

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: SUNTUM_M (SUNTUM_M@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 6-MAY-1998 18:53:39.00

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

TO: Amy W. Tobe (CN=Amy W. Tobe/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Barry J. Toiv (CN=Barry J. Toiv/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Brenda M. Anders (CN=Brenda M. Anders/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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.

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

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

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.

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2:21 P.M. EDT

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CREATOR: SUNTUM_M (SUNTUM_M@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 12-MAY-1998 16:08:32.00

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

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TO: Daniel W. Burkhardt (CN=Daniel W. Burkhardt/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

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TO: R. Scott Michaud (CN=R. Scott Michaud/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Rahm I. Emanuel (CN=Rahm I. Emanuel/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Renee C. Riley (CN=Renee C. Riley/OU=OA/O=EOP [OA])
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TO: Reuben L. Musgrave Jr. (CN=Reuben L. Musgrave Jr./OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Robert S. Weiner (CN=Robert S. Weiner/OU=ONDCP/O=EOP [ONDCP])
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TO: Ruby Shamir (CN=Ruby Shamir/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Sally P. Paxton (CN=Sally P. Paxton/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Suzanne Dale (CN=Suzanne Dale/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Tamara Monosoff (CN=Tamara Monosoff/OU=PIR/O=EOP [PIR])
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TO: Wayne C. Johnson (CN=Wayne C. Johnson/OU=OA/O=EOP [OA])
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TO: William H. White Jr. (CN=William H. White Jr./OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Woyneab M. Wondwossen (CN=Woyneab M. Wondwossen/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: CROWLEY_P (CROWLEY_P@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
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TO: CUTLER_L (CUTLER_L@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
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TO: DICKEY_L (DICKEY_L@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
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TO: gerhardt_k (GERHARDT_K@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
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TO: GRAY_W (GRAY_W@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
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TO: GRIBBEN_J (GRIBBEN_J@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])

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TO: INFOMGT (INFOMGT@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
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TO: julie_green (julie_green@ed.gov [UNKNOWN])
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TO: meglynn (meglynn@usia.gov [UNKNOWN])
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TO: NAPLAN_S (NAPLAN_S@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
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TO: rubins (rubins@lisbowpoa.usl-state.gov [UNKNOWN])
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TO: wh-outbox-distr (wh-outbox-distr@clinton.ai.mit.edu [UNKNOWN])
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TO: WOZNIAK_N (WOZNIAK_N@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
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TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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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READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Eli G. Attie ("Eli G. Attie"@lmgate4.eop.gov [@LNGATE])
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TO: Jodi R. Sakol ("Jodi R. Sakol"@lmgate4.eop.gov [@LNGATE])
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TO: Thomas M. Rosshirt ("Thomas M. Rosshirt"@lmgate4.eop.gov [@LNGATE])
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TO: BARBUSCHAK_K (BARBUSCHAK_K@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: BUDIG_N (BUDIG_N@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Amy Weiss (CN=Amy Weiss/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Andrew J. Mayock (CN=Andrew J. Mayock/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Anne M. Edwards (CN=Anne M. Edwards/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Ashley L. Raines (CN=Ashley L. Raines/OU=OA/O=EOP [OA])
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TO: Beverly J. Barnes (CN=Beverly J. Barnes/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Brenda M. Anders (CN=Brenda M. Anders/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Brian D. Smith (CN=Brian D. Smith/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Brooks E. Scoville (CN=Brooks E. Scoville/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Carmen B. Fowler (CN=Carmen B. Fowler/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Carole A. Parmelee (CN=Carole A. Parmelee/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Caroline R. Fredrickson (CN=Caroline R. Fredrickson/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Carolyn T. Wu (CN=Carolyn T. Wu/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Carrie A. Street (CN=Carrie A. Street/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Catherine T. Kitchen (CN=Catherine T. Kitchen/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Chandler G. Spaulding (CN=Chandler G. Spaulding/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Charles H. Cole (CN=Charles H. Cole/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Charles M. Brain (CN=Charles M. Brain/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Cheryl D. Mills (CN=Cheryl D. Mills/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Cheryl M. Carter (CN=Cheryl M. Carter/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Christa Robinson (CN=Christa Robinson/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Christine A. Stanek (CN=Christine A. Stanek/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Christopher Ferris (CN=Christopher Ferris/OU=OMB/O=EOP [OMB])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Christopher K. Scully (CN=Christopher K. Scully/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Cynthia M. Jasso-Rotunno (CN=Cynthia M. Jasso-Rotunno/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

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

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Daniel W. Burkhardt (CN=Daniel W. Burkhardt/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Dario J. Gomez (CN=Dario J. Gomez/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

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READ:UNKNOWN

TO: David S. Beaubaire (CN=David S. Beaubaire/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Deborah B. Mohile (CN=Deborah B. Mohile/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Debra S. Wood (CN=Debra S. Wood/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Delia A. Cohen (CN=Delia A. Cohen/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Diane Ikemiyashiro (CN=Diane Ikemiyashiro/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Dorian V. Weaver (CN=Dorian V. Weaver/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Dorinda A. Salcido (CN=Dorinda A. Salcido/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Doris O. Matsui (CN=Doris O. Matsui/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Douglas R. Matties (CN=Douglas R. Matties/OU=OA/O=EOP [OA])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Edward F. Hughes (CN=Edward F. Hughes/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Edwin R. Thomas III (CN=Edwin R. Thomas III/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Elisa Millsap (CN=Elisa Millsap/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Elisabeth Steele (CN=Elisabeth Steele/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Elizabeth R. Newman (CN=Elizabeth R. Newman/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Elliot J. Diringer (CN=Elliot J. Diringer/OU=CEQ/O=EOP [CEQ])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Emory L. Mayfield (CN=Emory L. Mayfield/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Fred DuVal (CN=Fred DuVal/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: G. Timothy Saunders (CN=G. Timothy Saunders/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Gino J. Del Sesto (CN=Gino J. Del Sesto/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Glen M. Weiner (CN=Glen M. Weiner/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Gregory B. Craig (CN=Gregory B. Craig/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Heather M. Riley (CN=Heather M. Riley/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Ilia V. Velez (CN=Ilia V. Velez/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Jackson T. Dunn (CN=Jackson T. Dunn/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Judithanne V. Scourfield (CN=Judithanne V. Scourfield/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Julianne B. Corbett (CN=Julianne B. Corbett/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

