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The President commends the actions of the House and Senate Budget Committees in moving forward his new directions economic program to increase investment, to create more jobs and economic activity in the short-term, and to reduce the deficit. Their actions will ensure prompt consideration and passage of the outlines of the President's package, thus enabling the Congress to adopt his program on an accelerated basis.

Reserve

The President's program consists of three related elements. He has proposed a long-term investment strategy -- to rebuild the nation's infrastructure, improve education and training, invest in our children, and provide a better climate for businesses large and small. He has asked for one of the largest deficit reduction packages in history, to reduce deficit spending and lower interest rates -- a plan of which the financial markets have already signalled their approval. Finally, he wants to create jobs and make investments in the short-term.

These three elements must proceed together, and the President especially believes that the economic climate right now requires adoption of the stimulus plan he proposed. At a time when military reductions are producing challenges for workers, corporations and communities, this is not the time to slow down or diminish investments that can be made promptly to produce jobs in the short-term.

These efforts -- along with the President's moves to ease the credit crunch and to speed the reinvestment of defense resources into civilian opportunities for growth and investment - are designed to bring about long-term economic growth for the people of the United States. They have responded positively to the President's call for action, and we believe the Congress can and will do so in the days ahead.

*File
Briefing - GS
8.11.93*

WHITE HOUSE PRESS GUIDANCE -- 2:30 PM
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1993

Russ Matters
Technology
overlap

Russia

Q: What are your comments on the situation in Moscow where the Congress of People's Deputies has voted to deny President Yeltsin the referendum he had called for on the constitutional balance of power?

A: -- We are obviously watching the situation there closely.

-- We have no specific comments to make since the situation is rather fluid.

-- But I would refer you to the President's comments during the last two days on the very strong U.S. support for political and economic reform in Russia, its importance to the entire world, and the leading role played in that process by President Boris Yeltsin.

Q: What is behind the G-7's decision to hold an extraordinary meeting on Russia this weekend in Hong Kong? [NOTE: Japan today announced the meeting and the G-7's invitation for Russia to participate this weekend.]

A: -- The President believes that the G-7 must engage intensively with Russia at this important time to support the historic economic and political reforms put in place by President Boris Yeltsin.

-- The President wrote each of his G-7 colleagues earlier this week to urge that the G-7 Sherpas and Finance Deputies take advantage of their already scheduled meeting in Hong Kong to hold a special meeting on Russia.

-- The President suggested further that the G-7 invite the Russian government to send a representative to that meeting.

-- The purpose of this meeting is to engage in an intensive dialogue with the Russian government on its economic plans and priorities and to discuss ways that the G-7 might be able to help the economic reform process continue.

-- This is not a session to announce new G-7 or bilateral assistance to Russia.

- We would expect there to be additional G-7 meetings in the period ahead to focus on this question. No decisions have been made on the level of those meetings. There are no current plans to hold a Heads of State Summit before the Tokyo summit.
 - As the President mentioned on Monday, however, it is our judgment that Russia's need for assistance and support is sufficiently great that the G-7 must work actively now to help Russia. Specifically we should affirm past commitments made at the Munich Summit and develop new ways to support reform. As the President said, we simply cannot wait until Tokyo to energize this process.
 - We are grateful to the Japanese government for its decisive action to call this meeting and to invite the Russian government to send a representative.
- Q: Does this mean the Administration is considering further increases in assistance to Russia?
- A: -- The President will announce a bilateral economic package of support for Russia's democratic political and market economic reforms on April 3-4 in Vancouver.
- The Administration is also requesting a total of \$700 million for grant aid to Russia in FY94 -- an increase of \$300 million from the FY93 level.
 - We have made no decisions on any further assistance levels.

DRAFT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Assistant Secretary/Spokesman

For Immediate Release

March 11, 1993

REMARKS BY
SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER
AND
UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL ENVOY TO HAITI DANTE CAPUTO
AT A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY BEFORE THEIR MEETING

Washington, D.C.
March 11, 1993

SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER: Good morning.

I'm very glad to welcome back to the State Department Foreign Minister Caputo, the Special Envoy of the Secretary General regarding Haiti. Since he was last here he has made a real accomplishment with respect to Haiti. There are now 77 observers in Haiti, and by the end of the month we expect that there will be 200.

HAITI

But that's only a first step, and we're now at what I think is a very important new stage of negotiations. It's time to get down to the hard negotiating. We understand that there will be difficult problems ahead, the need to provide security guarantees for all the parties in that nation that's racked by fear.

