

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

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CREATION DATE/TIME:23-MAR-1998 04:14:29.00

SUBJECT: Executive Memorandum: Steps to Combat Violence against Women

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TEXT:  
Message Creation Date was at 11-MAR-1998 14:57:00

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate Release

March 11, 1998

March 11, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE AGENCY  
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES  
INFORMATION AGENCY

SUBJECT: Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and Trafficking in  
Women  
and Girls

As we celebrate International Women's Day today, we highlight the  
achievements  
of women around the world. We also acknowledge that there is much work  
yet to  
be done to ensure that women's human rights are protected and respected.  
The  
momentum generated by the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women  
in  
Beijing in 1995 continues to encourage our government, as well as nations  
around the world, to fulfill our commitments to improve the lives of women  
and  
girls.

I have, once again, called upon the Senate to give its advice and consent

to  
ratification to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of  
Discrimination Against Women, thus enabling the United States to join 161  
other  
countries in support of the Convention. This Convention is an effective  
tool  
that can be used to combat violence against women, reform unfair  
inheritance  
and property rights, and strengthen women's access to fair employment and  
economic opportunity. Ratification of this Convention will enhance our  
efforts  
to promote the status of women around the world. As we look at  
Afghanistan and  
the egregious human rights violations committed against women and girls at  
the  
hands of the Taliban, we recognize that this is an issue of global i  
mportance.

My Administration is working hard to eliminate violence against women in  
all  
its forms. Our efforts help to combat this human rights violation around  
the  
world and here in the United States. As part of the 1994 Crime Bill, I  
signed  
into law the Violence Against Women Act. This legislation declares  
certain  
forms of  
violence against women to be Federal crimes and provides for critical  
assistance to States, tribes, and local communities  
in their efforts to respond to this problem. The Department of Justice is  
implementing the Violence Against Women Act and working with communities  
across  
the country to promote criminal prosecution and provide services to  
victims.  
Through the Department of Health and Human Services, we have established  
for  
the first time a nationwide domestic violence hotline, so that women  
throughout  
the country can call one toll-free number and be connected to a local  
domestic  
violence support center. We have come a long way since 1994, and I am  
proud of  
our efforts.

more

(OVER)

2

Each day recognition of the importance of this issue grows around the  
world.  
In recent years, many countries have begun to respond to calls for  
legislation  
and government programs addressing violence against women. The  
international  
community increasingly regards violence against women as a fundamental  
human

rights violation, an impediment to a nation's development, and an obstacle to women's full participation in democracy.

Today I am directing the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the President's Interagency Council on Women to continue and expand their work to combat violence against women here in the United States and around the world. We have made great progress since the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, but there remains much to be done. We must continue to work to implement the Act fully and to restore the Act's protection for immigrant victims of domestic violence here in the United States so that they will not be forced to choose between deportation and abuse.

The problem of trafficking in women and girls, an insidious form of violence, has received a great deal of attention from the world community. This is an international problem with national implications. Here in the United States, we have seen cases of trafficking for the purposes of forced prostitution, sweatshop labor, and exploitative domestic servitude. The victims in these cases often believe they will be entering our country to secure a decent job. Instead, they are virtual prisoners, with no resources, little recourse, and no protection against violations of their human rights. My Administration is committed to combating trafficking in women and girls with a focus on the areas of prevention, victim assistance and protection, and enforcement. Our work on this issue has been enhanced by a strong partnership with nongovernmental groups and the U.S. Congress.

I am also directing the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the President's Interagency Council on Women to increase national and international awareness about trafficking in women and girls. I want to ensure that young women and girls are educated about this problem so that they will not fall prey to traffickers' tactics of coercion, violence, fraud, and deceit.

I also want to provide protection to victims. And finally, I want to enhance the capacity of law enforcement worldwide to prevent women and girls from being trafficked and ensure that traffickers are punished.

Therefore, I direct:

I. The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the Agency for International Development, to strengthen and expand our efforts to

combat violence against women in all its forms around the world. These efforts should be responsive to government and nongovernment requests for partnerships, expert guidance, and technical assistance to address this human rights violation.

II. The President's Interagency Council on Women to coordinate the United States Government response on trafficking in women and girls, in consultation with nongovernmental groups.

III. The Attorney General to examine current treatment of victims of trafficking including to determine ways to insure: the provision of services for victims and witnesses in settings that secure their safety; precautions for the safe return of victims and witnesses to their originating countries; witness

3

cooperation in criminal trials against traffickers; and consideration of temporary and/or permanent legal status for victims and witnesses of trafficking who lack legal status.

IV. The Attorney General to review existing U.S. criminal laws and their current use to determine if they are adequate to prevent and deter trafficking in women and girls, to recommend any appropriate legal changes to ensure that trafficking is criminalized and that the consequences of trafficking are significant, and to review current prosecution efforts against traffickers in order to identify additional intelligence sources, evidentiary needs and resource capabilities.

V. The Secretary of State to use our diplomatic presence around the world to work with source, transit, and destination countries to develop strategies for protecting and assisting victims of trafficking and to expand and enhance anti-fraud training to stop the international trafficking of women and girls.

VI. The Secretary of State to coordinate an intergovernmental response to the Government of Ukraine's request to jointly develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to combat trafficking in women and girls from and to Ukraine. The U.S.-Ukraine cooperation will serve as a model for a multi-disciplinary approach to combat trafficking that can be expanded to other countries.

VII. The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Attorney General, to expand and strengthen assistance to the international community in developing and enacting legislation to combat trafficking in women and girls, to

provide assistance to victims of trafficking, and to continue to expand efforts to train legal and law enforcement personnel worldwide.

VIII. The Secretary of State and the Director of the United States Information Agency to expand public awareness campaigns targeted to warn potential victims of the methods used by traffickers.

IX. The President's Interagency Council on Women to convene a gathering of government and nongovernment representatives from source, transit, and destination countries and representatives from international organizations to call attention to the issue of trafficking in women and girls and to develop

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Dag Vega ( CN=Dag Vega/OU=WHO/O=EOP [ WHO ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME: 1-APR-1998 07:04:35.00

SUBJECT: ABC: World News Tonight, 3/31/98

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TO: Eli G. Attie ( CN=Eli G. Attie/O=OVP @ OVP [ UNKNOWN ] )  
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TO: Elisabeth Steele ( CN=Elisabeth Steele/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Thurgood Marshall Jr ( CN=Thurgood Marshall Jr/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Jonathan A. Kaplan ( CN=Jonathan A. Kaplan/OU=OPD/O=EOP @ EOP [ OPD ] )

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TO: Lowell A. Weiss ( CN=Lowell A. Weiss/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Julianne B. Corbett ( CN=Julianne B. Corbett/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Elizabeth R. Newman ( CN=Elizabeth R. Newman/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Beverly J. Barnes ( CN=Beverly J. Barnes/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [ WHO ] )  
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TEXT:

ABC World News Tonight  
Aired on MARCH 31, 1998, 6:30 pm ET

STUNNING RESULTS OF GOVERNMENT AUDIT  
Reported by JOHN MARTIN, PETER JENNINGS

PETER JENNINGS, ABC News: (voice-over) On World News Tonight this Tuesday  
- if  
the government were a business, it would be out of business. The  
government  
losing billions of dollars and doesn't even know where. In Jonesboro,  
Arkansas,  
today...

1st MAN: Please stand at a silence for approximately one minute.

PETER JENNINGS: (voice-over) There was silence. And the unconventional  
critic  
of unconventional medicine. The 11- year-old girl who takes on therapeutic  
touch. We'll take "A Closer Look."

ANNOUNCER: From ABC News world headquarters in New York, this is World News  
Tonight with Peter Jennings.

PETER JENNINGS: Good evening. We're going to start off tonight with the  
results  
of the toughest and most comprehensive review that government has ever  
done of  
the way in which government accounts for its money.

The government has applied the same accounting standards to itself that  
commercial companies use, and the results are dismal. In fact, when you

wade  
through the general accounting report that is going to be released  
tomorrow,  
there are some incredible examples of waste. Here's ABC's John Martin.

JOHN MARTIN, ABC News: (voice-over) It's the first time that every agency  
of the  
U.S. government - from the Pentagon to the Energy Department to Housing and  
Urban Development - has had to lay open its books for a complete audit.

And what they found is shocking. It could be hundreds of billions of  
dollars  
unaccounted for. But things are such a mess, the auditors don't even know  
if  
that's a fair number.

Sen. FRED THOMPSON, Chairman, Governmental Affairs Committee: Well, we  
don't  
know what it costs to run government, and we don't know how much we're  
paying  
out in fraud and fraudulent payments in this country. It could not be  
much of a  
bleaker picture.

JOHN MARTIN: (voice-over) A picture so dim that 16 of 24 agencies could  
not come  
up with acceptable explanations of where their money had gone.

(on camera) How could this happen? If CEOs ran their corporations like the  
federal government, they'd most likely be fired. But just look at what the  
audit uncovered.

(voice-over) The worst case - the Pentagon. It has no reliable data on  
how much  
it will cost to dispose of its old weapon systems. This alone could cost  
tens  
of billions of dollars. Congressman Steve Horn says for two years, the  
Army has  
been unable to produce the paperwork for \$25 billion in payments for  
everything  
from payrolls to procurement.

Rep. STEVE HORN, (R) Government Reform & Oversight Committee: I'm going to  
have  
a hearing in a couple of weeks. OK, folks, you've had two years to clean  
it up.  
Where do we find the \$25 billion?

JOHN MARTIN: (voice-over) Then there's Medicare -- \$23 billion paid out  
improperly in just one year. And Housing and Urban Development -- \$900  
million  
in overpayments for subsidized housing, one out of every 18 dollars it  
spends.

