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United States Department of State

TV NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

TELEVISION MORNING NEWS

FEBRUARY 1, 1993

GOOD MORNING AMERICA

SECRETARY OF STATE CHRISTOPHER'S first trip to the United Nations underscores the wide range of international crisis' the Clinton administration now has on its plate. The weekend decision by Cyrus Vance and David Owen, Co-chairman of the Yugoslav Peace Negotiations, to move those talks from Geneva to U.N. Headquarters in New York caught the U.S. by surprise. Washington may now be forced to take a public position on the U.N. plan to end the war in Bosnia, a plan that American officials believe is flawed because it partitions the country along ethnic lines and, in a sense, rewards the Serbian policy of ethnic cleansing. Christopher also wants to talk to U.N. Secretary Boutros Ghali about arrangements for U.N. forces to request American troops in Somalia, a process which is not moving as quickly as hoped.

There is also the problem with the Palestinian deportees now stranded in southern Lebanon. The U.S. is under a great deal of pressure from the U.N. to support sanctions against Israel if it continues to block their return. Traditionally the U.S. has veto calls for sanctions against Israel, but a veto now would seriously weaken other American efforts in the U.N. dealing with Iraq and Yugoslavia. Originally, Secretary Christopher decided to visit the U.N., say hello and introduce Madeleine Albright, the new American representative in the New York. Clearly, this is much more than a get acquainted visit. (Barrie Dunsmore)

THE U.N., PALESTINIANS, AND THE ISRAELIS - The world's hot spots will be on the agenda today when the new Secretary of State goes to the United Nations. Warren Christopher will be meeting with Secretary General Boutros Ghali to talk about Somalia and the wars in Bosnia and Croatia. What to do about those deported Palestinians will also be up for discussion. In Israel there is another apparent effort by the Israelis to tie the radical Moslem fundamentalist group Hamas to Palestinians in this country. Israel announced over the weekend that it had arrested three Arab Americans in the Occupied Territories. (Mike Schneider)

Two of the three Palestinian-American suspects had their pictures

flashed across the front pages of Israeli newspapers today. Israeli Television explained last night that they were detained under suspicion of having ties to the Hamas fundamentalist Moslem organization. Two, allegedly provided outside financial support, and the third is suspected of participating in Hamas attacks. Most of the 400 Palestinians deported in December in Lebanon were said to be Hamas supporters. Hamas has claimed responsibility for a series of recent attacks on Israeli soldiers, two of whom were killed in an ambush on Saturday in the Gaza Strip.

Although the Palestinian American suspects were arrested days ago, they have not been charged with any crimes, nor have they been allowed to see an attorney or appear before a judge. The men's families say they were bringing money from abroad to assist relatives of the Palestinian deportees. U.S. officials are now asking Israel to either charge the men with a crime or release them. Security sources say the suspects are being held under a military law governing the Occupied Territories, which means they could be held for another two weeks before charges are brought. (Dean Reynolds)

NBC TODAY SHOW

SOMALIA - Nearly 500 U.S. Marines in Mogadishu boarded planes for home today, the first of more than 2,700 U.S. soldiers being pulled out of Somalia this week.

BOAT LOADED WITH WEAPONS FOUND OFF CUBAN COAST - Five crew members of the fishing boat "Angelina" are in custody today after government agents found their boat loaded with weapons over the weekend. The boat was stopped about 50 miles off the Cuban coast. The search of the vessel uncovered a stockpile of machine guns and grenade launchers. It's also not clear where the crew members were going with all of those weapons. (Margaret Larson)

CBS THIS MORNING

ISRAEL USES LATEST ISSUE TO DIFFUSE WORLD CRITICISM OF DEPORTEES - Israel's cabinet was told that the two Palestinian-Americans had almost a quarter of a million dollars that they had brought into Israel. The two had already given some of the money to wanted Hamas activists and discussed plans of new attacks. Although the two have not been charged, U.S. diplomats have visited them. They will likely face an Israeli court. According to an Israeli spokesman, the two Palestinian-Americans are said to have tried to organize murder and terrorist acts in Israel, and the Israelis are entitled to judge them. An Israeli expert says Hamas sympathizers in the U.S. play a key role to the organization, especially after the deportations. He also said that it is very easy to communicate with Israel and the territories via telephone, fax and the mail to transfer funds from the U.S. He said considerable sums of money have already been transferred. The disclosures are part of an Israeli effort to diffuse world criticism of the deportations, and to convince the U.S. to block the threat of sanctions in the U.N. The message is that the U.S. should help to fight Islamic extremism and back Israel when it tries to do so. (Jessie Shulman)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release:

February 1, 1993

PRESIDENT TO NOMINATE BRODY FOR HEAD OF EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

(Washington, DC) President Clinton today announced his intention to nominate Kenneth D. Brody as President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

Mr. Brody is an investment banker with substantial international financing experience. He was a member of Goldman, Sachs & Co. from 1971 to 1991, where he was elected partner in 1978 and member of the management committee in 1990. Currently, he is a limited partner with the firm. He co-headed the merchant banking group, headed the real estate group, founded and headed the high-technology group, and engaged in a wide range of investment banking activities. His international experience began in 1972 and, in addition to many international financings, includes managing 2 global businesses for Goldman-Sachs, and advising the Mexican government on the privatization of their telephone company. He holds an MBA from the Harvard Business School.

"I'm very pleased to make this announcement today," said President Clinton. "Having someone with Ken Brody's experience and knowledge at the helm of the Export-Import Bank will help to ensure the orderly flow of trade and the promotion of American exports, a vital part of our nation's economy."

The Export-Import Bank of the United States facilitates and aids in financing exports of U.S. Goods and services. The Bank has implemented a variety of programs to meet the needs of the U.S. exporting community. These programs take the form of direct lending or the issuance of guarantees and insurance so that exporters and private banks can extend appropriate financing without taking undue risks.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release February 1, 1993

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS

The Briefing Room

1:50 P.M. EST

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For Immediate Release

February 1, 1993

PRESS BRIEFING
BY GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS

The Briefing Room

1:50 P.M. EST

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Hello. As you know, the President's finished his meeting with the governors. He'll be working in his office this afternoon. And I'm ready to take questions.

Q George, you periodically say that everything is on the table as far as the economic package goes. Is the option of freezing COLAs for Social Security still on the table?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think the most important thing right now is that no decisions have been made, and I don't know that it's very productive to go into what's on and what's off the table at any time. I mean, we've said it before and I don't think we need to go through a laundry list of everything that's being considered, but I can just say that no decisions have been made.

Q For example, increasing income tax breaks on the middle class -- you would say that's not on the table, right?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think it's incredibly unlikely, yes.

Q Okay. Can we put the COLAs for Social Security in the same category?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think right now we choose to say that no decisions have been made.

Q George, how close is the President to making a decision on a national vaccination/immunization program? And why would it be important for the federal government to be involved in that national program?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The President is looking hard at this issue. I think you should all know -- we want to make sure we do everything we can to give America's kids a healthy start in life. This is an investment. Every dollar we spend on immunization saves \$10 in health care costs over the long term. And if we can give our kids a healthy start in life and make sure they start school protected from disease, protected from any kinds of infectious diseases, it's all to the good. So we're looking very hard at this, and we hope to have something.

Q What about the opposition from the pharmaceutical companies who say basically that would mean that the government would have a monopoly on this?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, I don't know about that. We haven't developed any hard proposal yet. But as I said, this is an important investment in America's future, an important investment in our kids, and it will save money in the long run.

Q George, do you think the homosexual issue has passed now and the President has come to an agreement? Or do you think the storm is just starting again?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think what the President's doing right now is focusing on health care and the important issues of the economy and that's what we're working on.

Q What's the agenda for the meeting with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: As you know, he's going to meet with the Prime Minister on Friday. I believe they'll be meeting around lunchtime. And they'll be discussing the range of bilateral issues of trade and investment between our two countries. I assume that they'll talk about the North American Free Trade Agreement and whatever else the Prime Minister and the President decide.

Q Can you discuss a little bit the substance of the meeting with the governors this morning? From what the President said afterwards, it appears that the principal topic was health care. Was he merely soliciting their suggestions? Did any of them come forward with proposals that he in any way seemed to adopt, or what?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think they had an awful lot to chew on. The overwhelming bulk of the meeting was on health care. They'll be having follow-up meetings tomorrow. One of the prime areas they talked about were the areas, the regulations that the President has issued today, but also the overall issue of how we're going to control health care costs for all Americans; how they're going to work together to get this done and then move towards providing access as well.

Q What message from the governors, if there was a message that he could take away from that, did he, indeed, take?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The message is that they understand the urgency of the situation, and they're ready to work with him after 12 years of neglect.

Q I understand the way they're going to be ready to work with him, but did he hear anything from them that he -- that constituted some kind of consensus view on anything other than the more liberal policy on waivers?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know if there is a consensus beyond that, but I think that there is -- they know that they have an overwhelming need to address the issue, that they've been burdened by the costs over the last 12 years, as Washington has pushed more and more responsibilities on them while taking away resources. But this is the kind of thing we want to be in constant dialogue with them as the President and the health care task force develop the national proposal. And as the President said, Mrs. Clinton will be meeting with the governors tomorrow.

Q Governor Campbell said out in the driveway that he heard some discussion in the meeting today in regard to the stimulus package, that it would be in the order of \$30 billion split evenly between public sector and private sector. He had no more detail than that. Could you clarify what that reference was to?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think that that's within the range that the President has been considering. And when we have the details, we'll announce them.

Q Earlier the range that was being discussed was \$15.5 billion; now, you say \$30 billion is within the range. Is there some reason that the range keeps --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I don't know what the final number is going to be. I think the range is all within that. It's subject to negotiation. But we haven't had a set number. We don't have a set number yet. But I think that's all within the range.

