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PARIS - FRIDAY AUGUST 2, 1991

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SUBJECT: DAILY MEDIA REACTION REPORT

PARIS - FRIDAY AUGUST 2, 1991

(A) STORIES COVERED IN REPORT:

- 1. THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE
- 2. GEORGE BUSH IN THE UKRAINE

(B) SUMMARY OF TYPE OF COVERAGE:

ISRAEL'S CONDITIONAL YES TO THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE MAKES IT THE MOST IMPORTANT STORY IN THE FRENCH PRESS THIS MORNING. SEVERAL COMMENTATORS STRESS THAT THE "UNCREDIBLE BUT TRUE" HAS HAPPENED (FIGARO THIERRY DESJARDINS, LIBERATION MARC KRAVETZ). OBVIOUSLY, ALL STRESS THE CONDITION SET BY ISRAEL'S PREMIER REGARDING THE "SATISFACTORY SOLUTION OF THE ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN ARAB REPRESENTATION". RADIO EUROPE 1 TEL AVIV CORRESPONDENT SAID AT 6:30 THIS MORNING THAT "ISRAEL'S YES MAY PROVOKE A COMPREHENSIVE NO FROM PALESTINIANS, UNLESS JAMES BAKER THE MAGICIAN SUCCEEDS IN OFFERING A COMPROMISE SOLUTION". CONSERVATIVE LE FIGARO PUBLISHES AN INTERVIEW WITH LIKOD LEADER, HOUSING MINISTER ARIEL SHARON. THE INTERVIEW WAS CARRIED OUT RIGHT AT THE TIME OF JAMES BAKER'S ARRIVAL IN JERUSALEM. SHARON SAYS THAT "ISRAEL HAS MADE A HISTORIC ERROR".

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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WEEKLY LEFT-OF-CENTER LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR PUBLISHES A PORTRAIT OF JAMES BAKER--"THE MAGICIAN WITH COLD EYES", WRITTEN BY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT JEAN-GABRIEL FREDET. SUBTITLE OF THE ARTICLE IS: "...JAMES BAKER'S STUBBORN FLEXIBILITY HAS DONE MIRACLES TO WEAVE THE THREADS OF AN ISRAELI-ARAB COMPROMISE. IF HE SUCCEEDS, HE WILL ENTER HISTORY. HE IS ALREADY SAID TO HAVE PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS..."

TODAY BEING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF KUWAIT BY IRAQ, ALL AUDIOVISUAL AND WRITTEN MEDIA DEVOTE SPECIAL REPORTS TO "THE GULF, ONE YEAR AFTER..." CONSERVATIVE LE FIGARO PUBLISHES ARTICLES ON "THE ISRAELIS' AMBIGUOUS HOPE" AND "THE PALESTINIANS' FRUSTRATIONS".

RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE QUOTIDIEN PUBLISHES A FIVE-PAGE DOSSIER ON THE SUBJECT. EDITORIALIST PHILIPPE MARCOVICI SAYS ON THE FRONT PAGE: "...TO THOSE WHO DENOUNCE THE UNITED STATES--WHICH ASSUMED MOST OF THE FIGHT WHILE, FARTHER FROM KUWAIT AND LESS DEPENDENT ON MIDDLE EASTERN OIL, IT WAS LESS CONCERNED THAN THE EUROPEANS--ONE HAS TO REPEAT ONCE AGAIN THAT BETWEEN THE GREAT U.S. DEMOCRACY AND THE BARBARIAN IRAQI DICTATORSHIP THE CHOICE WAS EASY. TO THOSE WHO SAY THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN IS STILL THERE IN SPITE OF THE WAR, ONE HAS TO ASK WHETHER THEY WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED GIVING GENERAL NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF THE TWO MORE DAYS HE WAS ASKING FOR ON FEBRUARY 28 TO DEFINITELY GET RID OF THE DESPOT. THEIR ANSWER IS KNOWN IN ADVANCE. THIS ANSWER SHOULD QUIET MANY CRITICS, IF THE LATTER WERE MORE LUCID AND HONEST".