So what does the government have to say about this? Its chief financial  
officer  
says the White House, which initiated the audit, is not surprised.

EDWARD DESEVE, Office of Management & Budget: It's like cleaning out your  
closet

after 200 years and finding things that you'd forgotten about and things that needed attention.

JOHN MARTIN: (voice-over) So the only good news - America is finally finding out how bad things are when it comes to keeping track of the money. John Martin, ABC News, Washington.

FINAL MEMORIAL SERVICE IN JONESBORO TONIGHT  
Reported by ERIN HAYES, PETER JENNINGS

PETER JENNINGS: On Capitol Hill today, a group of congressmen proposed legislation...

(voice-over) ...that would outlaw the sale of high-capacity ammunition clips containing more than 10 rounds of ammunition. Two of the weapons used in the shooting at Jonesboro in Arkansas contained clips that had 15 rounds.

(on camera) Tonight, the town of Jonesboro is honoring the four students and teacher who were killed in the shooting. There is a memorial service at Arkansas State University, including a contribution from the President, who is still in Africa. As ABC's Erin Hayes tell us tonight, it has been a very emotional day.

ERIN HAYES, ABC News: (voice-over) This moment one week ago shifted life here for everyone.

FEMALE RESIDENT OF JONESBORO: Everybody's hurting.

MALE RESIDENT OF JONESBORO: There will always be scars there.

ERIN HAYES: (voice-over) Especially for the children.

FATHER: They're afraid that it might happen again. That's what they're afraid.

1st GIRL: I still don't want to believe it.

2nd GIRL: Just try to get it off my mind.

ERIN HAYES: (voice-over) The hope is that marking the day might somehow help - ceremonies to hold together. And so, at 12:40 today, they quietly linked across the city. Everywhere, people simply stopped.

1st MAN: May I have your attention, please?

2nd MAN: We pause for one minute.

3rd MAN: A moment of silence for the students who were injured...

ERIN HAYES: (voice-over) And then, they turned back to work, to life, to moving on. Still...

BOY: We won't forget this happened. It will be in our hearts and minds until the day we die.

ERIN HAYES: (voice-over) As they prepared for tonight's final ceremony, there was a feeling that life has slowly begun shifting away from that terrible moment. Erin Hayes, ABC News, Jonesboro, Arkansas.

PETER JENNINGS: In just a moment, we'll have some of the day's other news.

(voice-over) Rat-infested labor camps and sweatshop workers on American territory. And why is the U.S. government paying to kill elephants?

(Commercial Break)

SWEATSHOP WORKERS ON AMERICAN TERRITORY?  
Reported by BRIAN ROSS, PETER JENNINGS

PETER JENNINGS: A Senate subcommittee heard today that there may be what amounts to a Chinese or Korean labor camp on American territory.

(voice-over) That's an island called Saipan, a U.S. territory in the Pacific Ocean, where tens of thousands of workers churn out clothes for big American clothing companies...

(on camera) ...including The Gap and Ralph Lauren. An ABC News investigation has found that legal loopholes allow foreign workers to be shipped in to face conditions that few Americans would ever tolerate. Here's our investigative correspondent Brian Ross.

BRIAN ROSS, ABC News: (voice-over) Tens of thousands of contract workers are brought to this American island territory each year -- most, young women from China who have been promised by recruiters they are going to good jobs in America.

Instead, many find themselves kept behind barbed wire, in rat-infested labor compounds and put to work in huge Chinese- and Korean-owned garment factories, often under sweatshop conditions making clothes for the American market, which can legally be labeled as "made in the USA."

BRUCE BABBITT, Secretary of the Interior: That's not American.

BRIAN ROSS: (voice-over) It's all possible because Saipan is allowed to set its own immigration policy, which Clinton administration officials told Congress today is out of control and must be changed.

BRUCE BABBITT: It has created a plantation economy, dependent upon the massive importation on a continuing basis of low-paid, vulnerable, short-term indentured workers.

BRIAN ROSS: (voice-over) Officials today also confirmed what an ABC News 20/20 investigation had found, that pregnant garment workers at some Saipan factories are forced to have abortions to keep their jobs.

TU XIAO MEI, Garment Worker: (through translator) When I told them I was pregnant, they tell me to have an abortion.

ERIC GREGROIRE, Human Rights Worker: With 11,000 Chinese workers here, I have never seen a Chinese garment factory worker have a baby.

BRIAN ROSS: (voice-over) Governor Pedro Tenorio (ph) said today he knows there are problems but is still opposed to any change in the law.

Gov. PEDRO TENORIO, Saipan: I am deeply concerned that a federal takeover will have a disastrous effect in our economy.

BRIAN ROSS: (voice-over) Saipan has spent millions on Washington lobbyists and given top Republicans in Congress free trips to the beautiful Pacific island, including one over Christmas for House majority whip Tom DeLay.

Rep. TOM DELAY, (R) Texas: You represent everything that is good about what we're trying to do in America.

BRIAN ROSS: (voice-over) And DeLay and other Republicans have vowed to fight to keep the laws the way they are on Saipan. Brian Ross, ABC News.

PETER JENNINGS: Other news overseas -- the Chinese government allowed a prominent dissident to leave for the United States today. Xu Shuiliang (ph) spent 10 years in jail for his role in the democracy movement in the late 1970s.

The U.N. Security Council has voted to impose an arms embargo on Yugoslavia. They're trying to force Serbian president Milosevic to ease up on ethnic Albanians in the province of Kosovo.

There is an indication today that the Asian financial crisis is causing consumer

confidence to decline here. Consumer confidence actually fell this month from a 29-year high in February.

By the way, it is spring, of course.

(voice-over) But here in the East, it felt a lot like summer today. Record highs -- temperatures in the 80s in New York City, particularly nice for the thousands of Mets fans who showed up for baseball's opening day here, and the Mets won.

(on camera) In just a moment, what is a sixth grader saying about healing that has the medical community talking? We'll take "A Closer Look."

(Commercial Break)

END

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: SUNTUM\_M@A1@CD@LNGTWY ( SUNTUM\_M@A1@CD@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] ) (WHO)

CREATION DATE/TIME:17-APR-1998 13:01:41.00

SUBJECT: 1997-10/31 EMBARGOED VP RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION

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TO: TLXA1MAIL\_\F:9414-0635\C:JOHN ZOLLINGER-AFP\\@A1@CD@LNGTWY ( TLXA1MAIL\_\F:9414-0  
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: TLXA1MAIL\_\F:92448493\C:MANUEL MUNOZ-CARRASC\\@A1@CD@LNGTWY ( TLXA1MAIL\_\F:92448

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TO: SKOLODA\_K@A1@CD@LNGTWY ( SKOLODA\_K@A1@CD@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] ) (OA)  
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Debra S. Wood@eop ( Debra S. Wood@eop [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Lowell A. Weiss@eop ( Lowell A. Weiss@eop [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Angelina Walker@ovp@eop ( Angelina Walker@ovp@eop [ UNKNOWN ] )  
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TO: June G. Turner@eop ( June G. Turner@eop [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Virginia M. Terzano@ovp@eop ( Virginia M. Terzano@ovp@eop [ UNKNOWN ] )  
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TO: Sylvia M. Mathews@eop ( Sylvia M. Mathews@eop [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Jonathan H. Schnur ( CN=Jonathan H. Schnur/O=OVP @ OVP [ UNKNOWN ] )  
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TO: Craig T. Smith@eop ( Craig T. Smith@eop [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Joshua Silverman@EOP ( Joshua Silverman@EOP [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Robert M. Shireman@eop ( Robert M. Shireman@eop [ OPD ] )  
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TO: June Shih@eop ( June Shih@eop [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Ruby Shamir@eop ( Ruby Shamir@eop [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Judithanne V. Scourfield@eop ( Judithanne V. Scourfield@eop [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Peter O'Keefe@EOP ( Peter O'Keefe@EOP [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Anna E. Cushing@eop ( Anna E. Cushing@eop [ UNKNOWN ] )  
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TO: INFOMGT@A1@CD@LNGTWY ( INFOMGT@A1@CD@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] ) (SYS)  
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TO: US@2=WESTERN UNION@3=@5=ATT.COM\*ELN\62955104@MRX@LNGTWY ( 1=US@2=WESTERN UNION@  
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TO: julie\_green@ed.gov@INET@LNGTWY ( julie\_green@ed.gov@INET@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] )  
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TO: WEINER\_R@A1@CD@LNGTWY ( WEINER\_R@A1@CD@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] ) (DON)

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TO: STUMPF\_D@A1@CD@LNGTWY ( STUMPF\_D@A1@CD@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] ) (DON)  
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TO: NAPLAN\_S@A1@CD@LNGTWY ( NAPLAN\_S@A1@CD@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] ) (NSC)  
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TO: TDIXON@PR\_L=AVUOEOB@MRP@LNGTWY ( PR\_U=TDIXON@PR\_L=AVUOEOB@MRP@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] )  
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: LIZIK\_C@A1@CD@LNGTWY ( LIZIK\_C@A1@CD@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] ) (OA)  
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READ:UNKNOWN

TO: BARTHOLOW\_T@A1@CD@LNGTWY ( BARTHOLOW\_T@A1@CD@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] ) (OA)  
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TO: backup@wilson.ai.mit.edu@INET@LNGTWY ( backup@wilson.ai.mit.edu@INET@LNGTWY [ UN  
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: meglynn@usia.gov@INET@LNGTWY ( meglynn@usia.gov@INET@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] )  
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TO: TLXA1MAIL\_\F:91305-371-8366\C:VICENTE DE LA VEGA\\@A1@CD@LNGTWY ( TLXA1MAIL\_\F:9  
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: TLXA1MAIL\_\F:9-1-305-381-9824\C:SILVIA DIAZ\\@A1@CD@LNGTWY ( TLXA1MAIL\_\F:9-1-30  
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TO: Megan C. Moloney@eop ( Megan C. Moloney@eop [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Catherine T. Kitchen@eop ( Catherine T. Kitchen@eop [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Marsha E. Berry@eop ( Marsha E. Berry@eop [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Beverly J. Barnes@eop ( Beverly J. Barnes@eop [ WHO ] )  
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TO: Kyle M. Baker@eop ( Kyle M. Baker@eop [ WHO ] )  
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TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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Embargoed For Release  
Until 10:06 A.M. EST  
Saturday, November 1, 1997

RADIO ADDRESS  
BY THE VICE PRESIDENT  
TO THE NATION

The Vice President's Office

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This is Vice President Al Gore. This week, our nation faces a stark and important choice: whether to move forward with the economic strategy that has given America the strongest economy in a generation -- or whether instead to turn away from what we must do to meet the challenge and opportunity of the 21st Century.