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TO: Kelley L. O'Dell (CN=Kelley L. O'Dell/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

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

TO: Kyle M. Baker (CN=Kyle M. Baker/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Lana Dickey (CN=Lana Dickey/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Laura D. Schwartz (CN=Laura D. Schwartz/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Laura S. Marcus (CN=Laura S. Marcus/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Leanne A. Shimabukuro (CN=Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Linda Ricci (CN=Linda Ricci/OU=OMB/O=EOP [OMB])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Lisa J. Levin (CN=Lisa J. Levin/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Lori E. Abrams (CN=Lori E. Abrams/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Lori L. Anderson (CN=Lori L. Anderson/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Lynn G. Cutler (CN=Lynn G. Cutler/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Maria E. Soto (CN=Maria E. Soto/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Maritza Rivera (CN=Maritza Rivera/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Mark D. Neschis (CN=Mark D. Neschis/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Marsha Scott (CN=Marsha Scott/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Marty J. Hoffmann (CN=Marty J. Hoffmann/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Matthew J. Bianco (CN=Matthew J. Bianco/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Maureen A. Hudson (CN=Maureen A. Hudson/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Maureen T. Shea (CN=Maureen T. Shea/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Maya Seiden (CN=Maya Seiden/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: McGavock D. Reed (CN=McGavock D. Reed/OU=OMB/O=EOP [OMB])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Megan C. Moloney (CN=Megan C. Moloney/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Melissa M. Murray (CN=Melissa M. Murray/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Michael V. Terrell (CN=Michael V. Terrell/OU=CEQ/O=EOP [CEQ])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Michael Waldman (CN=Michael Waldman/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Mindy E. Myers (CN=Mindy E. Myers/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Minyon Moore (CN=Minyon Moore/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Nanda Chitre (CN=Nanda Chitre/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Neera Tanden (CN=Neera Tanden/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Peter A. Weissman (CN=Peter A. Weissman/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])
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TO: Phillip Caplan (CN=Phillip Caplan/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Rajiv Y. Mody (CN=Rajiv Y. Mody/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Reuben L. Musgrave Jr. (CN=Reuben L. Musgrave Jr./OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Richard Socarides (CN=Richard Socarides/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Robert B. Johnson (CN=Robert B. Johnson/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Robin J. Bachman (CN=Robin J. Bachman/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Robin Leeds (CN=Robin Leeds/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Roger V. Salazar (CN=Roger V. Salazar/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Ruby Shamir (CN=Ruby Shamir/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Samuel O. Spencer (CN=Samuel O. Spencer/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Sara M. Latham (CN=Sara M. Latham/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Sarah A. Bianchi (CN=Sarah A. Bianchi/OU=OPD/O=EOP [OPD])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Sarah E. Gegenheimer (CN=Sarah E. Gegenheimer/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Sarah S. Knight (CN=Sarah S. Knight/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Sarah Salton (CN=Sarah Salton/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Sean P. Maloney (CN=Sean P. Maloney/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Sherman A. Williams (CN=Sherman A. Williams/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Sheyda Jahanbani (CN=Sheyda Jahanbani/OU=NSC/O=EOP [NSC])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Skye S. Philbrick (CN=Skye S. Philbrick/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Sondra L. Seba (CN=Sondra L. Seba/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Tania I. Lopez (CN=Tania I. Lopez/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Thomas D. Janenda (CN=Thomas D. Janenda/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Timothy L. Newell (CN=Timothy L. Newell/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Toby C. Graff (CN=Toby C. Graff/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Todd Stern (CN=Todd Stern/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Tracy F. Sisser (CN=Tracy F. Sisser/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Tracy S. Olmstead (CN=Tracy S. Olmstead/OU=OSTP/O=EOP [OSTP])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Victoria A. Lynch (CN=Victoria A. Lynch/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Virginia Apuzzo (CN=Virginia Apuzzo/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Virginia N. Rustique (CN=Virginia N. Rustique/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Walker F. Bass (CN=Walker F. Bass/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: William C. Haymes (CN=William C. Haymes/OU=OA/O=EOP [OA])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: William W. McCathran (CN=William W. McCathran/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Woyneab M. Wondwossen (CN=Woyneab M. Wondwossen/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: GRAY_W (GRAY_W@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: GRIBBEN_J (GRIBBEN_J@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: HEMMIG_M (HEMMIG_M@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: INFOMGT (INFOMGT@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: JOHNSON_WC (JOHNSON_WC@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: meglynn (meglynn@usia.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: NAPLAN_S (NAPLAN_S@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: RILEY_R (RILEY_R@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: RUNDLETT_P (RUNDLETT_P@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: SULLIVAN_M (SULLIVAN_M@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: SUNTUM_M (SUNTUM_M@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: WEINER_R (WEINER_R@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: WOZNIAK_N (WOZNIAK_N@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
Message Creation Date was at 3-NOV-1998 13:28:00

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release November 3, 1998

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today's agreement on fighting sweatshop practices is an historic step toward reducing sweatshop labor around the world and will give American consumers confidence that the clothes they buy are made under decent and humane working conditions. I applaud the apparel industry, labor unions, nongovernmental organizations, and consumer groups who answered the challenge I laid out two

years ago to find cooperative ways to reduce sweatshop labor.

