

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Communications

Series/Staff Member: George Stephanopoulos

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 553

FolderID:

Folder Title:
Briefing Material 3/25/93

Stack:

S

Row:

90

Section:

3

Shelf:

1

Position:

2

WHITE HOUSE PRESS GUIDANCE -- 11:30 AM
THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1993

4/6
08.25.93
G.D.N.
Briefing

Bosnia

Q: Have the talks broken down as Lord Owen has stated?

A: -- These discussions have stalled before only to be restarted.

-- We note that all parties are still in New York, and we urge them to return to the talks with renewed determination to move forward.

Q: What is the status of the No-Fly Zone resolution?

A: -- We are working with other UNSC members on this proposal.

-- We believe a consensus has been reached, and we look forward to an early vote, possibly next week.

Ukraine/Russia Nuclear Arms

Q: How do you feel about the report in the Washington Post which quotes Ukrainian Foreign Minister Zlenko as saying the current crisis in Russia has dimmed political support in Ukraine for eliminating nuclear weapons?

[FYI: Zlenko is meeting with Christopher at 12:15 and is having a dropby with the President at 1:00 p.m.]

A: -- The Ukrainian Government has publicly committed itself to becoming a non-nuclear state.

-- We expect it to live up to that obligation.

-- We believe it is in the best interest of Ukraine and the community of nations if these nuclear weapons are destroyed.

Homosexuals in the Military

Q: At Tuesday's press conference, the President was asked whether he would consider limiting homosexuals to non-combat positions if the ban on their participation in the military were lifted. He indicated that he thought that a distinction could be made on duty assignments if the ban is lifted. Has a decision been made on this?

A: -- No decision has been made on this issue.

-- I'm sure that the possibility of restricting duty assignments will be one of the options discussed during deliberations at the Department of Defense and during Congressional hearings on this issue.

-- As the President noted, the courts have long recognized that the Armed Forces can restrict duty assignments based on a number of factors, such as gender, physical ability and age. These are distinctions that cannot be legally drawn in civilian life, but can be made for reasons of national security. Restrictions on duty assignment are a matter of policy, not of law.

-- The option of restricting homosexuals from combat units or other assignments, therefore, will be reviewed along with all other policy implications.

Q: Does the President still support his campaign pledge to lift the ban?

A: -- The President is firmly committed to ensuring that American citizens who want to serve their country should be able to do so unless their conduct disqualifies them from doing so.

-- President Clinton believes that behavior can and should be strictly regulated. He does not think people should be disqualified merely on the basis of status.

-- The President does not believe individuals should be excluded from military service solely on the basis of their status.

Q: The New York Times reported that the Administration has done little work on lifting the ban on gays in the military, and that the Pentagon is actively undermining the President's policy. Are you satisfied with the progress to date? Is the military in control on this issue?

A: -- When President Clinton met with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in January, they set forward a plan to address this issue over the next several months. The President is confident that the Defense Department and the military Services are approaching this issue seriously, and he looks forward to working closely with them as final decisions are made.

-- The President expects to receive Secretary Aspin's recommendation on July 15, as planned.

Q: Do you believe that the Navy acted improperly in providing to Congress a court document that contends that the reinstatement of Navy Petty Officer Meinhold has been disruptive to his squadron?

A: -- No. The document in question -- a statement by Petty Officer Meinhold's commanding officer -- was provided to Congressional committees at their request. As part of the documentation filed with the District Court in California, it is publicly available and is not of a privileged nature.

Q: Is the President concerned that lifting the ban on homosexuals in the military will hurt recruiting so badly that the military might have to return to the draft?

A: -- No. President Clinton agrees with Senator Nunn's assessment in that regard -- that we will continue to be able to draw top caliber men and women and to maintain ready, quality military forces.

Kurle Islands ..
Eric Schwartz

STATEMENTS ON MILITARY ASSIGNMENTS FOR HOMOSEXUALS

"The military is studying the practical problems about duty assignments and other things, and we'll revisit this in about six months."

-- The President, Detroit Town Meeting, February 10

"There are a lot of things that could effect the details of how this is done. You know, what kinds of duty? Or should any duty be off limits and all that sort of stuff. There are a lot of issues here."

-- The President, Interview by WSB-TV, Atlanta
February 5

"It's not impossible that there would be different rules to apply to different sets of people. That's not impossible. It's very easy to contemplate -- would have different sorts of assignments, different situations for the different sets of people."

-- George Stephanopoulos, Press Briefing, January 29

"Q: Is he considering lifting the ban but keeping it in terms of combat?