Congress will decide whether to give President Clinton the power to open foreign markets that are closed to us today -- to tear down barriers to our products, and create new jobs for our people. This is the same "fast track" authority that every President of either party has been given for more than two decades. And this President knows how to use it. He knows how to strike tough and fair trade deals. He knows how to protect labor rights and the environment.

Expanding trade is a key part of our enormously successful economic strategy -- balancing the budget, investing in the future, and opening new markets for our goods and services.

Because of that strategy, we have more than 13 million new jobs now, less than five percent unemployment. And yesterday, we learned that the economy has grown at four percent over the past year, the fastest in nearly a decade -- fueled partly by exports that have grown by \$125 billion. To keep on creating high-wage jobs, we must reach the 96 percent of the world's consumers who live outside our borders.

Critics oppose giving the President this power. But this much we know for sure: turning our backs on the world won't create a single new job, won't close down a single sweatshop, won't clean up a single toxic waste site. If we want every American to win in the new global economy, we must lead the world, not hide from it.

America must be the leader in bringing democracy and open markets to other nations. For that means stronger democratic partners, more willing to work with us on challenges like international crime, drug trafficking, and environmental degradation. A vote against presidential trading authority is a vote against American leadership in the world -- and a vote for pessimism and retreat.

For decades, America has been unafraid to lead -- and that spirit has crossed the lines of party and politics.

Now, President Carter, President Bush and President Ford have all written to President Clinton, supporting his call for continued authority to negotiate trade agreements. These distinguished public servants have one thing in common: they know that our national interest demands our world economic leadership. President Clinton and I are grateful for their support. And we are pleased that former secretaries of State, Treasury, and Commerce, and former U.S. Trade Representatives of both parties have also joined our call.

□,

This week, America faces a crucial choice -- and Congress faces a critical vote. Will we turn our backs on the world economy, in a vain struggle to turn back the clock? Or will we move into the future boldly, and continue the economic strategy that has brought us new jobs, new hope, new leadership around the world?

That is our choice -- and this is our chance, because it's our future. Together, we must seize it. Thank you for listening.

END

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CREATION DATE/TIME:17-APR-1998 13:42:13.00

SUBJECT: 1997-09/09 briefing on fast track

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TO: STUMPF\_D@A1@CD@LNGTWY ( STUMPF\_D@A1@CD@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] ) (DON)  
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TO: NAPLAN\_S@A1@CD@LNGTWY ( NAPLAN\_S@A1@CD@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] ) (NSC)  
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TO: MOFFETT\_J@A1@CD@LNGTWY ( MOFFETT\_J@A1@CD@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] ) (WHO)  
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TO: GRIBBEN\_J@A1@CD@LNGTWY ( GRIBBEN\_J@A1@CD@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] ) (OMB)  
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TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate Release

September 10, 1997

PRESS BRIEFING BY  
SECRETARY OF TREASURY BOB RUBIN,  
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE BILL DALEY,  
U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE CHARLENE BARSHEFSKY,  
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR ECONOMIC POLICY GENE SPERLING;  
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY  
DAN TARULLO

The Briefing Room

3:20 P.M. EDT

SECRETARY RUBIN: Thank you. There's a copy of Road and Track, All New Cars, for those who are interested. (Laughter.) I'm not exactly sure why, but in any event, there is.

Let me start with just a word. I think the President and the Vice President did extraordinarily well. We've had a consistent economic strategy since the beginning of the administration and we now have, and have had for quite some time, the best economic condition in the industrial world. I don't think there's any question but trade liberalization has been very important to the economic success we've had so far, and I think it's absolutely central in terms of our economic strength and economic health in going forward.

Millions of Americans owe their jobs to the trade liberalization that has taken place so far, and all Americans as consumers have benefitted from lower prices and greater choice.

As you look around the world and you meet with finance ministers and other public officials, one thing is absolutely clear, and that is globalization is continuing and countries around the world are entering into all kinds of trade liberalization agreements. The only question -- there is no question this is going to continue; the only question is will we be inside of it or will we be outside of it. And if we're outside of it, in our judgment, it will be enormously to our economic detriment.

What we must now do is work together to implement and enact fast track negotiating authority for the President so that as we go forward we can be part of the globalization of trade and the trade agreements, as I said a moment ago, are developing around the world.

And with that, I would like to introduce Secretary of Commerce Bill Daley. And I'm going to apologize, but I have to leave because I'm going up to the Hill in furtherance of this effort. Thank you.

SECRETARY DALEY: I would assume we'll all be going to the Hill very shortly for a very long time. Let me also be brief and just express a couple comments. One, obviously, the fact that our export growth over the last four years has created jobs. Some people believe that we should be fearful of competition in this new global economy. American business, American workers have proven that instead of being frightened of competition, we should welcome it because we are the victors over the last number of years in this very competitive world economy.

□,

So we have proven through our export growth and through the competitive nature of American businesses and American workers that we welcome this global economy, and we look forward to furthering the lowering of barriers, as the President said today, because it will create additional American jobs, not lose American jobs.

So we in the Commerce Department, and speaking on behalf of the business community, who I know many of you have heard from outside, are very committed to this endeavor. The Cabinet is working very hard. Dan Glickman will go to Kansas City; I'll go to Minneapolis tomorrow; Secretary Pena will be travelling -- we will be fanning out around the nation in addition to a tremendous number of visits that will take place on the Hill, as we once again engage the American people and engage the political establishment around the world and around this country in the debate over competition and opening of barriers and lowering them for the sole purpose of creating American jobs and improving our economy.

Thank you. And I, at this point introduce Ambassador Barshefsky.

AMBASSADOR BARSHEFSKY: Thank you. I thought I would just take a minute and talk about what fast track is, and then talk a

little bit about the trade agenda and what we would intend to use fast track authority for. And then I'll introduce Gene Sperling.

The original fast track began in 1934 and gave the President of the United States the ability to cut tariffs by his own proclamation. The Constitution reserves to Congress the ability to cut tariffs. In 1934, that authority was delegated to the President of the United States by Congress under what we would now call fast track authority. It was called something a little bit different then. That authority has continued virtually without exception until it expired in 1994 with the last grant of fast track authority.

So the President had the ability to proclaim reductions in U.S. tariffs if a trade agreement was negotiated. But in the late 1960s it became apparent that nations began putting up non-tariff barriers to compensate for their reductions in tariff and to try and keep foreign goods out. So, in 1974, the partnership between the Congress and the President with respect to trade agreements negotiation was broadened, and the deal struck was this: Congress would be able to consult with the President, direct the course of a particular trade negotiation, agree on trade policy objectives. And in exchange, when the President brought back a trade agreement, Congress, in implementing legislation, would vote the agreement up or down without amendment.

This gave the President the ability to negotiate from strength because foreign countries understood once they negotiated with the Executive Branch, Congress would not renegotiate individual provisions of the agreement. But, at the same time, Congress would be involved through consultation and other mechanisms in the goals set out for the agreement and in the achievement of those goals. That is the fast track authority, coupled with tariff cutting authority, that has been in existence since 1974, and to which President Clinton and Vice President Gore alluded.

That is precisely the authority sought here. We are not seeking the approval of any particular trade agreement at this juncture. We are simply seeking a reinstatement of the process by which certain of these agreements can come back to the Congress for an up or down vote. But let me emphasize a final vote on whether implementing legislation passes to implement a trade agreement resides with the Congress of the United States.

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Let me talk a moment about the trade agendas. As the President said, exports have been the driver of economic growth for this country. We've seen in the last 10 years a tripling of our export performance. We are the world's single largest exporter -- about 12 million jobs depend on exports. And we know that those jobs tend to pay between 13 and 15 percent higher than non-trade related jobs. The way one shifts the locus of job creation in this country to higher-paying jobs, to better jobs, is through increasing it -- through, among other things, but increasing our export performance.

So as we look at the trade agenda ahead, we want to capitalize on our current economic strength and our current competitiveness, because, after all, we ought to be at our most aggressive internationally now and not pull back. And we want to also take a look at those sectors where we are highly competitive,

but where foreign trade barriers tend to be rather high.

There are three basic uses, therefore, to which we would put fast track authority. The first has to do with the built-in agenda from the Uruguay Round. You know at the end of the Uruguay Round negotiations, which are the large, global trade talks, the United States, among other countries, pushed for a timetable at which negotiations in different areas would resume. We did that, as did Europe and other countries because we wanted more out of the Uruguay Round than we got.