This agreement is only the beginning. We know that sweatshop labor will not vanish overnight. While this agreement is an historic step, we must measure our progress by how we change and improve the lives and livelihoods of apparel workers here in the United States and around the world. That is why I urge more companies to join this effort and follow these strict rules of conduct.

I want to thank all the parties who worked so hard to bring this agreement to a close, and especially Senator Tom Harkin, who first brought this issue to my attention a long time ago.

30-30-30

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: SUNTUM_M (SUNTUM_M@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 3-NOV-1998 19:03:20.00

SUBJECT: 1998-11-03 Lockhart briefing

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TO: "/R=OPUS/R=MRP/PR-L=AVUOEOB/PR-U=TDIXON/FFN=Timothy Dixon/"@mr.eop.gov ("/R=OPUS/R=MRP/PR-L=AVUOEOB/PR-U=TDIX
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TO: Alejandro G. Cabrera ("Alejandro G. Cabrera"@lmgate4.eop.gov [@LNGATE])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Andrei H. Cherny ("Andrei H. Cherny"@lmgate4.eop.gov [@LNGATE])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Angelina Walker ("Angelina Walker"@lmgate4.eop.gov [@LNGATE])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Brian A. Reich ("Brian A. Reich"@lmgate4.eop.gov [@LNGATE])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Christopher S. Lehane ("Christopher S. Lehane"@lmgate4.eop.gov [@LNGATE])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Eli G. Attie ("Eli G. Attie"@lmgate4.eop.gov [@LNGATE])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Jim Kohlenberger ("Jim Kohlenberger"@lmgate4.eop.gov [@LNGATE])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Jodi R. Sakol ("Jodi R. Sakol"@lmgate4.eop.gov [@LNGATE])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Joseph W. Cerrell ("Joseph W. Cerrell"@lmgate4.eop.gov [@LNGATE])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Lawrence J. Haas ("Lawrence J. Haas"@lmgate4.eop.gov [@LNGATE])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Nathan B. Naylor ("Nathan B. Naylor"@lmgate4.eop.gov [@LNGATE])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Patricia M. Ewing ("Patricia M. Ewing"@lmgate4.eop.gov [@LNGATE])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Thomas M. Rosshirt ("Thomas M. Rosshirt"@lmgate4.eop.gov [@LNGATE])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: 62955104@eln.attmail.com (62955104@eln.attmail.com [UNKNOWN])
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TO: backup (backup@wilson.ai.mit.edu [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: BARTHOLOW_T (BARTHOLOW_T@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: BUDIG_N (BUDIG_N@a1.eop.gov [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: cmbeach (cmbeach@msn.com [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Adam W. Goldberg (CN=Adam W. Goldberg/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Alexander L. Boyle (CN=Alexander L. Boyle/OU=PIR/O=EOP [PIR])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Amy Weiss (CN=Amy Weiss/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Andrew J. Mayock (CN=Andrew J. Mayock/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Anne E. McGuire (CN=Anne E. McGuire/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Anne M. Edwards (CN=Anne M. Edwards/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Antony J. Blinken (CN=Antony J. Blinken/OU=NSC/O=EOP [NSC])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Aviva Steinberg (CN=Aviva Steinberg/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Barbara D. Woolley (CN=Barbara D. Woolley/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

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TO: Beverly J. Barnes (CN=Beverly J. Barnes/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

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READ:UNKNOWN

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READ:UNKNOWN

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TO: Catherine T. Kitchen (CN=Catherine T. Kitchen/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

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READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Chandler G. Spaulding (CN=Chandler G. Spaulding/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Charles F. Ruff (CN=Charles F. Ruff/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

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READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Christine N. Macy (CN=Christine N. Macy/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Christopher J. Lavery (CN=Christopher J. Lavery/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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TO: Craig T. Smith (CN=Craig T. Smith/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Dag Vega (CN=Dag Vega/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Dana C. Strand (CN=Dana C. Strand/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Daniel W. Burkhardt (CN=Daniel W. Burkhardt/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Dario J. Gomez (CN=Dario J. Gomez/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: David E. Kalbaugh (CN=David E. Kalbaugh/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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READ:UNKNOWN

TO: David R. Goodfriend (CN=David R. Goodfriend/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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READ:UNKNOWN

TO: David T. Johnson (CN=David T. Johnson/OU=NSC/O=EOP [NSC])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Dawn L. Smalls (CN=Dawn L. Smalls/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Debra D. Bird (CN=Debra D. Bird/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Debra S. Wood (CN=Debra S. Wood/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
READ:UNKNOWN

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TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 3, 1998

PRESS BRIEFING BY

JOE LOCKHART

The Briefing Room

1:02 P.M. EST

MR. LOCKHART: Good afternoon, Mr. Knoller. Would you like to ask the first question? I see you, April.

Q Are these good days?

MR. LOCKHART: Even my bad days are good days when you work here at the White House.

Q Joe, are you getting positive reports back from any of the election officials that the voter turnout is pretty good right now?

MR. LOCKHART: I saw the head of the Election Board for I think it was Chicago or Illinois, on television, who reported that the turnout was heavy. We've gotten some anecdotal reports from people around the country of good turnout, but I don't know that it's anything more than anecdotal. I think the President reiterated this morning the importance of everybody exercising their democratic right, and in order to make a difference and have your voice heard, everyone should get out and vote.

Q Any evidence of intimidation that you're seeing today?

MR. LOCKHART: I haven't heard from the DNC. I think they are monitoring this through the state parties around the country, and you'd be better asking them for their assessment.

Q What does a heavy turnout mean?

MR. LOCKHART: It means a lot of people are voting.

Q In your terms.

