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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

2/14/40

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1/26 Briefy

Pickering

① How many
acting Subsecretary
people?

Family Leave ② Anglo

Feb. 17th

National Child
Labor Committee

Louis Howe Award for
Distinguished Service
to Children + Families

Talking Points for President Clinton
on the Nomination of Thomas Pickering
As Ambassador to Russia

- One of only four career Ambassadors in the Foreign Service, Thomas Pickering has distinguished himself and his nation in a number of challenging assignments.
- As U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Pickering led the diplomatic effort to achieve Security Council solidarity in opposition to Iraq's illegal occupation of Kuwait.
- He has led American efforts to achieve peace in Central America and the Middle East and to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Tom Pickering's record of achievement demonstrates that he stands at the top of his profession.
- After the election, I met with Ambassador Pickering in Little Rock. His knowledge and wisdom deeply impressed me.
- I have asked Tom Pickering to take on this assignment because there is no more important challenge than assisting our Russian friends as they attempt to create democratic institutions and a free market system. This is a task worthy of Ambassador Pickering's extraordinary talents.



United States Department of State

*Washington, D.C. 20520*THOMAS R. PICKERING

Thomas R. Pickering is Ambassador to India. He holds the personal rank of Career Ambassador, the highest in the United States Foreign Service. Ambassador Pickering previously served as Representative to the United Nations from 1989 - 1992, Ambassador to Israel from 1985 - 1988 and to El Salvador between 1983 and 1985. From 1981 until 1983, he was Ambassador to Nigeria. Previously, he was Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, completing that assignment in 1981. From 1974 until 1978, Ambassador Pickering was the United States Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Mr. Pickering was born in Orange, New Jersey, on November 5, 1931. He received a Bachelor's Degree in 1953 from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, cum laude, with high honors in history. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He attended the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University in 1954 and received a Master's Degree.

He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to the University of Melbourne in Australia and obtained a second Master's Degree from that University in 1956. From 1956 to 1959, he served in the United States Navy and later in the Naval Reserve to the grade to Lieutenant Commander.

Between 1959 and 1961, Ambassador Pickering served in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the State Department, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and at Geneva as a Political Officer in the 18-Nation Disarmament Conference.

Following his assignment to Geneva, he studied Swahili at the Foreign Service Institute in Washington and was assigned as Principal Officer in Zanzibar. In 1967, he became Deputy Chief of Mission in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and in 1969 he returned to Washington to become Deputy Director of the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs. From 1973 to 1974, he was Executive Secretary of the Department of State and Special Assistant to Secretary Rogers and to Secretary Kissinger.

In 1983, and 1986, Mr. Pickering won the Distinguished Presidential Award. In 1984, he received an Honorary Doctorate-in-Laws from Bowdoin College. He is a Member of the International Institute of Strategic Studies and the Council on Foreign Relations. His foreign languages are French, Spanish, Swahili, Arabic, and Hebrew.

Mr. Pickering is married to Alice Stover Pickering and they have a son, Timothy, and a daughter, Margaret.

January 26, 1993

Q: Is it true that the U.S. and the Republic of Korea have decided to proceed with Exercise Team Spirit '93, even though it was suspended in 1992?

A: -- Yes. Suspension of the Team Spirit Exercise in 1992 was an exceptional measure taken in recognition of North Korea's commitment to take the first steps, via implementation of its International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards Agreement.

-- The suspension was also undertaken in the hope that further progress would be made on implementing the Joint North-South Declaration on Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

-- However, ~~little progress has been made on a bilateral inspection regime,~~ primarily because North Korea would not accept elements in the regime that would make it credible and effective.

-- As a result, the October 8, 1992 communique of the U.S./ROK Defense Ministers meeting stated that "in the absence of meaningful improvement in South-North relations, especially on bilateral nuclear inspections," the U.S. and Republic of Korea would continue preparations for Team Spirit '93.

