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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	RE: Somalia (6 pages)	04/03/1993	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Communications
George Stephanopoulos
OA/Box Number: 553

FOLDER TITLE:

Press Briefing 5/4/93

2011-0582-F
db4262

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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weekly update

George J. Mitchell, Chairman
Thomas A. Daschle, Co-Chairman

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-7050
(202) 224-5554

Vol. 103, No. 13

May 3-7, 1993

floor schedule

The Senate convenes next at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 4. After time reserved for the two Leaders, a period for morning business extends no later than 9:30 a.m. Senators may speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

At 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, the Senate resumes debate on the *Dept. of the Environment Bill*. For details of a unanimous consent agreement governing **S. 171**, please consult p. 2 of the Senate Legislative Calendar.

The Senate will recess from 12:30-2:15 p.m. for party conferences, and any roll call votes ordered relative to the agreement on **S. 171**, will not occur prior to 2:15 p.m. Upon disposition of the **S. 171**, the *Department of Environment Bill*, the Senate will proceed to consideration of **S. 349**, the *Lobbying Disclosure Bill*.

Other legislative items possible for consideration include:

- the Conference Report to **H.R. 2**, the *Motor Voter Bill*; and
- any Legislative or Executive calendar business cleared by unanimous consent.

Roll Call votes are possible at anytime during the Senate's proceedings.

fyi

May 4:

Commerce Dept. issues leading, coincident and lagging economic indicators.

May 5:

U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor addresses National Press Club, Washington, D.C.

May 6:

Commerce Dept. issues 1st quarter 1993 preliminary productivity figures.

May 7:

Labor Dept. issues April unemployment report.

highlights

May 4

Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs Cmte.
HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros testifies.

Finance Cmte.

Hearing: Taxation of Social Security benefits.

May 6

Joint Economic Cmte.

Hearing: Slow economic growth.

May 7

Joint Economic Cmte.

Hearing: April unemployment

democratic policy committee

Possible This Week — May 3-May 7

Special Report

- China MFN

Legislative Bulletin

- S. 714, R.T.C. funding bill

As soon as publications are obtainable, their availability will be announced in the Daily Report and on DPC-TV, Channel 6.

dpc publications

Last Week – April 26-30

Legislative Bulletin

- LB-9-Environment:
S. 171, *Department of the Environment Act of 1993*

Special Report

- SR-12-Health:
Health Across America, Part II, Spring, 1993

Issue Alert

- IA-7- Economy
Economy Slows in 1993



the public pulse

Americans on President Clinton

Fifty-nine percent of those surveyed for the *Washington Post*/ABC News poll on the Clinton Administration's first 100 days, which appeared in the *Post* on April 29, approved of the way President Clinton was handling his job; 39% disapproved. On February 14, the numbers were 54% and 31% respectively.

Thirty percent approved of the way Congress was doing its job, up from the low of 17% in April 1992.

Sixty-five percent agreed that President Clinton was trying to make major changes in the way government works, up from 56% in February.

Fifty-nine percent had a favorable impression of President Clinton, while 29% had an unfavorable one.

Fifty-one percent approved of the way Clinton was handling the economy, while 46% disapproved. On February 14, the numbers were 49% and 28%.

Seventy-one percent felt that the country has "gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track."

Fifty-four percent said the economy was staying the same, while 27% said it was getting worse, and 19% thought it was getting better.

Forty-two percent agreed with the statement that "The Clinton Administration has begun to break the gridlock in Washington," while 54% disagreed.

In a survey of more than 1,000 adults for the *USA Today*/CNN/Gallup poll that appeared in *USA Today* on April 28, 55% approved of the way President Clinton was handling his job, while 37% disapproved.

Forty-three percent approved of his handling of the economy, while 50% disapproved.

Fifty-three percent approved of his handling of foreign affairs, while 34% disapproved.

Sixty-three percent had a favorable view of Clinton, while 32% had an unfavorable opinion.

Fifty-five percent had a favorable view of Vice President Al Gore, while 24% had an unfavorable view.

Fifty-four percent agreed that Clinton was a "new kind of Democrat," while 42% thought he was "basically same as in the past."

Asked, "Overall, has he done better, worse, or as expected?"

Better	12%
Worse	14%
As expected	73%

The following is the percentage of people who say the following characteristics apply to President Clinton:

Cares about the needs of people like you	64%
Is honest and trustworthy	61%
Stands up to special interest groups	60%
Has the right priorities	60%

Displays good judgement in a crisis.....	57%
Can get things done	55%
Shares your values	53%
Is tough on crime	46%
Keeps his promises	44%

Fifty-five percent supported the President's economic plan, while 39% did not. On March 24, 55% supported the plan, while 34% opposed. And on February 28, 59% supported the plan, while 29% disapproved.

Regarding President Clinton's economic plan:

	Goes too far	Not far enough	About right
Tax increases	59%	7%	31%
Defense spending cuts	33%	21%	42%
Increases in investment spending	26%	17%	42%
Domestic spending cuts	19%	34%	41%

Forty-six percent favored a national sales tax, like a VAT(value-added) tax, to help provide access to health care for all, while 49% did not.

Sixty-one percent had a favorable view of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, while 27% had an unfavorable view.

Asked about Mrs. Clinton's role in the Clinton administration, 49% felt that she had the right amount of influence, while 40% believed she had too much.

Americans on the Issues

According to the *Wall Street Journal*/NBC News poll that appeared in the *Journal* on April 23, "For the first time since the election, a plurality of Americans surveyed say the nation is on the wrong track, by 44% to 37%."

Fifty percent favored President Clinton's economic proposal, while 33% did not.

Sixty percent of those surveyed felt that Republicans were opposing the President's economic plan for purely political reasons.

Fifty-two percent felt that the Administration was more serious than Republicans in cutting the deficit.

Fifty-four percent believed that when it came to choosing between President Clinton and former President George Bush, that Clinton represented a change for the better.

Asked about possible financing mechanisms for publicly funded campaigns, 53% favored eliminating the tax deduction for lobbying activities.

Seventy-five percent favored increasing the taxes on cigarettes and alcohol to pay for overhauling the nation's health care program.

Fifty-one percent favored a VAT tax that, while exempting food and housing items, would raise \$50 billion per year in revenue.