This year, we begin again the negotiation on intellectual property rights -- sorry, on government procurement; next year, intellectual property rights; then agriculture; then services. Government procurement is a trillion-dollar market for us in Asia alone over the next decade; agriculture, a \$600-billion market globally; services, \$1.2 trillion market. We want better access into those global markets. We must have fast track authority going into this group of talks or countries will not put meaningful offers for market access on the table.

Second major use -- the President talked and the Vice President talked about the information technology agreement, under which we will reduce to zero tariffs on all of the kinds of information technology products associated with the Information Superhighway -- semiconductors, computers, telecommunications equipment, faxes, phones, integrated circuits -- a huge array of products in which we tend to be a global leader. Our tariff barriers in those areas are zero or very low. Asia's averaged 30 percent. We've agreed with another 43 countries that those tariffs should be brought to zero across the board, all countries, by roughly the year 2000.

We already have agreement among our trading partners for an ITA-2 -- that is to expand the scope of the products encompassed by this extremely ambitious initiative. Fast track authority will be used to implement that arrangement.

We're also in the process of looking at a number of other individual sectors, again where we're very competitive but global barriers tend to be high. For example, environmental equipment and services, medical equipment and technology, transportation equipment, a range of sectors as -- where fast track authority will be needed.

The third area of the trade agenda is the area of more comprehensive market access agreements with individual countries, free trade agreements. The country that has been identified by the administration thus far is Chile. Chile has already indicated that they will sign on to labor and environmental agreements, subject to fines for enforcement. They just completed a bilateral trade agreement with Canada in which Chile signed on to labor and environmental agreements. They will do the same with the United States.

As to any other individual country we may wish to negotiate with, we would obviously have to identify that country and then undertake rigorous consultations with Congress before we embarked on any additional negotiation.

Those are the uses of fast track authority. As the President said, it is vital, absolutely vital, that we continue to lead, that we continue -- continue to focus on our export performance and to ensure that this country gets its fair share of global trade.

With that, let me introduce Gene Sperling.

MR. SPERLING: I'll tell you what. Probably, since everybody is a little pressed, why don't Secretary Daley and Dan, Charlene, why don't we just take Q&A now, and I think anything -- I could say I can fit into some Q&A somewhere.

Q Question for Secretary Daley. Just before the President and the Vice President were announcing their support for this fast track authority, representatives of the major labor unions were across the street, protesting all of this, saying it's a betrayal, and that they are going to do everything they possibly can to fight this fast track legislative authority. How do you feel about going head to head with such close political allies as the American labor movement who sees this as a betrayal?

SECRETARY DALEY: Well, obviously, the President feels very strongly about many issues and is in agreement with the labor movement on so many issues, and he is in agreement, as he stated today, with the fact that labor issues are important not only in this country and to this administration, which has proven it time and time again over the last four and a half years, but in many world forums. So it is obviously uncomfortable to not be in agreement with some of your allies and strong friends, but there will be plenty of opportunities as we move forward to be back together in unison on so many issues.

Q Well, if you think that this case is so clear-cut, why do you think it's become such a hot button issue for labor leaders?

SECRETARY DALEY: Well, trade issues have always been hot button issues for organized labor, and that's a position that labor has had for many, many years.

Q Is there a way to finesse this situation such that you can include some sort of protection for workers in the fast track legislation itself? Or would that muddy the waters to the point that it's unusable?

MR. SPERLING: I think the President -- first of all, obviously, open markets has been, as the President said today, one of his three pillars of his economic strategy, so that's something he believes in. He believes it increases innovation, competition, higher-wage jobs and that's been the strategy. When we do confront opening markets, we do so with the goal of lowering tariffs and non-trade barriers because, as Charlene said, that almost always advantages us as the most competitive country in the world.

But we also aim as part of our goal to increase labor standards and the environment. And one of the points that we've -- as we've gone through consultations and we've talked, is that there are several ways to promote this agenda. One issue would be what you can do within the trade agreement. The second issue is what you could do through side agreements under executive authority. A third

area is things in the international labor core -- issues, things that have been worked on that Charlene has fought hard for and had unprecedented victories in over the last three years. There's also initiatives like the sweatshop initiative that we have. And then there are a variety of things, people we've spoken to who have talked about what can be done domestically in terms of improving or training or adjustment programs.

So the President is firm that anything he does will further opening markets, environment and labor. There are different ways to go about that, but the overall thrust of anything he does in opening markets will further all three of these objectives.

Q You don't see it, then, for the specific question of whether fast track legislation would be written in such a way to include, mention, provide for the concerns of the workers in the environment? You don't see that happening in the fast track legislation itself?

MR. SPERLING: Well, we're going to put out our legislation next week. I mean, I think we're not going to -- you know, I said, we've had consultations with people. We want to have a chance among ourselves to talk about what's been said. Obviously, anything we put forward has to be capable of carrying a strong bipartisan support and we have to look at how we best promote our aims and how we best deal with political reality in getting a bipartisan majority.

Q You were in charge of NAFTA. You became the czar of NAFTA. You joined the administration to fight for NAFTA. It was a very tough and uphill fight. How do you compare the time, then, with this fight to get fast track?

SECRETARY DALEY: Well, in some ways we are obviously in a much stronger position when you look at the economy. when you look at the success that this administration has had. In 1993, you had a very difficult budget battle in the summer, very difficult to win for the President, where he laid out his economic strategy. And then to come back in the fall with a NAFTA battle was very difficult. Obviously, right now, as the President has stated, this economy is extremely strong.

Politically, you have many of the similarities. You have the same sort of split politically in both parties, and you do have a different make-up, obviously, from a leadership perspective on the Hill. And the make up of both caucuses are a little different than they were in 1993. But there are probably more similarities. It's very difficult, as it was in 1993, but I do believe we will be successful this year, as the President was in 1993.

Q You spend a lot of discussion with the phrase "trade related" measures in labor and environment. This was wording that I think -- first put out in 1995, when you were first trying to get fast track through, and it's come back in Mr. Archer's lingo in the past few days. Can somebody define what "trade related" measures for environment and labor mean?

MR. SPERLING: I mean, I think there are those of us here who could. Will we right now? Do you want to?

AMBASSADOR BARSHEFSKY: The only thing that I would say is that if you look at trade agreements over time you see that they are much broader in scope than they were previously, and that they encompass concepts that might not have been encompassed even 10 or 15 years ago. The Uruguay Round, for example, calls for the establishment of a committee on trade and the environment. That would have been almost unthinkable even 10 years ago. It calls for a review of the intersection between labor and worker rights issues and trade. Again, that's something that might have been unthinkable even five years ago.

So we see a progression as you look at trade agreements over time where issues with respect to the intersection of trade and labor, or trade and the environment have been broached. I think that obviously provides us some guidance.

I think the key is -- and I'd like to make a comment on Gene's answer before -- I know the temptation is very much to look at a piece of legislation and to try and parse it through as though the end goal were the legislation. The end goal for the administration is can the President keep our exports rolling out the door -- make it here, sell it there. Can he at the same time promote and expand labor principles, particularly labor rights, as they are viewed -- core labor standards. Can he help promote and ensure sustainable and responsible environmental development. Those are the goals.

There is no legislation we would put forward under which he could not pursue vigorously each of those goals. Let's keep our eye on the ball. The key, the critical element here is the ability of the United States to move forward on all three fronts simultaneously.

Q What is the rationale for not including specific protections for labor and the environment inside the core agreement? What's the rationale for not doing it? Why do you have to put it as a side agreement?

AMBASSADOR BARSHEFSKY: We're not commenting now on what we're putting in the agreement or what we're not putting in the agreement.

All I'm suggesting is the matrix looks something like this: There are three goals. Gene has laid out three or four or five means of achieving or enhancing those goals -- the means being what's in the bill, what are supplemental agreements, what do you do in international fora, and under that heading, multilateral fora, and what do we do regionally in the FTAA, in APEC, what do we do in the OECD, what do we do in the ILO, what do we in UNCTAD. Then individual initiatives that the administration and our business community and labor unions work on, like the sweatshop initiative. So there are a variety of means to pursue the aims that are so important to the President and so important to the country, and that's the critical aspect here.

Q How can you sell open trade, free trade at a time with rising trade deficits, particularly with China and Japan? And Japan -- there are so many problems between the United States on the trade front, especially with a much-touted 1995 agreement on car trade -- how are you going to do that at this time when there seems to be so many troubles on that front?

AMBASSADOR BARSHEFSKY: We know that trade deficits are the function of many things, principally macroeconomic and not principally trade policy related, to the extent -- and we have always said this -- to the extent portions of trade deficits are attributable to trade barriers. We need to identify those barriers and to bring them down.

In the case of Japan we have concluded 30 market opening agreements. Exports under those agreements are about triple the rate of our export growth to Japan overall. With respect to autos, there are two issues. One is vehicles, one is auto parts. Our auto parts trade is actually looking fairly strong. It's on the vehicle side where a combination of factors, including a shift in exchange rates, has dampened somewhat our exports to Japan and has increased Japanese exports to the United States.

We will have a review of the auto agreement with Japan in early October, looking particularly for Japan to continue the process of deregulation in its own economy that will provide us more benefits. But the key here -- again, let's keep our eye on the ball -- the key here is our export performance, our export performance. That's what shifts the locus of job creation to higher-paying jobs. That is what provides tremendous opportunity for our workers at high wages. And our export performance has been unparalleled.

Q If you have been able to reach those agreements without fast track, why do you need fast track to -- basically, you've been very successful without fast track up to now.

