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I. United States

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Please note: There will be no ROK section of the Daily Report until Friday, September 19, due to the Chusok holidays.

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4. New US Ambassador to ROK

Reuters ("CLINTON NAMES AMBASSADORS TO VATICAN, S.KOREA," Washington, 9/13/97) reported that US President Clinton on Friday nominated veteran diplomat Stephen Bosworth to be the next US Ambassador to the ROK. Bosworth was US ambassador to Tunisia from 1979 to 1981 and to the Philippines from 1984 to 1987, and has also served in a number of positions in the State Department. [Ed. note: Bosworth most recently has served as head of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), created to implement the construction of two new nuclear power plants in the DPRK called for in the 1994 US-DPRK Agreed Framework.]

5. PRC Military Policy

The Associated Press ("CHINA PLEDGES TO REDUCE MILITARY," Beijing, 9/12/97) reported that PRC Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin, in a wide-ranging speech to 2,000 members of the communist elite, on Friday pledged to cut its 3 million-member military by 500,000 troops over three years. Jiang said the savings would go into upgrading weaponry and other defense systems to create a "more revolutionary, modernized and standardized army." "We should strengthen the army by relying on science and technology," he said. Foreign analysts and diplomats who spoke under condition of anonymity questioned whether the reduction represented a new commitment or was part of a process underway for the past few years. Hong Kong media known for their contacts inside the party and military have reported for two years that the People's Liberation Army planned to cut its numbers to 2 million under the current five-year plan, which began in 1996. The PRC has embarked on a concerted drive to modernize the military, testing long-range missiles and buying technology they can't make at home, such as advanced Sukhoi jet fighters, Kilo-class submarines and Sovremenny destroyers from Russia.

6. Japanese Foreign Policy Strategy

The San Jose Mercury News (Michael Zielenziger, "BEHIND JAPAN-RUSSIA THAW, A FEAR OF CHINA," Tokyo, 9/15/97) reported that some analysts and diplomats believe that a common fear of the growing power of the PRC is drawing Russia and Japan closer together diplomatically, a development that also benefits the US. Diplomats and Russian experts in Japan were cited as saying that Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto has sought to break five decades of distrust and a long stalemate over the Northern Territories to improve relations with Russia. The new dialogue "must be seen as a response to the growing concern over China," an Asian diplomat here said. "A confrontation with China is not something the Japanese want, so maybe if they get Russia on their

side it will help strengthen them against China." The new overtures to Moscow also come as Japan is moving to renew its security pact with the US in ways to which the PRC has objected. PRC Premier Li Peng recently denounced as "totally unacceptable" proposed new US-Japan defense guidelines that would allow Japanese forces to support the US troops defending Taiwan from PRC military attack. Shigeki Hakamada, a Russian scholar and professor of international politics at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo, was quoted as saying, "If Japan, Russia and the United States all have good relations, the Chinese might have to face the problem of isolation." "If these three relationships are good, then China has to find a way to have good relations with the United States, too," Hakamada added.

7. US Position on Landmine Ban

The New York Times (David E. Sanger, "U.S., IN SHIFT, SAYS IT MAY SIGN TREATY TO BAN LAND MINES," Washington, 9/15/97, A1) reported that senior US government officials said on Sunday that the US informed its allies over the weekend that it could sign a treaty banning anti-personnel landmines under a compromise that would allow it an additional nine years before it begins to remove mines on the Korean peninsula. The report termed the move "a major change in policy" toward the treaty nearing completion at a conference in Oslo, Norway. Previously, the US has been insisting that its use of anti-personnel landmines in Korea be exempted from the treaty. The Pentagon initially opposed even joining the talks in Oslo, and has insisted upon the Korean exception. Neither the ROK nor the DPRK are parties to the talks, and neither would be bound by the treaty. In its new position, the US still seeks an allowance for certain deployments related to anti-tank landmines and a provision allowing withdrawal from the treaty. "We think that we have made a very major change in our position in order to smooth the way for an anti-land-mine treaty that the United States can sign," a senior White House official said on Sunday. "We hope that the other nations considering this treaty can now go the extra mile," the official added. US officials acknowledged that pressure on the US to join the treaty grew after the death two weeks ago of Diana, Princess of Wales, drew broader attention to the land-mine treaty, which she worked to advocate.

US Deputy State Department Spokesman James Foley ("STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15," USIA Transcript, 9/15/97) confirmed that the US has introduced a "compromise proposal" to the Oslo treaty negotiations, under which the US would drop its proposed exception for the use of landmines on the Korean peninsula, but only after a "deferral period" of nine years. Foley termed this "a negotiating change," arguing that, contrary to media reports, the US has not changed its basic position on a global ban on landmines. "Our goals in Oslo remain the same. We are seeking to achieve a key presidential objective which deals with the humanitarian problem of landmines by seeking a global ban as soon as possible while at the same time safeguarding our national security interests and those of our friends and allies," Foley said.

US White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry ("WHITE HOUSE DAILY BRIEFING, SEPTEMBER 15, 1997," USIA Transcript, 9/15/97) denied that the US has changed its position on a global ban on landmines. "Our position is that we want to eradicate landmines and achieve an international convention that meets our objectives and we've got some approaches we're exploring at Oslo," McCurry said. McCurry added that, "as a practical matter, we will continue to pursue our interest in a ban on anti-personnel land mines, subject to the exclusions that are necessary for the Commander in Chief, the President of the United States, given the unique responsibilities that we have in certain places in the world." Asked if Princess Diana's position on landmines has affected the administration's evolving policy position, McCurry said, "No, I think that her advocacy and the outpouring of grief for her, and her recognized leadership on that issue affect the climate in which the issue is addressed, but it hasn't affected the approach that we have undertaken which is to

achieve the ban on landmines that we are after consistent with what the President's responsibilities are as Commander in Chief."

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We invite you to reply to today's report, and we welcome commentary or papers for distribution to the network.

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