Sixty-one percent opposed the concept of taxing employer provided health care plans.

meetings

markups

hearings



meetings & markups

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE: business meeting to consider pending calendar business, Wednesday, May 5, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE: business meeting to consider and vote on the following nominations: Thomas R. Pickering, with the personal rank of Career Ambassador, to be Ambassador to the Russian Federation; Patrick Francis Kennedy, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Administration; Mary A. Ryan, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs; Eric James Boswell, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the rank of Ambassador; Victor Marrero, to be the U.S. Representative on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador; J. Brian Atwood, to be Administrator of the Agency for Interna-

tional Development; Wendy Ruth Sharman to be Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs; Conrad Kenneth Harper, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State; Joan E. Spero, to be U.S. Alternate Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Inter-American Development Bank, and African Development Bank for five-year terms, and U.S. Alternate Governor of the Asian Development Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; and George E. Moose, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation for the remainder of the term expiring September 27, 1997, Thursday, May 6, 11 a.m., SD-419.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: business meeting to consider pending calendar business, Thursday, May 6, 10 a.m., SD-226.

BUDGET REQUEST/SDI

Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense: hearings on FY 1994 Strategic Defense Initiative budget request, Tuesday, May 4, 10 a.m., SD-192.

DOD MEDICAL PROGRAM

Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense: hearing on Department of Defense Medical Program, Wednesday, May 5, 9 a.m., SD-192.

APPROPRIATIONS/SMITHSONIAN

Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies: hearings on FY 1994 Smithsonian Institution appropriations, Tuesday, May 4, 2 p.m., SD-116.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies: hearings on FY 1994 National Park Service appropriations, Thursday, May 6, 10 a.m., S-128 Capitol.

LABOR/HHS/ED BUDGET ESTIMATES

Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education: hearings on FY 1994 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies budget estimates, Monday, May 3, 1 p.m., SD-192; Wednesday, May 5, 9:30 a.m., SD-124; Friday, May 7, 9:30 a.m., SD-192.

FAA REFORM

Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation: hearings on Federal Aviation Administration's procurement system, Wednesday, May 5, 2 p.m., SD-192.

OMB BUDGET ESTIMATES

Appropriations Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, General Government: hearings on FY 1994 Executive Residence and Office of Management and Budget estimates, Tuesday, May 4, 10 a.m., SD-116.

TREASURY BUDGET ESTIMATES

Appropriations Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, General Government: hearings on FY 1994 Department of the Treasury budget estimates, Thursday, May 6, 10 a.m., SD-116.

NATIONAL/COMMUNITY SERVICE BUDGET ESTIMATES

Appropriations Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies: hearings on FY 1994 Commission on National and Community Service budget estimates, Thursday, May 6, 10 a.m., SD-192.

DOD/MILITARY PERSONNEL PROGRAMS AUTHORIZATION

Armed Services Force Requirements and Personnel: hearings on FY 1994 Department of Defense Authorizations for future year defense and military services personnel programs, Tuesday, May 4, 9 a.m., SD-562.

DOD/DEFENSE AND COMBATANT COMMAND AUTHORIZATION

Armed Services Military Readiness and Defense Infrastructure: hearings on FY 1994 Department of Defense authorizations and FY 1995-99 future years defense programs, focusing on the readiness and posture of selected unified combatant commands, Wednesday, May 5, 9:30 a.m., SR-232A.

HUD MANAGEMENT

Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee: hearings on Housing and Urban Development management issues: witnesses include Henry Cisneros, Secretary of HUD, Tuesday, May 4, 10 a.m., SD-534.

LAND USE ACT

Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee: hearing on **S. 299**, the *Abandoned Land Reuse Act of 1993*, Wednesday, May 5, 10 a.m., SD-534.

NAFTA/U.S. COMPETITIVENESS

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee: hearings on the North American Free Trade Agreement and the competitiveness of the U.S. surface transportation industry, Tuesday, May 4, 9:30 a.m., SR-253.

U.S. GLOBAL MARKET COMPETITIVENESS

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Foreign Commerce and Tourism: hearings on U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace, Thursday, May 6, 10 a.m., SR-253.

NOMINATIONS

Energy and Natural Resources Committee: hearings on the nominations of Thomas P. Grumbly, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Restoration and Management, Susan Fallows Tierney, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy for Domestic and International Energy Policy, and John D. Leshy, of Arizona, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, Tuesday, May 4, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

FUSION ENERGY PROGRAM

Energy and Natural Resources Committee: hearings on **S. 646**, establishing a Department of Energy international fusion energy program, Thursday, May 6, 10 a.m., SD-366.

LOCATABLE MINERALS

Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Mineral Resources Development and Production: hearings on **S. 775**, to modify requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public lands and self-initiation of mining claims, Tuesday, May 4, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

S.172/H.R.63/S.184/S.250/S.489/S.577

Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests: hearings on **S. 172** and **H.R. 63**, establishing the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area in Nevada, **S. 184**, providing for the exchange of certain lands within Utah, **S. 250**, designating certain segments of the Red River in Kentucky as components of the National Wild and Scenic

Rivers System, **S. 489**, the *Gallatin Range Consolidation and Protection Act*, and **S. 577**, resolves the status of certain lands relinquished to the U.S. under the act of June 4, 1897 (30 Stat. 11, 36), Thursday, May 6, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

SUPERFUND SITES

Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Superfund, Recycling, and Solid Waste Management: hearings on health and ecological impacts of certain Superfund sites, Thursday, May 6, 10:30 a.m., SD-406.

TAXING SOCIAL SECURITY

Finance Committee: hearings on taxation of Social Security benefits, Tuesday, May 4, 10 a.m., SD-215.

NOMINATIONS

Foreign Relations Committee: hearings on the nominations of Harry J. Gilmore, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia, Pamela Harriman, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to France, Victor Jackovich, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and E. Allan Wendt, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia, Tuesday, May 4, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

NOMINATIONS

Foreign Relations Committee: hearings on the nomination of Alexander Fletcher Watson, of Massachusetts, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, Wednesday, May 5, 3 p.m., SD-419.

NOMINATIONS

Foreign Relations Committee: hearings on the nomination of Douglas J. Bennet, to be Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, Elinor G. Constable, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, John Howard Francis Shattuck, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, Friday, May 7, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

SUDAN CRISIS

Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs: hearings on the crisis in Sudan, Tuesday, May 4, 10 a.m., SD-419.

FOREIGN AID AUTHORIZATION

Foreign Relations Subcommittee on International Economic Policy, Trade, Oceans and Environment: hearings on FY 1994 foreign assistance programs authorizations, focusing on changing foreign aid priorities, Wednesday, May 5, 10 a.m., SD-419.

RADIATION

Governmental Affairs Committee: hearings on Federal regulations for medical radiation use, Thursday, May 6, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

NOMINATIONS

Small Business Committee: hearings on the nomination of Erskine B. Bowles, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration, Thursday, May 6, 1 p.m., SR-428A.

VETERANS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Veterans Affairs Committee: hearings on veteran's construction projects, Thursday, May 6, 11 a.m., SR-418.

SANITATION IN ALASKA

Indian Affairs Committee: hearings on water and sanitation problems in Alaska, Wednesday, May 5, 2 p.m., SR-485.