MR. LOCKHART: I think you've seen the conventional wisdom that I'm not in a position to dispute that a light turnout could favor Republicans, a heavy turnout could favor Democrats. I think it's hard to determine at this point, particularly as this is an unfolding, ongoing event. And I think within the next six or seven hours we'll have some real assessment of what's going to happen.

Q Considering, as you said this morning, traditional losses by the party in the White House, what would the President consider a good high water mark for the Democrats in both the Senate and the House races?

MR. LOCKHART: I'm not going to get into numbers. I think the President spoke this morning to what he hopes will happen today, which is as many Americans as possible getting out and voting. And I'm just not going to get into a numbers game of what constitutes -- I mean, I have studiously avoided trying to do that. There's lots of predictions out there from both sides of the aisle, from a wash, to the Speaker of the House saying up to 40 seats in the House side. I'm going to try to not fall into that trap today.

Q Do you have any more information on what the President -- how the President will monitor the outcome of the elections?

THE PRESIDENT: I think he will be -- the President and the First Lady will stay in tonight. I suspect they will watch some of the election results. He'll have some friends over.

Q Who?

MR. LOCKHART: I'll try to let you know this evening as I know. I do expect that he will be on the phone and will probably talk to some Democrats around the country as the election results become known.

Q Do you expect that we will see him at some point today?

MR. LOCKHART: I don't expect you will, no.

Q How about written paperwork of any kind of statement?

MR. LOCKHART: I expect that -- particularly with races going late into the West -- that we'll reserve judgment on what it all means. You'll see the President tomorrow.

Q Joe, if the Democrats lose many seats, are you prepared for the finger-pointing, especially you tried to get this

minority vote out?

MR. LOCKHART: I can't speculate. The President, I think, has made a strong case based on the Democratic issues of education, Social Security, protecting the environment, providing a health care bill of rights. I'm not sure it's particularly useful to discuss what the tenor of the discussion will be tomorrow and the coming days.

I have one thing, let me just read. We will release a statement at the end of this briefing on an agreement in the apparel industry on sweatshop practices. Let me just read you a little bit of this.

Today's agreement -- from the President -- today's agreement on fighting sweatshop practices is a historic step toward reducing sweatshop labor around the world and will give American consumers confidence that the clothes they buy are made under decent and humane working conditions. I applaud the apparel industry, labor unions, non-governmental organizations and consumer groups who answered the challenge I laid out two years ago to find cooperative ways to reduce sweatshop labor.

It goes on -- in particular it thanks Senator Harkin for the important work he's done on this. We'll make this available at the end of the briefing.

Q Who is the agreement with?

MR. LOCKHART: With the unions and the businesses that make up the apparel industry. This is something that the President and the Department of Labor now, under the direction of Secretary Herman, have been working very hard on for the last two years. It was, as you remember, an initiative that Secretary Reich started in early 1996 and they have now reached an agreement.

□,

Q Was there any agreements in the NEC meeting earlier today?

MR. LOCKHART: Any agreements?

Q Yes, any decisions made about Brazil or other --

MR. LOCKHART: No. I think there was some general discussion -- I haven't gotten a complete readout of that meeting, but I'm not aware that there were any decisions on the table, nor decisions taken.

Q When the President spoke he praised Japan today in his readout to the pool. And yet, yesterday a Japanese Cabinet minister came and said that there would be no tariff reductions at the APEC meeting this year.

MR. LOCKHART: Well, we're certainly concerned. I think one of the things that we're trying to do under the auspices of APEC is a global trade liberalization. We've done some work on that. We hope to do some more at APEC, and it is our hope that Japan will play a constructive role in that. I think the Deputy Trade Representative, Mr. Fisher, made some comments yesterday similar to mine, and again, we hope they will play a constructive role and put these trade issues on the table to be discussed at APEC.

Q Would a high voter turnout express dissatisfaction with the current leadership of the government?

MR. LOCKHART: No, I think a high voter turnout would represent that the Democrats and the Republicans offered voters a clear choice between two different philosophies of how we should move this country forward. I don't think that people going to the polls should be interpreted as a repudiation of anything. I think what the Democrats have tried to do in the last three or four weeks is really provide a clear choice to voters, and I think if there is a high turnout, I think in some respects that will indicate that voters saw a clear choice and saw that it matters -- it matters to their lives to get out and vote and express your opinion.

Q And so a low turnout wouldn't express satisfaction with the way -- the current leadership?

MR. LOCKHART: I don't think so. I think it's always difficult to interpret precisely what all these things can mean, but I think there are certainly some sentiment that things are going well in the country now -- the economy has grown now for six years running. I think people feel good about our position here at home and in the world. But the President has been very clear that there are important choices, there are important pieces of unfinished business on the agenda and it's important for people to get out and

make a choice between the way the Democrats have framed the issues and the positions the Democrats have taken, and the positions the Republicans have taken.

Q You've got a President who faces an impeachment inquiry. How is it possible to maintain that this is not at least in some respect a referendum on him?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I think that you need to go out, rather than listening to the people that inhabit this city who spend a lot of time talking and telling the world what they think in an almost non-stop way, go out and talk to the voters. And I think if you go out and talk to the voters you'll find that that's not how they look at things. And as the President has said, it's the issues that they care about that they're looking at in this race.

Q Isn't that just another way of answering the referendum, though? I mean, maybe the voters are saying our view of this referendum is that it's not as important as you guys think it is. But, still, isn't that --

MR. LOCKHART: That could be. And there are lots of

people who are well-qualified and some who are less than well-qualified to make their judgments, and I'm sure they'll all be making them in the next 24 years.