AMBASSADOR BARSHEFSKY: Agreements -- the President, as you know, has executive authority, constitutional authority to negotiate with foreign parties. And most of the agreements that we have done have been agreements that break down foreign barriers in a particular sector, not requiring the United States to take any action on its own. But in the case of three agreements in particular, and then the agreements that I've already outlined, the United States would have to take legislative action. The three agreements we did conclude where fast track was necessary were the conclusion of the Uruguay Round, the NAFTA, and the information technology agreement. And fast track was necessary because we were reducing tariffs and because we were making additional U.S. law changes.

As we look at the future agenda, the entirety of the WTO agenda will require further movement on tariffs, as well as some movement on U.S. law changes, fast track would again be necessary. Similarly on ITA-2 with respect to tariff reductions.

MR. SPERLING: I just want to add, just to make it a little more specific -- without the fast track and Uruguay Round, the pre-Uruguay tariff -- weighted tariff for Thailand was 41 percent. Now it's 26 percent. So we're talking over the last four years whether products made in the United States would be subject to that much higher of a tariff. For Korea, 16.2 percent to 7.7; Singapore 16.2 percent before Uruguay, 1.3 percent now -- to the degree that increased exports have been part of an economic strategy that has helped strengthen this economy, and this is a period where we've had a significant drop in unemployment, a historic job creation, so while there are many challenges with change and many people, even in the best of times, who struggle -- to the extent you've had a strong economic strategy and exports have been part, to the degree that that

is obviously helped by having lower tariffs, those would not exist. All of the differences mentioned here would not exist but for the fast track authority there. So you can look forward, but you can also look back at the lower tariffs our exports have faced that would not exist today were it not for the President having fast track authority.

Q Why don't we have a bill yet? What's the hold-up?

MR. SPERLING: There's nothing complicated here. After the budget, which I think was signed on August 5th, we -- and then the line item veto I think was taken care of around the middle of August -- we started doing consultations on the Hill. As we did them, as we talked to people, it was very clear to us that it would be more helpful in getting bipartisan support, more helpful in creating a tone and an atmosphere of inclusiveness if we took a few more days to consult and to hear more people out.

I can tell you firsthand there is a fundamental difference between going to a meeting in which you say, we've already made every decision and we're just here to tell you what we're going to do, and a meeting where you come and say, we've held up things a bit because we want to get your input before we make final decisions. And everything you learn working in the White House and dealing with □,

Congress is that you err on the side of inclusiveness and consultation and I will tell you, on any bill, on any piece of legislation, at any time, if there's a choice between meeting a self-imposed or press-imposed deadline on a particular bill and doing the necessary consultation that allows you to include more people's thoughts and ideas and get more support, I'll choose the latter every time.

Q When will there be --

MR. SPERLING: I think most of the consultations that we wanted to have and consider, we have or have scheduled, so I think we're certainly aiming for next week.

Q Gene, how likely is it that the legislation is going to change between now and then? Is the President eager to try to make fine-tuning changes that would appeal to Democrats, to labor environment?

MR. SPERLING: Again, you'll see the legislation when we put it out next week.

Thank you.

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3:50 P.M. EDT

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SUBJECT: 1998-5-6 Press Conference with PM Prodi

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TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate Release

May 6, 1998

PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE PRESIDENT  
AND PRIME MINISTER PRODI OF ITALY

Room 450

Old Executive Office  
Building

1:50 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. Please be seated. I have very much enjoyed having this opportunity to welcome the Prime Minister to Washington again. For more than 50 years Italy has been among our closest allies. Today we charted a course to strengthen our cooperation for the next 50 years.

We discussed our common efforts to build an undivided Europe at peace. We welcomed the Senate's recent vote on NATO enlargement and hope the Italian Parliament will also act favorably soon.

I thanked the Prime Minister for Italy's contributions in Bosnia, and more recently in Albania, where Italian troops played a critical role in bringing an end to violent unrest. We also discussed our deep concern over the situation in Kosovo. The absence of genuine dialogue there is fueling a conflict that could threaten regional stability. We're working urgently to establish unconditional talks that can avert escalating violence. But we must and will be ready to substantially turn up the pressure on Belgrade should it keep blocking the search for a political solution, or revert to indiscriminate force.

I congratulated Prime Minister Prodi on the historic step Italy and other EU members took this past weekend on the European Monetary Union. I admire the way he has led Italy on a path of fiscal responsibility and genuine recovery. I'm confident that a strong Europe with open markets and healthy growth is good for America and good for the world.

We discussed new ideas to reduce the remaining barriers to trade and boost prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic. I'm

pleased that we've agreed to begin the next round of talks on an open skies agreement, with the goal of concluding an agreement as soon as possible to bring greater choice and better service to our tourist and business travelers alike.

We're also looking forward to the G-8 Summit in Birmingham, where we'll take the next steps in preparing our nations for both the opportunities and the challenges of the future.

As for the challenges, from terrorism to drug trafficking, from international crime to environmental damage, threats that disregard national borders demand international responses. Italy has been at the forefront of international efforts to fight crime. It has led in getting the G-8 to join forces in combatting crime rings that smuggled illegal immigrants for sweatshop labor and for prostitution.

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This will build on the work America and Italy have begun together to fight the horrendous international crime of trafficking in women and children. Victims are lured with promises of jobs, opportunity, and hope, too often to find themselves instead in conditions of virtual slavery and actual physical danger.

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In Birmingham we'll announce a new joint action plan to crack down on crime rings that smuggle immigrants, bring the perpetrators to justice, and protect the lives of innocent victims. This is not only about public safety, it is about basic human rights.

The partnership between our two nations is far-reaching. Our extensive collaboration in science, technology, and space exploration makes that clear. But the friendship is anchored in basic values at the core of both our societies -- liberty, tolerance, love of family, devotion to community and country.

In closing, let me note that this is the 50th year of the Fulbright Program between the United States and Italy, a program that has given generations of our young people the chance to live with and learn from one another. As we celebrate all the ties that bind us, we are looking ahead to the next 50 years, to an even stronger and more vibrant partnership which will shape a brighter future for all our people.

Mr. Prime Minister.

PRIME MINISTER PRODI: Thank you. Very few comments to add to your speech.

I enjoyed so much to exchange our views in what I can call the magic moment of American-Italian relations. We have no point of disagreement. We have -- our goal is only to build up a stronger relation and to bring them into the future.

In a moment that is very favorable that we did in the last weekend, we concluded one of the most important achievements, never seen in world history, to put 11 different currencies together. And this will bring, I'm sure -- this is my firm opinion -- a new

period of strong growth, very similar to the period that you did in your country, President. And it's very rare to see eight years of continuous growth without inflation, with decreasing unemployment, as you did in your country. And to think that the Euro may give us the same possibility for Europe. But Europe needs a renewed set of relations between Europe and the United States because the new event need a new organization of our relations.

So I am very favorable to the proposal of transatlantic -- new set of economic and political relations. To this new set, we shall start to work immediately and with a realistic program and with a long-range view.

Second, we analyzed our bilateral relations, and this was the easiest chapter because there are no fundamental problems of dissent. But we also analyzed the hot point of the regional difficulties in the Balkan and Mediterranean area. In this, we have not only to act together, but to have the continuous fine-tuning of our action. Kosovo is a source of worry for us. But Bosnia is still there, with all the problems, and with these long-term solutions that, briefly, you have indicated that we are executing together.

But another point that we analyzed is the Mediterranean area -- not only the Middle East, that is, of course, the object of our attention, but the pivotal problem of Turkey, the Greece-Turkish relation, Cyprus and all of that. In the end, the enlargement of the European Union to the East and the consequence that this enlargement will bring in world politics.

This has been the agenda. And I'm so happy that we could discuss this not only in deed, but with a strong, strong common commitment.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

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Terry, would you like to go first? We will alternate -- I will call on an American journalist; the Prime Minister will call on an Italian journalist. We'll just go back and forth.

Q Mr. President, while the matter remains under seal, lawyers familiar with the case say that a federal judge has denied your assertion of executive privilege in the Monica Lewinsky investigation. Do you intend to appeal that decision? And what's the difference between your case and Richard Nixon's effort to stop the Watergate investigation?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, as you pointed out, the matter is still under seal. And as I've said in all these cases, at least one party in every case should follow the judge's orders, preferably -- it's better if both do. So I can't comment on it. But let me remind you, I have asked for the release of the briefs and the pleadings in the case so that you and the American people can evaluate my position and any differences that exist between that which we have asserted in previous assertions of executive privilege. I would also remind you that the facts are quite different in this case.

Q How so, sir?

Q Mr. President, would you consider the four European countries part of the G-7 as the more natural counterpart to the U.S., even more so now that there is a European central bank -- not a central political authority in Europe? And do you subscribe to the work of President Prodi for the launching of a new transatlantic negotiation for a new marketplace?

And for Mr. Prodi, the French President was resisting a transatlantic negotiation. Will you take a leadership with that against his position?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the answer to your second question to me, would I support the launching of new negotiations to broaden our partnership, the answer to that is yes.

I think the proper answer to your first question is that from the day I took office, I have supported increasing unity within Europe and any specific step that the Europeans might decide for themselves to take, including a common currency. And what I want is a strong, united Europe that is our partner in dealing with the challenges and in seizing the opportunities of the 21st century world. That's what I look forward to. I think that is one of the legacies I would like to leave when I leave office in 2001. So, for me, this is a positive step, these things which are happening now.

Q I'm sorry, on the G-7, Mr. President, I mean, there is no counterpart to the central bank --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, on the G-7 we all -- in the G-7, we operate by consensus, so it's not like -- we do everything together anyway.