Q At the U.N. today, is Secretary Christopher proposing support of a fast-track course and is he doing anything about --can you tell us what he's doing about Bosnia and the Middle East?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't believe the Secretary is making a proposal of that kind to Boutros-Ghali today. As you know, it's U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright's first day at the U.N. He'll be having a general meeting with Secretary General Boutros-Ghali on Somalia, on Bosnia. He'll also be meeting with Mr. Vance and Lord Owen later in the evening to hear what they have to say about their efforts. And that's really all I have to say right now.

Q Is there anything you can tell us about the talks on the Palestinian deportee compromise?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: We continue to be in active discussions with all parties. And we continue to believe that a U.N. resolution at this time would not serve a constructive purpose.

Q Is there any prospect for a negotiated solution on Bosnia with the talks broken off now?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, as you know, the Secretary is going to hear about how the talks have gone right now, and we continue to hope that the parties do -- are able to work out a settlement.

Q George, why aren't we taking a more activist role in this situation? It sounds like this is sort of a passive approach to the situation.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The President believes this is a serious situation. He's taking it very seriously. We have an intensive review going on right now by the National Security Council and advisers, and we continue to review our options.

Q George, on the Medicaid waivers, some of the opposition all along has been from the Hill. Were congressional leaders consulted at all? Are they on board on this, on granting these waivers?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I believe there was some discussion. I don't know exactly who was consulted. But if we hear of anything, I'll get back to you.

Q George, Senator Moynihan says that Social Security is not an entitlement, that it's an insurance policy paid up by the American people, that it should not be under consideration. Does the President consider Social Security an entitlement program that is on the table?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I'm not going to get into a lengthy discussion of Social Security. The President is reviewing all of his options right now. When he has his program prepared he will announce it.

Q But given the opposition in Congress that's already been voiced, and the threat of serious challenge by the association

for retired folks, is this politically viable? Is this something that he thinks that he could win?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, again, I don't know if this is something the President is eager to do. Right now we face tough choices. We face a difficult situation created by the rising deficit and slow job growth. This is not easy. This is not something he seeks. He simply wants to review every programming detail as we consider the economic package, the growth package, the jobs package. And that's really all I have to say.

Q This really is a follow-up with a slightly different tact. When a senior member of Congress like Senator Moynihan says something is a death wish and a land mine and publicly warns you to stay away from it, what does that mean to you? Does that mean that it's off the table, or does it mean you need to --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: We take that very seriously. The President has great respect for Senator Moynihan, has great respect for the work he's done on Social Security, the work he's done on a range of issues in his lifetime of service to the U.S. But again, the President is reviewing his plans right now.

Q Governor Cuomo and Governor Wilson and Governor Chiles, Ann Richards, maybe one other, sent to the President a letter asking for the federal government to pick up more of the share of cost associated with illegal immigration, the costs of uninsured medical costs, the costs of incarceration. It comes to several billions that is currently on state budgets. Given the constraints on the federal budget, is there any possibility that the President might be able to respond to that request from the governors, or is that something that's just out of the question?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, we're going to review the letter carefully, review the proposal carefully. But again, I don't know that we have any final decision on how much can be devoted to that at this time.

Q On a related matter, various agencies are supposed to be submitting budget requests. Has the President given any particular guidance or has Panetta any particular guidance to the agencies about what range of numbers they should be looking at in these budget requests along the lines of what they were told last year about 10 percent below baseline, that sort of thing?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I can't get into the details of the instructions, but the President wants an economic growth package, a jobs package and an investment package that's consistent with the proposals he talked about in the campaign. We won't necessarily be able to hit every goal or every dollar amount in exactly the same way, but again, that would be consistent with what the President said in his campaign where he said, if we face a difficult deficit situation, if we face a difficult economic situation first, he would seek to scale back unnecessary spending and other spending before he went on to other measures.

Q Will there be some sort of briefing?

Q Do you expect to have an attorney general nomination this week?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know.

Q Is the President talking to anyone about it?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The President's talking to a lot of people about it, and he continues to talk to people. I don't know if he has any interviews this afternoon specifically, but he continues

to put in a lot of work on it, and we hope to have an announcement relatively soon.

Q Do you expect to have a briefing --

Q Do you also have a conclusion on the Sessions issue this week?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I'm not sure. We're continuing to review it. And when we have a conclusion, we'll let you know.

Q Do you expect to have a briefing before the visit by the President of Canada -- the National Security Advisor will brief --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The President reviews daily issues with his national security advisors every day.

Q Will there be a briefing for the press before the meeting?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think we can look into that, sure.

Q George, did the President ask the governors for help in selling his deficit reduction plan to the American public?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: They talked about a range of issues. But again, I don't know that I would characterize it that way. Reducing the deficit is a means to an end, not an end in itself. You reduce the deficit in order to create jobs, in order to get the economy growing for the American people. He will look for all the help he can get in developing that program for the American people. But they focus most of their energy today on health care.

Q George, do you think there's any connection between Senator Moynihan's tough words about Social Security and the anonymous quote, I guess, in Time Magazine of some Clinton aide trashing Moynihan?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I don't think so. I mean, the President, as you know, talked to Senator Moynihan last week, and I don't know exactly what happened in the conversation, but I know that the Senator was gratified that the President was concerned about what had happened in the magazine and that that satisfied him. Because the President was taking matters into his own hands, and he was quite convinced, as you should be, that this did not represent the President's view.

Q George, what dictated your change in the coverage rules here today? You should also be aware that a number of radio networks have been carrying your briefings live. It probably sounded a bit awkward when the sound just went dead right --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I'm sorry we weren't able to announce that earlier. The President did appear before the cameras today, and we'll be reviewing all this we hope to be meeting with the White House correspondents I hope within the next day or two to go over a range of these issues.

Q Can you give us a little more advanced notice on what --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Absolutely. I apologize --

Q -- the briefings you're going to make --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: It was a mistake, and I apologize.

Q Are you saying that if the President appears before the cameras you won't? Is that --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I'm saying we're going to meet with the White House correspondents within a day or two to go over this.

Q Is the meeting with the White House correspondents or the network bureau chiefs?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No, we would like to meet with both.

Q George, in both the vaccine issue and the managed health care issue the President seems to be contemplating programs that would take -- the government take over payment for things some people already pay for themselves. Is that true, or would the payment be limited to those who could not afford to pay?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The President was looking to find the best way to provide these services to all Americans, those in need. Again, we don't have the final details yet of how all the plans would work. But we want to make sure we have broad immunization. And we think that it will reduce costs in the long run for everyone.

Q That could possibly include doing it for everyone, in other words, rather than allowing those who now pay for it for themselves to continue doing so?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I don't have the details, but we'll have something relatively soon.

Q George, is that a program that you're considering as a stand-alone program outside of the broad health care reform because of its importance?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think this is something the President would like to move on very quickly, but again we have no final word yet.

Q If I could follow up. Tomorrow he's talking about welfare reform. What's he going to tell them about his pledge to end welfare as we know it? Is he going to ask them to develop programs, or is he going to create a task force the same way he did with health care?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think the President will have an announcement to make on that tomorrow. But I would just say he remains committed to reforming the welfare system and making it work.

Q Is he going to grant waivers on welfare programs the same way he did today?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know.

Q Was the President given some advice by the governors today about tax increases or what sorts of taxes to increase? And is he considering a broad-based energy tax as part -- as one of his options?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No decisions have been made on the economic program. I think that's been well reported in the press, and there's no need to kick it around some more. But I think that he's had general discussions with as many governors as he could. Again, in the meeting itself it focused largely health care.

Q Can you characterize some of the advice he's been getting about perhaps raising taxes on the middle class, if he's been getting some?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, the President is, again, is not eager to raise taxes on anyone. He wants to make sure, though, that we have a good economic program that works to create jobs in the long run. And I think that that's the stance he takes into this discussion.

Q If I could just follow up on Jeff's question, did anyone in there give him advice on whether or not he should raise taxes?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Not that I know of.

Q On the U.N. resolution, you said it would not be constructive now. Is the Clinton administration ready to veto any resolution that would impose sanctions on Israel?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Right now I believe there is no resolution tabled before the U.N. Security Council right now. So it's a purely hypothetical that I can't answer.

Q George, you said early that reducing the deficit is a means to an end, not an end in itself, and that the end is accelerated economic growth. Does that mean that if you could accelerate economic growth by perhaps a short-term increase in the deficit, the President is still open to that?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, as we said, the President is looking at a stimulus program in the very short run. But, again, I don't think there's any disagreement that in the long run you must reduce the deficit as a precondition to move forward on jobs and economic growth.

Q But in doing so for its own sake is not an objective of this administration, is that correct?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: You would reduce the deficit so you can improve the economy for the American people.

Q George, one of the governors, I think it was Governor Campbell, when he threw out this \$30-billion figure that supposedly came up at the meeting on an economic stimulus package, he then later said that half of it might have been from the private sector and half from the governmental sector. When you're talking about the private sector, what does that mean?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The President has always been for private sector incentives. The investment tax credit is one good example of how you can increase investment through the private sector to create jobs.

Q Both governors were very pleased with the universal waiver proposal the President made. Can you give us some idea of what state programs he is thinking of that might fall under that category?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, you might have me there. I think this is just -- his waivers today were related to kind of simplifying the Medicaid system and the Medicaid application system having to do with the Health Care Financing Association. Right now, they can come back time and time again to states asking for more information, more clarification. This would limit their attempts to come back and get more information once, and right now there could be as many as years between their first and their last intervention. This would make sure they only would get one and would speed up the

process. It would also help make sure that if different states learn from each other and learn how to do similar activities that they're not penalized.