PREVENTIVE HEALTH

Aging Committee: hearings on preventive health care, May 6, 10 a.m., SD-562.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Joint Economic Committee: hearings on the employment-unemployment situation for April, Friday, May 7, 9:30 a.m., RHOB 2244.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Joint Economic Committee: hearing on the slow economic growth and recovery prospects, Thursday, May 6, 11 a.m., room TBA.

CONGRESSIONAL REFORM

Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress: hearings on congressional reform proposals, focusing on committee structure., Tuesday, May 4, 2 p.m., HC-5, Capitol and Thursday, May 6, 9:30 a.m., SC-5 Capitol.

BOARD MEETING

Office of Technology Assessment: board meeting, to consider pending business, Thursday, May 6, 9 a.m., EF-100, Capitol.

WHITE HOUSE PRESS GUIDANCE -- 9:00 AM
TUESDAY, May 4, 1993

American Held in Iraq

Q: What is your reaction to the sentencing of an American citizen to eight years imprisonment in Iraq?

A: -- We have seen the statement issued by the Iraqi government regarding the sentencing of Kenneth Beaty. We reject outright the accusation of espionage and note that the Iraqi court itself found Mr. Beaty guilty only of the illegal entry charge.

-- We are in continuing contact with the Iraqi authorities through the Poles (our protecting power in Iraq) and directly with the aim of achieving Mr. Beaty's prompt release.



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

PLEASE NOTE DATE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 3, 1993

No. 196-93

(703) 697-5131 (info)

(703) 697-3189 (copies)

(703) 697-5737 (public/industry)

OPERATION RESTORE HOPE TRANSITIONS TO UNOSOM II

The Unified Task Force (UNITAF) Somalia will complete Operation Restore Hope and turn over peacekeeping responsibilities to the United Nations Organization Somalia (UNOSOM) II at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4, 1993, in a ceremony at the UNITAF/UNOSOM Headquarters in Mogadishu. UNITAF Commander Lt. Gen. Robert B. Johnston, USMC, will hand over responsibility for all operations to Turkish Army Lt. Gen. Cevik Bir, UNOSOM II Force Commander.

"Operation Restore Hope is a real success story," said Secretary of Defense Les Aspin. "Five months ago hundreds of people were starving every day while food rotted in warehouses. Chaos reigned. We went to Somalia to establish a secure environment so starvation could be stopped. And we did just that. Today, food is reaching those who need it, schools have reopened, hope has been restored. U.S. forces, working with our coalition partners, made possible this dramatic improvement," he said.

U.S. forces first landed on the beach of Mogadishu on December 9, 1992, and after taking control of the city, U.S. and coalition troops moved to the outlying areas to begin the task of restoring order to the country. Three weeks after landing in Mogadishu, UNITAF secured every objective in the famine belt of central and southern Somalia.

Besides weapons sweeps, security patrols and convoy escorts, UNITAF forces pursue civic action projects in all sectors of their area of operations. U.S. Navy Seabees (Construction Battalions) and Army engineers built or repaired more than twelve hundred miles of road in addition to drilling a dozen wells building and repairing orphanages, hospitals, and schools. Through Medical Civic Action Programs (MEDCAPs), medical personnel from the U.S. military coalition and non-governmental organizations treated thousands of Somalis for maladies ranging from anemia to infected bullet wounds. Additionally, coalition forces assisted a newly formed Somali Auxiliary Security Force in the vital and challenging task of restoring law and order to Somalia.

(more)

From their peak strength of more than 25,800 on January 16, 1993, U.S. forces have gradually reduced as more coalition forces arrived. Even after the successful completion of Operation Restore Hope, U.S. troops will continue to play an important role in Somalia. Several thousand U.S. troops will remain with UNOSOM II, including a battalion-size Quick Reaction Force and the Joint Logistics Support Force. All U.S. forces in Somalia will be under the command of U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Thomas Montgomery, who is both the Deputy Commander, UNOSOM II and Commander, U.S. Forces Somalia.

UNITAF divided Somalia into nine humanitarian relief sectors (HRS), with different countries exercising control over the various sectors. Currently HRS assignments have the Belgians in Kismayo, Canadians in Belet Huen, Italians in Gialalassi, Australians in Baidoa, Botswanans in Bardera, French in Oddur, Pakistanis in Mogadishu, and the Moroccans in Baledogle. The final HRS turnover was in Marka on April 28, with the Pakistani Army taking over from U.S. Army forces.

The 23 countries participating in this operation were Australia, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Egypt, France, Greece, India, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States and Zimbabwe.

"Today, a United Nations organization is fully prepared to take the lead in the operation," Aspin said. "The United States will support the continued effort to rebuild Somalia with both logistics support forces and a quick reaction force. There is still a long way to go, but we can be proud that the U.S. and coalition forces, through their outstanding efforts in an extremely difficult environment, did indeed 'Restore Hope' to Somalia."

-END-

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Aid to Occupied Territories

[Background: Israeli-Arab Knesset member Darawshe met with Martin Indyk last week. Darawshe has told the press the Administration would offer \$24 million in "immediate aid" for the Occupied Territories, with a "more comprehensive plan" involving other countries to follow.]

Q: Does the Administration plan to offer \$24 million in aid to the Occupied Territories? Is an international assistance effort also being launched?

A: -- We are concerned about the economic situation in the West Bank and Gaza and are looking at ways to accelerate delivery of currently budgeted assistance. No new assistance is involved.

-- With regard to international assistance efforts, the United States and other countries, through the context of the Middle East peace process multilateral working group on economic development, are examining ways of assisting economic development in a manner which will be of benefit to all parties in the region.

Nuclear Testing and a Comprehensive Test Ban

- Q: John Deutch testified yesterday [Monday] that the Pentagon supports resumption of nuclear testing "at the earliest possible time." Have you decided whether or not to resume U.S. nuclear testing when the moratorium expires on July 1, 1993? Will the administration seek to negotiate a true CTB, or allow for some continued low-yield testing indefinitely? When will the administration be prepared to begin negotiations towards a CTB?
- A: -- We are in the process of reviewing these issues. The President expects to receive recommendations from the appropriate Departments in the next few weeks.
- No decision has been taken on whether or not to resume U.S. nuclear testing as allowed under the legislation passed by Congress last fall.
- During the campaign, the President supported a phased approach to achieving a genuine comprehensive test ban. He still does.
- At the Vancouver summit, Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin agreed that "negotiations on a multilateral nuclear test ban should commence at an early date, and that the two governments would consult with each other accordingly."
- The President recently announced that "we will be starting a consultative process within the next two months with Russia, our allies, and other states aimed at commencing negotiations toward a multilateral nuclear test ban." Once consultations are complete, we will be in a position to make a proposal on a specific place and time to get the negotiations started.