On the other hand, the United States is committed to there being real progress there. We really are not prepared to tolerate long delay or obstruction from the de facto forces who hold illegal power there.

I'm very glad to know that Minister Caputo is returning to Haiti to make an intensive effort to try to move the negotiations forward. As I say, we're at important new stage, and we think it's significant that he is going back and it's important that progress be made.

Minister Caputo, I'm glad to welcome you back. Let me again express appreciation for all you are doing to solve this most difficult problem.

MINISTER CAPUTO: Thank you sir.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, do you have a comment you'd like to make?

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MINISTER CAPUTO: Just a very short one. As the Secretary stated, we are finishing the deployment of the civilian mission. Now we are going to go to the essential part of the problem; that means the political negotiation. I will start today. I have a meeting with the President of the United States this afternoon, and next week I'll go to Haiti.

I'm just coming from France. We have here a representative from the OAS and from the UN Secretary General. Let me tell you that on this issue in the international community we have one thought and one voice. And I also want say thanks for the support I have received and am receiving from the U.S. Administration.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, if I might, there has been a fairly important set of developments in Moscow this morning. Parliament appears to have stripped Boris Yeltsin of many of his powers and has cancelled the referendum that he had wanted to have. Do you think Boris Yeltsin has enough political power left in Russia at the moment to proceed with the reforms that the United States wants him to proceed with? And will his situation now make it difficult for the U.S. to provide aid?

RUSSIA
Yeltsin's
Future

SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER: It's a very dynamic situation in Moscow. We're following it. The end of the story there has not been written even with respect to the congress and parliament.

The position of the United States is that President Yeltsin is the best opportunity now available to move forward with democracy and free markets. We continue to support him and will be following these events, hoping that the outcome is one that strengthens his position.

As I say, it's a dynamic situation, and we're not prepared to follow this morning's events with any predictions as to what might happen over the next several days.

QUESTION: Have you been asked -- has the United States been asked by President Yeltsin for some kind of political support should he decide to impose what we would refer to as emergency powers or emergency measures to maintain stability in Russia?

RUSSIA
Yeltsin

SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER: I'm not going to get into correspondence between the Presidents of either the United States and Russia or other countries. Let me simply repeat that it's a dynamic situation. We think that he is the strongest proponent of democracy and free markets, and we don't want to predict subsequent events as to whether or not we might take course A or B if something happens in the Soviet Union -- in Russia. We're not making any assumptions about what will happen. As the President has said, we're prepared to support President Yeltsin. That's been a decision we've taken here in the United States because we think it's in our own self interest.

Asks For
Support

-3-

QUESTION: Mr. Christopher, can we have one on Yugoslavia? There's a report today, which no doubt you've read, which suggests that the United States is prepared to commit 20,000 ground troops to a NATO force in former Yugoslavia. Could you comment on that?

BOSNIA

U.S.

Troops

SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER: There's no basis for the use of any precise figure with respect to the United States involvement. As we've said a number of times, if the parties come into agreement with respect to the map and the other conditions laid down by Mr. Vance and Lord Owen, then the United States would be prepared to use military power, in conjunction with the United Nations and working with NATO, to try to help ensure that agreement is carried out. But we've not gotten down to specific planning; troops numbers are substantially down the road. I have not used any specific figure with respect to numbers of troops, and so I would say that story is at least premature.

Thank you very much.

#

Palestinian Response to U.S.-Russian Invitation

[Background: Christopher announced on Wednesday that we have sent out invitations to the Ninth Round of bilateral talks in the Middle East peace process. All parties (Israel, Syria, Lebanon, and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation) attended the first eight bilaterals and the first two multilaterals sessions. The talks will be in Washington.

Invitations to the bilaterals are oral. In this instance, our Consul General in Jerusalem also provided an unofficial "non paper" including the points. It was this "non paper" that the Palestinians refused to accept. Our position is that we have nonetheless "conveyed" the invitation. We do not accept the initial public statements by Palestinian spokesmen -- e.g. Hanan Ashrawi -- as the Palestinian response. We do not expect any of the Arab parties to respond formally until all have participated in a coordinating meeting later this month. In the case of the Palestinians, we do not expect a final decision until just before April 20. At this point, we do not want a public argument on Palestinian rejection or non-rejection, but rather stick with the line that we are hopeful all parties will eventually decide to come.]

