Clinton Assures Rabin on U.S. Role in Peacekeeping Force

By John M. Goshko

WASHINGTON

President Clinton assured Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Monday that if Israel and Syria reach a peace agreement requiring the presence of neutral troops on the Golan Heights, he will seek to persuade the American people and Congress that U.S. soldiers should be part of the peacekeeping force.

Clinton made that commitment in the wake of recent statements by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., calling for renunciation of the U.S-spon- 
sored Middle East peace process. Helms, who will become chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in January, raised ques-
tions about the obligations and dangers involved if U.S. troops are interposed between Israel and Syria on the Golan Heights.

"There has been no discussion among the parties of a role for American forces yet," Clinton told reporters after meeting Rabin at the White House. "Let the people who have to make this agreement make it, and then if we're asked by the parties themselves to become involved at some point in the future, I will come to the American people, I will come to the Congress, and the Congress will make the case at that time."

The key element in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations centers on whether Israel should return the Golan, captured from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War, to Syria in exchange for normal relations with Syrian President Hafez Assad's government. If Israel does with-
draw, Rabin has said there must be a neutral force stationed on the Golan as a buffer to ensure that Syria does not use the strategic heights for future attacks on the Jewish state. Helms is a strong supporter of Israel. However, the conservative senator sympathizes with Rabin's hard-line conservative political opposition, which is reluctant to sur-
rrender the Golan Heights. As a result, Helms has said, U.S. troops could be caught in the middle of a new breach-Syrian conflict.

While Rabin has said that he considers Helms a friend to his country, the prime minister's remarks Monday betrayed his reservations about possible congres-
sional opposition to putting Ameri-
can soldiers on the Golan.

Clinton and Rabin spent consid-
erable time discussing the urgent pleas for economic help from Pales-
tine Liberation Organization Chair-
man Yasser Arafat's beleaguered self-rule government. Arafat is try-
ing to consolidate his authority in the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank in the face of opposition from Islamic fundamentalists who draw support in part from people suffer-
ing from the widespread poverty in these areas.

Corporate America Should 'Get Off Welfare,' Labor Secretary Says

By Frank Swoboda

WASHINGTON

U.S. companies should be spending billions of dollars in tax breaks and other special subsidies and the money used to help train American workers for new jobs, Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich said Monday.

"If we're asking middle-class people to work smarter and welfare mothers to play by the rules, it seems important to ask corporate America to get off welfare and play by the rules as well," Reich said in an inter-
view in which he outlined the themes of a major economic policy speech he is scheduled to deliver Tuesday to the Democratic Leadership Council. Reich said Congress could save an estimated $225 billion over five years by cutting such things as tax breaks for pharmaceutical firms operating in Puerto Rico, credits for producers of ethanol, subsidies to help airlines expand airport facili-
ties, and subsidies to farmers whose commodities sell at below govern-
ment-set prices.

The speech will be Reich's first economic policy statement since Republicans won control of Congress in elections two weeks ago. The DLC is a moderate to conserva-
tive group that served in an impor-
tant economic advisory role during Clinton's presidential election cam-
paign. An aide to one of the top Repub-
lican legislators in the House of Representa-
tives would not comment for the record, but suggested that his party might agree to cutting some targeted corporate subsidies. Reich said that Americans are angry at the economic displacement taking place as they see their jobs disappear and their standard of living eroding.

The answer, Reich said, is not to try to hold back technological change or seal off the borders from mount-
ing foreign competition. Instead, he said the government must help American workers upgrade their skills for the work world.

"At the center of the issue here is a moral question about what we owe as a society to the people who work and have been left behind," the rules," Reich said. "I think there was, and still is, an explicit moral compact that work pays."

Graduate Student Council

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Italian Voters Rebuff Berlusconi's Free-Market Political Party

LOS ANGELES TIMES

In a major test of its popularity after six months in office, voters widely rebuffed rookie Prime Ministro Silvio Berlusconi's free-market political party Monday in municipal elections that largely favored former Communists and neo-fascists.

As final returns were counted from the Sunday vote, analysts por-
trayed the results as a protest against billionaire Berlusconi's attempt to impose austerity on a spendthrift national government with painful cuts in pensions and social services.

Some two million votes elected mayors in 239 Italian cities and towns in races that were principally decided on local issues but also were a national barometer of political mood.

Overall, the former Communists, now called the Democratic Party of the Left, won most votes, sometimes in improbable municipal alliances with supporters of Roman Catholic parties—their former worst enemies. The right-wing National Alliance, which emerged from postwar neo-fascists to become a partner in Berlusconi's right-wing coalition, ran second nationwide.

In Pisa, a leftist candidate won outright election with an absolute majority. Where there was no absolute majority, runoffs on Dec. 4 between the top two finishers will pit leftist candidates against of the right-wing National Alliance in many cities.

The elections marked the first reeption of Berlusconi since he entered politics to head off what he feared would be a left-wing, anti-

FREE MARKET VICTORY IN THE SPRING ELECTION.

Simpson's Defense Hopes

To Call Judge's Wife as Witness

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The defense in the O.J. Simpson murder case wants to call the judge's wife as a witness, another Superior Court judge said Monday after meeting privately with lawyers on both sides.

Judge Curtis Rapp, after a 45-minute meeting in his chambers, scheduled a Dec. 15 hearing on what he said was "a flurry of motions" he had just received.

He did not explain the motions, which were not released, but he gave the defense a week to perfect and file them and prosecutors a further week to respond.

Rapp announced from the bench that he would question Los Angeles Police Capt. Margaret York, wife of Superior Court Judge Lance Ito, later...