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

PRESS RESPONSE

April 30, 1993

RE: ARREST OF STEVEN J. LALAS FOR ESPIONAGE

FBI Agents from the Washington Metropolitan Field Office today arrested Steven J. Lalas on espionage charges. Mr. Lalas, born December 29, 1952, in Rochester, New Hampshire, is a career employee of the U.S. Department of State, and assigned duties with the U.S. Embassy in Athens, Greece.

Mr. Lalas was taken into custody without incident in Virginia and is being charged with violation of Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 793 and 794. This investigation was conducted under the FBI's Overseas Espionage authority mandated by the U.S. Congress in the Intelligence Authorization Act of 1990.

This investigation was greatly assisted by the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, U. S. Department of State. Steven Lalas will be prosecuted in the Eastern District of Virginia.

NOTE: RESPONSE TO BE USED ON INQUIRY ONLY.

COORDINATED WITH THE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, 4/30/93.

DS PRESS GUIDANCE
April 30, 1993

DEPARTMENT: LALAS ESPIONAGE CASE

Q: What can you tell us regarding the arrest of a State Department employee by the FBI?

A: -- STATE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE STEVEN J. LALAS HAS BEEN ARRESTED BY THE FBI AND CHARGED WITH ESPIONAGE. AS THIS IS AN FBI CASE, I REFER YOU TO THEM FOR ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ARREST AND INVESTIGATION.

Q: What can you tell us about Lalas?

710 -- MR. LALAS IS A FOREIGN SERVICE SPECIALIST SUPPORT COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER WHO HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ATHENS SINCE DECEMBER 1990.

-- MR. LALAS HAS BEEN EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT SINCE 1983. HE HAS SERVED IN COMMUNICATIONS POSITIONS IN ALL OF HIS DEPARTMENT ASSIGNMENTS. HE HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BELGRADE (1984-85), THE U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL IN ISTANBUL (1985-89), AND THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN (MARCH - DECEMBER 1990) PRIOR TO HIS ASSIGNMENT IN ATHENS.

SALARY -- HE IS CURRENTLY AT THE FP-05 GRADE LEVEL, AND EARNS A SALARY OF \$38,591.

- 2 -

Q: Has the Department suspended his security clearance, and if so, when?

SECURITY
CLEARANCE

A: -- THE DEPARTMENT SUSPENDED MR. LALAS' SECURITY CLEARANCE AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST. THE DEPARTMENT ALSO REVOKED HIS STATE DEPARTMENT BUILDING PASS AT THAT TIME.

Q: What were Lalas' duties as a communications officer?

DUTIES

A: -- A COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER ASSIGNED TO A U.S. MISSION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROCESSING OF INCOMING AND OUTGOING TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS FOR THAT MISSION. THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING AND RECEIVING THE DIPLOMATIC POUCHES FOR THAT MISSION.

Q: What kind of access did Mr. Lalas have?

ACCESS

A: -- MR. LALAS HELD A TOP SECRET CLEARANCE. AS A DEPARTMENT OF STATE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, HE HAD ACCESS TO TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS SENT TO OR FROM HIS POST OF ASSIGNMENT.

- 3 -

Q: Have you conducted a damage assessment on this case?

DAMAGE

A: -- THE DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY IS CONDUCTING A DAMAGE ASSESSMENT IN RELATION TO THIS CASE. AS THE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT IS ONGOING, I CANNOT PROVIDE YOU WITH DETAILS AT THIS TIME.

Q: What is the Department's role in this criminal investigation?

DOES

ROLE

A: -- THE BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY IS ASSISTING THE FBI..

COOP?

Q: Is Lelas cooperating in this investigation?

--I REFER YOU TO THE FBI FOR THEIR COMMENTS.

Q: When did you learn of the investigation of Lelas?

WHEN?

A: -- NO COMMENT.

Q: Where did the espionage take place?

WHERE?

A: -- AS THIS QUESTION FALLS UNDER THE SCOPE OF THE INVESTIGATION, I CANNOT COMMENT.

- 4 -

Q: What is Lalas' employment status?

STATUS:
NON-DUTY

A: -- MR. LALAS' WAS PLACED ON NON-DUTY STATUS AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST.

Q: Has the passport of Lalas been seized?

A: -- THE FBI HAS SEIZED THE DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT OF MR. LALAS.

Q: Is the Greek Government involved in this case?

A: -- WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE GREEK GOVT.
I HAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS.

GREEK
GOVT

~~A: -- THE DETAILS OF MR. LALAS' ACTIONS ARE STILL UNDER
INVESTIGATION BY THE FBI.~~

//

~~Q: CONTACTS GREEK GOVT?~~

~~(Take the question)~~

EAP PRESS GUIDANCE
May 3, 1993

CAMBODIA: KHMER ROUGE ATTACK AT SIEM REAP

Q: What can you tell us about reports of a Khmer Rouge attack on Siem Reap near Angkor Wat that involved tourists?

A: -- ACCORDING TO U.N. OFFICIALS, KHMER ROUGE TROOPS LAUNCHED AN ATTACK NEAR THE NORTHERN PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF SIEM REAP, NEAR ANGKOR WAT, AT 4:30 A.M. LOCAL TIME, MONDAY. KHMER ROUGE FORCES FIRED MORTARS AT SIEM REAP AIRPORT WHILE OTHER GROUPS OF ARMED KHMER ROUGE APPROACHED SIEM REAP CITY FROM THE SOUTHEAST.

-- AS A RESULT OF THE FIGHTING, ALL UNTAC PERSONNEL IN THE AREA TOOK SHELTER AT NEARBY BANGLADESH OR FRENCH BATTALION ENCAMPMENTS. SOME TOURISTS IN AREA HOTELS WERE ALSO TAKEN IN BY THE BANGLADESHIS AND THE FRENCH.

-- THE FIRING STOPPED AT 7:30 A.M. LOCAL TIME. ACCORDING TO UNTAC, AS OF LATE AFTERNOON PHNOM PENH TIME, THE SITUATION WAS CALM. STATE OF CAMBODIA FORCES REMAIN IN CONTROL OF SIEM REAP AND KHMER ROUGE FORCES HAVE WITHDRAWN. THERE WERE NO REPORTED CASUALTIES AMONG UNTAC PERSONNEL OR THE TOURISTS. SEVERAL KHMER ROUGE TROOPS WERE REPORTED KILLED, AND WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS OF ONE TO THREE LOCAL CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

-- There are no reports at this time of any American citizen casualties.

-- We deplore the attack and call on all parties to adhere to and implement the Paris accords.