Q. Have the Palestinians refused the co-sponsors invitation to resume negotiations? If so, what is our reaction?

A. -- Russia and the U.S. have conveyed invitations to all the parties, including the Palestinians, to resume bilateral negotiations in Washington on April 20.

-- We are hopeful that all the parties will decide to participate.

-- I won't comment on public positions of the parties.

Q. Can the talks go forward if they do not come?

A. -- We don't confront that question yet. We have just issued the invitations and are hopeful that all parties will eventually decide to come.

China Policy

Q: Is it true, as reported in the Post today, that the Administration intends to renew MFN for China again this year?

A: -- No decision has been made on that question.

-- If you examine Secretary Christopher's remarks, you will see they are consistent with the President's view that his decision on MFN will depend on substantial progress by China on areas of concern we share with Congress, including human rights, trade and China's arms sales policies.

Somalia

[Background: U.S. forces in Somalia will continue to return to their home bases as their missions in support of Operation Restore Hope are completed. This next phase of the redeployment will reduce U.S. presence to approximately 10,000 personnel and is independent of the transition to a UN peacekeeping force.

During the next several weeks, the U.S. will draw down to two light brigades, while maintaining a robust logistics support structure. A total of about 5,000 people will be involved in this redeployment.

The Unified Task Force will not lose any operational capabilities through this reduction. U.S. forces have been restructured to take into account the assumption by some coalition forces of missions previously assigned to U.S. forces. U.S. presence is expected to remain at about 10,000 troops until the transition to UNOSOM II begins.]

Q: Won't security and humanitarian relief efforts be degraded by this action?

A: -- No. The personnel redeploying are those whose missions are complete.

-- In addition, the continued arrival of coalition forces and the standup of a new Somali auxiliary guard force will more than make up for their absence.

Q: Is this an attempt to force the UN hand? Is this reduction tied to the UN turnover?

A: -- No. This redeployment involves troops whose mission is no longer required.

Q: Was the UN consulted prior to deciding on the continued redeployment?

A: -- We consult with the UNOSOM military staff on a daily basis.

Bosnia

[FYI: There was an 11th air drop last night (Wednesday).]

Q: Is NATO already planning the structure of a force to implement a possible peace plan?

A: -- Last week, a delegation from NATO visited in New York to do the preliminary thinking on implementation of a peace plan that would include peacekeeping and humanitarian aid.

-- Proposals are being discussed among NATO nations and at NATO and Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe.

-- The U.S. is participating in these discussions.

Aid to the Former Soviet Union

Q: Where do you plan to cut the foreign aid budget to increase outlays to Russia?

A: -- The 1993 Bush budget requested about \$400 million in aid to the Former Soviet Union (FSU).

-- The Clinton budget for FY 1994 more clearly recognizes the centrality to long-term U.S. interests of the FSU making a successful transition to democracy and a more liberal economy by authorizing an additional \$300 million for the FSU.

-- To offset the \$300 million, the following cuts were made elsewhere in the budget authorizations:

a) Security Assistance (Economic Support Fund and Foreign Military Fund) was reduced by \$316 million.

b) Support for foreign activities: cuts were made in AID programs that encouraged U.S. overseas investment [FYI: an issue that had been raised by the Vice President during the campaign], for a FY 94 savings of \$156 million.

Russian Plutonium

Q: What can you tell us about the Russian interest in recycling plutonium for commercial use?

A: -- We have told the Russians that we do not believe there is a commercial market for plutonium and that for nonproliferation reasons we think it is critical that the material be stored in a secure fashion.

-- Our discussions with them are continuing.

Q: How do you respond to Congressional claims that resistance by the Bush Administration and the absence of senior Clinton Administration appointees has delayed the dismantlement of Russian nuclear weapons?

A: -- The Clinton Administration has made it clear that the continuation of the dismantlement process is a high priority.

-- We have kept General Burns on through the transition to oversee the U.S. role in the program and will continue to give it the attention it deserves.

-- We are working to ensure that the money that has been allocated for this purpose is used as swiftly as possible.

-- It is in the national interest of both our countries that the dismantlement process move forward quickly and safely.

World Trade Center Bombing

[Background: James Fox, Assistant FBI Director, made the following comments during a hearing on the Hill Tuesday, "From early on, we were reluctant to say this was a bombing, but it was a bombing. From early on, we were reluctant to say this was a terrorist incident, but now there is a lot of evidence that leads us to suspect it was a terrorist incident." Also, he said he believed those responsible were from "a large, well-known terrorist group."]