Q I think that's what I'm talking about. The understanding I got -- it may be wrong -- was that the program works in one state that gets a waiver for it, other states --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: You don't have to go through the whole process again. I mean, that's really important.

Q What purpose does he have in mind? Because it seemed this was -- some of the governors cheered -- that he must have some programs in mind that have worked in some states.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I would have to get back to you on that. I think this is generally in the range of the Medicaid programs. They've had some bad experiences with not being able to get their programs reviewed quickly, but I don't have the specific programs.

Q The Haiti situation seems to have hit a new roadblock in negotiated solutions. Now there's talk of about 300 Haitians in Guantanamo Bay are going on a hunger strike, trying to get to the United States, many of them suffering from AIDS. What is the position of the White House on that?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The President's position remains the same. He wants to make sure that we continue to do everything we can to reach a negotiated settlement, to bring democracy back to Haiti. But if people leave, they will be returned.

Q How about the people already in Guantanamo that are trying to get to the United States?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I mean, I believe that's going to be very difficult.

Q George, did he change anything today in terms of Medicaid reimbursement, federal government's reimbursement?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: He said they would review it.

Q But, I mean -- review it, but I mean, did he take any -- I mean, there was no step to actually change it, right?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: What he did was essentially open up the negotiations again so that they could have the discussions. I would just add that the President has done this with all regulations that were introduced by the Bush administration at the end of their term. And this is just a review, and he wants to make sure that the states and his administration get together on this.

Q Does he have an inclination here or --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think he's heard their concerns and wants to make sure they're dealt with in negotiations.

Q George, on that Haiti matter, the 271 Haitians who are at Guantanamo, at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo, have all been screened in and authorized to come to the United States, but most of them are HIV positive, or relatives of HIV positive. The Bush administration's policy was to bar them from coming into the United States, even though INS said they qualified for political asylum status simply because they're HIV positive. What is the Clinton administration's policy?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I would refer you to the State Department.

Q Well, the State -- it's not a State Department issue.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, it will be. They'll get you an answer. (Laughter.)

Q It's an INS issue.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: We'll get back to you on it. I don't have an answer.

Q Does the President plan to change his policy on HIV positive admission to the U.S.?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: We're going to look at that.

Q On the attorney general, the President made it an issue during the campaign of his support for the death penalty. Does he consider that to be a prerequisite for whoever he might nominate for attorney general, that they share his view on that issue?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Oh, I don't think so. I don't know that it's come up.

Q President Bush, last year in an attempt at fiscal stimulus cut the withholding table, as you know. Does your administration plan to leave them where they are, to restore them, or perhaps cut them further?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think they automatically return to their previous levels. And at this point, the President's reviewing everything as he prepares his economic package.

Q By keeping them, freezing them would retain the same fiscal stimulus for this year if you chose to do that. Do you have any inclinations in that direction?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No decisions yet.

Q George, didn't the President, during the campaign say he would drop the restriction on HIV positive people coming -- wanting to immigrate?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think he did, yes. And I just don't know the specific situation with these people in Guantanamo, and we'll be getting an answer.

Q There's no change as far as you know on his campaign promise?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No.

Q George, on health care, if the governors are going to be playing a formal role on some of these task force sub-groups, is the President going to be inviting other outside interest groups who are not administration officials to participate?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: There's going to be an awful lot of outreach by the task force. Again, I don't know what the formal structures will be or the formal methods of participation will be, but I'm certain we'll be contacting other groups as well.

Q Following up on David's question, you said it hasn't come up, the issue of attorney general candidate and where

they stand on the death penalty. Is that because he's only looking at candidates --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No, I'm saying it hasn't come up as a prerequisite. I don't know.

Q He said during the campaign that he would choose nominees, for instance, for the Supreme Court who are on record in terms of abortion. Is he looking at candidates who have a public record of how they stand on the death penalty and abortion before he considers them?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The President's going to consider all aspects of the potential nominees' background as he goes through his decision-making process. He will look at their administrative experience, their legal experience. He will look at their public statements. But I don't want to say that anything is a precondition to being selected.

Q Does he feel it's okay to ask candidates for attorney general their views on those two issues, abortion and the death penalty?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I wouldn't be surprised if it came up, but again, it's not a precondition or something that is necessary.

Q Is the White House staff complete now?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Complete?

Q Have the employees in the White House staff who are going to be hired, been hired?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't think all the employees, no.

Q At what point will you put out who is on the staff and what their salaries are so we can make the comparison that President Clinton noted in the campaign?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I don't know about the salaries or when we're going to have a full roster of staff. We expect to be making an announcement on the White House staff and the President's campaign commitments relatively soon.

Q Are you -- as a presidential assistant, can you tell us how much you make, so I can compare --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Less than my predecessor.

Q Who was your predecessor -- which predecessor?

Q Marlin?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: David Demarest.

Q He was making the same as Marlin.

Q Would you like to tell us how much -- public record -- we can then get an idea.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: When it's public record, we'll release them.

Q Is that a matter of ability or conscience, or policy, or what?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I'll let the numbers speak for themselves?

Q When?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: When we have them.

Q But why are you getting less than the predecessor?

Q Surely you have the numbers already.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No, not the final numbers for everything.

Q The pennies? (Laughter.)

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think that generally, the President is going to try to maintain his commitments on the White House staff. And I think that he's trying to do -- show that if he's going to take responsibility, that he's going to take responsibility for his own staff and his own White House and make sure that he sets a good example.

Q Is that by salary or by numbers of people?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think generally we were looking at his numbers.

Q Numbers of people?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Yes.

Q George, is there a general policy about paying people less than their predecessors were earning?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, I think the scales are a little bit different, yes. But I wouldn't go to every individual and say, do a comparison like that. But there are general -- I think generally we've moved the scales down a little bit.

Q Because when the Bush administration came in, they made a point of saying that they'd moved the scale down from what the Reagan administration had been.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think we've done it again.
(Laughter.)

Q So there is a general policy about this, right?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The scales are generally a little bit different.

Q Like what?

Q Is there a percentage that you're using?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know the percentage. We'll have it soon.

Q I just got this -- this just in -- a bulletin from AFP: Israel has decided to allow the return of about 100 of the 400 Palestinians deported to South Lebanon and to reduce the period of exile for the others, according to a minister. Do you know anything about that?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think it would be bad to get into the habit of responding to bulletins just in from the world, but I

think that Secretary Christopher will have something to say on that later this afternoon.

Q Do you know about this? Is this true?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: It sounds -- it sounds like a step in the right direction. But Secretary Christopher will have something to say later on.

Q George, as part of the personnel process, a lot of these folks need to go through security clearances, and a lot of them haven't completed security clearances. Could you talk a little bit about how this complicates decision-making in some of the areas that you're dealing with, both domestic and foreign?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: We're trying to get through the security clearances as quickly as we can. And I believe we've made good progress. I don't know exactly what you're or who you're referring to.

Q Well, for example, some of the NSC folks that are newly on board but not have a clearance to deal with top secret material.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Those clearances always take several weeks to several months to complete. And this isn't out of the ordinary at all. We try to make sure we have the best information we can. And I think that the very top officials have their clearances completed, so it's not hampering us in any way.

Q George, as you know, this weekend has unleashed a rash of punditry about how the Clinton administration, albeit in its infancy, is doing, and so far it has not gotten very high marks.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, it depends on who you read.

Q Who do you read? (Laughter.)

Q My question is, considering how sensitive the President is to his imagery, to his public image, how is he taking it?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, I think the President feels good about the direction we're moving and in the plans he's laid for the success of his administration.

I think when you look back over the first couple of weeks, you find, number one, that he had a successful inaugural; number two, that he had all but one of his Cabinet conferees confirmed and through the Senate in record time. He's appointed a health care task force to get to work on one of the most important issues facing the American people. He's spent hours and hours working on the economy and preparing his jobs program that will be presented to the Congress on February 17th. He's met with dozens of members of Congress and talked to others to make sure that we can do everything we can to break the gridlock and pass those important legislative proposals. He had an unprecedented meeting with his Cabinet members at Camp David this weekend, which again, lays the groundwork for building the kind of team and the kind of teamwork that it's going to take to get these important initiatives through.

I would also point you to the things that the Cabinet secretaries have done on their own: when you see Mike Espy freezing the employees at his department; when you see -- I know that over at the Department of Veterans Affairs they've closed down the executive dining room. And we're trying to change the way we do business here in Washington. The President has done -- feels good about that, feels good about the progress that he's made. He hopes that we can continue to build on that progress this week by passing

and signing the family leave act. Tomorrow he'll be meeting with the governors again and making some announcements on welfare reform, another one of his major priorities.

So I think when you put this in context and look at what's gotten done and the groundwork we've laid for future progress, we feel good about it.

Q George, can you explain to us in the dark what you've done today vis a vis live broadcast and why?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Excuse me?

Q Can you explain to us what you've done today, vis a vis, live broadcast and why?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Today the President was before the cameras. We had the governors as well. And we felt that was plenty of television for the day.

Q Did they not want you on TV tonight?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, and I would also -- not at all.

Q It's not quantity, George. (Laughter).

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: We're going to be meeting with the bureau chiefs, and we're going to be meeting with the White House correspondents.

Q Is that the way you prefer it?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: This is fine. I like them both ways.

Q George, can you tell us what happened this weekend and give us a little background on the meeting that the President had with the Cabinet secretaries?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: The President was very excited by the meeting. He invited, as you know, the Cabinet members down for his first weekend at Camp David. They spent Saturday discussing his goals for the presidency, his legislative initiatives, the major initiatives and how they are going to work together to meet those goals. Yesterday we added more White House staff and continued that discussion, and it was all very positive.

