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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	Paul to George and Dee Dee; RE: Talking Points on Bosnia (1 page)	05/12/1993	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

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Briefing Materials 5/12/93

2011-0582-F

db4263

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]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- 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.

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS SUMMARY -- NSC PRESS OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1993

What Led Clinton to Bosnian Shift: At a meeting on Saturday, Mr. Christopher told Mr. Clinton that even if he tried an all-out diplomatic campaign, he might fail because there was so much allied opposition to the Administration's proposal to arm Bosnia. The President decided to take no immediate action, waiting until after a referendum of Bosnian Serbs scheduled for this weekend before making a decision. (NYT A1)

Croats Expelling Residents in Fight for Southern Town: Croat and Slavic Muslim militia forces battled with automatic weapons, mortars and recoilless rifles for a third straight day in this battered south Bosnian city as a cease-fire between the nominal allies failed to take hold. (WP A21, NYT A8)

Serbs Bar Refugees' Return By Sealing UN "Safe Area": Bosnian Serb forces are attempting to prevent thousands of Muslims from returning to their homes in the UN-mandated "safe area" of Zepa by banning UN relief officials or aid from the town. They called the Serb action a significant violation of a cease-fire and demilitarization agreement signed last week. (WP A21)

Milosevic Seeks Joint Serb Action on Bosnia Plan: Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic proposed a joint meeting of the self-styled Bosnian Serb parliament and four other Serb-controlled legislatures in the region to decide the issue collectively. Serbs rejected Mr. Milosevic's invitation and said they would go ahead with the referendum. (WP A24, NYT A1)

U.S. Weighs Troops for Macedonia: President Clinton said yesterday that he is considering sending U.S. ground troops as part of an international peacekeeping force to Macedonia. (WP A1, NYT A8, LAT A1)

Russia Dusts Off an Old Tactic at UN: The Veto: Russia used its Security Council veto for the first time in nine years to kill a plan to change the financing of the UN peacekeeping force in Cyprus. (NYT A10, LAT A3)

Yeltsin, Renewing Drive for Reform, Fires Two High-Ranking Officials: President Boris Yeltsin fired two reform-resistant officials from his government, including one who had openly opposed him, as he began to fulfill his promise to favor reformers in the wake of his April 25 referendum victory. President Yeltsin also urged regional leaders Tuesday to bypass the conservative Parliament and take control of a process to draft a new constitution with enhanced Presidential powers. (WP A21, NYT A5, LAT A2)

Compromise on Military Gay Ban Gaining Support Among Senators: Senior Senate Democrats and Republicans are beginning to coalesce around a proposal that would end the military's efforts at unmasking homosexuals but would continue to bar gay men and women from serving if they are open about their sexuality. (NYT A1, LAT A1)

South Africa's 16-Year Secret: The Nuclear Bomb: South Africa became the first nation to give up its nuclear capability voluntarily, leaving the African continent again free of nuclear arms. But the event passed without public notice, because the government kept the decision to scuttle the weapons secret, having never acknowledged developing them in the first place. (WP A1)

Defense Aide Tells McDonnell Douglas that C-17 Cargo Jet May be Canceled: The Pentagon warned McDonnell Douglas Corporation that it may cancel the C-17 military cargo jet unless the aerospace company takes "immediate aggressive action" to improve its management of the program. (WSJ A5, WP D1, LAT A1)

Japan Accuses U.S. of Unfair Trade Policies: After taking months of abuse from the Clinton Administration over Tokyo's huge trade surplus, Japan took the offensive, releasing a second annual report that ranks the U.S. and other countries for "unfair trade policies." One of America's biggest sins, according to the report, is its tendency to impose unilateral penalties on trading partners, mainly Japan, without consulting the multilateral trade organization, GATT. (WSJ A10)

Talks on China's Trade Status Begin, Made Trickier by Human Rights Issues: Winston Lord, the new U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, spent yesterday in talks with Chinese leaders on issues related to Washington's June 3 decision on whether to renew China's Most-Favored-Nation trade status. U.S. officials refused to discuss the results of the day-long talks. (WSJ A11)

Gephardt Calls for New Direction in Trade Policy: Rep. Richard Gephardt, one of the most influential Democrats in Congress on trade issues, outlined a set of tough guidelines Tuesday for establishing a new course for the Nation's commercial dealings with its trading partners. His speech spelled out potential differences with President Clinton that, if not wide, nevertheless could prove politically serious for the Administration. (LAT A5)

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WHITE HOUSE PRESS GUIDANCE -- 9:00 AM
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1993

ADDING:

- Bosnian Government Wants UN Troops to Leave
- Status of C-17 Program
- Russian UNSC Vote on Cyprus
- US/Japan Trade Report

UPDATING:

- South African Nuclear Weapons
- Gays in the Military
- North Korea/UN

Iran's Nuclear Program

Q: Is Iran using its civil nuclear program to hide nuclear weapons development?