PRIME MINISTER PRODI: On my side, it's true that the French oppose it at the present time, the negotiation. But they didn't oppose the general idea. They opposed the specific proposal and we decided to go on. We decided that we must make a very concrete, step-by-step approach. We have a lot of things that we can deal with unanimity now, but we have decided that this is one of the most important issues -- not because of Far East crisis, but because of the future of humanity. We think that the relations between Europe and the United States are still the foundation of the world peace. This is what we told, and so we will have to accompany them with increasing economic and political relations.  
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From the point of view of the transatlantic negotiation, we shall find concrete steps to start immediately for the negotiation. I can't take the initiative alone, because I am part of the European Union, but I am happy to start this type of pressure in order to convince all my colleagues to have a quick starting of this negotiation.

I want to express also my gratitude -- I already have done in another interview -- to President Clinton, to the American people, for the attitude they had during this process of monetary union. It's completely infrequent to be so clear, so transparent, not to put any obstacle, any suspicion in this -- such a big change -- it will be a change also for American policy. This is enormous

change in the world economy. And this is, I think, the real meaning of what is a long-term friendship.

THE PRESIDENT: Lori.

Q Sir. Israel's Prime Minister says he won't accept U.S. dictates in the Middle East peace process. What will you do if Israel rebuffs the U.S. proposal for a 13 percent withdrawal?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't believe Israel or any other country should accept the dictates of the United States in a peace process. We cannot, and we should not attempt to impose a peace on parties because they have to live with the consequences. What we have tried to do for a good year now is to listen to both parties, look at the situation on the ground, understand their respective concerns, and come forward with a set of ideas that we believe are most likely to get the parties to final status talks.

Keep in mind, they're supposed to finish these talks a year from this month, by their own agreement. Now, the ideas we put forth, as Secretary Albright said, were accepted in principle by Mr. Arafat. The Prime Minister said he was unable to do so, but he asked that he be permitted to go home -- not permitted, but that he be given time to go home -- and talk through with his Cabinet what might be an acceptable position, bring it back to us and see if we could bring the parties together. That is what we are trying to do.

And keep in mind what we are trying to do. We are not talking about here a final settlement of all the outstanding issues between Israel and the Palestinians. We are talking about a settlement of sufficient number of issues that will permit them to get into the final status talks within the framework embodied by the agreement signed here in September of '93.

And the first person to advocate a more rapid movement to the final status was Prime Minister Netanyahu. I have tried to find a way actually to do what he suggested. He said, the facts have changed, the government is different, things are different than they used to be; let's go on and go to final status talks and try to resolve all this at once in a package.

I thought it made a lot of sense at the time, and I have done my best for a year now to find the formula that would unlock the differences between them to get them into those final status talks. That's all I'm trying to do. There's no way in the world I could impose an agreement on them or dictate their security to them, even if I wished to do that, which I don't, because when the agreement is over, whether it's in the Middle East or Ireland or Bosnia or anyplace else, they have to live with the consequences.

Q What do you -- (inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: What I expect to do -- first of all, we are working -- let's wait and see what, if anything, Prime Minister Netanyahu come back with. Let's wait and see, and then see where we are. I hope very much -- I would like very much if we could get the parties together so they could get into the final status talks. I do believe if they could get over this hurdle, if they could demonstrate good faith to one another, and then they got in the final status talks, and everything were on the table, all the outstanding pieces,

then I think that give-and-take would be more likely to produce a final agreement.

So I'm very anxious to get them over this hill so they can get into discussing the final arrangements. That's one thing I thought Prime Minister Netanyahu was right about, but I hope that both sides will help us get there. That's what we're trying to do.

Q President Clinton, you have been praising Italy as a faithful ally of the United States. Now Italy is also a major contributor of the United Nations. Do you think that your government would support a reform of the U.N. Security Council which would give Italy a bigger role?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we would support an expansion of the Security Council with the membership still to be determined. I don't think we can dictate it all. And we would support other efforts to give Italy a larger role, generally. First of all, let me say that as long as I have been President, for five years, the Italians have been as forthcoming as any country in being willing to make contributions to solving our common problems, whether it's in Bosnia or the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, or now in Albania, where you took the initiative. And all we had to do, if you will, was to sit on the sidelines and cheer you on and try to be supportive.

Then, in the government of Prime Minister Prodi, we see a remarkable strength and cohesion and singularity of purpose, which has led to a marked improvement in your economic situation, early entry into the European Monetary Union. So I think the prospects for greater roles of leadership for Italy in many, many different forums are quite good. And I would support that. I think that Italy can justifiably say, we should be a part of more and more of these decision-making bodies because we're making a bigger contribution. And in general, I think that's a positive thing.

Q Mr. President, there are reports today that the United States has cut the level -- cut its aircraft carriers in the Gulf from two to one. What does that say about the level of threat in the region and the state of U.S. relations with Iraq? And what can you say about reports that morale among U.S. troops there is at an all-time low?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we have sent -- the Eisenhower is sailing on schedule, as you probably know. And there have been some speculation about the timetable there, but I can tell you that I have not -- Secretary Cohen has not recommended a final decision to me on this and I have certainly not made one, and we've done our best to keep all of our options open.

The main thing I want to reaffirm is our determination to see the United Nations resolutions complied with and the inspection regime continue until it finishes its work. But no final decision has been made on that yet.

Q And the morale issue, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't really comment on that. I think you should talk to Secretary Cohen about that to see if he agrees with the assessment of it.

But one of the things that we recognize is that as we ask more and more and more of our men and women in uniform, and they have longer deployments, we're going to have to work harder to make sure they get adequate support and their families back home get adequate support in order to keep morale high. I can't comment on the specific assertion because I'm not sure that it's so. But I am sure that our men and women in uniform, because we have so many responsibilities in so many parts of the globe, are called upon to do quite a lot and be away from home base for extended periods of time. And that puts a bigger responsibility on those of us who make these decisions, beginning with me, to do everything we can to give them the support they need and to make sure they're families are taken care of.

Q Prime Minister Prodi, are you satisfied with the way the American authorities are dealing with the accident in the Italian Alps?

PRIME MINISTER PRODI: Since the first moment when I called personally President Clinton, I found a very warm and prompt response to the problem. And I have to thank Ambassador Foglietta, who is here, who -- he understood immediately how big was our sorrow, how deep was our regret. And the following evolution of the problem, they've always kept with a daily communication between the American government and the Italian authorities. So I am waiting for the future development of the case, but I've seen a deep involvement of the American political authorities.

THE PRESIDENT: I'd like to just make a brief comment about that. This was a horrible human tragedy. I can't even describe how I felt the first moment I heard about it, and --

PRIME MINISTER PRODI: I do remember your call.

THE PRESIDENT: My regret is profound. Since that time, we have done everything we could both to cooperate with the Italian government in the investigation into the case, and to handle the disposition of the charges, as well as the treatment of the families of the victims in accordance with the agreements signed between our two countries, and to be as faithful to it as we could. And we will continue to do that.

I regret terribly what happened. And I cannot bring back the people who perished, but I will do my best to make sure that we behave in a completely honorable way and a way that is completely consistent with the commitments we have made.

Stewart.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I wanted to ask you about Cuba for a moment.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

Q Your former Atlantic Commander, Jack Sheehan, came back from a visit to Cuba -- he spent a week there, spent eight hours with Fidel Castro, and returned seeing an opportunities for some rapprochement with Castro. I wonder if you're now willing to undertake some steps to ease the embargo or take additional steps to

provide humanitarian relief in Cuba, and secondly, whether you're willing to undertake any steps to dismantle or ease the defense perimeter around Guantanamo Bay as a symbolic gesture toward Cuba at this moment.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the Pope's visit to Cuba, which I hope would send the right signal to the Cuban people -- in the hopes that it would help to support a move toward a civil society there. As you know, what further steps I could take are clearly circumscribed by the passage of the Helms-Burton Act. And furthermore, there have been mixed signals coming out of the actions of the government in Cuba since then about whether they really wish to have a rapprochement that is more than government to government and maybe trade to trade, but also includes what our real concern is.

Our real concern is for the people of Cuba: can we move the society toward freedom and human rights and a democratic system. These things don't have to be done overnight, but then again, they have to be done. There has to be some clear signal.

I understand the desire of the Cuban government to keep its health care system, to keep its commitment to universal literacy to even its poorest citizens. That's a commendable and laudable thing. But I do not accept, nor can I ever accept, some of the anti-democratic and, frankly, clearly anti-human rights policies of the government. So we have to have some basis for doing more, especially given the constrictions of the law. Now, nothing would make me happier than to see some basis for doing more. I think all Americans would like to be reconciled with Cuba because of our ties of blood in this country and because of its proximity to us.

Q Mr. President, you have spoken of the common values that unify our two countries, but there is one big issue that is opening an ever-widening gap between the two countries, and it has a lot to do with values, and it is the issue of the death penalty. And I was wondering, because this issue is seen with tremendous sensitivity in our country, if you could give us a sense of what your personal feelings are on this issue. And I hope Mr. Prodi might want to add his own comment.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, I do not believe that our different views on the death penalty drive a wedge between our two countries, since that is a matter of, essentially, domestic not foreign policy, and since in our country, criminal defendants are given extensive procedural protections to avoid abuse, as well as extensive rights of appeal.

I support capital punishment under certain circumstances. The law in our country is that for most cases involving murder, it is up to the states of our republic to decide whether to have the death penalty. Some states do have the death penalty, and some states don't. It is a question of state law. There are a few crimes on the federal books for which capital punishment can occur. But it's, by and large, most of the cases, the great majority of the cases are matters of local law, state law, in our country. And unless the Supreme Court were to reach a contrary decision and invalidate all death penalty laws, which it has explicitly refused to do, under our Constitution it would remain that way.