Q: Assistant FBI Director Fox said yesterday that the World Trade Center bombing was the work of a "well-known terrorist group." Which groups do we consider to be the primary suspects? Do we plan retaliation, legal action?

A: -- We are employing all of our resources -- investigative and judicial -- to find and punish those who committed this despicable act.

-- The investigation of this incident is ongoing, and it is too early to discern its implications.

Is Michael Gordon right in this morning's New York Times that the U.S. is urging NATO to prepare a large military force, including up to 20,000 Americans, to impose or implement a Bosnian peace settlement?

--As President Clinton made clear in his joint press conference with French President Mitterrand Tuesday, the U.S. has no intention of sending troops to impose a settlement in Bosnia.

--As Secretary Christopher said when he announced our basic policy toward Bosnia on February 10, if all parties to the conflict agree to a settlement containing enforcement provisions the United States would be prepared to join with the United Nations, NATO, and others in implementing and enforcing it, including possible U.S. military participation.

--Contingency planning has just begun on what might be required to implement a Bosnian settlement. The work is necessarily preliminary; the requirements for implementation will depend in part on the exact nature of a settlement. Several hypothesis need to be considered.

--I will not comment further on internal contingency planning.

Is France blocking NATO contingency planning on this issue?

--Preliminary planning has begun in NATO, with French participation. The issue of how to make best use of NATO's unique assets, while accommodating possible non-NATO participants such as Russia as well as France's special position vis-a-vis NATO's integrated military command, will need to be resolved before plans are complete. But that is not impeding the work that needs to be done now.

Bosnia's Ambassador to the United Nations is quoted in this morning's Washington Post as saying that the U.S. has let his country down by not getting enough changes in the peace plan developed by Cy Vance and David Owen. Can you comment?

--It would be a mistake for us to comment on every remark attributed to a foreign official. The important thing is that Bosnian President Izetbegovic was satisfied enough with the progress he made in New York last week with Vance and Owen to return home with the hope of persuading his colleagues to accept the compromises they had reached.

The Washington Post also reports that a Bosnian government helicopter marked with a red cross evacuated wounded from Srebrenica. Was that a violation of the UN Security Council-mandated no fly zone over Bosnia?

--The Bosnians have been using helicopters to evacuate wounded from eastern Bosnia.

--Humanitarian flights over Bosnia are possible if they receive specific exemption from the no-fly resolution. That is true for American and other flights into Sarajevo airport carrying relief supplies and for our airdrops over eastern

Bosnia. It also would be true of any Bosnian government or other flights.

--All parties should respect the no fly zone, including the requirement to obtain exemption for humanitarian flights.

--(If asked) If the U.N. Security Council passes a resolution authorizing enforcement of the no fly zone, it should be enforced against violations by anyone.

March 11, 1993

BOSNIAN REP ON MAP

MAP + Reg

Q. Is it true that the U.S. isn't helping the Bosnians get any improvement to the map, as Sacirbey says?

-- I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO DETAILS OF THE DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK AND THE DISCUSSIONS WE ARE HAVING WITH THE PARTIES. THIS IS PART OF THE ONGOING NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

-- I CAN SAY THAT THE U.S., THROUGH AMBASSADOR BARTHOLOMEW, IS WORKING ACTIVELY WITH THE PARTIES AND WITH VANCE AND OWEN TO HELP WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT THAT IS FAIR AND WORKABLE, AN AGREEMENT THE PARTIES CAN ACCEPT.

-- LAST WEEK IN NEW YORK, BARTHOLOMEW WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE THE BOSNIAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES AND WITH THE OTHER PARTIES TO MOVE THIS PROCESS ALONG.

Siladjic
-- BOSNIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SILADJIC SPOKE TO AMBASSADOR BARTHOLOMEW THIS MORNING AND EXPRESSED HIS STRONG APPRECIATION FOR THE ACTIVE AND POSITIVE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

-- FOREIGN MINISTER SILADJIC, AT HIS REQUEST, WILL BE TRAVELLING TO WASHINGTON TOMORROW FROM NEW YORK TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR BARTHOLOMEW AND CONTINUE THEIR DISCUSSIONS.

EUR Press Guidance
March 11, 1993

Kohl

RUSSIA

Q: Yesterday's Financial Times reported that Chancellor Kohl sent a letter to the G-7 regarding Yeltsin. Kohl said Yeltsin was seeking confirmation of Western support if he (Yeltsin) declared emergency rule. Have we received such a letter, and what is our response? What is our view of emergency rule? Have we warned Yeltsin against such a move? Would our plans for assistance change if Yeltsin adopted emergency rule?