POPULAR LE PARISIEN, WITH A SEVEN-PAGE DOSSIER, HEADLINES THAT "ONE YEAR AFTER, SADDAM IS STILL THERE" AND SPEAKS OF "NEW PLANS TO ATTACK IRAQ BEING READY IN THE PENTAGON".

COMMUNIST L'HUMANITE WONDERS ON THE FRONT PAGE "WHO PROFITED FROM THE CRIME?" AND, CONTINING TO "CONDEMN THE GULF WAR", SAYS THAT "THE UNITED STATES SHOWS ITS WILLINGNESS TO LEAD THE WORLD".

LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION, WITH BEAUTIFUL

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BLACK-AND-WHITE PHOTOS OF U.S. FIRE FIGHTERS IN KUWAITI OIL FIELDS, FOCUSES ON "KUWAIT'S DIFFICULT RESTORATION". LIBERATION ALSO PUBLISHES AN ARTICLE BY DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY JOSEPH S. NYE ON "THE GULF WAR AND THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST". ALSO, CHRISTOPHER LAYNE, IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN POLICY STUDIES AT CATO INSTITUTE IN WASHINGTON DC WRITES AN ARTICLE ON THE U.S. HEGEMONY IN LIBERATION, ENTITLED: "A HEGEMONIC POSITION NEVER LASTS".

FINANCIAL LES ECHOS FOCUSES ON THE FRENCH PLAN FOR PARTIALLY LIFTING THE EMBARGO AGAINST IRAQ, AS WELL AS ON THE ACTIVITY OF THE PARIS STOCK EXCHANGE SINCE AUGUST 2, 1990. LES ECHOS HEADLINES: "WHILE LONDON AND WALL STREET ARE ALMOST AT THEIR RECORD-LEVELS, THE PARIS STOCK EXCHANGE HAS NOT REACHED ITS PRE-AUGUST-2-1990 LEVELS".

PRESIDENT BUSH'S TRIP TO THE UKRAINE YESTERDAY IS ALSO EXTENSIVELY COVERED. ALL COMMENTATORS STRESS THAT PRESIDENT BUSH REAFFIRMED HIS SUPPORT FOR MIKHAIL GORBACHEV. CONSERVATIVE LE FIGARO HEADLINES ON ITS FRONT PAGE: "BUSH PRAISES GORBACHEV" AND SPEAKS OF "A SPEECH WITHOUT AMBIGUITY". LA TRIBUNE SAYS: "GEORGE BUSH REAFFIRMED THE U.S. POSITION TOWARD THE SOVIET REPUBLICS--YES TO DECENTRALIZING REFORMS, NO TO EXTREMISM AND EXCLUSION". LE QUOTIDIEN HEADLINES: "BUSH IN KIEV: GORBACHEV FIRST".

SOUTH AFRICA, YUGOSLAVIA, AS WELL AS SEVERAL FRENCH DOMESTIC ISSUES ARE THE OTHER MAIN HEADLINES IN THE PRESS THIS MORNING.

WEEKLY L'EVENEMENT DU JEUDI PUBLISHES AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH PABLO ESCOBAR, MADE IN HIS JAIL BY KENNETH DERMOTTA.

(C) HEADLINES:

"SHAMIR'S YES" (LE QUOTIDIEN-FRONT PAGE)

"ISRAEL'S YES" (LIBERATION-FRONT PAGE)

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"ISRAEL'S YES TO THE PEACE CONFERENCE" (LE FIGARO-FRONT PAGE)

"THE INCREDIBLE" (LE FIGARO-FRONT PAGE)

(D) SUPPORTING TEXT:

I. THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE:

A--TV PRESS:

PRIVATE TV NETWORK TF-1 YESTERDAY AT 8:00 PM WITH WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT BERNARD VOLCKER "...HERE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; NO ONE HAS ILLUSIONS, ALL KNOW THAT THE WAY TO A PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL BE LONG. BUT TODAY U.S. DIPLOMACY IS VERY PROUD OF HAVING FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN STARTING OFF THE PEACE PROCESS".

