NAFTA Victory May Lead to More Political Controversies

By James Gersenzen

The cumulative cost of President Clinton's victory in the battle over the North American Free Trade Agreement appears likely to climb much higher than the price tag of protecting millions of dollars through the free trade accord.

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dent's domestic agenda. And it will unleash the talk to redraw crucial global trading rules.

The Senate vote is set to be the main debate on the trade plan Thursday, with a vote expected to arrive without prior approval considered. Clinton said Vice President Al Gore and Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, the White House chief of staff, would visit Washington, DC, on Saturday to discuss how to best show that it has launched this new era in North American relations.

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The Ukrainian Parliament ratified the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty known as START-I Thursday, by a vote of 270-226, based on a more realistic view of the damage wrought by the vote.

The vote, occurring less than a month after a visit here by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, defied strong pressure on the Senate to renounce nuclear weapons and sanction the process of world disarmament.

It also ignored an appeal by United States Senator Joseph Biden to try to ratify the treaty to all 1,240 warheads on the United States and Russia to limit the treaty's scope.

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