Q George, you've mentioned Espy's freezing of hiring and the work he's doing on some of the Washington staff. Did he clear that through the White House first, or how is this process working? Can Cabinet secretaries take these steps and then you read about them in the paper, or is there some clearance process --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: No, we talked to him this weekend, but we're --

Q No, he did this before this weekend.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: We're not -- again, if the Cabinet secretaries are going to carry out the President's mandate, which he said very clearly in the campaign, and they take their own initiative to get this done, we're thrilled.

Q I know you're thrilled. (Laughter.) What I'm asking is did you know about -- and I know the President's excited -- did Espy call the the Cabinet Secretary, you, someone --

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I believe the Cabinet Secretary knew. I did not know. But again, I don't want to say that there has to be this kind of pre-clearance on an announcement like that. But I think we're generally moving in lockstep.

Q George, getting back to Israel, three American citizens were detained last week in Israel occupied territories. Is there any truth in the allegations by Israel that the common structure of Hamas is now in this country, in the United States?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I would refer you to the State Department and the FBI. They've been talking to Israel and they're looking into this.

Q George, earlier you said that the President wasn't eager to raise taxes on anyone. As I remember during the campaign he said that he would not raise taxes on the middle class to pay for his programs. Does he still intend to keep that commitment?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Let's put that in context, first of all. He does -- the President did say that. He also said you can't say "Read my lips," and that that would be irresponsible, especially if we faced economic difficulties or new economic situations. Add he was very clear about that, both during the debate, after the debate and the days following the debate. But the President is working on his economic program right now. He's looking to create the best program he can to create jobs and increase incomes.

Q Does that mean that a tax increase for the middle class is on the table?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: What that means is that the President has not made any decisions. He is looking at every option at this point. He is trying to put together the best program he can to create jobs.

Q Several of the governors lauded President Clinton's commitment to reducing the deficit. But several also expressed concern that what they've been hearing so far is that all efforts would be aimed at the revenue side and not the spending side. What is the President's commitment to reducing spending? Is it still that \$2.00 of spending for every one of revenue formula?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I don't know if we have a specific formula that's set in stone, but the President knows that we have to get wasteful spending down, that we have to control spending. One of the keys to that is controlling health care costs which eats up an ever-increasing amount of the federal budget. But, of course, he's committed to cutting spending and getting the waste out of government. He said throughout the campaign he wants to reduce administrative costs in the government by three percent, he wants to cut out all the fat. We can and he must do that before you go to revenues.

Q But if your just cutting out fat that two-to-one formula seems unattainable. Does he think the two-to-one formula is realistic?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Again, we don't have a formula set in stone right now, but he's going to go after spending and do everything he can to control it.

Q George, on a totally unrelated subject, do you have any thoughts on how the CIA, the U.S. intelligence community and the Clinton administration will operate differently than it did in previous administrations?

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: I think that Secretary -- Mr. Woolsey is up before the Senate today, where I think tomorrow addressing that but the President has talked about trying to make the

CIA relevant to the new world and the new kinds of technology that we have right now, and secondly, to focus more on economic interests and economic intelligence which is where the real competition is now.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

MR. STEPHANOPOULOS: Thank you.

END

2:23 P.M. EST

#11-02/01

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release:

February 1, 1993

**BACKGROUND
MEDICAID WAIVER STREAMLINING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

I. The President today issued a number of directives to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Health Care Financing Administration aimed at easing the complexity and cost of the Medicaid waiver request process for the states. In general, a Medicaid waiver request is a request by a state that Federal regulations be laid aside to allow for the trial of new approaches. Currently, the length of time between an initial waiver request and final approval is very long, sometimes taking years. The process is often made longer by slow and repetitive requests by the federal government for information/clarification. Under current law, years after receiving an initial waiver request, and after many succeeding requests by HCFA for further information, HCFA could ask for a clarification on an item from the initial request.

From now on, at the President's direction, HCFA will only have one opportunity to identify items for additional information and/or clarification. Any succeeding information request must be based on new information received and not on the original request. This should greatly expedite the granting of waivers for the states requesting them.

II. Many states often make waiver requests that are very similar in target and scope. Currently, each waiver request - even if it is virtually identical to a waiver that has already been approved - is reviewed independently and subjected to the same, duplicative review process. From the states' perspective, it is as if the federal government has a policy to prevent the sharing of successful innovations.

The President has directed HCFA to standardize initiatives that can be automatically approved so that states can take advantage of other states' successes with far greater ease.

III. In December, President Bush announced new regulations governing provider taxes and disproportionate share reimbursements. Provider tax regulations are rules that govern a tax on health care providers, like hospitals, that states have the option of levying. A disproportionate share reimbursement is an allocation to a provider that serves a disproportionate share of the state's Medicaid population. These new regulations were supposed to be the product of negotiations between the National Governors' Association and the Health Care Financing Administration. The governors, however, are virtually unanimous in their agreement that these new regulations do not represent the spirit of the negotiations.

Today, the President directed HCFA to reopen negotiations with the NGA and move quickly to issue new regulations that accurately reflect the nature of those negotiations.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

I N D E X

Friday, January 29, 1993

BRIEFER: Richard Boucher

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

DPC #15

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1993, 12:39 P.M.
(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

MR. BOUCHER: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to start by surprising you with an announcement of a trip to New York.

Secretary of State Christopher will travel to New York on Monday to meet with the U.N. Secretary General Boutros-Ghali and to participate in Ambassador Albright's presentation of credentials. This meeting will be the first between the two since the Clinton Administration took office. It will be his first trip since assuming his duties, which underscores the importance the new Administration attaches to the role of the United Nations in the international arena, and, in particular, to the role of the Secretary General in carrying out his burgeoning responsibilities in the areas of international peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance.

While in New York, Ambassador Albright and the Secretary will also meet with the U.S. Mission staff in order to review the issues that they work on day to day.

We anticipate that the discussions in New York will cover a broad range of policy issues involving the United Nations. The meeting will also highlight U.S. interest in working with the United Nations, and with the Secretary General personally, to ensure that our mutual efforts enhance the organization's effectiveness and efficiency in meeting its primary goal of contributing to international peace and stability.

We'll be working on a press schedule for you that we hope to have later in the day. We'll get that to you. I'd just note for the moment that the Secretary will be available to the press in New York. We'll have some sort of press availability, and therefore there won't be a briefing here in Washington on Monday.

Q I'll be happy to carry your advertisement if you'll give us a better idea of what he's going to do in New York? I'll attach importance to the U.N., just like you want me to, but can you tell us, is he going to push the "no-fly"

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zone which has been pushed like a feather in the last two months? Is he going to try to stave off sanctions against Israel?

Could you give us a better idea, apart from the symbols -- because he's going to be there apparently a good part of the day -- what business he's going to take care of that might be of interest to viewers and readers?

MR. BOUCHER: Barry, I think, first of all, as you know, the U.N. is engaged and involved and we are engaged and involved in working with the U.N. in areas all over the world. So we would expect the discussions to span the entire world.

Second of all --

Q In one day?

Q It's Friday, Richard.

MR. BOUCHER: Second of all, of course, these two gentlemen will discuss anything they want to.

Third, I will make the point once again that the Secretary will talk to Boutros-Ghali about the importance the United States places on the U.N. and the important role that the United Nations and the Secretary General play in the world, and we'll try to establish the cooperation that we can use to work closely with the United Nations, as we have in the past.

Q Does the Secretary think that the United Nations --

MR. BOUCHER: Now, finally, I would note that we're all aware of what the issues are that are being worked up there and being discussed up there. Clearly, Somalia and the U.S. forces, U.N. forces, the transition, is something that they will want to discuss.

The situation in Bosnia, the importance of Iraqi compliance, questions like the deportees, U.N. reform, U.N. peacekeeping, and the Secretary General's ideas -- those are obviously all things that they'll discuss.

Q Just a quick follow-up, Richard. With all this tribute you're paying to the U.N., does that mean that the Secretary is inclined to support efforts to give the U.N. more of a peacemaking as well as a peacekeeping role?

MR. BOUCHER: He commented on those ideas that come out of, I guess what's called the Secretary General's set of ideas or something like that, from the report that was done last spring. He commented on it during his confirmation hearings, and certainly said that that was something that he supported, what has been already announced by the United States

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in terms of being willing to cooperate in a number of areas with the United Nations, on being better prepared for peacekeeping activities. And I think the Secretary also said that it would be good to look at -- he thought they were good ideas and he wanted to look at this further and discuss it. So I'm sure that they will be discussing it.

Q Richard, is one of the issues he'll be discussing is Boutros-Ghali's reported intention of appointing the wonderfully-named Norwegian lady, Mrs. Sham Poo, to the post of Under Secretary for Management?

MR. BOUCHER: The question of the post of the U.N. Under Secretary General for Management is certainly something that could come up that they may want to discuss.

On the general issue, I would say that there are no positions in the U.N. Secretariat that are formally reserved for any particular member state. At the same time, we are intensely interested in good management and reform at the United Nations.

I've already said that U.N. reforms is clearly one of the topics that they would expect to discuss. With an American in the post of the Under Secretary General for Administration and Management, we have been able to cooperate closely with the Secretary General in his efforts towards institutional reform.

(Multiple questions)

Q -- of the U.S. payment of --

MR. BOUCHER: Hang on. Let's let Alan ask his follow-up.

Q Did the United States note that Boutros-Ghali, having abolished four of the Under Secretariats last year, re-created two of them towards the end of the year? And, if so, what is your reaction?

MR. BOUCHER: I'm sure we've noted any changes that were made up at the U.N. You know our strong interest in a more effective U.N. and issues of reform. I don't know that we've had any particular reaction to those steps that you talked about.