EAP PRESS GUIDANCE
May 3, 1993

CAMBODIA: ATTACK ON UNTAC TROOPS IN KOMPANG CHAM

Q: Can you confirm that three Indian UNTAC troops were killed in Kompong Cham province?

A: -- WE UNDERSTAND THAT FIVE INDIAN SOLDIERS WERE LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN AN ATTACK THIS MORNING IN KOMPONG CHAM PROVINCE. WHILE WE HAVE NO CONFIRMED REPORTS AS YET, IT APPEARS THAT NO ^{UNTAC PERSONNEL WERE} KILLED IN THE ATTACK.

-- We do not yet know who was responsible.

EAP PRESS GUIDANCE
May 3, 1993

KOREA: DMZ SHOOTING INCIDENT

Q: What can you tell us about North Korean troops allegedly shooting across the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) into South Korea?

ON SUNDAY
A: -- ^ TWO BULLETS WERE FIRED FROM A NORTH KOREAN MACHINE GUN ACROSS THE DMZ INTO SOUTH KOREA, ACCORDING TO A U.S. MILITARY SPOKESMAN.

- THERE WERE NO INJURIES, NO DAMAGE, AND NO RETURN FIRE.**
- THE SITUATION IS CURRENTLY NORMAL.**
- AS IS USUAL FOR SUCH INCIDENTS, THE U.N. COMMAND'S MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION IS INVESTIGATING.**

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 4, 1993

PRESS BRIEFING
BY GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS

The Briefing Room

12:47 P.M. EDT

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Good afternoon. As you know, Gene and Bruce will be available for a background briefing after my briefing. I'm prepared to take questions.

Q George, can you tell us when all these bad economic numbers start becoming the President's problem and stop becoming -- stop being Bush's problems, if you understand the thrust of what I mean?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think I do. (Laughter.) I'm trying. Clearly, the economic performance in the first quarter is not up to snuff. And I think that what we're facing is a legacy of 12 years of not investing in our people and their futures, 12 years of increasing deficits every single year. And the President is making strides to reverse that. He's looking to invest in our people and to bring the deficit down with real spending cuts, and by increasing taxes on the wealthy. He is looking to turn around the economic course of the last 12 years. We're starting and we're going to continue to move forward. And if the President's economic plan is passed, things will look up.

Q What about the question?

Q So it's not Clinton's problem yet?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think -- I did answer the question. I think that we're clearly trying to turn the corner.

Q When, in political terms, does it cease being a legacy of the previous administration and become Bill Clinton's problem?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, Bill Clinton is addressing the problems right now.

Q I understand that. I didn't ask you that and neither did he. The only question is, in political terms, when does it stop being somebody else's leftover problem and become yours?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, I think that's for the pundits and the political writers to decide. What we're concerned about is coming up with solutions, and that's what we're working on.

Q Can you explain why you took credit for the bump in growth for the last quarter while Bush was still President, but don't want to take responsibility for the slide while Clinton is President?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think -- first of all, let's look at what's happened exactly. There are certain actions in the economy that are directly tied to what the President has done. There was an

increase in consumer confidence after the election. That increase in consumer confidence led to more spending and led to higher economic growth numbers in the fourth quarter. There has also been a great reaction in the bond market to the President's economic proposals, which have brought interest rates down, probably pumped about \$100 billion into the economy, and led to lower home mortgage rates, lower car loan rates, and lower interest rates for the American people in general. Those are real benefits that are being provided to the American people because of the President's economic program.

We will take credit for what we do. At the same time, we're going to continue to fight for more investments in jobs; we're going to continue to fight for real spending cuts to bring the deficit down.

Q Consumer confidence is going down. To what do you attribute that?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know the exact reasons. I'm not an economist. I can just say that we're disappointed that consumer confidence is going down and we're going to do what we can to address that loss of confidence and make the American people know that we're addressing the real problems in this economy.

Q Do you think it has anything to do with the President's continual harping on how bad things are?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't think so at all. I don't think that's what the President does. The President is harping on solutions and harping on the direction we must move forward in if we're going to turn this economy around.

Q George, how hard do you think it's going to be to sell the American people on the idea of peacekeeping troops for Bosnia should this peace agreement hold up?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I think that we don't know what's going to happen yet in Bosnia. I think that peacekeeping is a different matter. And peacekeeping through the U.N. is something that the American people have supported in the past. Peacekeeping is something the American people supported in Somalia. And thankfully, it looks like we've had a very successful mission.

Q What about the open-ended nature of this? It doesn't seem to conform with your notion of you need to know when you get out before you make a commitment.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't think we know what the nature of this is until there's a decision.

Q On Bosnia, there were a lot of reports this morning of assaults on new communities and new fighting there. How do we assess this?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think one of the things that Secretary Christopher said this weekend is that we can't judge the situation simply by signatures on a peace plan. We have to judge the situation by what's happening on the ground. And we're not going to be satisfied until there is a cessation of hostilities, until humanitarian aid can go through.

Q Well, we see what's happening on the ground. Do we judge what happened this morning and overnight as the peace agreement being a sham and we're now looking more towards the military strikes as our options?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: We want the hostilities on the ground to stop. We are going to continue to press for the hostilities on the ground to stop.

Q Well, do we think the hostilities have stopped. What do we think's going on there?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: It's clear that when shelling continues, the hostilities haven't stopped.

Q What are you going to do about it?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: We're going to continue to press for the Serbians to stop the shelling. We're going to continue to press for a real peace agreement. We're going to continue to press for humanitarian aid to go through, and we're going to watch that.

Q George, the best-case scenario, as I understand it now, is a real peace agreement which would require peacekeeping forces. So you're not really going too far out on a limb if you'll tell us: Would you seek War Powers authorization before committing a peacekeeping force?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I can't get into any hypotheticals about a course the President may or may not take, except to repeat what we've said in the past. And that is, if congressional authorization is warranted, the President will certainly seek it.

Q But isn't that the direction you want?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I think that we have to wait and see what happens in Europe. We have to wait and see what happens in Bosnia. We have to wait and see what happens with the Serbian parliament. We have to wait and see what happens in the U.N.

Q George, given the reluctance of the British and French to enter into any kind of military intervention in Bosnia, at least, that appears to be the message that Christopher --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think the French Foreign Minister said today that nothing has been excluded.

Q Nothing has been excluded, but even the indications from Christopher's people on the trip are that there appears to be more emphasis now on the Vance-Owen peacekeeping plan than there was on possible military intervention. I mean, are you being forced in that direction?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Not at all. Clearly, the signature on the Vance-Owen plan this Sunday was a change that we have to take into account. The Bosnian Serb parliament is meeting tomorrow. We'll have to wait and see what happens there. But the consultations that Christopher's engaged in are on a wide range of options, and as -- again, I would just go back to what the French Foreign Minister said today -- nothing has been excluded.