Q Joe, yesterday about 1,000 representatives of the narco-terrorist group, the FARC, overran a soldiers base in eastern Colombia, killing many of the officers and soldiers there. This is the same narco-terrorist group that President Pastrano wants to start a dialogue with, a policy which President Clinton gave his support to. Don't these recent actions -- aren't they leading to a reevaluation of the policy with regard to Colombia? And doesn't it really contradict the U.S. position with regard to not negotiating with terrorists and the war on drugs that is the official line?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I'm not familiar with the facts that you've cited. I think both Presidents last week made strong statements about the need to cooperate and to fight the drug trade cooperatively, both at home and in the region. I'm not familiar enough -- or I am not aware that there's anything that has happened that has made us reassess that policy.

Q The President is going to be away during probably

the start of the impeachment process.

MR. LOCKHART: So we think.

Q Who will be in charge here, keeping -- involved in the administration's role and so forth?

MR. LOCKHART: As you well know, the President has asked Gregory Craig to come in and help coordinate the efforts here in the White House to deal and to work, hopefully constructively, with the committee. And Mr. Ruff, the White House Counsel, will also be involved in that. So, again, we're not certain when that work begins or how it will unfold, because we don't know. But we believe that the right people will be here in order to work with the committee in any way that is appropriate.

Q In the President's opening statement today he mentioned that the U.S. has been pursuing this comprehensive strategy to fight the financial crisis. And he outlined several steps. One of them that he mentioned was interest rate cuts by the U.S., Japan, Canada and several European nations. Is it fair to say the President welcomes those decisions?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the President talked of one of the parts of the program that he articulated in both the Council of Foreign Relations speech, the IMF speech and at various points in between and after, is a need to return to a policy of growth around the world. And I think one of the recognized ways that we see growth in the economy is at times when there are lower interest rates.

Q Joe, also regarding the NEC meeting this morning, do you know if Japan's position on trade liberalization that you were talking about before was actually brought up in the meeting?

MR. LOCKHART: I expect since it will be a part of the APEC Summit that my expectation is it did come up, but I don't know to what extent. And again, it was not my understanding that there were decisions on the table today, so I don't think there were any decisions.

Q Has Secretary Cohen checked in with the President from overseas?

MR. LOCKHART: I don't think he has. I think the

President and his national security team have been staying in touch with allies, most notably, the Secretary of Defense, who is now in the region. He's in Saudi Arabia today, and my understanding is he'll be in Kuwait tomorrow.

The Vice President earlier this morning spoke to the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia. I expect the President will probably, over the coming days, have calls that we will let you know about after they've happened.

Q What did he have to say to the Crown Prince?

Q Does he plan to meet with his national security team today, or has he met with them today?

MR. LOCKHART: He met with his National Security Advisor and the Deputy National Security Advisor this morning -- was briefed on ongoing events both in Iraq and some other places in the world.

Q Why did he call the Crown Prince?

MR. LOCKHART: I think the Vice President wanted the

chance to talk to him before the Secretary of Defense was there to discuss the situation on the ground in Iraq and to pursue the conversation that we're having with our allies around the world on the situation and the options for next steps that are available to us.

Q Has there been any change that you could discern in the Iraqi position?

MR. LOCKHART: I have not been able to discern any change in their position, no -- nor have I had any reported to me.

Q What do you say to those critics like Scott Ritter who says that the U.S. and the U.N., in refusing to be more firm with the Iraqis, set the stage for this latest crisis?

MR. LOCKHART: I would disagree with the criticism and restate our position that Saddam Hussein has worked in a counterproductive way, if what his stated goal -- getting relief from sanctions, sanctions that have cost him \$120 billion since the end of the Gulf War and trying to split the international community -- if that is his goal, because he's done quite the opposite.

Q Joe, in several of his recent interviews the President bemoaned what he's called his failure to change the atmosphere in Washington, to decrease the partisanship and so forth. Why has he been so unsuccessful at that?

MR. LOCKHART: Read The Washington Post Style section yesterday and you'll get a clue.

Q But that tells us that the problem exists, but doesn't tell us why he hasn't been able --

MR. LOCKHART: I don't know. That's really a question that as a non-member of the Washington establishment I'm not qualified to answer. I'm sure there's a salon in Georgetown where there's a good debate going on.

Q Are you going to be watching McCurry tonight?

MR. LOCKHART: Absolutely. I had the great honor of talking to him this morning because, as a newly minted pundit, I thought I could take the opportunity to maybe spin him a little.

Q Another Stephanopoulos in our midst?

MR. LOCKHART: I have to report that he was having none of it. (Laughter.)

Q Didn't he tell us he wasn't going to end up as a talking head at that lectern where you're standing right now?

MR. LOCKHART: I can't believe that he would have said something up here that wasn't absolutely, 100 percent accurate.

Q Was he calling you for inside advice or inside information?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I really can't reveal that.

Q Well, what were you trying to spin -- that same stuff you give us? (Laughter.)

MR. LOCKHART: He actually said he had just seen someone reporting on the historical trends that somehow made it out of the gaggle and into the mainstream press. (Laughter.) And he wanted to

know more on that. He wanted more.

Q Why not call the reporter involved?

Q Joe, 10 months ago there was realistic talk among Democrats of retaking control of the House. Now the only question seems to be how many seats the Democrats might lose. How much responsibility does the President take for diminishing his own party's election prospects with the Monica Lewinsky scandal and the impeachment proceedings?

MR. LOCKHART: I think you could just as easily turn that question around to the Speaker of the House within the last three or four weeks, talking about taking 40 seats and now revising that. I think you haven't heard predictions from here at the podium, so I'm not going to be roped into having to respond to any prediction that may or may not have been made.

Q Does he accept any responsibility for hurting in general terms the prospects --

MR. LOCKHART: The President is the leader of the

Democratic Party. I think he has done a fine job of articulating the agenda and the issues, especially where we differ from the Republican Party, and now it's up to the voters.

Q Can I follow up just quickly? This morning you seemed to be lowering expectations by citing historical examples of large losses in the House --

MR. LOCKHART: I was seeking to educate.