- A: -- As CIA Director Woolsey testified, we think Iran is pursuing the acquisition of nuclear weapons, despite being a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
- Faced with the refusal of a number of countries to supply nuclear technology, Iran is increasingly turning to the former Soviet Union and China for nuclear assistance.
- We've made clear to all potential suppliers that we strongly oppose any nuclear cooperation with Iran, even under international safeguards, because it could create the infrastructure to support an Iranian nuclear weapons capability.
- We've encouraged the IAEA to pay particular attention to Iran's nuclear activities, in light of widespread international concern that Iran is seeking nuclear weapons capability.

Q: Is it true that Iran has already acquired nuclear warheads from the former Soviet Union?

- A: -- We cannot confirm this story. We have no evidence that actual nuclear warheads or nuclear weapons components have been smuggled out of the former Soviet Union to Iran or any other destination. We do, of course, take all of these reports seriously, and follow up with authorities in Russia and other former Soviet states where warranted.
- We are, however, seriously concerned about Iranian efforts to acquire nuclear reactors and other nuclear-related technology from the former Soviet Union. We have raised these concerns with Russia and other newly emerging states.

-- We are assisting these countries in security measures for existing nuclear weapons and in improving their export control systems, particularly on technology related to weapons of mass destruction.

Macedonia/Bosnia

Q: Are we sending forces to Macedonia?

A: -- A U.S. contribution to the ongoing peacekeeping missions in the former Yugoslavia is one of a number of options we are reviewing our efforts to deal with the conflict in Yugoslavia. No final decisions have been made.

Q: Is our Bosnia policy on hold? Have the Europeans rejected President Clinton's proposals for lifting the arms embargo and air strikes?

A: -- As we said yesterday, our consultations continue. There is broad agreement that the Serb-initiated violence cannot go on unchecked any longer, that more forceful steps must be taken. Some of our allies and friends want to see the results of the upcoming referendum before firmer decisions are made regarding next steps.

EUR PRESS GUIDANCE
MAY 11, 1993**SECRETARY'S CONTACTS**

Q: Who has the Secretary called over the weekend? Who will he be calling this week? What has Ambassador Bartholomew been doing since the Secretary's trip? What contacts have we had in capitals?

A: -- ~~IN ADDITION TO HIS RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH~~ OVER THE WEEKEND, THE SECRETARY SPOKE

FOREIGN SECRETARY HURD OF GREAT BRITAIN, FOREIGN MINISTER JUPPE OF FRANCE, FOREIGN MINISTER CLAES OF BELGIUM AND FOREIGN MINISTER KOZYREV OF RUSSIA. THE SECRETARY SPOKE YESTERDAY WITH THE DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER PETERSEN IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

- WE ARE CONTINUING TO CONSULT WITH FRIENDS AND ALLIES HERE IN WASHINGTON, AT THE UN AND IN CAPITALS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA.**
- WE ARE CONTINUING TO CONSULT ON FURTHER STEPS THAT WE CAN TAKE TOGETHER.**

- THERE IS CLEAR AGREEMENT ON THE NEED FOR STRONGER MEASURES, ~~SHOULD THE BOSNIAN SERBS REJECT ANY PROSPECTS FOR REACHING PEACE UNDER THE YANCE-OPEN PLAN OF REACHING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.~~ WE ARE CONTINUING TO CONSULT WITH OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES AS TO WHAT THOSE STEPS SHOULD BE.
- MILITARY ACTION IS INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF OPTIONS.
- AMBASSADOR BARTHOLOMEW CONTINUES HIS CONSULTATIONS HERE IN WASHINGTON AND REMAINS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE PARTIES.

EUR Press Guidance
May 11, 1993

EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING: REQUEST FOR U.S. TROOPS IN BOSNIA

Q: At a press conference following yesterday's EC Foreign Ministers Meeting in Brussels, Danish Foreign Minister Petersen, in his EC Presidency capacity, called for U.S. troops to protect UN safe areas in Bosnia. What is your reaction to this request?