Q Throughout this whole situation, has the President ever spoken by phone or in person with Cyrus Vance?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I just don't know. I don't think so, but I don't know. I'm pretty sure it's not in person.

Q George, every day goes by, the Europeans say no, we don't want to lift the arms embargo, because we have troops there and we don't want you to bomb because we have troops there. Why not just tell these people, look, friends, this fire is on your doorstep, okay, you do with it what you want and stay out of our lives? I

mean, I don't quite understand why we are running around, chasing to put out this fire.

Q Thank you, Mr. Secretary. (Laughter.)

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: You heard about a staff shakeup? (Laughter.) I would just go back to the objectives that Secretary Christopher laid out in his statement on Saturday. We have an objective to stop the killing, to stop the ethnic cleansing, and we also want to do what we can to prevent a wider war in the Balkans. That is why America is involved.

Q But why America as opposed to having the overwhelming duty go to those near by?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, we're consulting with the Europeans. This will be --

Q I understand that. The question was, why do we have to be the leader and take the primary role here instead of them?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: America is the world's only remaining superpower. We have responsibilities. We feel that America has a responsibility to lead when outrages like ethnic cleansing are going on, and we feel we have to do what we can to prevent a wider war in the Balkans. Everybody's a critic today. (Laughter.)

Q To go back to Ann's question -- would you care to condemn the actions that the Serbs have taken since the signing of the peace treaty?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Certainly, we condemn all acts of aggression at this time. But we feel that we have to move forward for a peace agreement.

Q What acts of aggression are occurring besides Serbian acts of aggression?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Any acts of aggression which occur we are against.

Q Would you care to say something that indicates not just we're against war, but we think the Serbs thus far are not living up to their word and have done unacceptable --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think it's clear that America expects more than a signature a peace agreement, we expect the aggression to stop, and we'll continue to say that.

Q Why are we waiting for this Wednesday parliamentary vote since -- if, on the ground the war is continuing and no difference is occurring there, what difference do we think this vote will make?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I'm not certain that the vote will make a difference, but we certainly have to get to that step. You can't have ratification of the agreement unless the Bosnian Serb parliament does vote.

Q Why do we think it's an agreement?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: That's our point. We think that you need more than words; you need deeds, and we're going to continue to watch for them.

Q George, have you responded yet to Congressman Durbin's letter?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't think we've had a formal response yet, no.

Q Are you going to today or tomorrow, do you know?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know that it will be today, but I expect we'll get a response.

Q George, in terms of what the so-called "parliament" may decide tomorrow, is it better from our vantage point for them to reject the agreement, to, in effect, show their hand so that we can proceed with the options that Christopher's outlining in Europe, or just merely have a kind of a nominal phony ratification, but the war continues to -- (laughter.)

Q Go ahead.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: We're going to do whatever we can to stop the aggression, to stop the ethnic cleansing, and to implement a real peace agreement.

Q Do you have any concern, though, that if there is a mere formality tomorrow by the Bosnian Serb parliament in ratifying this thing without changes on the ground, that the --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: We've always expressed --

Q -- allies may peel off from you?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: We have continually said that we expect more than words, more than signatures, more than paper ratification. We expect the deeds to match the words.

Q I know what you've said, but aren't the Europeans giving you a different message, that they would be satisfied with mere ratification to --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Not at all. I think that's just completely wrong.

Q George, how is it that we are sending Christopher to Europe to try to get the allies to do something that the American public, according to almost -- well, every public poll, is not itself willing to go along with?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I don't think that that's a foregone conclusion. The American people have supported peacekeeping. The American people do stand against aggression. And, clearly, if U.S. action is warranted, the President will go to the American people, explain the objectives, explain our interests, and explain the means we're going to use to achieve them.

Q Would you say then that the American public is not nervous about this, is not skeptical, and the polls are --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No, I think that the --

Q -- that show that there's two-to-one opposition to armed involvement over there?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think that it's always right to be cautious when you're thinking of any kind of military activity of any sort. And the American people are right to ask questions, and we're going to answer them.

Q Is the President worried that the Christopher mission could be counterproductive in the sense that it could -- that the opposition shown by the Europeans could, in fact, lead the Serbs to more reject the peace plan?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Not at all. I think what we're seeing in the trip is consensus towards a common approach. We will continue to work for that, and until the mission is complete, I don't think you can reach that conclusion.

Q Let's be serious. How can your threats of military action be credible when the Europeans, in fact, are opposed to it? What kind of credibility do you have?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: All I can say -- I mean, the French, again, just earlier today, the French Foreign Minister said nothing is excluded. Nothing.

Q You show just one part of what he said. He said on Sunday and again yesterday that the plan, the American plan was not acceptable because the French have troops on the ground

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Yesterday -- and he met with Warren Christopher and he said that nothing is excluded.

Q But that doesn't mean that everything is included.
(Laughter.)

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think nothing is excluded stands on its own. It means nothing is excluded.

Q We all recognize the diplomatic nuance of that, though. That doesn't mean they're signing on to anything either.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think that's quite clear. We're not -- the consultations aren't completed yet. But they are saying that everything is on the table.

Q I guess you all need to be polite, you know, mainly.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: That's your conclusion.

Q What's the difference between the situation in Bosnia today and the situation in Lebanon several years ago where we put peacekeeping troops in and lost 256 Marines, pulled out and the situation went on until it gradually petered out?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, I think they are different places, a different time, and clearly the situations are very different. At the same time, we are aware of the difficulties involved in this operation, and at the same time, we believe that the interests of America are involved. We believe we have an interest in stopping ethnic cleansing and stopping the fighting. And we --

Q There was ethnic cleansing going on there at that time. We saw that as a potential flashpoint for World War III because it was in the Middle East where the United States and the Soviet Union have different clients.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: And we still are involved in the Middle East in trying to foster real peace, and that's why the President has called the representatives of the different Middle Eastern countries to Washington to try and foster a peace. We're going to act for peace when we feel it's necessary.

Q When is he bringing them to the White House, by the way?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know about that.

Q But it seems to be pretty much the same parallel 10 years later. Again --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I just don't buy the analogy.

Q George, you say we're a superpower and therefore we have responsibilities. What responsibility do we have as a superpower to go over there and meddle in a war that we could never decide -- we could never make those people love each other any more than they do now. They hate each other. Why is that our responsibility? It's just because we are big and have been somewhat successful and right now we're in a very bad way ourselves? Why are we responsible for doing that?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: We have a responsibility that when people --

Q Why? What is our responsibility?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Our responsibility is -- we have a humanitarian concern in the interest of the people who are being massacred.

Q We don't have anything like that. (Laughter.)

