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Briefing 04.05.93

WHITE HOUSE PRESS GUIDANCE -- 9:00 AM
MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1993

Mubarak on Terrorism

[Recent hyperbole by Mubarak regarding terrorist activities in Egypt and the U.S. on the eve of his state visit have been reported by the U.S. press.]

Q: Last week President Mubarak stated that Iran is responsible for supporting and directing Egypt's Islamic extremists. Can you confirm these reports?

A: -- While we have a regular exchange of information with the Egyptians, we have no reliable information on a significant Iranian role.

Q: The New York Times today [Monday] reported that Mubarak had stated that the World Trade Center bombing could have been avoided had U.S. intelligence sources acted on information provided by Egypt. Can you comment on that?

A: -- The New York Times piece also reported that President Mubarak had added that no specific information about the bombing had been passed to the U.S. That, we can confirm. While we are unable to go into details, we and the Egyptians have a regular exchange of information on the basis of which appropriate actions are taken by both sides.

-- We have been actively cooperating with the Egyptians to bring individuals involved in terrorist acts to justice. We believe this cooperation should continue and be intensified. As the President has said repeatedly, we will not tolerate these deplorable acts of violence and terrorism.

① We cooperate w/ Egyptians
Islamic extremists threat to our interests

② No specific info... Mubarak

③ No disclosure

Sec. has spent a lot of energy
early and a part of the
Palestinian

Bill is in there now?

Women in Combat

Q: The New York Times today [Monday] reports that the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Frank Kelso has plans to allow women to serve in combat positions in the Navy. Does President Clinton support this move?

- A: -- Admiral Kelso's initial proposal to open the number of jobs available to women in the Navy has been submitted to Secretary of Defense Aspin for review. The Navy proposal would not open all positions to women, but would greatly expand the number of ships and aircraft on which women could serve.
- In his discussions with Congress last week, Secretary Aspin indicated that he would consider allowing women to serve aboard U.S. Navy combatant ships with the exception of amphibious ships and submarines. He also signalled the possibility that he would recommend that women pilots be allowed to fly tactical aircraft during combat missions. This is contrary to the recommendation of the Women In Combat Commission Report that was sent to Congress in January, but is consistent with the position taken by Secretary Aspin who, as a Congressman, voted to lift the ban against women serving in combat.
- The Secretary of Defense will have to consider the Navy's proposal in the broader context of its effect on the other military services. After Secretary Aspin briefs the President on available options, the President will discuss the issue with Congress before making a final decision.

High Tech Sales to Russia

[IF ASKED]:

- Q: Is it true that the President agreed to eliminate restrictions on high technology sales to Russia? (Eliminate COCOM export controls?)
- A: -- The President committed to work with Congress to eliminate legal remnants of the Cold War, including the Jackson-Vanik provisions. We are currently compiling an index of such restrictions.
- With respect to restrictions on high technology, the President told President Yeltsin that we should work together to assess export controls and their impact on trade. COCOM [Coordinating Committee on Multilateral Export Controls] export controls are multilateral and we will discuss changes in these controls with our COCOM partners.

WASHFAX RECEIPT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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S/S #

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'93 APR -5 18:31

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MESSAGE NO. 096243 CLASSIFICATION Unclass No. Pages 1

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REMARKS: PASS ASAP

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Clinton Pearson

10: 172 JLCR-18KY
FROM: MIKE ARMACOST

051445 KWO61

POL ITL ECO:CLINTON-JAPANESE:

CLINTON WARNS YELTSIN ON JAPANESE DISSEMBLING.

VANCOUVER, CANADA, APRIL 4 KYODO - WHEN THE JAPANESE SAY YES, THEY SOMETIMES MEAN NO.

THAT ADVICE ON THE PITFALLS OF LITERAL TRANSLATION WAS OFFERED BY U.S. PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON TO RUSSIAN PRESIDENT BORIS YELTSIN AT THEIR WEEKEND SUMMIT IN VANCOUVER, A LOCAL TELEVISION STATION REPORTED SUNDAY.

CLINTON REPORTEDLY QUOTED THE JAPANESE QUIRK -- REFLECTING A CULTURAL PREFERENCE TO INDICATE THAT ONE UNDERSTANDS THE OTHER'S POINT OF VIEW RATHER THAN OPENLY DISAGREEING -- DURING DINNER WITH YELTSIN ON SATURDAY, ACCORDING TO NOTES FOUND BY A REPORTER.

CLINTON, WHO TRAVELED THREE TIMES TO JAPAN AS GOVERNOR OF ARKANSAS, REPORTEDLY CITED THE JAPANESE QUIRK IN OFFERING YELTSIN ADVICE AGAINST WHAT COULD BE TAKEN AS JAPANESE DISSEMBLING.

"WHEN THE JAPANESE SAY 'YES' TO US, THEY OFTEN MEAN 'NO,'" CLINTON REPORTEDLY REMARKED TO YELTSIN.

"IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT THE JAPANESE DO NOT BEHAVE THE SAME WAY WITH YOU," CLINTON SAID.

THE REMARKS WERE SCRIBBLED ON THE BACK OF A DRAFT OF YELTSIN'S SPEECH IN RUSSIAN FOR DELIVERY AT THE DINNER AT A LOCAL RESTAURANT.

LEIGH MORROW, A REPORTER WITH THE VANCOUVER TELEVISION STATION UTV, SAID SHE FOUND THE NOTES -- SEVEN PAGES IN ALL -- UNDER A NAPKIN AT THE TABLE WHERE CLINTON AND YELTSIN WERE SEATED.

THE NOTES ON CLINTON'S REMARKS, WRITTEN IN RUSSIAN, APPEARED ON THE BACK OF THE LAST PAGE OF YELTSIN'S PREPARED REMARKS, WHICH BEGAN BY NOTING ON IMPORTANCE OF THE SUMMIT MEETING.

MORROW, WHO SHOWED THE NOTES TO OTHER REPORTERS, SAID SHE DISCOVERED THEM WHILE TALKING TO STAFF AT THE RESTAURANT AFTER CLINTON AND YELTSIN HAD LEFT.

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POL ITL ECO:CLINTON-JAPANESE 2 VANCOUVER:

ACCORDING TO U.S. OFFICIALS, CLINTON AND YELTSIN DISCUSSED ECONOMIC ISSUES DURING THE WORKING DINNER, INCLUDING ECONOMIC AID TO RUSSIA FROM THE GROUP OF SEVEN LEADING INDUSTRIAL NATIONS.

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER, TREASURY SECRETARY LLOYD BENTSEN AND CLINTON'S KEY WHITE HOUSE AIDES ALSO ATTENDED THE WORKING DINNER, ALONG WITH THEIR RUSSIAN COUNTERPARTS.

JAPAN'S RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA ALSO CAME UP FOR DISCUSSION DURING CLINTON'S ONE-ON-ONE MEETING WITH YELTSIN EARLIER SATURDAY.

ACCORDING TO WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, CLINTON MENTIONED A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER KIICHI MIYAZAWA THE DAY BEFORE THE SUMMIT.

CLINTON "PASSED ON PRIME MINISTER MIYAZAWA'S STRONG INTENT TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE G-7 PROCESS OF ASSISTANCE TO RUSSIA," STEPHANOPOULOS TOLD REPORTERS.

CLINTON ALSO "REITERATED HIS SUPPORT FOR JAPAN'S LONG-STANDING POLICY" IN ITS TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH RUSSIA, STEPHANOPOULOS SAID.

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