A: -- WE HAVE SUPPORTED UNSCR 824, THE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR CREATION OF SAFE HAVENS. HOWEVER, OUR POSITION ON DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. GROUND TROOPS IS WELL KNOWN. THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID THAT WE WOULD DEPLOY U.S. GROUND TROOPS ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF ~~AD~~ IMPLEMENTING ~~AGREEMENT~~. A VIABLE PEACE AGREEMENT ACCEPTED IN GOOD FAITH BY THE PARTIES.

EUR PRESS GUIDANCE
MAY 11, 1993

SERBIA-BOSNIA BORDER CLOSURE

Q: Has Serbia closed the border with Bosnia? How effective has the closure been?

A: - SERBIAN PRESIDENT MILOSEVIC SAID THAT THE BORDER BETWEEN SERBIA AND BOSNIA WILL BE CLOSED.

- IT IS TOO EARLY TO KNOW IF THIS POLICY HAS BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT OR HOW EFFECTIVE IT WILL BE WHEN IT IS IN PLACE.

- WE CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION AND EXPECT MILOSEVIC TO KEEP HIS WORD.

- RESULTS SO FAR ARE MIXED. WHILE IN SOME AREAS THERE APPEARS TO BE LESS TRAFFIC, ~~IN OTHER~~ REPORTS INDICATED THAT VEHICLES AND SUPPLIES CONTINUE TO CROSS THE BORDER.

EUR PRESS GUIDANCE
MAY 11, 1993

MACEDONIA: GROUND TROOPS

Q: The Wall Street Journal reports that the U.S. is considering sending ground troops to Macedonia. Are we?

A: -- THERE ARE PRESENTLY SOME 700 MEMBERS OF UNPROFOR STATIONED IN MACEDONIA AT THE REQUEST OF THE MACEDONIAN GOVERNMENT.

-- ~~THERE HAVE BEEN REQUESTS, INCLUDING FROM THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL, THAT THIS NUMBER BE INCREASED.~~

-- ~~THE U.S. IS REVIEWING WHAT IT MIGHT DO NEXT TO ENSURE THAT THIS PROBLEM CONTAINS BY RE-EVALUATING IN CONTAINING THE CONFLICT. NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE.~~

-- THE U.S. IS ALREADY PARTICIPATING IN THE LONG DURATION CSCE MONITORING MISSION IN MACEDONIA.
(FYI: THAT MISSION IS HEADED BY AN AMERICAN.)

-- WE ARE STUDYING A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL OPTIONS TO PURSUE OUR EFFORTS TO CONTAIN THE CONFLICT AND BRING PRESSURE ON THE SERBS.

TUESDAY'S BACKGROUND POINTS

- WE ARE WORKING WITH OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES IN EUROPE TO ACHIEVE A COMMON POSITION ON SPECIFIC MEASURES WE CAN TAKE TO FORCE THE CONFLICT IN BOSNIA TO A RESOLUTION.
- THERE IS NO RIFT. DURING THE COURSE OF OUR CONSULTATIONS LAST WEEK, THEY AGREED WITH US THAT MORE FORCEFUL MEASURES ARE NEEDED; NOW WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DEFINING THOSE MEASURES.
- THE EUROPEANS CONTINUE TO PRESS VANCE/OWEN--PERHAPS HOPING THAT THE BOSNIAN SERBS WILL COME AROUND.
- THEY HAVE PUT FORWARD SOME STEPS OF THEIR OWN. TO TEST THE MILOSEVIC STATEMENT THEY HAVE OFFERED MONITORS ON THE SERB-BOSNIA BORDER. THIS IS HELPFUL.
- WE DON'T SEE PUTTING TROOPS INTO "SAFE AREAS" AS OFFERING A SOLUTION. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT INSERTING SMALL FORCES INTO AREAS OF HOSTILITY IS ONLY A TEMPORARY --AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS-- STEP.
- WE ARE ALSO EXPLORING ADDITIONAL OPTIONS.

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-- THESE ARE DIFFICULT ISSUES AND WE ARE WORKING THROUGH THEM
CAREFULLY WITH OUR ALLIES AND FRIENDS IN ORDER TO TAKE
CONCERTED ACTION.

-- THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT IS THAT WE ACT AND ACT TOGETHER.
WE ARE DOING THAT AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO THAT.

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5/11 -
Chicago

now is trying to redesign the space station and come up with a multi-year space program that I hope we can get strong bipartisan support for.

I think it would be a big mistake for America to drastically cut back its role in space. And when -- now, I've been criticized for cutting back on the space station, but I haven't cut back the NASA budget. We have cut back the rate of increase that they want to cover all the cost overruns for anything that happens. I just don't think we can do that with the old space station design.

So we're now looking at three alternatives for the space station to take a new and modified course. But I think it would be a great mistake for America to withdraw from space exploration and from work in space. For one thing, it's one of the ways that we may find answers to a lot of our environmental problems as well as to continue to build our scientific and technological base after we cut defense. So I hope we can continue to support it. (Applause.)

Q Mr. President, --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. We'll take one more and then I'll take this young man's. Go ahead.

Q Mr. President, I was wondering with all the news about Bosnia how -- do you see any differences in supporting -- sending troops to Bosnia where you were strongly opposed to civil war in Vietnam in the late '60s.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, I do. I did not -- that's a good question. But I have never advocated sending troops -- the United States unilaterally sending troops to Bosnia to fight on one side or the other of the civil war.

There are -- let me just say what's complicated about it. There plainly is a civil war in Bosnia that is, among other things, a fight primarily between the Serbs and the Muslims, but also involving the Croats. It is complicated by the fact that Serbia, a separate country, has intervened in it, and complicated by the fact that the United Nations before Bosnia -- the nation of Bosnia was even recognized, imposed an arms embargo in the area. But the practical impact of the arms embargo that the United Nations imposed was to give the entire weaponry of the Yugoslav Army to the Serbian Bosnians and deprive any kind of equal weaponry to the people fighting against them. So the global community had -- not on purpose, but inadvertently, has had a huge impact on the outcome of that war in ways that have been very bad.

My position has been pretty simple and straightforward from the beginning. I think that without the United States unilaterally getting in, or without even -- I don't think the United Nations should enter the war on one side or the other. But I think there is much more that we can do to induce the parties to stop the fighting, to do what we can to stop this idea of ethnic cleansing -- murdering people, raping children and doing terrible acts of violence solely because of people's religion. There, in fact, the ethnic basis -- biologically, there is not much difference between the Muslims, the Croats and the Serbians there. It's all -- the ethnic differences are rooted in religious and historical factors.

And thirdly, we want to try to confine that conflict so it doesn't spread into other places and involve other countries, like Albania and Greece and Turkey, which could have the impact of undermining the peace in Europe and the growth and stability of democracies there.

So I think the United Nations -- the world community can do more in that regard. That's quite a different thing than

MORE

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what happened in Vietnam where the United States essentially got involved in what was a civil war on one side or the other. There are some remarkable similarities to it which should give us caution about doing that. There are similarities to that. There are similarities to Lebanon. But that does not mean, just because -- I wouldn't propose doing exactly what the United States did in Vietnam. That does not mean that the United States should not consider doing something more, especially if we can get the Europeans who are, after all, closer to it, who have a more immediate stake in it, to try to help us to stop the ethnic cleansing, the continued fighting and minimize dramatically the risk of the war spreading.

So that's what we're struggling for an answer to. It's a very, very difficult problem. (Applause.)

Q Mr. President, what do you feel we as students can do to better the U.S. educational system? (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Read more. (Applause.) Read more. I think you can read more. I think you can establish tutoring groups in schools where the students that are doing well help those which aren't. There's a lot of evidence that by the time somebody reaches your age that you all have more influence on one another than I would on any of you. And there's a lot of evidence in schools that are succeeding that when students work with each other either in the same classroom or across grade lines, that the overall performance of the school goes up.

Interestingly enough, there are a lot of studies even showing at elementary schools that this is true, and certainly true in high schools. So I think the -- one of the things that I have seen work repeatedly over the last dozen years that I've spent countless hours in schools with students and teachers is that -- that kind of working together.

The third thing that I think you can do is to speak out in a way for a culture of learning and for good values in the schools. I think that's important. I think if the students want a school to be a place where learning is valued and where everybody counts, and where violence or drugs or other bad behavior are not tolerated, the students can have more to do with getting rid of it than anything else. If it is a bad thing, if everybody looks down on it. And I think that can make a huge difference.