Q -- and make sure that he's got his priorities straight. Has his staff let him down?

Q Here we go.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, I think that everybody's always looking for ways to do better and different things that you can improve. At the same time, I think the President is generally pleased with the direction of these first few months of the administration, pleased that we've been able to make progress on the economic package, pleased that we've been able to make progress on his other important initiatives. But that's not to say that we haven't made mistakes or we haven't -- we couldn't do better, and we will.

Q What type of person is he looking for to come aboard?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Helen. (Laughter.)

Q Anybody else if they're not available? (Laughter.)

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Seen Mack's office lately? (Laughter.)

Q The Enforcer, you mean? (Laughter.) Does he still have confidence in Mack?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Oh, absolutely. And I think he has confidence in the whole staff. That's not to rule out the possibility of some adjustments. One of the things the President pointed out is that most chiefs of staff have traditionally had two or even three senior people to help out at the top levels. And I think that Mack has been well served by Mark Gearan, but he's only had one deputy. So it's possible that we would look at other adjustments.

Q I'm a little confused about that. I don't remember George Bush having two deputies, at least at the same time.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Andrew Card and Ron Kaufman.

Q No, Kaufman was not a deputy --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: And the other times was when he had Henson Moore and Clayton Yeutter.

Q That was under that hapless -- (laughter.)

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: So it's just to point out that there were -- there are precedents to have senior people. And even if you --

Q Well, those guys add up to how many? (Laughter.)

Q You're not going to use the same Skinner model, are you?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know what model we're going to --

Q The last time anyone had three around here was Don Regan and they were called "the blind mice." (Laughter.)

Q Does that mean, George, that -- I mean, there's a story that you're being considered to be moved out of the communications and on to the strategic planning because you're tougher and more brilliant -- (laughter.)

Q Whoa!

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Did you guys hear about that two-hour special on CNN tomorrow night with the President? (Laughter.)

Q -- knock this story down. (Laughter.)

Q Go ahead, George.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Flattery won't get me to answer the question. (Laughter.)

Q Are they thinking of moving you out of the communications --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I have no idea on anything like that. At the same time, the President has spoken to it, said that we might be considering some small adjustments, but there's nothing dramatic planned at this time.

Q He didn't say small.

Q He said a five-week review.

Q When did the President speak to you and say he's considering small adjustments?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: He said -- no, he said it to the world earlier today.

Q I meant to you internally.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know -- he said that there had been some process going on for five weeks. He had been talking to Mack>

Q You didn't know that?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Not really.

Q Therein lies the problem --

Q It could be more than just a new deputy chief of staff?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: It could be more, it could be less. Just no decisions have been made.

Q What, would you name a half a deputy chief of staff? (Laughter.)

Q -- is that what all this is about?

Q The President launched into a very long offensive after the call on empowerment zones today. Assuming you hire a new deputy and support personnel, does this break your 25 percent staff reduction?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know. We -- as he said, the President expects to meet the 25 percent staff reduction by the start of the fiscal year, and we aren't changing that at this time.

Q This time, meaning prior to --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Meaning that we haven't had any changes at all. The President hasn't made any decisions.

Q Following up on the news weekly reports again, does this mean -- this enforcer idea, is this to enforce congressional people or to enforce Clinton? It seems like Clinton might be the one that needs a little bit of discipline, or am I wrong about that? (Laughter.)

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Yes. (Laughter.)

Q What's missing?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Excuse me?

Q What do you guys need? It seems you've got everything in place. What's the missing sort of structural thing?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, the President just said we could -- we always are looking for ways to come up with greater focus and just ways to improve the way we do business. And we'll never stop looking at that kind of review, those kinds of adjustments.

Q I was thinking again after reading this morning's telephone call on enterprise zones, is the President on focus, or is it the --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think this morning's telephone call was very focused. Coming up with a program to help I think this morning's telephone call was very focused, coming up with a program to help rebuild inner cities.

Q But if you say we're always looking for ways to come up with greater focus, as you, over the last five weeks have reassessed and evaluated the way you work, what are the examples of where you haven't been focused enough? What was your diagnosis of the focus problem?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think there's no question we could have done a better job with the President's jobs program; we've said that, and we didn't.

Q The Defense Department apparently is backing the renewal of nuclear tests and there are some complaints from some allies. Do you favor that? Does the President now favor that?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The President had some discussions with the Russians and with Boris Yeltsin in Vancouver about starting negotiations on a multilateral comprehensive test ban. I don't know about the specific tests, but until a ban is in place, I think that would certainly be appropriate. But I'd have to take the question on the specific tests.

Q There's White House testimony the Department of Defense supports the resumption of nuclear testing at the earliest possible time in order to make sure that the U.S. nuclear program is safe, secure, reliable and effective.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think that would be pending a multilateral agreement, which we don't have right now, but the President will continue to press for.

Q You have 20 people dealing with Congress. I mean, if the problem is from stimulus, why do you need someone else? Is there a problem with existing people in the White House?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I don't know -- the President has not made any decisions yet. I don't know what kind of a fix, if any, we're looking for. But, clearly, the President did say that one of the things we could do is find ways to have greater focus and greater coordination, and we'll continue to look for that.

Q Is he thinking about replacing anyone, or bringing someone --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Not to my knowledge.

Q -- or bringing someone over someone to do --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know.

Q George, can I get back to the economy for a second?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Sure.

Q At the photo op, the President was asked what, if anything, he might do to try to address the downturn of the indicators. He talked about the best possibility for an economic program this year is deficit reduction and keeping the interest rate down. It seems that he was talking about the stimulus; he just brushed it off in past tense -- it would have been the perfect opportunity for him again to say we need summer jobs, we need blah, blah, blah, and he didn't. And I was wondering if that means that it's completely bagged now --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No, I don't think so. We're going to look to fight for all our investments over the next several weeks as the President's budget is finally considered. But we're looking at the big picture as well, and we feel we need to do what we can to make sure that the broad outlines of the President's program are passed, and they are passed quickly. And that means we're going to have real spending cuts. It means we're going to continue to fight for the President's investments, continue to fight for the revenue package to bring the deficit down.

Q Is this your example of new focus that you're trying to soft-pedal a revival of the stimulus package until you get the budget done so that you can focus energies on that?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The budget is the bulk of the President's economic package; it always was and it still is. And this budget -- we must get it passed quickly, and we intend to do that.

Q There are reports that the White House is shopping around a new version of the stimulus package and -- new, only in the sense that it's got some of the elements of the old, but it includes offsets; in other words, it would be paid for in this budget cycle.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: We have been consulting with Congress on different ways to get the investments through.

Q Have you concluded what you're going to do with that, and at what point --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No.

