENT, HE WOULD CERTAINLY USE THEM TO ATTACK PRESIDENT BUSH. THE ENSUING DEBATE OVER FREE TRADE COULD THEN SEVERELY HAMPER HOPES OF A SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND OF GATT."

ANZUS

3. A BYLINER WROTE IN THE CURRENT NEWSWEEKLY THE BULLETIN, "THE ANZUS ACCORD...IS OUTMODED AND INAPPROPRIATE. A MOVE TO REDRAW THIS TREATY WOULD NOT APPEAL TO A BUSH ADMINISTRATION, BUT IT MIGHT ATTRACT THE INTEREST OF A PRESIDENT CLINTON--IF ONLY BECAUSE NEW ADMINISTRATIONS TEND TO BE RECEPTIVE TO INNOVATION, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIRST MONTHS. ANZUS IS AN OUT-OF-DATE TREATY ARRANGEMENT AND AN INADEQUATE EXPRESSION OF A RELATIONSHIP WHICH, FOR MOST AUSTRALIANS, DOES HAVE A SPECIAL CHARACTER. WITH ITS OVERTONES OF CONTAINMENT OF COMMUNISM, IT IS A COLD WAR LEGACY."

4. 'THE WORDING OF THE TREATY IS LOOSE, IF NOT EVASIVE, AND IT IS STRONGER ON POLITICAL PROMISES THAN GUARANTEES. PUT SIMPLY, THE REALITY OF ANZUS IS THAT AUSTRALIA IS MORE LIKELY TO BE DRAWN INTO U.S. MILITARY OPERATIONS THAN THE REVERSE.... IF WE MUST HAVE A TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES, IT SHOULD PROVIDE A WIDER FRAMEWORK FOR CONSULTATION, ADDRESSING THE POSITIVE SIDE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP--SUCH AS ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES AS WELL AS THE RELATIVELY NARROW PARAMETERS OF OUR DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENTS."

WAR ON DRUGS

5. AN EDITORIAL IN TODAY'S LIBERAL CANBERRA TIMES HELD, "THE FARCICAL SITUATION NOW CONFRONTING THE

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COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT AS THE DRUG BOSS, PABLO ESCOBAR NEGOTIATES HIS RETURN TO CUSTODY HOLDS LESSONS FOR THE WEST GOING TO THE HEART OF OUR ATTITUDES TOWARD THE DRUG TRADE. IT ALSO HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR LAW MAKING AND ATTEMPTS AT BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION.... SOMEHOW, THE VICIOUS CYCLE OF DEPENDENCY, SANCTION, CORRUPTION AND VIOLENCE MUST BE BROKEN. LAWMAKERS MUST REALIZE THAT BANS ARE VIRTUALLY USELESS, EVEN HARMFUL IN THAT THEY FUEL THE SPIRAL OF VIOLENCE. NOR HAVE INCREMENTAL PRICE CONTROLS BY THE AUTHORITIES THEMSELVES HAD MUCH EFFECT.... IT MAY WELL BE THAT THERE IS NO FINAL ANSWER.... AS HUMAN BEINGS DO NOT NECESSARILY ACT RATIONALLY IN THEIR OWN BEST INTERESTS.... IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE WEST'S DRUG-CONTROL STRATEGIES HAVE GONE DOWN THE ROAD WHICH ENDS IN THE ABSURDITY OF PABLO ESCOBAR."

IRAQ

6. MELBOURNE'S CONSERVATIVE TABLOID THE HERALD-SUN TODAY FEATURED A STORY BY U.S. CORRESPONDENT NIKI SAVVA HEADED, 'IRAQ FEUD AIDS BUSH CAMPAIGN' WHICH READ, "EMBATTLED PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH MOVED QUICKLY YESTERDAY TO CAPITALIZE ON HIS LATEST SHOWDOWN WITH IRAQ BY TURNING IT INTO A TEST OF LEADERSHIP.... HE WASTED NO TIME IN EXPLOITING WHAT WAS A DUBIOUS VICTORY IN FOREIGN POLICY."

7. MELBOURNE'S LIBERAL AGE TODAY FEATURED AN EDITORIAL HEADED 'DANGEROUS GAMES IN THE GULF' WHICH READ "SADDAM IS TRYING TO BLUFF A VERY DANGEROUS PLAYER, AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT WHO IS FARING BADLY IN OPINION POLLS AND WHO HAS ALREADY ENJOYED PUBLIC ACCLAIM, EVEN IF SHORT-LIVED, FROM A SUCCESSFUL FOREIGN ADVENTURE."

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

8. MELBOURNE'S LIBERAL AGE TODAY FEATURED A STORY BY U.S. CORRESPONDENT PETER STEPHENS HEADED 'BUSH

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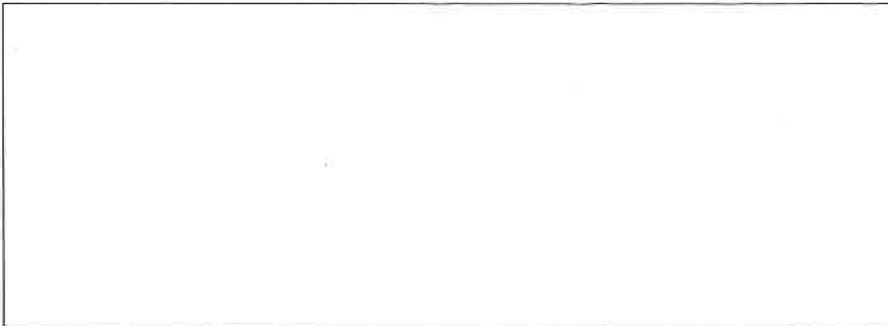
STRUGGLES TO WIN BACK MIDDLE AMERICA' WHICH READ,
"PRESIDENT BUSH'S BROKEN PROMISE NOT TO RAISE TAXES,
HIS HEALTH PROBLEMS, AND THE PRESENCE OF DAM QUAYLE
AS VICE-PRESIDENT ALL WORK AGAINST HIM, ERODING HIS
STANDING AMONG TRADITIONAL REPUBLICANS. ACROSS
AMERICA, ONE HEARS REPUBLICANS EITHER SAYING THAT
THEY WILL NOT VOTE FOR A MAN WHO STANDS FOR NOTHING,
OR THAT THEY WILL 'HOLD THEIR NOSE' AND VOTE FOR
BUSH-QUAYLE BECAUSE THE ALTERNATIVE IS WORSE."

LUCHS

END OF MESSAGE

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<TO>TO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 7717

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