Sonia.

Q What's the status of the payment of arrears to the United Nations?

MR. BOUCHER: I probably should have brought that down. I'll have the folks who work the numbers get you the numbers. As you know, we've made some payments to pay back the arrears that had accumulated in the regular budget. I believe,

in his testimony, the Secretary said that he was committed to paying our bills.

Q Would it be possible --

MR. BOUCHER: We'll get you the numbers; yes.

Q -- so that it's factually correct.

MR. BOUCHER: I'll see if I can find that excerpt that I vaguely remember from the testimony.

Q Richard, on Bosnia, could you talk a little, or expand a little bit more on the remarks that the Secretary made last night when he cautioned us not to expect a quick decision on the policy toward Bosnia? This comes after you yourself had said that there was an urgent review, and you and other officials talked about how this was a high priority.

What exactly did he mean to convey when he seemed to put a brake on quick expectations?

MR. BOUCHER: Carol, I don't think I can expand too much on the process that is underway. It is something that's being looked at. I think I have to decline to sort of expand on the Secretary's remarks. He cautioned you against necessarily expecting decisions right away. That's clear. But it's also -- I don't think that contradicts what we said before, that it is something that we have to look at as a high priority.

Q Are they finding that the issues are more complicated than they thought before they were in office? Are there new factors that have sort of made them think that they couldn't move as quickly as they seemed to indicate first out of the box? You can't add any sort of insight into that?

MR. BOUCHER: I can't, Carol. I thought the Secretary explained it more than adequately yesterday, and I didn't try to expand on that any more in my conversations with him.

Q The U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. has referred to it as the highest priority. You referred to it the other day as a high priority, and you repeated that again today.

Was the Secretary meaning to say yesterday that the issue of the highest priority won't be -- there won't be any answers available on that highest priority issue right away? Is that how we should read it?

MR. BOUCHER: Ralph, I would read it the way the Secretary said it.

Q I wonder what "high priority" means. I thought high, or highest priority -- I thought in a situation where

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thousands of people are being killed -- I made the mental connection in my head; maybe it was foolish of me -- that "high priority" means we're concerned, we're terribly concerned as a government and want to do something on some urgent basis.

The impression I'm getting now from various accounts -- and from your account in this statement -- is "high priority" means it's a subject we ought to talk about a lot and maybe go back to the beginning and see what the options are and weigh them and the considerations and all. And this is in the dead winter, so what does "high priority" mean? Doesn't it mean that you want to do something quickly, or does "priority" just mean it's a big thing and there's no urgency about it?

MR. BOUCHER: Barry, the situation is as follows: We are giving this matter urgent attention.

You know -- I think the White House reported to you yesterday that the meeting of the President's senior advisers was held yesterday, that they've discussed this issue. We've told you that we're looking at all the options.

The Secretary has told you that he wants to move ahead forcefully, that he wants to move ahead actively, and that he wants to move ahead in view of our outrage and our deep concern about the situation that the people are facing out there.

We have not suspended the ongoing efforts devoted to feeding people, to enforcing sanctions, and in many other areas where the United States has been active. These options are being looked at in order to move forward.

The Secretary cautioned you yesterday against expecting something in a very -- well, I forget exactly how he said it -- immediately is the way I would summarize it. But at the same time it is something that's being discussed; and the efforts that we've had underway to take care of these grave humanitarian problems that we've talked about are, in fact, continuing.

Q Is this what you've told you the visiting Bosnians -- not to expect anything right away?

MR. BOUCHER: I don't know exactly how that was phrased, how we described it to him.

Q Did they get to a higher level than the Assistant Secretary? You remember, there was the possibility they might see somebody --

Q That was the Turkish --

MR. BOUCHER: No, I don't remember that.

(Multiple questions.)

Q Has anything delayed action -- any kind of action on this issue?

MR. BOUCHER: Not that I'm aware of, Saul.

Q Has there been delay in taking any kind of action in either meetings or discussion or any kind of decision-making? Has there been any delay?

MR. BOUCHER: Not that I'm aware of, Saul. I don't pretend to be able to give you any kind of readout of the discussion that was held yesterday.

Q It's just that I remember --

MR. BOUCHER: But it is an issue that is getting their attention. It's an issue that they are devoting their attention to and that is under discussion.

Q Is it still accurate to say that the United States wants to see prompt movement to the second phase of the U.N. resolution on the "no-fly" zone in Bosnia, and that the U.S. is seeking prompt move to the enforcement stage?

MR. BOUCHER: Nothing has changed on our desire to see that enforced.

Q Is there any kind of timetable on, at least, taking the first action which is pressing the resolution, if that's what you're going to do, or lifting the embargo? Is there any --

MR. BOUCHER: Well, if that's what they decide to do.

Q -- timetable?

MR. BOUCHER: No, I don't set timetables for the President's senior advisers.

Q I'm not asking you to -- I'm just wondering whether you're aware if there's any timetable?

MR. BOUCHER: I'm not aware of any.

Q What's the situation at the U.N. on the "no-fly" zone? What's the situation now on the "no-fly" zone and the enforcement resolution? Are you still discussing it with allies?

MR. BOUCHER: I believe so. I'll have to get you an update. I didn't get one today.

Q Will the Secretary deal with any of the Bosnia allies on Monday when he goes to the U.N.?

MR. BOUCHER: The meetings, as currently scheduled, as expected, are with Boutros-Ghali, with the presentation of credentials with Ambassador Albright, and then with the U.S. Mission people there. There are no Security Council or other meetings scheduled there.

Q No Perm Five or Perm Three?

MR. BOUCHER: No.

Terry.

Q What's the Administration's current assessment in terms of the adequacy of humanitarian assistance reaching Sarajevo and other Bosnian enclaves?

MR. BOUCHER: Let me give you some of the numbers. We, at least, have a period of 20 days to sort of look at the numbers with you, and then I'll give you a general assessment of how things have been going.

During the period from January 1 through January 20, there were 5,972.4 metric tons of relief supplies and 1,993 heaters that were delivered to Bosnia-Herzegovina by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. That's both in convoys and the airlifts, and by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

For the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees convoys and airlift to Sarajevo, they distributed 3,656 metric tons of relief supplies and 1,933 heaters, as follows:

To Banja Luka, 100 metric tons of food. To Bihac, 171 metric tons of food and 10.8 metric tons of clothes and bedding.

To central Bosnia, 407 metric tons of food, 14.6 metric tons of winterization materials, and 14.6 metric tons of clothes and bedding.

To eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina, 679 metric tons of food and 8 metric tons of medical supplies.

To Sarajevo, 1,265 metric tons of food, 161 metric tons of winterization supplies, 1,933 heaters, 157.9 metric tons of clothes and bedding, and 136.9 metric tons of medical supplies.

And, finally, to southern Bosnia-Herzegovina, 681.2 metric tons of food, 0.1 metric tons of winterization supplies, 6.6 metric tons of clothes and bedding, and 5 metric tons of medical supplies.

The International Committee of the Red Cross delivered 2,316 metric tons of relief supplies to the Banja Luka area, the Bihac area, the northeast Herzegovina area, eastern Herzegovina, southern Herzegovina, northern and central Bosnia. We don't have a breakdown of tonnages by region for these deliveries, for which I'm sure you're all thankful.

Now, the purpose of giving you all these numbers and destinations is to let you, if you want to, plot on your map or reach the conclusion about how this is going, in terms of the breakdown. What we see, in general, I would characterize as we have been able to maintain the supply lines, although not always at the levels that we have liked into Sarajevo, into central Bosnia, and into western Bosnia-Herzegovina.

There have been major problems with deliveries, where you see the numbers are down, in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina, and a few other specific locations where the fighting or the sieges have prevented the deliveries.

Q (Multiple questions)

Q Wait, wait. I stepped into this one. Let me follow up. Okay?

Q (inaudible) whether the heaters are plugged in?

MR. BOUCHER: I think they're not all electric. I think they're multiple-purpose.

Q Clearly, you've gone to great efforts to amass statistics, but they don't tell us very much.

The question is, what is your assessment, in terms of the adequacy of meeting the human needs in these areas?

You will recall a former President, not so many months ago, said we'd do whatever is necessary to see humanitarian relief gets through. Now, I gather the assessment that's going on here, as part of your review process, suggests that this is not meeting whatever standards or goals you had hoped to reach in terms of meeting the minimum humanitarian needs of the region. Is that right?

MR. BOUCHER: What I'm trying to draw you to, Terry, is not just to sort of look overall -- and, of course, you can look overall -- but that the situation in different parts of this region is different; that while we have not been able to get everything through that we would have liked to some of these areas -- Sarajevo, central Bosnia, and western Bosnia-Herzegovina and places like that -- we have been able to maintain an essential supply line through the efforts that have been made by a lot of aid workers, a lot of UNPROFOR people, a lot of UNHCR people, a lot of International Red Cross people.

The situation is most difficult in the eastern areas where there's fighting going on, where there are cities under siege and where, as you know, people haven't been able to get in. The town of Zepa was one that required a special and extraordinary effort to get into and they were in dire straits. Perhaps not quite as dire as had been reported, but they were in a very difficult situation.

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There were also some major efforts made to get into the town of Tuzla not too long ago. So there have been some significant efforts to get into these places.

But rather than try to draw an average, which would imply that everybody was only getting that portion of their needs, that both understates the ability to maintain the supplies in some places and overstates the ability to get food and relief in to people who really need it badly in some of these towns.

Q One more before you leave it. You will recall that only under prodding from here did you offer the information that the U.S. has estimates of 70,000 being held in camps.