-- Since that time, North Korea has not taken steps that would lead to resolving these issues, including assuring agreement on a credible and effective inspection regime.

Q: What about North Korean claims that this is an offensive, nuclear exercise constituting a direct threat against it?

A: -- As the North Koreans are fully aware, Team Spirit is a purely defensive, conventional exercise.

-- I would also note that neutral military observers of previous Team Spirit Exercises have publicly verified the defensive nature of the exercise.

-- North Korea has been invited to send observers to this year's exercise, and we would hope that they would do so.

MIDDLE EAST

January 26, 1993

Q: Will you send Secretary Christopher to the Middle East?

A: -- The President accords a high priority to continuing the Middle East peace process. We are actively considering how best to promote that process including the possibility of a trip by Secretary Christopher to the region.

- Q: What is your reaction to the UN Secretary General's report on Palestinian deportees and particularly his recommendation to the Security Council that it should take whatever measures are required to ensure that UN resolution 799 (mandating return of the deportees) is respected?
- A: -- We are actively working with the UN and others to bring about a satisfactory resolution of the deportee question. The decision by the Israeli Supreme Court which is expected this week will be an important element in any effort to resolve this issue.
- Q: Would you veto a resolution that imposes sanctions against Israel?
- A: -- There is no such resolution pending in the UN Security Council, and I won't comment on a hypothetical question.
- Q: How do you respond to Prime Minister Rabin's complaints about the structure of the Middle East peace talks?
- A: -- We believe this process, which is supported by all parties, remains the only viable avenue for bringing a lasting peace to the region. We strongly support this process.

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT KRAVCHUK

January 26, 1993

Q: Why did the President call Ukrainian President Kravchuk?

A: -- The President felt it was important to touch base early with Ukrainian President Kravchuk on the major issues in our bilateral relationship. In particular, the President emphasized his interest in a close U.S.-Ukrainian relationship. They agreed that Secretary Christopher and Foreign Minister Zlenko should be in communication soon to establish an agenda for the future. The President mentioned his support for democratic and market reforms in Ukraine. He also discussed our hope that Ukraine will ratify the START I and Non-Proliferation treaties as soon as possible.

YELTSIN ON IRAQ

January 26, 1993

- Q: What is your reaction to statements by President Yeltsin yesterday that President Clinton indicated in their January 23 phone call that he might take a different approach to Iraq than the Bush Administration?
- A: -- The President and President Yeltsin discussed Iraq very briefly in the phone call. The President simply affirmed to President Yeltsin his interest in being in close communication on Iraq. But the President did not preview any change in U.S. policy.

CROATIA

January 26, 1993

Q: Do you condemn the Croatian offensive?

A: -- The United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution condemning attacks by Croatian forces against UN positions, calling for all parties to comply with cease-fire agreements, and demanding Serb forces return heavy weapons taken from UN-controlled storage areas. As a member of the UNSC, we support this resolution.

* * *

(FYI: Two French soldiers were killed and three wounded as a result of fighting between Serbs and Croats.)

* * *

Q: Do you support a call for the Croatian forces to return to earlier lines?

A: -- The resolution passed yesterday by the UNSC demands the immediate cessation of hostile activities by Croatian armed forces within or adjacent to the United Nations Protected Areas and the withdrawal of the Croatian armed forces from these areas.

-- We support the UNSC resolution.

SERBIA

January 26, 1993

Q: During the campaign President Clinton called for the opening of the concentration camps in Serbia. Now that he's in office, will he take action?

A: --

*Continue to
review*

SOMALIA

January 26, 1993

(FYI: A member of the Marine Corps was killed while on patrol in Mogadishu. This is the second death of a soldier on UN duties in Somalia. Express regret and refer to the Pentagon for further details.)

CIA SHOOTING

ANNOUNCE

President Clinton is deeply saddened by the tragic attack outside CIA headquarters yesterday. He extends his sympathy and support to the families of those who have suffered because of this senseless act.