TV TF-1 FOREIGN DESK ANALYST REGIS FAUCON SAID AT 8:00 PM YESTERDAY: "I THINK THAT JAMES BAKER PERFECTLY SUMMARIZED THE EVENT'S HISTORIC AND AT THE SAME TIME FRAGILE ASPECT...GEORGE BUSH...CAN NOW SHOW THAT HIS PROMISES OF A NEW WORLD ORDER WERE NOT IDLE TALK--EXACTLY ONE YEAR, IS IT REALLY A COINCIDENCE?, AFTER THE INVASION OF KUWAIT".

B--WRITTEN PRESS:

CONSERVATIVE LE FIGARO FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL BY THIERRY DESJARDINS: "...IT WAS BELIEVED FOR A LONG TIME THAT THE MIDDLE EASTERN ISSUE WAS ONLY AN ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN, ISRAELI-ARAB CONFLICT. ONE THOUGHT THERE WAS ONE PEOPLE TOO MANY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. FOR SOME, IT WAS THE PALESTINIANS, FOR OTHERS THE ISRAELIS. JUST AS IF THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH ROOM IN THIS REGION. TODAY, WE REALIZE THAT IN THE MIDDLE EAST LIKE EVERYWHERE ELSE, 'LOCAL' WARS WERE THE MURDEROUS ECHO OF THE TWO SUPER-POWERS' CONFRONTATION. THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL, MSSRS' BUSH AND GORBACHEV SHAKING HANDS, WERE SUFFICIENT TO MAKE EVERYTHING SEEM POSSIBLE. OF COURSE, MONTHS WILL STILL BE NECESSARY

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FOR THINGS TO IMPROVE, FOR US TO CONJURE UP SOLUTIONS AGREEABLE TO ALL. BUT SUDDENLY WE CAN SEE THE FUTURE...ONE THING SEEMS TO BE CERTAIN NOW: THE UNITED STATES, THE ABSOLUTE MASTER OF THIS 'NEW WORLD', WANTS PEACE--BE IT ONLY TO PROVE THAT THE GULF WAR WAS USEFUL. THEREFORE THERE WILL BE PEACE. SOME STILL CANNOT BELIEVE IT, BUT WHO WOULD HAVE BELIEVED THAT ONE DAY THE BERLIN WALL WOULD FALL AND THE MARXIST EMPIRE WOULD COLLAPSE? EVERYTHING IS FROM NOW ON POSSIBLE--EVEN THE INCREDIBLE".

LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION ON PAGE 3 WITH EDITORIALIST MARC KRAVETZ: "...WITH A KIND OF IRONY OF HISTORY, THE UNITED STATES FINALLY RESPONDED...TO SADDAM HUSSEIN WHO WANTED TO LINK THE SETTLEMENT OF THE KUWAITI ISSUE WITH A GLOBAL SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EASTERN CONFLICT. THIS LINKAGE, WHICH THE ALLIES REFUSED TO GRANT TO SADDAM IN ORDER NOT TO 'FAVOR AGGRESSION'--AND THEY WERE RIGHT--WASHINGTON FINALLY MADE IT ITS OWN. OF COURSE IN REVERSING ITS TERMS--IN SETTLING, FIRST AND BY FORCE, THE KUWAITI QUESTION BEFORE WORKING, DIPLOMATICALLY THIS TIME, ON THE MAIN ISSUE....IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE PROMISE OF A CONFERENCE DOES NOT SUFFICE TO ANNOUNCE PEACE, AND THERE IS STILL A LONG WAY TO A 'GLOBAL SETTLEMENT' OF MIDDLE EASTERN ISSUES. BUT EVERYTHING HINTS AT AN IRREVERSIBLE EVOLUTION OF 'HARD' TENDENCIES IN THE REGION AND, IF NOT AT THE END OF CONFLICTS, AT LEAST AT THE AFFIRMATION OF A LOGIC OF PEACE OPPOSED TO THE LOGIC OF CONFRONTATION THAT PREVAILED FOR MORE THAN FOUR DECADES. THIS UNQUESTIONABLE SUCCESS OF U.S. DIPLOMACY HAS ITS PRICE. PALESTINIANS WILL OBVIOUSLY BE THE LOSERS--THEY ARE ALREADY PAYING DEARLY, IN KUWAIT AND LEBANON, FOR THEIR LEADERS' POLICY. BUT IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF PEOPLES, IT IS A QUESTION OF AFFAIRS OF STATES...AT LEAST NOW ONE CAN TALK ABOUT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IT IS NEW ENOUGH FOR US TO LEARN NOT TO LOSE HOPE".