PRIME MINISTER PRODI: From my point of view, I belong to a country which the death penalty has been abolished since a long time. It is in the roots of our tradition, of our values, of our society, not to have it, and I stick on it.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. President. Mr. President, since your last news conference, Ken Starr has indicted Webster Hubbell and Susan McDougal once again. And as the same time Congressman Dan Burton has released all these prison tapes involving Webster Hubbell and his wife and his lawyer and others. I wonder how you would assess all of this in light of the problems that you and your supporters are facing as this investigation into the Monica Lewinsky matter continues to escalate and perhaps reach some sort of conclusion sooner rather than later. Obviously your thoughts on all of this would be interesting to all of us. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think it was clearly a violation of privacy of Mr. and Mrs. Hubbell for the tapes to be released. And

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I think virtually everyone in America now recognizes it was wrong to release selected portions of the tapes, apparently to create a false impression of what the whole record indicated.

On the other matters you mentioned, the parties have spoken for themselves about what they think was behind it, and I can't really add anything to that.

Q Mr. President, did you discuss the eventuality to send troops to Kosovo?

And to Mr. Prodi, is our country available to send troops to Kosovo?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose the literally accurate answer to your question is we did not discuss that. But I have made it clear, and I believe we have made it clear between us, that, at least from my point of view, no option should be ruled out. We do not want another Bosnia in Kosovo. Too many people have died there already in indiscriminate violence. And of course, it happened very quickly. Neither, however, do we want to get in the position where Italy has to send troops to every one of its neighboring countries, and the United States has to send troops every time there's a dispute in that part of the world.

But I don't think we can rule out any option, because we don't want another Bosnia to happen and we don't want -- both in terms of the human loss of life or in terms of the regional instability. So I wouldn't rule out any option. But I think the most important thing is to keep the carrots and the sticks we have on the table, and for a genuine dialogue to occur.

Look, this is not -- we have a saying in America sometimes, this is not rocket science -- you've got a part of Serbia which is 90 percent Albanian, and they want some kind of autonomy and to have their legitimate concerns addressed. The Serbs don't want to give up a big part of their country, which they believe -- and is legally part of their country. So they obviously need to sit down

and talk through how the legitimate aspirations of the Kosovo Albanians can somehow be manifest in giving them some measure of self-government and decision-making authority over their lives within the framework of Serbia. There are 50 different ways this could be worked out in a humane, legitimate way. They do not have to kill each other to get this done, and they should not do that.

PRIME MINISTER PRODI: I completely agree, but probably the question was not put in the right way. The problem is not to send troops in the general way, but there is the problem of how to protect the border in order to avoid in the short-term the problem of smuggling weapons from one side to the other one. Even this option is dangerous, because in some ways, whenever you send troops, you send hostages, potential hostages, to the situation.

But as President Clinton -- we didn't rule out any solution. We are just making an effort to arrive to a peaceful solution, and also we had a long conversation concerning the possibility of helping the civilian recovery of Kosovo in this difficult situation, in which Kosovo has been abandoned in some ways. But, of course, you can't rule out anything now.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all.

END

2:21 P.M. EDT

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Elizabeth R. Newman@EOP@LNGTWY@LNGTWY ( Elizabeth R. Newman@EOP@LNGTWY@LNGT

CREATION DATE/TIME: 8-MAY-1998 11:07:44.00

SUBJECT: US-Italy Initiative to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children

TO: Renee C. Riley@eop ( Renee C. Riley@eop [ OA ] )  
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TO: Steven J. Naplan@eop ( Steven J. Naplan@eop [ NSC ] )  
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TO: Michael J. Sullivan@EOP ( Michael J. Sullivan@EOP [ WHO ] )  
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TEXT:  
Message Creation Date was at 6-MAY-1998 15:08:00

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate Release

May 6, 1998

U.S.-ITALY INITIATIVE  
TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The United States and Italy recognize that criminal activities across national borders, in particular the growing problem of trafficking in women and children, poses a serious challenge to the international community. This is an international problem with national implications.

The disturbing growth of the involvement of international organized crime in trafficking in women and children for profit demands increasing attention and concern. Traffickers in women and children, much like narcotics traffickers, now operate boldly across international borders, using state-of-the-art means of communication and trade. In both the United States and Italy, there

have  
been cases of trafficking in women and children for the purposes of sexual exploitation, sweatshop labor and exploitative domestic servitude.

President Clinton and Prime Minister Prodi are committed to taking the steps necessary to address this growing criminal enterprise. They agreed that new strategies are needed to eradicate trafficking, focusing on strengthening the human rights protection of trafficking victims; increasing prosecution of the crimes associated with trafficking; finding ways to help victims assist with the prosecution of traffickers; increasing public awareness of the problem; and coordinating the fight against trafficking with all of the countries involved, including those of origin, transit and destination.

President Clinton and Prime Minister Prodi are determined that the United States and Italy will do their part by taking specific measures to combat trafficking in women and children. To this end, the United States and Italy recently established a U.S.-Italy Working Group on Trafficking in Women and Children. The group, which held its first meeting in Rome on April 14, has agreed to the following joint actions:

Protection of the rights of victims of trafficking through: exchange of best practices with respect to assistance, protection and social integration of victims; common initiatives, including joint program strategies for victim outreach to be implemented separately in Italy and the United States; and protection of victims, families in source countries.

Joint public information campaigns in source countries with the cooperation of their authorities and non-governmental organizations.

The regular exchange of information, with the cooperation of the Italian National Antimafia Directorate, and within the limits of existing legal provisions in the two countries as regards confidentiality of investigations,  
on:

investigations;

successful investigative methods and procedures; and

statistical data and general analysis of trafficking.

Training for law enforcement, immigration and border officers in source countries to identify patterns and methods of trafficking and prevent trafficking through effective investigation and prosecution.

Development of witness protection procedures and victim services in source countries in cases of repatriation, including training for law enforcement and

assistance to non-governmental organizations that provide victim services.

Promotion of joint initiatives in multilateral fora to combat trafficking in addition to efforts under way at the United Nations to develop a Convention on organized crime.

President Clinton and Prime Minister Prodi agreed that these joint actions would form an important element of our future bilateral law enforcement and political cooperation.

# # #

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Wendy E. Gray ( CN=Wendy E. Gray/OU=NSC/O=EOP [ NSC ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:12-MAY-1998 11:10:29.00

SUBJECT: Re: Crime Event

TO: Kevin S. Moran ( CN=Kevin S. Moran/OU=WHO/O=EOP @ EOP [ WHO ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

The ICC remarks AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY follow. Please DO NOT quote from or forward to anyone. For quotes, you'll need to review the remarks released by the White House Press Office following the event.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON  
REMARKS ON INTERNATIONAL CRIME CONTROL STRATEGY  
WASHINGTON, DC  
MAY 12, 1998

Thank you, Agent Mary Reilly, and thank you to all the law enforcement officials here today. Vice President Gore, Members of the Cabinet [Secretary Albright, Attorney General Reno, Secretary Rubin, Secretary Slater], directors of our federal law enforcement agencies, Members of Congress [Senator Hatch, Representative Gilman, Representative Lantos, Representative Hoyer, Representative Hastings], distinguished guests:

In a few hours I will travel to Europe, to meet with leaders of other industrial democracies. This is a time of great hope. In Bosnia and Ireland, long-time rivals have left the battleground to find common ground. If we work together, the 21st century can be a time of greater democracy, prosperity and peace. But there are threats on the road to our common future, and, today, I want to announce new plans to address one of them -- the growing problem of international crime.

Our globe is shrinking every day -- with global TV networks, instant connections over the Internet, increasing world travel. European nations have opened borders and created a common currency. There is greater freedom of movement and openness.

The American people benefit greatly from this globalization. Our industries have more opportunities. Our values -- democracy, human rights, the rule of law -- ultimately prevail when there is free trade in ideas. Our people are enriched by access to different cultures.

But as borders become more porous, travel more affordable, communications more powerful, criminals increasingly reach across borders -- physically and electronically -- committing crimes and then retreating before they can be caught and punished.

Many Americans don't realize the extent to which international crime affects their daily lives.

Con artists, operating overseas, mail phony financial offers and then disappear with investor dollars -- hundreds of millions worth. Sometimes they lure our citizens abroad and use violence to get what they want.

Car theft rings move stolen vehicles across the border -- 200,000 per year, worth about a billion dollars, resulting in higher insurance costs for all of us.

As Agent Reilly's remarks suggest, cyber-criminals can use computers to raid our banks, run up charges on our credit cards, and extort money by threats to unleash computer viruses.

Smugglers engage in portrunning -- speeding vehicles past our border points -- putting people in danger and aiding the thriving trade in drugs and guns. Others smuggle people across our borders for prostitution and jobs in illegal sweatshops.

Two-thirds of counterfeit U.S. money is printed overseas. Illegal copying of our products cost us jobs and tens of billions in revenue. Spies seek important industrial secrets, and, worse, materials to make nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Up to \$500 billion in criminal proceeds every year, more than the GNP of most nations, is laundered -- disguised as legitimate revenue -- and much of it moves across our borders.

International crime rings intimidate weak governments, threatening democracy. They murder judges, journalists and witnesses. And kidnapers and terrorists have attacked Americans abroad and even at home, with brutal acts like the World Trade Center bombing.

Wrongdoing flows two ways. U.S. criminals also operate across borders, victimizing people in other nations. All these activities threaten our safety and prosperity. To combat them, we must act -- broadly, decisively, and consistent with our constitutional values. We must leave these criminals no place to run and nowhere to hide.