A: Again, that's one of the details I think we have to get into in the future."

-- George Stephanopoulos, Press Briefing, January 27

TIMETABLE ON GAYS IN THE MILITARY

April 1: Involve California-based think tank, Rand to provide a wider scope of information on the issue. (FYI -- the idea is to include more civilians in the process)

Mid April: Establish an internal DoD Task Force

April/May: Agency review

June/July: Review with Joint Chiefs, White House Staff and POTUS

July 15: Announcement

South African Nuclear Announcement

Q: Any comment on South African President de Klerk's statement that South Africa has built nuclear weapons?

A: -- Of course, we have had long-standing concerns about South Africa's nuclear program. That is why we were pleased South Africa joined the Non-Proliferation Treaty (in 1991) and accepted International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections.

-- We welcome President de Klerk's statement that South Africa has destroyed all its nuclear devices and is adhering strictly to the requirements of the NPT and will continue to do so.

-- Of course, we will continue to monitor the situation.

Q: Isn't that a double standard, being forgiving of South Africa while you are pitting the whole world against North Korea, which may not have even one nuclear device?

A: -- No, there is no double standard. We would welcome a North Korean decision to accept IAEA inspections and declare all of its nuclear activities to the IAEA. The difference is that North Korea has violated its safeguards obligations, while South Africa is cooperating with the international community.

China/North Korea

Q: Any comment on the Chinese Foreign Minister's statement in the New York Times that China doesn't support sanctions against North Korea?

A: -- Foreign Minister Qian's statement reiterated China's opposition to nuclear proliferation in Korea.

-- As we understand China's position, the best way to achieve this goal is through patient diplomacy rather than sanctions.

-- We're in touch with the Chinese, and have urged them to use their influence to get North Korea to change its mind about withdrawing from the NPT and to comply fully with its non-proliferation obligations.

-- The U.S. is not looking for a confrontation with North Korea. If our non-proliferation objectives can be achieved without sanctions or other formal UNSC action, this would be a positive development.

Egypt: Arrest in WTC Bombing

Q: Can you confirm that Mahmoud Abu Halima is in American custody?

A: -- Yes. Any further details on this case would most appropriately be handled by the Justice Department.

Q: [IF PRESSED] Was this a snatch?

A: -- No. In the course of the investigation into the World Trade Center bombing, a number of governments were cooperative in the apprehension of the suspect.

Q: [IF PRESSED] Was Egypt one of those governments?

A: -- Yes.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Assistant Secretary/Spokesman

For Immediate Release

March 24, 1992

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER

El Salvador Panel

Today I have appointed a panel to examine the implications of the U.N.-sponsored El Salvador Truth Commission report for the conduct of U.S. foreign policy and the operations of the Department of State. The panel will be co-chaired by retired career Ambassadors George Vest and Richard Murphy.

Acting as academic advisors to the committee will be Professor I.M. Dentler of the University of Maryland and Professor Carol Lancaster of Georgetown University. Professor Dentler has authored several books and articles on the foreign policy process including a seminal work on the subject entitled Presidents, Bureaucrats and Foreign Policy (Princeton University Press, 1972 and 1974). Professor Lancaster is a noted scholar and has authored numerous articles on development and third-world issues.

The atrocities committed during the long civil war in El Salvador are well documented in the Truth Commission report. Although the report contains no explicit criticism of the U.S. Government or its representatives, its publication does have implications for the conduct of U.S. foreign policy and the Department of State's operations. Respect for human rights is a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy; and when questions arise that challenge our commitments, we have an obligation to seek answers.

Accordingly, I have asked this panel to review the Truth Commission's report and examine the activities and conduct of the Department during this period. The panel's review will include responsiveness to Congressional and public inquiries, human rights reporting, and the degree to which we encouraged State Department officers to conduct a full and independent inquiry of abuses by both sides in the civil conflict. The panel is to report its findings to me and make recommendations on steps the Department can take to ensure that the Department functions in a manner consistent with the highest professional and ethical standards and our nation's values.

Palestinian Leaders Meeting with Christopher

Q: Can you confirm that Secretary Christopher will meet with Palestinian leaders on Friday in Washington?

A: -- Yes. As you know, we had been in touch with all the parties, including the Palestinians, asking them to send representatives to meet with U.S. officials before the beginning of the next round.

-- We are pleased that Palestinian representatives, including Faisal Husseini, will come to Washington and will meet with Secretary Christopher on Friday to discuss next steps.