INFLUENTIAL LE MONDE, PUBLISHED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, IN ITS FRONT PAGE UNATTRIBUTED EDITORIAL: "...MR. BUSH'S

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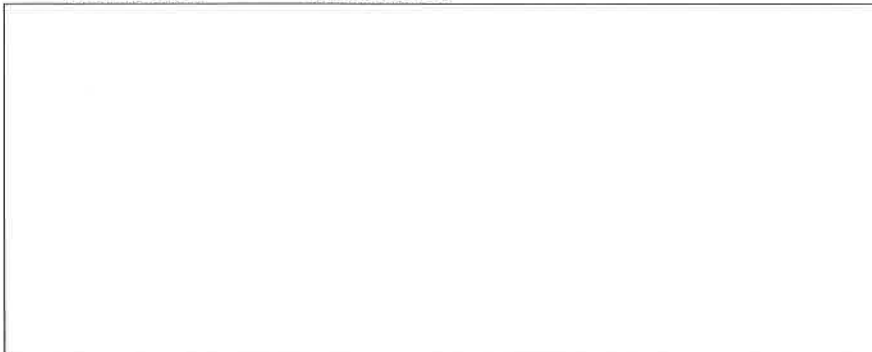
DETERMINATION TO OBTAIN AT ALL COST A PEACE CONFERENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS ACCOUNTED FOR BY HIS DESIRE, ON THE EVE OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF KUWAIT BY IRAQ, TO 'THANK' THE ARAB COUNTRIES WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THE GULF WAR AND, IN EXCHANGE, WISH A SETTLEMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE WHICH HAS BEEN POISONING THEIR LIVES SINCE 1948".

2. GEORGE BUSH'S TRIP TO THE UKRAINE:

CONSERVATIVE LE FIGARO SPECIAL ENVOY TO KIEV STEPHANE MARCHAND WRITES ON PAGE 3: "...IN TAKING THE RISK TO APPEAR TO PROVOKE THE SECESSIONIST RUKH PARTY WHICH CONTROLS A THIRD OF THE UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT, THE U.S. PRESIDENT RENDERED A STIRRING HOMAGE TO HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART...THE CHOICE OF THE UKRAINE AS THE OFFICIAL DESTINATION OF A U.S. PRESIDENT'S--ON OFFICIAL VISIT IN THE USSR--FIRST TRIP OUTSIDE MOSCOW HAS SEVERAL MEANINGS: FIRST HE WANTS TO SYMBOLIZE THE DOUBLE-APPROACH POSITION THAT THE U.S. NOW WANTS TO ADOPT VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIET UNION--RELATIONS WITH THE CENTER, AND DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LINKS AT ALL LEVELS WITH THE REPUBLICS. THEN, IN THE UKRAINE, GEORGE BUSH KNEW THAT HE WOULD NOT INTERVENE IN A SECESSIONIST CLIMATE AS TENSE AS IN THE BALTICS. FINALLY, ONE YEAR BEFORE THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, IT WAS CLEVER TO CARESS THE PATRIOTIC FEELINGS OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS OF UKRAINIAN-ORIGIN". PRILLAMAN

END OF MESSAGE

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