The job of the law enforcement officers behind me -- from 12 federal agencies -- is to protect the American people from crime. But my job -- and the job of our Congress -- is to give these officers the tools to do their jobs.

Therefore, I am announcing today America's first comprehensive international crime control strategy. At its core is a simple but compelling truth: International crime requires an international response. America is prepared to act alone when it must, but no nation can control crime by itself. We must create a global community of crime-fighters, dedicated to protecting the innocent and bringing to justice the offenders, wherever they are found.

This week, nations at the G-8 summit will announce significant new joint anti-crime initiatives. But let me tell you what I already plan to do, by taking better advantage of existing laws and asking Congress for new legislation.

First, we will work with other nations to create a worldwide dragnet capability to promptly arrest and extradite fugitives from justice. Our bill asks for wider authority so America can extradite more suspected criminals. We will also press for international cooperation so criminals will forfeit their ill-gotten gains.

Second, because none of us is safe if criminals find safe havens abroad, we will work to ensure other nations are ready to fight international crime -- with global standards and goals, training and technical aid, and programs to modernize criminal laws.

Third, we will work with our allies to share information on growing crime syndicates, to better derail their schemes. And we will work with our industries to protect against computer crime.

Fourth, we will put more law enforcement personnel abroad, to aid our embassies in identifying criminals before they attack Americans. And I am seeking new authority to prosecute more violent offenses against Americans overseas.

Fifth, we will strengthen border security -- with 1000 new Border Patrol agents, new technologies, and stiffer penalties -- to put more smuggling rings out of business. I also want tough new sentences for portrunners and for smugglers who refuse to stop for our Coast Guard.

Sixth, I will ask Congress to enact strict provisions to bar drug and arms traffickers and fugitives from justice from entering our country -- and to expel them if they do come here.

Finally, I will seek new authority to fight money laundering and freeze the U.S. assets of people arrested abroad. And we will improve enforcement of existing laws against counterfeiting and industrial espionage.

To focus our efforts, we will complete, within six months, a comprehensive analysis of the threat Americans face from international crime. And I have asked Vice President Gore to organize a global meeting to set a common agenda for fighting corruption and strengthening the rule of law.

Some of the criminals have sophisticated tools, so ours must be better. They can form temporary cross-border alliances, based on greed and self-interest, so we must strengthen the community of nations, based on a community of values. They care about no one but themselves, while we care so deeply about our children. And that is our most profound strength -- the strength that will allow us to prevail. For we will not accept a world in which American children -- and children abroad -- grow up paralyzed by crime, fear and violence. Together, America and its allies can attack this scourge and build a secure and prosperous future for all our peoples.

# # #

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

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CREATION DATE/TIME:13-MAY-1998 19:58:30.00

SUBJECT: 1998-0512-REMARKS BY PRES ON INTERNATIONAL CRIME

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TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate Release

May 12, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
ON INTERNATIONAL CRIME ENFORCEMENT

Room 450 Old Executive Office Building

10:22 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mary, for your remarks and your work. Thank you, Mr. Vice President, Members of the Cabinet and Congress, Mayor Barry, Members of the City Council and to all the law enforcement officials who are here. We are here to talk about building a safer world for the 21st Century.

So before I begin my remarks about the subject of the day, I want to make it very, very clear that I am deeply disturbed by the nuclear tests which India has conducted, and I do not believe it contributes to building a safer 21st Century. The United States strongly opposes any new nuclear testing. This action by India not only threatens the stability of the region, it directly challenges the firm international consensus to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. I call on India to announce that it will conduct no further tests and that it will sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty now and without conditions. I also urge India's neighbors not to follow suit, not to follow down the path of a dangerous arms race. As most of you know, our laws have very stringent provisions, signed into law by me in 1994, in response to nuclear tests by non-nuclear weapons states, and I intend to implement them fully.

Now, in a few hours I will be leaving to travel to Europe, to meet with the leaders of other industrial democracies in a time of great hope -- because of what is happening in Bosnia and Ireland. It is clear that if we work together, the 21st Century can be a time of unprecedented democracy, prosperity and peace. But it is equally clear that there are threats to our common future that -- across national lines. Today, I want to announce new plans to address the growing problem of international crime.

We all know the globe is shrinking every day with global TV networks, instantaneous communications over the Internet, increasing world travel. European nations have adopted completely opened borders and many of them have already voted to create a common currency.

The American people, in general, benefit greatly from the process of globalization -- with more economic opportunities and more opportunities to become enriched through contact with different cultures. Our values -- democracy, human rights, the rule of law -- will ultimately prevail when there is free trade in ideas.

But more porous borders, more affordable travel, more powerful communications, increasingly also give criminals the opportunity to reach across borders -- physically and electronically -- to commit crimes and then retreat before they can be caught and punished. Many Americans really don't realize the extent to which international crime affects their daily lives, which is why we were so pleased to have Agent Riley with us today.

□,

Con artists, operating overseas, mail phony financial offers and then disappear with investor dollars -- hundreds of millions of dollars' worth. Sometimes they lure citizens abroad and use violence to get what they want.

Car theft rings move stolen vehicles across the border -- 200,000 a year, worth about \$1 billion -- resulting in

higher insurance costs for all Americans.

As Agent Riley's remarks suggest, cyber-criminals can use computers to raid our banks, run up charges on our credit cards, extort money by threats to unleash computer viruses.

Smugglers engage in port running -- speeding vehicles past our border points -- putting people in danger and aiding the thriving trade in gangs, drugs and guns. Others smuggle people across our border for prostitution and jobs in illegal sweatshops.

Two-thirds of counterfeit U.S. money -- two-thirds, is printed overseas. Illegal copying of our products costs us jobs and tens of billions in revenue. Spies seek important industrial secrets -- and worse, materials to make nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Up to \$500 billion in criminal proceeds every single year -- more than the GNP of most nations -- is laundered, disguised as legitimate revenue, and much of it moves across our borders. International crime rings intimidate weak governments and threaten democracy. They murder judges, journalists, witnesses, and kidnapers and terrorists have attacked Americans abroad, and even at home with brutal acts like the World Trade Center bombing.

Wrongdoing flows two ways. U.S. criminals also operate across borders, victimizing people in other nations. All these activities threaten our common safety and prosperity. To combat them, we must act broadly, decisively, consistent with our constitutional values to leave criminals no place to run, no place to hide.

The job of law enforcement officials behind me -- from 12 different agencies -- is to protect the American people from crime. But the job of our Congress -- and my job -- is to give these officers the tools they need to do the job.

Therefore, today, I announce for the first time a comprehensive international crime control strategy for America. At its core is a simple but compelling truth: International crime requires an international response. America is prepared to act alone when it must, but no nation can control crime by itself anymore. We must create a global community of crime-fighters, dedicated to protecting the innocent, and to bringing to justice the offenders.

This week, nations at the G-8 summit will announce significant new joint anticrime activities. But let me tell you what I plan to do already -- by taking better advantage of existing laws and asking Congress for new legislation.

First, we will work with other nations to create a worldwide dragnet capability to promptly arrest and extradite fugitives from justice. Our bill asks for wider authority so America can extradite more suspected criminals. We will also press for international cooperations so criminals will forfeit their ill-gotten gains.

Second, because none of us is safe if criminals find safe havens abroad, we will work to ensure other nations are also ready to fight international crime -- with global standards and goals, training and technical aid, and programs to modernize criminal laws elsewhere.

□,

Third, we will work with our allies to share information on growing crime syndicates, to better derail their schemes. And we will work with industries to protect against computer crime.

Fourth, we will put more law enforcement personnel abroad, to aid our embassies in identifying criminals before they attack Americans. And I'm seeking new authority to prosecute more violent offenses against Americans overseas.

Fifth, we will strengthen border security -- with 1000 new Border Patrol agents, new technologies, and stiffer penalties --to put more smuggling rings out of business. I also want tough new sentences for port runners and for smugglers who refuse to stop for our Coast Guard.

Sixth, I will ask Congress to enact strict provisions to bar drug and arms traffickers and fugitives from justice from entering our country -- and to expel them if they do come here.

Finally, I will seek new authority to fight money-laundering and freeze the U.S. assets of people arrested abroad. And we'll improve enforcement of existing laws against counterfeiting and industrial espionage.

To focus our efforts, we will complete within six months a comprehensive analysis of the threat Americans face from international crime. I've asked Vice President Gore to organize a global meeting to set a common agenda for fighting corruption and strengthening the rule of law. Some of the criminals have sophisticated tools, so ours must be also. They can form temporary cross-border alliances, based on greed and self-interest. So we must strengthen the community of nations based on a community of values.

They care about no one but themselves, while we care so deeply about our children and their future. It is our most profound strength -- the strength that will allow us to prevail. For we cannot, we must not, we will not, accept a world in which American children and children abroad grow up paralyzed by crime, fear and violence.

Together, America and our allies can attack this scourge and build a secure and prosperous future for all our people. Again, let me say to all of you -- especially to law enforcement officers here -- I thank you very, very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

10:30 A.M. EDT

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CREATION DATE/TIME: 3-NOV-1998 10:45:14.00

SUBJECT: 11-3 Expected Paper

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Message Creation Date was at 3-NOV-1998 10:37:00

1. Sweatshop Statement

Contact: Jake Siewart

Release Time: Approx. 11:00 AM

2. Securities Litigation Reform Bill - Statement

Release Time: TBD

3. Appointment - Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation

Release Time: TBD

4. Executive Order: Pension Open Season for State and CIA employees

Release Time: TBD

5. Transcript: 2nd Hispanic Radio Interview

Release Time: 11:00 AM