Q Okay, good, for fun facts, whatever they were -- large losses in the House and Senate. Yet isn't it true that any net loss of seats is a setback for whichever party that loses?

MR. LOCKHART: I think all parties want to win seats, rather than lose seats. But I think part of the culture that we all live in here in Washington is we analyze anything that moves. So I assume that others will analyze and come to the conclusions they think are right and responsible.

Q Why hasn't the President's leadership of the Democratic Party -- if as you say he's done a fine job -- translated

into more seats in Congress, more Democratic governorships?

MR. LOCKHART: I think that's a fair question, and I think that's where history does play some role. If you look at the history of Democratic Presidents, Republican Presidents, six years into their term you find that they have a history of poor results. I think you couple that with an election cycle where Republicans are significantly outspending Democrats around the country -- from the party committees alone, something like \$110 million -- and that makes the context a difficult one.

I think it's a credit to Democrats around the country that they are as competitive as they are. We don't know what the results are going to be standing here right now, but it's a credit to the way they've articulated their agenda in the face of an overwhelming spending majority and the historical context that we are where we are.

Q Joe, you said the President is going to spend the night here watching the results. Has he invited some friends and pundits maybe?

MR. LOCKHART: Some friends. (Laughter.) Some of them also may be pundits, but --

Q Do you have any more fun facts you want to share with us?

Q Is he sending in for pizza?

MR. LOCKHART: More fun facts? No, I think I've done quite enough damage already.

Q Can you elaborate on U.S. disaster aid to Central America and tell us what more may be in the offing?

MR. LOCKHART: Yes, I can. Let me just pull that sheet up in front of me. As I reported yesterday, the Ambassadors in Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala have declared disasters in each of those countries, which makes them eligible for the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance of U.S. AID's help. I believe that already authorized is \$3.4 million to fund DOD helicopters and cargo aircraft to ferry relief supplies and to conduct search and rescue, and assessments.

I believe the first airlift carrying relief supplies arrived in Honduras October 31st, the second in Honduras November 1st. Three additional airlifts were scheduled to depart by today, so you've had, I think, a total of five airlifts.

As the President has said, we are now looking and working very closely with the governments there, with our embassies there, to see what kind of help we can provide. Again, as he said, I think, right now we have an immediate problem of trying to assist these countries in getting through the immediate crisis. And then we'll have a broader and potentially massive problem of rebuilding.

Q Joe, is the White House satisfied with the House Judiciary Subcommittee hearings scheduled for next week on the history of impeachment? Does that meet the concerns that the White House has raised that the issue of impeachment itself be examined by the Judiciary Committee?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I think, as I understand it, they are going to be looking more at the history rather than what standards they'll use. I think it's, to the extent -- I mean, it's

useful as far as it goes to look at historical precedent. I don't think it replaces a real attempt to set some standard by which you'll judge these allegations. So I think it's useful as far it goes, but I don't think it replaces the idea that we've been pushing for, which is some serious, non-partisan look at the standards by which you judge impeachment.

Q Joe, given the degree of concern that the President expressed about voter intimidation, is there any special effort to monitor that today? And have you guys heard any reports of that occurring?

MR. LOCKHART: I haven't. As I said earlier, the DNC is doing some work on that as far as monitoring with the state party's around the country. The Department of Justice has poll monitors around the country -- I think something like 140 around the country. So I think, certainly as expressed yesterday, it's our hope that this won't happen. But I think the organizations like the DNC have to remain vigilant in the extent that voters -- that there are efforts for whatever reasons or whatever motivations to suppress turnout or to intimidate voters from voting.

Q Is the President satisfied with his own fundraising abilities for the party this season, and will there be fundraisers in the future, either for the party or to retire any debt or individual candidates?

MR. LOCKHART: I expect the President to continue to help Democrats raise the resources they need to compete. I think the President worked very hard this year and I think he's satisfied with the help that he was able to provide to Democrats. I think it's difficult. We're in a difficult environment when -- for the principles that we articulate for a comprehensive tobacco legislation, or for a HMO bill of rights, or for supporting passage of an increase in the minimum wage -- there are strong and well-resourced opponents to that. And the Republicans have been able to take advantage, given their position and opposition to these three initiatives in particular. But I think the President did work very hard, as well as the First Lady and the Vice President. And we do the best we can to help Democrats.

Q How soon does he start up again?

MR. LOCKHART: I don't have a schedule, but I think you

can expect that you will have to endure a few more fundraisers before the year is out.

Q Are there some already scheduled?

MR. LOCKHART: I think there are, but I don't know when the dates are.

Q What is he doing this afternoon?

MR. LOCKHART: This afternoon? I expect he has phone and office time. If he makes any calls that are of interest to you, I will report on them faithfully. Otherwise, I think he's just catching up on some work and will probably knock off early and go back over to the residence, where they will prepare to entertain some friends.

Q How concerned are you about the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement? There seems to be some problems developing.

MR. LOCKHART: We believe that the Palestinians have

done everything they're supposed to do for the agreement to enter into force. Prime Minister Netanyahu has raised some concerns, and we are working to try to work them out.

□,

Q What are those concerns?

MR. LOCKHART: I think he's best to articulate what his concerns are. We are working with them. I will say, though, that he has indicated publicly that he intends to implement the accord, and he has expressed that view directly in conversations with Chairman Arafat.

Q But if you say that the Palestinians -- if you believe the Palestinians have done everything they're supposed to do, you're suggesting that you don't agree with Netanyahu's concerns.

MR. LOCKHART: No, I'm suggesting that the Palestinians have done what they need to do for the agreement to enter into force. The Prime Minister has raised other concerns and we are working with the parties to work through these issues.

Q Concerns outside the framework of the agreement?

MR. LOCKHART: I'm going to stick where I am on this.