A: -- THE G-7 LEADERS ARE IN FREQUENT COMMUNICATION ON THE SITUATION IN RUSSIA, BUT WE DO NOT COMMENT ON THE SPECIFICS OF PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

-- REGARDING EVENTS IN MOSCOW, WE ARE OBVIOUSLY WATCHING THE SITUATION THERE CLOSELY. WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC COMMENT TO MAKE SINCE THE SITUATION IS RATHER FLUID.

-- GENERALLY SPEAKING, I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS DURING THE LAST TWO DAYS ON THE VERY STRONG SUPPORT FOR ^{BOTH} POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REFORM IN RUSSIA, ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE ENTIRE WORLD, AND THE LEADING ROLE PLAYED IN THAT PROCESS BY PRESIDENT YELTSIN.

Responsible
Not in speculation

State cable

Q: CBS News' broadcast last night mentioned a State cable and commented on Yeltsin's future. What do we think? Is this the end of an era? What is the U.S. position?

A: -- OUR EMBASSY IS CONTINUALLY REPORTING ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN MOSCOW, INCLUDING THE ONGOING CONGRESS. I WILL NOT COMMENT FURTHER ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE EMBASSY'S CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING TO THE DEPARTMENT.

-- I WISH TO RETERATE THAT THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION STRONGLY SUPPORTS PRESIDENT YELTSIN'S LEADERSHIP OF RUSSIA'S EFFORTS TO BUILD DEMOCRACY AND A MARKET ECONOMY.

-- PRESIDENT CLINTON LOOKS FORWARD TO MEETING WITH PRESIDENT YELTSIN IN VANCOUVER ON APRIL 3-4 AND TO WORKING WITH HIM TO BUILD A CLOSE AND EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA.

Q: What do we know about an announcement by the Japanese that Deputy Prime Minister Fedorov will be invited to a G-7 Sherpa meeting this weekend? Where? Can we confirm the meeting? Are there other G-7 meetings proposed before the July G-7 Summit?

Fedorov

A: -- ~~THE G-7 HAVE DECIDED TO HOLD AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING ON~~
~~RUSSIA~~ THIS WEEKEND IN HONG KONG, AND HAVE INVITED RUSSIA
TO PARTICIPATE.

-- THE PURPOSE OF ~~THIS MEETING~~ IS TO ENGAGE IN AN INTENSIVE
DIALOGUE WITH THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT ON ITS ECONOMIC
PLANS AND PRIORITIES AND TO DISCUSS WAYS THAT THE G-7
MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP THE ECONOMIC REFORM PROCESS
CONTINUE.

-- THIS IS NOT A SESSION TO ANNOUNCE NEW G-7 OR BILATERAL
ASSISTANCE TO RUSSIA.

-- WE WOULD EXPECT THERE TO BE ADDITIONAL G-7 MEETINGS IN
THE PERIOD AHEAD TO FOCUS ON THIS QUESTION. NO DECISIONS
HAVE BEEN MADE ON THE LEVEL OF THOSE MEETINGS. ~~THERE ARE~~
NO CURRENT PLANS TO HOLD A HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT BEFORE
THE TOKYO SUMMIT.

PTOP, Sec + Stefanopoulos addressed yesterday.

As
part of
H. H. H.
24/5
for
summit

INVITE RUSSIAN

-- AS PRESIDENT CLINTON MENTIONED ON MONDAY, HOWEVER, IT IS OUR JUDGEMENT THAT RUSSIA'S NEED FOR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT IS SUFFICIENTLY GREAT THAT THE G-7 MUST WORK ACTIVELY NOW TO HELP RUSSIA. SPECIFICALLY, WE SHOULD AFFIRM PAST COMMITMENTS MADE AT THE MUNICH SUMMIT AND DEVELOP NEW WAYS TO SUPPORT REFORM. AS THE PRESIDENT SAID, WE SIMPLY CANNOT WAIT UNTIL THE TOKYO SUMMIT TO ENERGIZE THIS PROCESS.

-- WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS DECISIVE ACTION TO CALL THIS MEETING AND TO INVITE THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE.

NEA PRESS GUIDANCE

March 11, 1993

Pals**PALESTINIANS REFUSE INVITATION?**

Q: Did Hanan Ashrawi refuse to accept the co-sponsors invitation to the next round of the Arab Israeli peace talks and have we delivered the invitation?