It's so limited what the rest of us can do to help the schools unless there is a right sort of feeling in the hearts of the young people involved. And I think anything we can do to convince all students that they count, that they matter, that we need them all, that they shouldn't drop out, that they can learn -- anything we can do in that regard school by school, class by class, year by year, is going to make education in this country a lot better.

The last thing I think you can do is to decide what you think is wrong with education and how we can make it better and tell people like me about it. In other words, tell us from your perspective how we can make your schools a lot better, what you need, how we can give you a better future, what we're not doing that we could be doing. (Applause.) Those are the things you can do. (Applause.)

Q President Clinton, I understand we have time for one more question.

Q Yes. I have a question about women in the military. I heard that they're going to be able to go in combat now. (Applause.) Is it true that -- are they going to be -- is it going to become a law that they're going to be drafted also?

MORE

Israel/Peace Talks

Q: Are you satisfied with the progress being made in the talks?

A: -- The parties have been seriously addressing the core substantive issues in all of the tracks. We know the issues they are now discussing are not easy to resolve, but we continue to urge all the parties to make advances.

Q: Do you have a comment on the reduced Palestinian delegation?

A: -- The important thing is that all of the parties continue to negotiate seriously on the core substantive issues.

Q: What is your reaction to the Israeli decision to permit an additional 25 deportees to return from southern Lebanon?

A: -- We welcome this decision. It is consistent with our understanding with the Government of Israel and is part of the accelerated return of deportees consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolution 799.

Q: When will the talks adjourn?

A: -- The parties will decide themselves on adjournment. We understand they plan to adjourn.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

May 11, 1993

TRAVEL BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit the United Nations on Wednesday, May 12, for meetings with UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, UN Under Secretary General for Political Affairs Marrack Goulding, UN/OAS Special Envoy to Haiti Dante Caputo, and others.

The Secretary will discuss with UN officials the current diplomatic efforts by the U.S., UN, OAS and others to restore constitutional rule to Haiti, as well as UN efforts in Cambodia, Somalia, Bosnia and the overall issue of UN peacekeeping.

Secretary Christopher will meet with Secretary General Boutros-Ghali at 11:00 am EDT and then attend a working lunch hosted by U.S. UN Ambassador Madeleine Albright.

#

Haiti

Q: Are there plans to introduce a Security Council resolution authorizing the deployment of an international police contingent to Haiti?

- A: -- The current presence in Haiti of UN and OAS human rights observers has had a positive effect on human rights observance and has helped deter political violence.
- A number of UN members have been consulting recently on ways to help strengthen the international presence in Haiti as part of the ongoing effort to achieve a negotiated political agreement to restore democracy and return President Aristide to Haiti.
- One option under discussion would entail the deployment at President Aristide's request of an international police contingent.
- Such a police contingent could be helpful in efforts to professionalize the police, and would, by its presence, help promote law and order during a political transition.
- Deployment of an international police contingent under UN auspices would require Security Council approval.

Q: Do you plan to introduce such a resolution this week?

- A: -- Secretary General Boutros-Ghali is expected to give a report to the Security Council on this topic soon, perhaps as early as the end of the week.
- Normally, UNSC action would follow such a report, but there is no fixed timetable for considering a resolution on this issue.

Q: What would be the U.S. role in such a police force?

- A: -- No decision has been made about whether or how the U.S. might participate in such a force, if it is created.

Q: What's the status of the talks in Haiti?

- A: -- Special Representative Dante Caputo is still working with all Haitian parties toward a negotiated settlement of the crisis.
- We support his efforts and remain in close touch with them through Special Adviser Amb. Lawrence Pezzullo in Washington and Special Charge Amb. Charles Redman in Port-au-Prince.

U.S./Ukraine

[Background: Strobe Talbott is travelling to Kiev, Ukraine; Yerevan, Armenia; Baku, Azerbaijan; Tallinn, Estonia; Yekaterinburg; and Moscow on his tour of the former Soviet Union. NSC staffers Toby Gati and Rose Gottemoeller will accompany him on legs of this trip.]

Q: **The Washington Post** reports that the Administration is taking a new tact with Ukraine, de-emphasizing the conflict over nuclear weapons. Is that the message Ambassador Talbott gave Kiev?

A: -- The purpose of Ambassador Talbott's trip is to develop our relations with Ukraine on a number of fronts.

-- Clearly, START and the NPT are central components of this dialogue, but we also believe it is important to emphasize to Ukraine that we seek a partnership with them on a broad range of economic, political, and security matters.