Q Going back to impeachment real quick, when and why did the administration change their whole idea on the history of impeachment, because recently from that podium you said we didn't need a history lesson on impeachment?

MR. LOCKHART: I think what we need is some real examination of the standards. To the extent that the committee wants to look at the history, I don't think there is any harm in that. I think they're missing a more important issue, but I don't think we've changed our view on that.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

1:34 P.M. EST

#013-11/03

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TO: Michael V. Terrell (CN=Michael V. Terrell/OU=CEQ/O=EOP [CEQ])
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TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 10, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT HUMAN RIGHTS DAY PRESENTATION
OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

Room 450
Old Executive Office Building

10:39 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. I want to welcome all of you here, the members of Congress, the members of our foreign policy team who have worked on this -- National Security Advisor Berger, Under Secretary Loy, Assistant Secretary Koh. I welcome Ambassador Nancy Rubin, the Ambassador of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights; Theresa Loar, the Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues; members of the Roosevelt family and other distinguished guests.

I would like to say also before getting into my prepared remarks that someday when I write the memoirs of these last several years, one of the proudest moments of our administration for me will be the work the First Lady has done to advance the cause of human rights. (Applause.) I remember the speech she gave in Beijing on a rainy day, when people were struggling through the mud to get into that remote facility; the talk she gave just a few days ago at Gaston Hall at Georgetown University about Eleanor Roosevelt, I think one of the finest speeches she ever gave. But more important, the concrete work, the Vital Voices work in Northern Ireland and Latin America, and all the little villages she visited in Latin America and Africa and Asia, on the Indian Subcontinent to try to advance the condition of women and children, experience young girls.

And I think that every person who has ever been the parent of a daughter could identify strongly with the remarks she just made and the brave women who were just introduced.

You know, most of us at least who have reached a certain age, we look forward to the holidays when our daughters come home from college and they have the human right to decide whether they

want to come home or not. (Laughter.) When our daughters are married and they have our grandchildren, we hope they'll find a way to come home. Imagine -- I just wish there were some way for every American citizen to imagine how they would feel if the people Hillary just discussed were their daughters. I hope we can do more.

We are sponsoring these awards today and announcing them because, as all of you know so well, 50 years ago in Paris the U.N. General Assembly voted to approve the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was a watershed moment for what was then a very young United Nations; a new chapter, however, in a much, much older story -- the unending striving of humanity to realize its potential in the life of every person.

For its time, the Universal Declaration was quite bold. If you look at the way the world is going today, it's still quite

a bold document. Like all great breakthroughs, it was an act of imagination and courage, an opening of the heart and the mind with spare elegance. It served notice that for all our differences we share a common birthright.

You know, it's easy for us to forget, but if you think back to 1948, it might not have been particularly easy to affirm faith in mankind's future. After all, it was just three years after a cataclysmic war and the Holocaust; the Cold War was beginning to blight the postwar landscape; millions and millions more would die just in the Soviet Union under the terror of Stalin.

But this document did reaffirm faith in human kind -- it is really the Magna Carter of our humanity. Article I states that: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act toward one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

There are no commas or parenthesis in this sentence, no qualifications or exceptions -- just the power of affirmation.

Other articles assert the freedom to worship, to work, to assemble, to participate in a life of meaning and purpose. Those words have now been translated into every language of the United Nations. Though 50 years old, they still ring free, fresh

and powerful, don't they? They resonate today because today human dignity is still under siege, not something that can be taken for granted anywhere.

We all know how much the Declaration owed to the remarkable leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt. She rose to every challenge; she defended American idealism she honestly admitted our own imperfections; she always called on the best from each delegate -- and she called on it again and again and again. Indeed, a delegate from Panama grew so exhausted by the pace that he had to remind Mrs. Roosevelt that the delegates had human rights, too. (Laughter).

Today we celebrate the life of this document and the lives it has saved and enhanced. Mrs. Roosevelt worried that it would be hard to translate ideas on paper into real places -- into kitchens and factories and ghettos and prisons. But words have power, ideas have power, and the march for human rights has steadily gained ground.

Since 1948, the United Nations has adopted legal instruments against torture, genocide, slavery, apartheid, and

discrimination against women and children. As nations grow more interdependent, the idea of a unified standard of human rights becomes easier to define and, more important than ever, to maintain.

Obviously, all nations have more work to do, and the United States is no exception. We must improve our own record, we must correct our own mistakes, even as we fulfill our responsibility to assist on improvement in other nations -- in totalitarian states, like North Korea; in military dictatorships, like Burma; in countries where leaders practice the politics of ethnic hatred, like Serbia and Iraq; in African nations where tribal differences have led to unimaginable slaughter; in nations where tolerance and faith must struggle against intolerant fundamentalism, like Afghanistan and Sudan; in Cuba, where persons who strive for peaceful democratic change still are repressed and imprisoned; in China, where change has come to people's daily lives, but where basic political rights are still denied to too many.

Some suggest today that it is sheer arrogance for the President or for the United States to discuss such matters in

other countries. Some say it is because we are not perfect here at home. If we had to wait for perfection, none of us would ever advance in any way. Some say it is because there are Asian values or African values or Western values dividing the human race into various sub-categories. Well, let's be honest -- there are. There are genuine cultural differences, which inevitably lead to different political and social structures. And that can be all to the good, because no one has the corner on the truth. It makes life more interesting.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights does not say there are no differences among people -- it says what we have in common is more fundamental than our differences, and therefore, all the differences must be expressed in certain limits beyond which we dare not go without violating our common humanity.

This is a phony attack on those of you who fight every day for human rights. None of us want everyone to be the same; none of us want to have all the same religious practices; none of us want to have all the same social and political structures; none of us say we know exactly how life should be organized everywhere under all circumstances and how every problem should

be solved. We say we have a common humanity and whatever you think should be done differently must be done within the limits that respects our common humanity.