A: OUR CONSUL GENERAL IN JERUSALEM AND THE RUSSIAN DCM, REPRESENTING THE CO-SPONSORS, EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO THE PALESTINIANS TO ATTEND THE NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ON APRIL 20.

I'LL LET THE PALESTINIANS CHARACTERIZE THEIR REACTION TO THE RECEIVING THE INVITATIONS.

Q: (IF ASKED) Have you talked to Faisal Hussein about the invitation?

A: LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON ASSISTANT SECRETARY DJEREJIAN SPOKE TO FAISAL HUSSEINI WHO WAS IN LONDON. AMBASSADOR DJEREJIAN TOLD HUSSEINI, WE HAD EXTENDED THE INVITATION AND ENCOURAGED THE PALESTINIANS TO RESPOND POSITIVELY.

HE ALSO CONVEYED OUR CONVICTION THAT THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS SHOULD FOCUS ON MAKING SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS.

Ed to
Faisal

Responses
Q: Have you received any formal responses from the parties on ~~the~~ invitations to the bilateral or multilateral talks?

A: ISRAEL HAS ACCEPTED THE INVITATION TO THE BILATERALS. WE ARE AWAITING RESPONSES FROM THE ARABS.

from the individual hosts and co-sponsors.
FORMAL INVITATIONS TO MULTILATERAL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE SENT IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS.

Drafted: NEA/P: WChamberlin *W*

Cleared: NEA: EDJerejian *W*

NEA: DKurtzer *W*

NEA: MParris *W*

S/P: SLewis *W*

S/P: AMiller *W*

NEA PRESS GUIDANCE**March 11, 1993**

cc George S. from Nancy S.
Pm Clark.

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S/P: SLewis *OK*

S/P: AMiller *OK*

March 11, 1993

SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER ON MEPP INVITATIONS
(March 10, 1993, Press Conference)

SEC
ON
INVITES

STATEMENT:

- THE RESUMPTION OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WE ARE ANNOUNCING TODAY IS IMPORTANT BUT NOT A END IN ITSELF.
- OUR OBJECTIVE AND THE OBJECTIVE OF ALL PARTIES MUST BE TO MAKE REAL, TANGIBLE PROGRESS SOON.
- THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA, AS CO-SPONSORS OF THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, ARE TODAY INVITING THE PARTIES TO RESUME BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS HERE IN WASHINGTON FOR THE TWO-WEEK PERIOD COMMENCING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 20.
- WE'RE ALSO ANNOUNCING THE RECONVENING OF THE MULTILATERAL WORKING GROUPS AT A SPECIFIED SERIES OF DATES BEGINNING WITH THE WATER GROUP ON APRIL 27 IN GENEVA.
- TO PREPARE THE GROUND FOR THESE IMPORTANT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, WE'LL ALSO BE INVITING THE PARTIES TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO WASHINGTON LATE MARCH OR EARLY APRIL TO HAVE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH OUR ENHANCED U.S. TEAM.

IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS:

- WE'VE ISSUED INVITATIONS TO ALL THE PARTIES TODAY.
 - PERSONALLY, I THINK THAT ALL THE PARTIES WILL COME, AND SO I DON'T THINK WE FACE THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER WE WOULD GO AHEAD WITH ONLY SOME OF THE PARTIES.
 - WITH OUR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE FULLY, AS AN ACTIVE PARTY, TO BE AN INTERMEDIARY, TO FACILITATE THE DISCUSSION, WE THINK THE PARTIES RECOGNIZE THIS IS AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM. AND FRANKLY, I THINK THEY WILL END UP ACCEPTING THE INVITATION.
-

Pals

- I FEEL STRONGLY WE HAVE NOT HEARD THE LAST WORD FROM THE PALESTINIANS. THE INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED. WE'VE SEEN SOME STATEMENTS BY THEM, BUT I'VE NOT HEARD FROM FAISAL HUSSEINI, WHO IS HEAD OF THE PALESTINIAN DELEGATION, THAT I MET WITH TWICE WHEN I WAS IN JERUSALEM.
- MY CONVICTION CONTINUES TO BE THAT THE PALESTINIANS WILL WANT TO RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE THEY SEE IN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES' WILLINGNESS TO SERVE AS A FULL PARTNER AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE REAL PROGRESS. AND I THINK AT THE END OF THE DAY THAT THAT WILL BE THE CONTROLLING REALITY.