Perhaps you can go back and get us some more detailed report that answers the question of adequacy of the deliveries of supplies to major population centers. You're right, averaging it out, doesn't necessarily answer the question. But, clearly, you have been assessing the adequacy, not just the statistical delivery levels. So it would be useful to have some rather candid reaction in terms of where there are real problems, where the aid is not getting through?

MR. BOUCHER: Well, that's what I just tried to give you. I also reject your characterization of the discussion of camps, but we can argue that some other time.

Q Richard, if you can give .4 -- to the .4 metric tons, then perhaps -- and this is to sort of buttress what Terry is saying -- you can say you're meeting 50 percent of the need of Sarajevo, 20 percent of the need of someplace else. That's the kind of, I think, scale that would be more meaningful than these metric tons, which basically means nothing to us.

MR. BOUCHER: The metric tons lets you sort of look at the relative distribution throughout the area and look at the differences that we're facing.

In terms of the percentages, obviously, the percentage of the need -- the number that you're dividing by -- is an estimate. I think the estimate for Sarajevo proper is somewhere around 220-or-so tons a day. I'm not sure I can give you that kind of estimate for the other places but I'll see.

(Multiple questions)

Q (Inaudible) -- hearing on the Hill, and James Kunder said up front that while there are plenty of resources being distributed, being made available, at least on the scene, they're not getting to the people who need them, and I think he used the phrase, "the relief effort is being frustrated by men with guns." Representatives of relief organizations also said

that, basically, the relief effort is failing and without a big turnaround, there's going to be a serious loss of life.

Down the line, they all called for use of force, however reluctantly. How would you characterize those assessments based on what you're telling us here?

MR. BOUCHER: I would say that I just told you today that we've been able to maintain a lifeline, or a supply line in many of the areas. But the places where we stymied the most in getting the food through is the places where the fighting and the security situation has prevented the deliveries.

So, clearly, my analysis today coincides with what they said. And in terms of --

Q They're basically characterizing it as a failure.

MR. BOUCHER: You have to look at different places. But in terms of what can be done to enhance the delivery of humanitarian supplies, I'd just have to say that, obviously, we're looking at all the possible options.

Q Richard, noting the other day that you said the war crimes appear to be continuing, the ethnic cleansing appears to be continuing. As far as I know, the siege of Sarajevo is still underway, and they're being pounded by Serbian guns. And you've not reported that there are any fewer prisoners than the 70,000 you estimated that there were, nor have you reported that there has been any access to any of these prison camps by ICRC, as the United States has tried to get.

Having said all of that and remembering that Christopher said that there was an urgency, and that the situation was outrageous, how can you say that this -- how does that square with the fact that now there's no timetable to do anything?

MR. BOUCHER: Saul, I --

Q You said a little while ago that there's no timetable. I thought there had been. At least somebody had one somewhere.

MR. BOUCHER: I don't think I ever tried to give you a timetable.

Q No, no. I don't know what it is, but I asked you whether there was one, and you said not that you're aware of.

MR. BOUCHER: I'll double-check and see if they have one. Obviously, the President and his senior advisers make decisions on these issues, fully aware of the urgency of the situation, as soon as they can, as soon as it's possible. This

process is underway. It's well underway. The principal advisers had a meeting yesterday. You know, I can't promise you, nor could the Secretary yesterday, promise you that there would be an immediate decision at some point right now.

But the process of looking at the options is well underway. It is getting their attention on an urgent basis, and they're devoting time to it.

Q I simply asked --

MR. BOUCHER: And they will decide these things as they can.

Q I simply asked, because the President himself said in his campaign -- as a matter of fact, they criticized your former employers for not being aggressive enough in getting aid to people and in doing the kinds of things that were necessary, like the "no-fly" zone or lifting the embargo.

And he said then from day one of his Presidency, he would sort of see to it that there was a more aggressive role. And the Secretary in his confirmation said from day one it would be a top priority, and the Ambassador to the United Nations said it would be the highest priority.

And now you're telling us after the Secretary said that it's much more complicated, that there's no timetable for action, and I'm not sure what these things mean.

MR. BOUCHER: I will try to double-check with the Secretary. I said I wasn't aware of any timetable. I will check with him and see if he, himself, with his colleagues has set a timetable. But I think the facts do show that they are giving it their urgent attention.

Q Richard, the fighting between Croatia and Serbia, first of all, the Croatians have evidently ignored a Security Council demand for them to desist, and I'd like your reaction to that.

And, secondly, could I go back to my question of yesterday? Is this fighting impeding the delivery of humanitarian relief? And there have been now some press reports that it is.

MR. BOUCHER: I think we got you an answer yesterday afternoon based on what we knew at the time. I don't know anything different today. And that was that so far it had not interfered with that, but it did threaten -- if the fighting expanded -- threaten some of the routes that are used.

Today there doesn't appear to be too much fighting in the Zadar area, which is where the Croatian offensive began on January 22. The reports that we have conflict as to who has

control of the Peruca Dam, which is something that people have been concerned about, and they conflict as to what the extent of damage is to the dam.

And so in that situation we've asked the U.N. and the Croatian authorities to try to get us information to advise us on the situation.

As you've said, there continues to be some fighting there. The U.N. has passed a resolution, has demanded that the parties stop the fighting and abide by the plan, and I think you've seen the efforts underway by the U.N. -- and I think Vance and Owen as well -- to try to get them to abide by that. Certainly, those are efforts that we support and that we -- given the dangers posed by this fighting, we certainly think that the parties should indeed comply with the U.N. resolution immediately.

Q Richard --

Q (Multiple questions)

Q Let me -- just one more, please --

MR. BOUCHER: O.K. Sid.

Q On the dam, is detonation of the dynamite, or whatever it is that's been in that dam for so long, placed there by Serbians -- does that fit into that category of environmental war crimes?

MR. BOUCHER: I'd have to check. At this point I think our reports conflict on what exactly happened out there. I'll check and see if there's a definition, and how it would apply to this situation.

Q Anything new on the barges on the Danube? There are reports now that actually Ukraine is loading a lot more than nine or ten barges with oil for Serbia. Perhaps it's close to 100.

MR. BOUCHER: Well, let me go through the situation on the Danube, and I'll tell you a little bit about what we're doing with Ukraine as well.

The latest information from our Embassy in Bucharest indicates that three of the five Serbian tugs and barge convoys have already reached Serbian waters. Each was challenged by both the Bulgarian and the Romanian authorities without success. No force was used against the Serbian vessels.

Two Serbian tugs, one with ten barges and one with twelve barges -- and we have the names, but I can't pronounce them -- are still in the Romanian-Bulgarian section of the river. The Romanians and the Bulgarians have indicated that they will also be challenged -- be challenging these barges as well.

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Yesterday, the President of the U.N. Security Council issued a statement expressing the Security Council's concern that vessels carrying oil had reached Serbia. The members of the Council affirmed their support for vigorous enforcement of the relevant U.N. resolutions.

As far as Ukraine goes, I would say that we believe Security Council Resolution 787 and 757 obligate Ukraine to detain all Serbian vessels that enter their ports. Ukraine is also obligated by those resolutions to take the necessary measures, including possible use of force, to enforce the U.N. sanctions on the Danube River.

I don't have a precise readout of the situation at the ports today. There is a team of three U.S. customs officers, including two from our sanctions assistance mission in Romania, who are in Ukraine today at the invitation of the Ukrainian Government to review the port activities in Reni, and to make contact with the local port authorities. This is a prelude to the establishment of a sanctions assistance mission in the Ukrainian ports of Reni and Ismail. We have asked these customs officers to report to us immediately on their assessment of the situation out there.

We've also approached the Ukrainian Government on the reports that Serbian barges are being loaded in Ukraine. They tell us they are investigating these reports, and they have assured us that they will be prepared to enforce the sanctions. I'd also add in this connection that the Secretary talked to the Ukrainian Foreign Minister this morning about this and other subjects and received the same kind of assurances.

Q Richard, would you give us some details on this shipment of weapons which was stopped by the Italian navy? I was wondering whether you have a more global assessment of the level of smuggling of weapons into Bosnia or into Croatia? Do you have any other figures? Do you have any comprehensive assessment of this?

MR. BOUCHER: I'll see if that's something we can get for you, Jacques. I'll see if we have them.

Q (Multiple questions)

Q I'm sorry. The same -- following on -- amongst the other matters did he raise the question of Ukrainian ratification of the START agreement, and did he receive assurances and any kind of indication about when the Ukrainian Parliament will take up that matter?

MR. BOUCHER: I do know that he discussed the Ukrainian ratification of the START agreement. I don't have any details on that.

Q If I could follow up that point -- over here. Secretary Eagleburger said -- it now must be at least a month ago when he was in Europe for the NATO meetings -- that if there was any further delay of a substantial nature in the ratification of the START agreement, it would adversely affect the relationship between the United States and Ukraine.

Does the current Administration take the same position?

MR. BOUCHER: I know the current Administration, Don, takes the same position as to the importance of ratification of START and the attendant protocols. It takes the same position as far as Ukraine status as a non-nuclear state, meeting that commitment as well. I think I'll have to leave it right there for the moment.

Q (Multiple questions)

Q (Inaudible) -- United Nations and its implications. Can you tell us how the active diplomacy is going on -- in regard to the --

MR. BOUCHER: Well, somebody wanted to change the subject over there first. So, when it's time to change the subject, we'll go over there.

Q The conversation with the Foreign Minister of Ukraine. You were able to tell us about assurances the Secretary received on the issue of barge loading, but you were unable to say anything about assurances on the START II Treaty.

Does that mean that nobody told you what the outcome of that conversation was, or shall we read that to mean that the -- whatever was said on that subject was not satisfactory to the United States?