Now, that means a lot to us on the verge of a new century, where freedom and knowledge and flexibility will mean more to people than ever before. Where people in the poorest villages on every continent on this Earth will have a chance to leapfrog years and years and years of the development process simply because of the communications revolution -- if we respect universal human rights.

The Vice President said so well recently, in Asia, that we believe the peaceful democratic process that we have strongly endorsed will be even more essential to the world on the threshold of this new millennium. Throughout 1998, old fears and hatreds crumbled before the healing power of honest communication, faith in the future, a strong will for a better future.

Today in Oslo -- I'm happy about this -- today in Oslo, two leaders from Northern Ireland, John Hume and David Trimble,

are receiving the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts on the Good Friday Accord. In the Middle East, where I will go in two days, Palestinian and Israelis are struggling to bridge mutual distrust to implement the Wye Accords. In Kosovo, a serious humanitarian crisis has been averted, and the process toward reconciliation continues in Bosnia. All these breakthroughs were triumphs for human rights.

Today we commit ourselves to the ideas of the Universal Declaration, to keep moving toward the promise outlined in Paris 50 years ago.

First, we're taking steps to respond quickly to genocidal conditions, through the International Coalition Against Genocide I announced during my visit to Africa, and a new genocide early warning center sponsored by the Department of State and the CIA. We will provide additional support to the U.N. Torture Victims Fund and genocide survivors in Bosnia, Rwanda and Cambodia. We will continue assistance to women suffering under the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. And USAID will provide up to \$8 million to NGOs to enhance their ability to respond more rapidly to human rights emergencies.

Second, we must do more for children who have always been especially vulnerable to human rights violations. This year I sought, and Congress provided, dramatic new support for the fight against child labor with a tenfold increase in United States assistance to the International Labor Organization. Today, the Immigration and Naturalization Service is issuing new guidelines for the evaluation of asylum claims by children, making the process better serve our youngest and most vulnerable asylum seekers.

Third, we must practice at home what we preach abroad. Just this morning I signed an executive order that strengthens our ability to implement human rights treaties and creates an interagency group to hold us accountable for progress in honoring those commitments.

Fourth, I am concerned about aliens who suffer abuses at the hands of smugglers and sweatshop owners. These victims actually have a built-in disincentive -- their unlawful status here -- that discourages them from complaining to U.S. authorities. So I'm asking the Department of Justice to provide

legislative options to address this problem. And I know the Deputy Attorney General, Eric Holder, and the Deputy Secretary of Labor, Kitty Higgins, are here, and I trust they will work on this because I know they care as much about it as I do.

Finally, I'd like to repeat my support for two top legislative priorities -- an employment nondiscrimination act that would ban discrimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace, and a hate crimes prevention act. Last year, the entire nation was outraged by the brutal killings of Matthew Shepard, a young gay student in Wyoming; and James Byrd, and African American in Texas. All Americans are entitled to the same respect and legal protection, no matter their race, their gender, their sexual orientation. I agree with something President Truman once said, "When I say Americans, I mean all Americans."

We will never relinquish the fight to move forward in the continuing struggle for human rights. I am aware that much of the best work in human rights has been done by those outside government -- students and activists, NGOs, brave religious leaders -- people from all backgrounds who simply want a better,

safer world for their children. Many have done so in the face of great adversity -- the imprisoned members of the Internal Dissidents Working Group in Cuba, the political prisoners of the National League for Democracy in Burma, the imprisoned dissidents in China. We make common cause with them all.

That is why, today, we are presenting the first Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights to four outstanding Americans -- not only for their own efforts, but because we know that, by working together, we can do more. From different backgrounds and generations they stand, all, in the great tradition of Eleanor Roosevelt, pioneers in the fight to expand the frontiers of freedom:

Robert Bernstein, a pathbreaker for freedom of expression and the protection of rights at home and abroad. Bette Bao Lord, the head of Freedom House, a prolific author and campaigner. Dorothy Thomas, a champion of women's rights, the voice of a new generation committed to human rights. And John Lewis, a veteran in the civil rights struggle, now serving his Congress with great distinction in the House of Representatives.

I would like to ask the military aide to read the citations

(The citations are read.)

I'd like to ask the members of the Roosevelt family who are here to stand. Thank you. (Applause.)

The day the U.N. delegates voted to approve the Declaration, Eleanor Roosevelt wrote, "Long job over." (Laughter.) One of the few mistakes she ever made. (Laughter.) She left us and all our successors a big job that will never be over, for the Universal Declaration contains an eternal promise, one embraced by our founders in 1776, one that has to be reaffirmed every day in every way.

In our country, each generation of Americans has had to do it -- in the struggle against slavery led by President Lincoln, in FDR's Four Freedoms, in the unfinished work of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, in the ongoing work here in this room.

I have learned in ways large and small in the last six years that there is within every person a scale of justice and that people can too easily be herded into hatred and extremism, often out of a belief that they have absolute truth and, therefore, are entitled to absolute power, that they can ignore any constitution, any laws, override any facts. There will always be work to be done.

And again, I would say to you that this award we gave to these four richly deserving people is also for labor for human rights.

In the prologue of John Lewis's magnificent autobiography, "Walking With The Wind," he tells a stunning story that has become a metaphor for his life and is a metaphor for your work, about being a little boy with his brothers and sisters and cousins in the house of a relative that was a very fragile house, when an enormous wind came up. And he said he was told that all the children had to hold hands, and one corner of the house would blow up in the wind and all the children would walk, holding hands, to the corner and it would go down. And then another would come up, and all the children would hold hands

again and go to the other corner until the house came down. And by walking with the wind, hand-in-hand, they saved the house and the family and the children.

John says that that walk is a struggle to find the beloved community. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights applies to individuals, but it can only be achieved by our common community.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

11:03 A.M. EST