

If we're going to do business in this world, people have got to be able to rely on the commitments that countries freely undertake. And again, I would say the way is still open to North Korea simply to follow the commitments they've already made. There are ways they can do that. We are going to work very closely with the South Koreans, but I think we have to be firm and persistent and just keep working at it, and we intend to do that.

Q. How optimistic are you about a U.N. resolution, Mr. President?

The President. Well, I don't want to characterize it in that way. I'll just say that we and the South Koreans are exploring, with all the relevant parties, what our options are, and we'll see what develops over the next few days.

Q. Sir, how big of an impediment is the Chinese to try to reach an international agreement on this issue? Tonight the non-aligned nations said they would support China. Is this hurting the chances for an international agreement because of China's problem?

The President. Well, we'll have to see where China comes down on it in the end. The Chinese have always been somewhat more cautious because of their longstanding relationship with North Korea. And also they have—I think they are genuine in not wanting to do anything which provokes some sort of crisis.

On the other hand, I would remind you that the Chinese certainly don't want North Korea to become a clear nuclear power because of the consequences that might have for them as well as for Japan. And the Chinese are now doing 8 or 10 times as much business with South Korea as with North Korea. So, their long-term economic interests clearly are in pursuing a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula in which North and South Korea are ultimately partners and both trading with a more prosperous China.

So I think their long-term objectives, security and economic, are consistent with what our long-term objectives are. So I hope that we can work through this crisis. But in the end, I will say again, the Chinese, no different from any other country, should want all nations who give their word to keep it.

Q. Sir, is this in retaliation against the U.S. because of our trade problems, our trade differences?

The President. No, I really don't think so. I don't think that has anything to do with this whatever.

Thank you.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Are you going to—[inaudible]—about the Middle East—[inaudible]—Mr. Arafat or anyone?

The President. Well, I'm in contact with the Middle East parties all the time. To date, this has required quite a lot of effort and personal time, and believe me, from here on in, it will require much more, time on the part of the Secretary of State, the President, and all of our resources. So, I think you can say, over the next couple of months, this will require a significant commitment and investment on the part of the United States, and we intend to do that. It's worth it.

Thank you.

NOTE: The exchange began at 5:55 p.m. at a private residence in San Diego. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on Signing the Federal Workforce Restructuring Act of 1994 *March 30, 1994*

I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 3345, the "Federal Workforce Restructuring Act of 1994." This Act's incentives will help to accomplish the reduction of Federal employment by about 273,000 by the close of fiscal year 1999.

When the Administration released the report of the National Performance Review last September, we promised the American people that we would create a Government that works better and costs less. We are committed to bringing meaningful change in the way this Government does business and to renewing the faith of citizens around this country in their Government. Enactment of this legislation is an important milestone toward achieving these goals.

This Administration is committed to streamlining Government with as few vol-

untary incentives as possible. New caps on agency budgets will force agencies to cut employment. Agencies need the cost-effective incentives provided in this bill in order to avoid excessive reductions-in-force that are costly, disruptive, and disproportionately strike younger workers, many of whom are recently hired women and minorities. With the "buyout" authority granted by this legislation, agencies can target employees in unnecessary high level jobs and maximize savings.

Consistent with the clear intent of the Act, I will interpret the term "full-time equivalent positions," used in the legislation to define annual employment ceilings, to mean "full-time equivalent employment."

This Act also will modernize the law governing Federal employee training. It will permit new flexibility in choosing the best and most cost-effective training and place new emphasis on retraining our employees to move into new career fields where their talents are most needed.

After all the rhetoric about cutting the size and cost of Government, our Administration has done the hard work and made the tough choices. I believe the economy will be stronger, and the lives of middle class people will be better, as we drive down the deficit with legislation like this. We can maintain and expand our recovery so long as we keep faith with deficit reduction and sensible, fair policies like this.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
March 30, 1994.

NOTE: H.R. 3345, approved March 30, was assigned Public Law No. 103-226. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Message on the Observance of Easter, 1994

March 30, 1994

Warmest greetings to all who are observing Easter Sunday. Easter is a time of hope and great joy for Christians the world over. It is a time to reflect on the blessings of re-birth, as the seasons transform and the cycle

of life renews itself once again. This celebration holds the promise of new beginnings, fresh approaches to old problems, and the exciting prospect of a brighter future.

On this day when families gather together and worshipers attend church services, we hope for a stronger sense of community in this great nation. As we welcome the return of spring, let us rededicate ourselves to a season of renewed hope and faith, a season of peace and regeneration.

Hillary and I extend our best wishes for a happy Easter.

Bill Clinton

NOTE: This message was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 30 but was not issued as a White House press release.

Nomination for Ambassador to Algeria

March 30, 1994

The President today announced his intention to nominate Ronald E. Neumann, of California, as Ambassador to Algeria.

"Ronald Neumann has exhibited dedication and diplomacy throughout his career," the President said. "His experience in the Middle East makes him uniquely qualified for this important position."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Nomination for Chief Financial Officer at the Department of Energy

March 30, 1994

The President today announced his intention to nominate Joseph F. Vivona as the Chief Financial Officer at the Department of Energy.

"Joseph Vivona's experience and expertise in the area of fiscal responsibility will be a great asset to the Department," the President said.

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.