MR. BOUCHER: No, I wouldn't read that in any particular way, other than the first question I asked him was about barges, and the second that we asked was START, and then he had to go.

Q The mess in Zaire.

Q Would you take the question of the status of the START assurances from the Ukraine?

MR. BOUCHER: I'll take the question on that, and I'll see if I can get you more. I think START, in fact, was the principal subject of conversation.

Q Richard, just one more quick one on this -- on the "no-float" zone. Are we just seeing the tip of the iceberg here? Is this -- have these illegal, illicit shipments been going up and down the Danube for 10, these many months, and now someone -- now we're finally starting writing about them, or is this the first time we've detected this activity?

MR. BOUCHER: The --

Q And is this the first shot at diplomatic solutions to that problem?

MR. BOUCHER: Yes, no and maybe. The efforts on the Danube -- the problem that was on the Danube in the past is something that we have discussed before, and we had the sanctions assistance missions. We had the -- we've had discussions with the Romanians and the Bulgarians, the other riparian states -- that's been addressed in U.N. Security Council resolutions when there was some question about their obligations and their abilities, their responsibilities. We moved to clarify that at the U.N.

There has been assistance to these governments in helping them with customs officers and others to monitor and enforce the U.N. resolutions prohibiting shipments into Serbia, and we've played an active role in cooperating with them in that.

I think the other day, when we first started talking about this issue, we did say that this was the first time that somebody had tried to run the blockade basically, or refused to respond when challenged and refused to respond to the instructions of the customs authorities of the riparian states.

And so this problem has been dealt with in the fashion that it appeared, and now we have it appearing in another fashion.

Q Richard, can you tell us how the consultations are going on the Israeli sanctions issue?

MR. BOUCHER: I think to stop, we'd better -- the person who wanted to change the subject first was back there. So we'll come to you next.

Q Maybe I can get in two questions. I'd like to switch to the Middle East for a minute, and my first question is during the meeting this coming Monday, does the Secretary plan to reach any agreement with the Secretary General regarding sanctions against Israel?

And my other question is this, and I would like to stand corrected, but to the best of my knowledge, I don't believe Israel has ever sat on the Security Council. What is the United States Government doing to ensure that Israel will one day have a fair chance to sit on the Security Council?

MR. BOUCHER: As for Israel and its status vis-a-vis the Security Council and how that works, I just don't know the answer to that.

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As far as the issue of United Nations action on this issue, our position has not changed on that. So the Secretary, I'm sure, will discuss with the Secretary General the efforts that the Secretary General made on the deportees issue, will bring him up to date on his own efforts -- the Secretary's own efforts to find a resolution to this issue. But our position remains the same -- that we don't think it's appropriate at this point to bring this -- to bring up a debate on sanctions in the Security Council.

Q Is there anything that you can tell us that you haven't said in the past about the Secretary's efforts?

MR. BOUCHER: Is that sort of your question, Jim? I'll tell you that.

Q I don't think we've been aware of the Secretary's efforts. What efforts has he made, if any, on this subject?

MR. BOUCHER: I think in the past several days I've mentioned the fact that he's discussed the issue with Prime Minister Rabin. I think I mentioned the fact that he discussed it with Foreign Minister Moussa of Egypt, as well as some other people.

In addition, yesterday he -- Secretary Christopher sent a communication to Prime Minister Rabin. That was delivered today by our Ambassador in Tel Aviv, William Harrop. The Secretary also had a good discussion with the Prime Minister this morning on the issue, and they agreed to continue working together on this issue in coming days.

Q What would be the appropriate time to bring it up to a formal debate in the Security Council?

MR. BOUCHER: I don't think I'd want to say something like that, Jim. I wouldn't make any prediction on that. As you know, we have been pursuing diplomatic efforts to try to see a resolution of this issue. We continue to believe that the matter can be resolved through active diplomacy; and, of course, what we want to see is the matter resolved and not face a question of Chapter Seven resolutions or sanctions in the Security Council.

Q When you say "a good discussion," does that suggest or should we take it to suggest that he sees -- believes that there's some greater degree of optimism about solving the problem?

MR. BOUCHER: I would say that he felt they had a good discussion. I don't think I could predict anything beyond that.

Q Could you characterize the communication in any way for us?

MR. BOUCHER: I've seen it characterized in the press as a tough message, or something like that, and I wouldn't characterize it that way. It's part of the ongoing process that the Secretary has established with Prime Minister Rabin to discuss this issue.

They have been trying to work together on it, and, as I said, in their phone conversation they agreed to continue to work together on it.

Q If not now, at what stage do you get to the tough message?

MR. BOUCHER: Norm, I can't make any predictions about future messages, obviously, but our interest in this issue is to resolve it and to see it resolved in a satisfactory manner. We are, indeed, working with the Israelis in discussing with them this issue. We've also been in consultations with U.N. Security Council members and others in the region about it.

Q Richard, what was the sequence of events? First a message was delivered, and then the telephone conversation took place. Who placed the call to whom?

MR. BOUCHER: I don't know about this particular call, but I think you're aware that they've had a series of conversations now; that President Clinton had a conversation with Prime Minister Rabin on Saturday; the Secretary talked to Prime Minister Rabin on Sunday; I think they may have had one or two more conversations since then.

Q What I'm trying to get at is after the message was delivered, did Christopher follow up by placing a phone call, or did Rabin read the message and say, "Hey, I've got to talk to him about this, and he placed the phone call"?

MR. BOUCHER: I don't really know, Alan.

Q Can you tell us Zaire?

MR. BOUCHER: About Zaire.

Q It's a mess. People are getting killed, and I wondered -- a couple of countries at least are pulling their people out. What is the U.S. doing, and was it a mistake to back this guy all these years?

MR. BOUCHER: Violence broke out yesterday afternoon when the Mobutu-controlled administration tried to force the Zairian military to accept pay in the form of notes of \$5 million Zaires, the local currency.

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The large denomination bank notes have been rejected by the transition government and by most of the population. The violence also, very regrettably, caused several deaths and, in particular, the tragic death of the French Ambassador.

The situation for Americans is that to the best of our knowledge all Americans are safe. All the Americans with whom the Embassy has been in contact have been instructed to stand fast and to be prepared for evacuation should the situation deteriorate, but at this point there are no plans for an evacuation.

Q You got any numbers, please, by any chance?

MR. BOUCHER: There are about 800 U.S. nationals in Zaire. About 220 of those are in Kinshasha. The remainder are mostly missionaries and dependents scattered throughout the country. There are 32 official Americans -- that is, U.S. Government employees -- in Zaire. One of them is on temporary duty.

Q You're talking about the evacuation. That was for the Embassy or for all Americans? I didn't --

MR. BOUCHER: Well, as you know, Sid, when we do these things, we make plans to take as many people out as possible, and we offer as much space as we can to private Americans who are there.

Q So it's for everybody, if it does indeed come about?

MR. BOUCHER: If it happens, we make allotments. We take into account the needs of other Americans who are there who want to get out.

Q What has been the status of Christopher's contacts with Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev since he took office?

MR. BOUCHER: They've talked, I think, more than once, but I'm not sure how many times. I don't have that in my head.

Q Can you say whether they've talked, let's say, this week, for example, and if so, in what context -- within a START context or --

MR. BOUCHER: That's something I'd have to double-check.

Q Richard, can I go back to Zaire for a minute? Are we in touch with Mobutu? Are we conveying our concerns about the situation there?

MR. BOUCHER: Yes. We are and we have been. I don't have any information on specific contacts, for example, today or yesterday. I'm not sure if we've talked to them, but certainly he's well aware of our views.

President Bush sent Mobutu, in fact, three letters over the past ten months that urged him to turn over all effective power, particularly over economic and financial affairs, to the transition government that was selected by the now concluded National Conference.

We reaffirm the continuity of this policy. In particular, we support the transition process that was established by the National Conference, the prime minister that was chosen by it, and the government that it endorsed.

The situation that has developed results from Mobutu's failure to cooperate and give authority to the transition government. Our Ambassador in Kinshasha, together with the late French Ambassador and his Belgian colleague, in fact told Mobutu as recently as January 14 not only that the transition government must be given full authority to pursue the twin objectives of peaceful transition to democracy and economic reform and stabilization, but that this should take place without Mobutu's further interference.

Q What is his response to these demarches, or whatever you would call them?

MR. BOUCHER: Well, I don't know specifically what he said, but, of course, now we have a situation developing where these bank notes have caused not only tremendous instability but very tragic loss of life.

Q Do you have any kind of aid program or financial assistance going on with Zaire?

MR. BOUCHER: At this point, I had some people check on what's going on this year. Since September 1991, we've had \$5 million that goes to Zaire, and it only goes to non-governmental organizations. It doesn't go to the government. It's food, medicine, humanitarian aid only.

Q Just one more on the Middle East, back again, if I could. What's the status of the multilateral talks, as far as the U.S. is concerned? Will they proceed as planned, according to the schedule that had been, I think, previously announced?

MR. BOUCHER: At this point, there has been, I think, agreement on a set of talks and their dates, although the exact oral invitation that's usually issued hasn't gone out yet.

Q And what about the bilateral negotiations?

MR. BOUCHER: The bilats, we've not yet suggested a date for the next round -- the co-sponsors haven't.

Q Does the U.S. consider -- does the U.S. view the February 20 approach of Ramadan as any kind of a -- having any kind of effect on the schedule for the bilaterals, or does the U.S. feel that that really has no impact on the scheduling?

MR. BOUCHER: I really don't know, Ralph. I think that would depend on the wishes and desires of the parties who negotiate.

Q Richard, on Africa, the Secretary General said in an interview in New York that the hand-over of Somalia responsibility to the U.N. should take place over four, five or six months. Is this timetable acceptable to the United States Government?