Q Have you made the conclusion that you will have a supplemental that does this, though?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think there are supplementals that are moving through the Congress, and it's possible that something like this could be added to them.

Q At what point do you think you're going to say what's in it and what your cutting?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: When we're ready.

Q George, does the President have a man or anyone at the Capitol who is watching the items being put into these bills that are not on the budget that are extraneous and shouldn't be there? Does he have anyone -- I refer to \$200 million being given to the U.S. Army to study breast cancer. We have very few breast cancer patients among men. It's alright to study breast cancer, but --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: There are women in the U.S. Army, though.

Q Why do they give it to the U.S. Army? They don't want it -- \$200 million.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The Office of Management and Budget does review all of the spending programs, but I --

Q -- \$200 million in the Senate that is being given to the Army when the Army doesn't want it and really is not in that field.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The President does support breast cancer research. I don't know about this specific --

Q They're giving the money to the Army because they'd already given so much money to the health research --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I'll check into it.

Q -- where they could use a little more money, so the army was a little off the money and they gave it to the Army and the army doesn't want it.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I'll check into it.

Q Can we take another stab at the chronology here on Bosnia? The Secretary is due back at the end of the week to make his report.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Yes.

Q Meanwhile the Serb parliament will have voted, we presume, and you will have several more days to see what they're doing on the ground. And then what happens? Does some sort of action take place as early as next week, or are you waiting more?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: First of all, you also have the U.N. vote if the Serb parliament acts, which would authorize the Secretary General to look into the idea of implementation, plans of a peacekeeping agreement. Once that were concluded, there would then be another U.N. vote --

Q Is this a process that is going to take hours, days, weeks?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think days, at least days.

Q The President said at one point, we won't go it alone. Does that apply to any military option that's being considered?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think -- yes, the President wants to go in a multilateral fashion and we expect that we will.

Q And air attacks would require participation by other nations?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I can't get into the logistical details, except we're going to have a multilateral approach.

Q The President opposed the war in Vietnam. How is this different in terms of moral imperatives? Can you define the difference between --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I'm not going to get into comparisons. I can just say that what we have in this war is a clear humanitarian concern for the lives that are being lost, for the ethnic cleansing that is going on and a clear American interest in preventing a wider war in the Balkans.

Q How did the President's so-called joke and the facts associated with it regarding Senator Dole get so botched up?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I'm not really sure, except to say that it was a joke and the President engaged in a little bit of hyperbole. But it was a joke, and our statements stand.

Q George, is he going to apologize to either the Senator or Rush Limbaugh for the jokes?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know. Again, the President has said -- we've put out a statement that said we regret any misunderstanding about Senator Dole's joke. As for the joke about Rush Limbaugh, the President meant to be funny, and it wasn't.

Q Has the President spoken to Senator Dole about the matter, or sent him a note or anything like that? Any personal communication?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't think so.

Q I'd like to come back to War Powers just for a second. Last December 10th, Bush proposed sending troops to Somalia. They pulled out today, they took down the flag and left. The House will debate the question of whether to authorize that mission next week. Is that workable for a President to do? (Laughter.) The Senate passed it in February, the House has not, and they've scheduled debate next week.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Is that true?

Q Yes, sir. How can you function? How can the President function with that kind of oversight?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: All I would say is -- President Bush did say he would act consistent with the War Powers Act, and that this was a successful mission. We believe it was a successful mission, so it did not affect the function. I wasn't aware of the House vote next week.

Q For the pay --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: That's different.

Q George, has the President accepted any commencement invitations? Can you tell us where and when if he has?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know if there's any final acceptance. I believe it's the year for West Point, for the President to address West Point. So I believe he's doing that; but we don't have any final --

Q Nothing else beyond that?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think there will be others; we just don't have any final decisions yet.

Q George, in answering my question, you only commented on the sequence of events if the Serbs ratify the peace agreement and take steps on the ground. What if they don't do one or both of those things? Secretary Christopher comes back Friday or Saturday. When does stronger action happen?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, we'll engage in consultations, we'll discuss with Secretary Christopher and our allies, and we'll make a decision then.

Q What's the status of efforts in Haiti, George?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I know that Ambassador Pezzulo is still working along with the U.N. Rep Caputo, but I don't have any hard update today. I can try and --

Q We haven't had one it seems for several weeks. I wonder if you can give us --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Sure. I would guess something -- yes.

Q George, you said earlier, if I'm correct, that you don't know anything about the delegation to the Middle East peace talks coming to the White House next week. Is it ruled out, or what's the status?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I wouldn't rule it out, but I don't know that it's planned.

Q George, both you and the President emphasized spending cuts today. Is there a shift in the strategy now here at the White House, and is it as a result of recent polls which show not only the public losing confidence in the economy, that they're losing confidence in the President's ability to handle the economy?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know if there's a shift. The President from the very start insisted on spending cuts, insisted on implementing the spending cuts, insisted on not implementing the tax increases without the spending cuts. If you remember his State of the Union address, he focused on spending cuts and then he went out on the road and for several days and weeks talked about the importance of making sure that we have spending cuts, that we reinvent government before we ask the people for more contributions. And that's exactly what we're doing, that's the heart of the President's budget, and that's what we'll continue to do.

Q Is there a renewed emphasis then on spending cuts in light of the recent polls?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think there's a continued emphasis.

Q You talked about the President going out and selling his package. Is he going to take to the road more to try to recapture some of whatever it is he had during the campaign?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I'm sure he'll be leaving the White House. Sure.

Q George, you're talking about spending cuts. Is there some concern that with the economy going downhill that it will be harder to pass some of these tax rises? And is there any thought of reconsidering some of them?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, we think that the economy will benefit if the President's package is passed. We think by bringing the deficit down, by holding interest rates down, the American economy can turn around, and we'll continue to fight for the President's package.

Q When you said the bulk of the President's economic program is the budget, why didn't you give equal weight to health care reform? The President has always emphasized in the past how important and vital it is to reform health care in order to reduce the deficit.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The President believes that health care reform is central to turning this economy around as well, and it's one of our top two priorities and we'll continue to fight for it.

Q George, the urban enterprise announcement today seems like a major initiative by the President, yet it wasn't accompanied by the usual kind of speech before a mayors' group or a trip to an urban center or something like that. Why the low-key approach?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: It's hardly low-key when you're hooked up with six major cities across the country to announce the President's package with two -- at least two mayors, a governor, and several representatives of community groups who will benefit from this presentation. I just --

Q But usually there's some setting that provides the pictures for newspapers and television and some --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know. Go talk to the -- there were certainly pictures today from the Oval Office. But I would also suggest that you go talk to the media in Los Angeles and Chicago and Frankfurt and New York and all the other cities -- Baltimore -- that were included in the President's call.

- 15 -

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

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