Q: Did the Ukrainians slight Strobe by limiting his access to government officials?

A: -- Ambassador Talbott met with senior government leaders, including President Kravchuk, Deputy Prime Minister Pymzenyk [Pin-ZEN-ick], Deputy Foreign Minister Tarasyuk, and parliamentary leaders.

Q: Where does Ukraine stand on START/NPT?

A: -- The Ukrainian government has repeatedly assured us that the Parliament will give high priority to ratification of START and NPT.

-- Both treaties are on the Parliament's agenda for this session, but it is not certain when full debate will take place.

-- We have made it clear to Ukraine that we expect them to fulfill these obligations promptly.

PM Press Guidance
May 11, 1993

UKRAINE AND CRUISE MISSILE SALES TO IRAN

Q: What do we know about it? What do we think about it? What are we going to do about it? Is Talbott raising the issue in his talks?

A: -- WE CANNOT CONFIRM PRESS REPORTS THAT UKRAINE HAS DELIVERED CRUISE MISSILES TO IRAN. WE WOULD BE VERY CONCERNED WERE THAT TO OCCUR.

-- IRAN AND UKRAINE HAVE CONCLUDED A PROTOCOL AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR A BARTER ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. WE UNDERSTAND THIS TO INVOLVE THE EXPORT OF NATURAL GAS OR OIL FROM IRAN IN EXCHANGE FOR MACHINERY FROM UKRAINE.

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- WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE
GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE TO ENCOURAGE
THEM TO ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE EXPORT
CONTROL REGIMES AND TO ADOPT
RESPONSIBLE ARMS TRANSFERS POLICIES.
- OUR OPPOSITION TO SALES OF MILITARY ITEMS
TO IRAN HAS BEEN MADE PERFECTLY CLEAR.
- WE HAVE ALSO INFORMED UKRAINE OF THE
PROVISIONS OF THE IRAN-IRAQ ARMS
NON-PROLIFERATION ACT, WHICH MANDATES
SANCTIONS AGAINST COUNTRIES THAT
CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACQUISITION BY IRAN OR
IRAQ OF DESTABILIZING NUMBERS AND TYPES
OF ADVANCED CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS --
WHICH INCLUDES CRUISE MISSILES.

Cambodia

Q: What is your reaction to the ongoing violence?

A: -- In the past week, there have been a number of cease-fire violations and attacks on U.N. personnel in Cambodia.

-- According to the UN, the Khmer Rouge was responsible for last week's attack on Siem Reap. They are also strongly believed to be responsible for a number of other attacks.

-- The U.S. again condemns in the strongest possible terms these direct attacks by the Khmer Rouge against UN personnel.

Q: Hasn't the central government engaged in intimidation tactics?

A: -- There have been a number of incidents of political intimidation, including killings of party workers. The Phnom Penh authorities appear to be responsible for many of these incidents.

-- We deplore this type of activity and call on all parties to take steps to punish any who engage in such illegal activities.

Q: Do you believe that elections should go forward?

A: -- Yes, we do. We continue to support fully the UN's efforts to hold these elections.

-- We believe it is important that the Cambodian people not lose this valuable opportunity to choose their own leaders.

Possible Bush Assassination Attempt

[Background: The Kuwaitis have apprehended 16 suspects who were apparently planning to kill President Bush with a truck bomb during his late-April visit to Kuwait. The Kuwaitis say that this was an Iraqi Intelligence operation. We are continuing to investigate the incident. U.S. government experts are examining the evidence in Kuwait. We are treating this as a very grave matter, but we do not want to make an issue of it until we have clear evidence and until we have had a chance to consider our options.]

Q: What is your reaction to the attempt to assassinate President Bush in Kuwait?

A: -- We take this matter very seriously. An FBI/Secret Service investigative team has been sent to determine if there is credible evidence to back up the allegations. That investigative team is working right now. We are investigating it thoroughly. Until we have completed the investigation, we will have no further comment.

Q: The Kuwaitis say it was an Iraqi attempt to kill an American President. Was it the Iraqis?

A: -- Until we have completed our investigation, we are not prepared to comment.

Q: Will you retaliate against Iraq if the Kuwaiti charge is proven correct?

A: -- That is a hypothetical question. We have to complete our investigation before we consider what moves we might take. However, the President has made very clear that he will not tolerate terrorism.