MR. BOUCHER: Don, I think we dealt with that yesterday. We've been working with the United Nations. We've been talking to them about the transition process. We've been coordinating closely with them. At this point we don't have a set timetable.

But, as you know, we've talked about a phase process of hand-over, and indeed that process has been discussed very closely with the U.N., both in New York and out in Somalia.

Q But does that -- what he said about four or five or six months -- does that represent something that the U.S. Government has agreed to or just his own idea or which?

MR. BOUCHER: I haven't seen any set timetable at this point. It's something that we're still discussing with the U.N.

Q Thank you.

MR. BOUCHER: Thank you.

(The briefing concluded at 1:05 p.m.)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE
NATIONAL AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH
February 1993

This February we rediscover, celebrate, and honor the history and achievements of African-Americans during National African-American History Month.

In 1993, I am proud to recognize that more African-Americans serve in the President's Cabinet than ever before in the history of our country. We are nearing the day when we will have built a new home for America, a home where all Americans will have a place at the table.

Understanding our past makes us aware of how far we have come and how far we have to go. Last month, for the first time in many years, our National Archives displayed for the public the Emancipation Proclamation. That document, signed by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, launched the beginning of a life of freedom for millions of African-American people.

For several months last year, individuals and groups of citizens had been writing to the National Archives to inquire whether the historic document would be exhibited over the new year holiday in honor of its anniversary. After considering the matter, the National Archives decided to arrange an exhibit.

The fragile document was shown in our Nation's Capital for five days adjacent to the original Charters of Freedom -- the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Bill of Rights. The exhibit reminded America of how liberty had once been denied to a particular segment of our population. The diverse backgrounds of the people in those lines each day, however, showed how the history of African-Americans touches all of us.

The public response was overwhelming. People came from all walks of life, with their children or their friends, from every corner of our country, to see for themselves the pieces of paper that meant for millions the difference between slavery and freedom. Each night at closing time, the National Archives had to extend the visiting hours to accommodate people who had waited in line for nearly three hours. Indeed, the efforts of the few citizens that gave birth to the exhibit brought to life for thousands the story of freedom in America.

I invite all Americans to rediscover that story and others as our Nation observes National African-American History Month.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 1, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
DURING PHOTO OPPORTUNITY WITH GOVERNORS
AFTER HEALTH CARE POLICY MEETING

The East Room

11:23 A.M. EST

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, I want to say good morning to the members of the press who are here from Washington, and many of you from around the nation.

I'd like to read a statement and then call on the Governors Romer and Campbell to make a statement about the meeting we had here today and the actions which I will take today as a result of this meeting and the work that I have been doing over the last couple of months.

The day before my inauguration, on one of the last days people called me Governor, I had lunch with many of the governors here and many others with whom I have served over the past 14 years. I pledged to them a partnership between the country's governors and this administration, rooted in our common experience on the front lines of people's lives.

I've told my friends, my colleagues, that the one thing I hoped that I could actually demand from them was a commitment to keep me rooted in that common experience, and the real problems of real people. The White House, after all, only works when it is the people's house.

Today we have continued our partnership in earnest. We agreed to challenge together the one obstacle that could keep us from success in virtually every arena of national endeavor: the twin monsters of spiraling health care costs and the agony of having no access to health care, no health care coverage, or living in fear of losing it.

Left unaddressed, the health care crisis has had devastating impacts on families, businesses, the fiscal conditions of state and local government and the economic performance of the United States. For 12 years our national government has ignored the problem, partisan gridlock has prevented action and Americans are paying the price.

The amount we spend on health care has more than tripled. Now we spend far more than any other nation on Earth -- about 30 percent more of our income -- and we get less for it.

We send American companies out into the world with this 30 percent handicap simply because of high health care costs. The average American car alone includes over \$1,000 in health care costs -- twice as much as its Japanese competitor. You know as well as I do that the real people of this country are paying the price -- working families who live in fear of losing their insurance; small businesses who have to choose between dropping coverage or going broke; state and local governments who have to balance their books

MORE

every year and are now choosing between cutting education, raising taxes or cutting other needed investments just to pay more for the same health care bills.

If every person striving to overcome this challenge will bring to that work the same depth of drive and determination that our nation's governors have brought to the White House today with their policy position, the American people will have the commitment it takes to solve this problem.

This meeting was a model of everything I want my relationship with our governors to be. It wasn't scripted or staged, it was simply an honest discussion where real work was done, real opinions were argued and a room filled with women and men who left their partisan banners outside the door. And in that spirit and what I hope is the first of a series of announcements we will make together, I want to announce that I am taking the following steps to help them meet the health care needs of their people in their states.

For years the nation's governors have been arguing that the process through which waivers from the Medicaid mandates impose on them by the federal government is Byzantine and counterproductive. They are right.

I have today directed the Department of Health and Human Services and its health care financing agency to take immediately a series of actions designed to streamline the Medicaid waiver process to enable the states of our country to serve more people at lower costs. These include a requirement that from now on the health care financing agency and its regional centers will have only one opportunity to ask for additional information and clarifications on states' waiver requests. I also want the health care financing agency to examine the development of a list of standard initiatives for automatic approval for state action.

In consultation with the National Governors Association, I want a rapid review of the entire waiver request process that produces a list of additional streamlining recommendations within 60 days. And I am directing the health care financing agency to reopen negotiations with the National Governors Association to issue new regulations to how they can use provider taxes and disproportionate share reimbursement to meet the needs of the people in their state.

Finally, I am directing the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a similar review of the non-Medicaid waiver submissions not addressed in the matters I have just discussed.

I'm also happy to announce that Hillary and the leadership of the National Governors Association have agreed on a formal process for the governors to have input into the Health Care Task Force. Their input, their advice, their perspective is essential to our success. When all this is said and done, the health care problems of this country can only be met if we have a good partnership.

And for those of you in the press and the general public who may not understand all the language that I have used about Medicaid and waivers, if I could put it in simple terms, it amounts to this. The federal government requires the states to provide a certain number of health services in a certain way to people who are poor enough to qualify for Medicaid. The states very often believe that they can provide more services at lower cost if we don't impose our rules and regulations on them.

For years and years and years, governors have been screaming for relief from the cumbersome process by which the federal government has micromanaged the health care system affecting poor Americans. We are going to try to give them that relief so that for

lower costs we can do more good for more people. This will be one big step on a long road to giving this country the kind of health care system it needs. (Applause.)

Governor Romer.

GOVERNOR ROMER: We have had a very fruitful, over two hours of discussion. And I speak for both Republican and Democratic governors and the two independents when I say that this issue of flexibility on the waiver process has been critical to us, and the prompt response of this administration to give us more flexibility, give us more certainty, give us quicker deadlines will simply help us to do our job better.

Now, in addition to the short-term measures, we've had some extensive discussion about what kind of long-term health care reform we need to do together. There is an acknowledgement it has to be a partnership between the federal and the state government. There's an acknowledgement there that we have made a good start -- the Governors Association will have on its agenda in the next few hours some measures relating to cooperation with this administration on managed care. And if you have further questions about that, we'll be available out on the lawn very shortly.

And I want to say in closing that we've had a very strong bipartisan approach in the Governors Association. And I want to compliment Governor Campbell and his colleagues for working with the Democrats in the Governors Association and this administration. We know that we need to solve this problem on a bipartisan basis, and I think we made a very good start here this morning. Thank you.

GOVERNOR CAMPBELL: Mr. President, we appreciate the opportunity to work with you in a bipartisan sense to find an answer to some of the problems that are really driving the states' costs to the point that we cannot fund the programs that we need to fund. The cost shifting away from such important items as education to fund rising medical costs are, of course, driving all of our states.

We all realize that it is a difficult program and, quite frankly, that it probably cannot be solved in short order. But we're willing to roll up our sleeves and go to work with you and try to find those answers. We recognize the need to get the small employers into a position that they have access to groups and lower cost insurance for their employees. We recognize the need to go into preventive care. We know that there is a problem with the preventive care aspect in that the liability costs and the cost of doing this in the private sector are, in fact, prohibitive.

I would think that after our discussion the opportunity may exist for us to look at the immunization side of preventive care from a joint national framework in order to meet some of these needs, much as we would do if we did a crash program for any country that was in need that we were aiding, doing it for ourselves.

I believe that, working together, we can, in fact, find some answers. We know that there has to be competition. We believe in managed competition. We also believe that there has to be a structure that lets people have access to primary care physicians instead of just the emergency rooms for their care because of the cost factor, as well as the fact that it's not a preventive type of program.

So we, as members of the National Governors Association look forward to continuing this work with you and continuing to work with Hillary and her task force, because we think that, working together that we will find answers.

And in closing, let me just add my thanks to your willingness to expedite the waiver process and to deal with some of

the problems that have been so vexing for us as governors as we've tried to deal with this overall problem. We appreciate it.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: That's our statement. I know a lot of you here want to take pictures of your governors, so have at it.

Governor King, of all of the people of America, they know you from behind as well as from the front. But turn around -- I think you ought to turn around. How about giving them a profile, at least -- that sort of tough Western profile? (Laughter.)

Thank you all very much.

END

11:34 A.M. EST

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WHITE HOUSE COMMENT LINE
11:00 Report
Monday, February 1, 1993

Summary:

As of 11:00 am, the total number of calls received
by the Comment/Opinion Line is 1040.

Hot Issues Today:

* Gays in the Military

Support	250
Oppose	306

* Abortion

Support	10
Oppose	55

* Social Security COLA cuts

Support	6
Oppose	126

* Bosnia Intervention

Support	10
Oppose	2

Calls regarding the President

Support	57
Opposition	35

Calls regarding the First Lady

Support	7
Oppose	3