

Statement by Deputy Press Secretary Popadiuk on President Bush's Meeting With President Arnold Ruutel of Estonia

March 29, 1991

President Bush met this morning in the Oval Office with Arnold Ruutel, President of Estonia. President Bush began the meeting by reiterating the unequivocal support of the U.S. for Estonia's right to self-determination. He expressed his outrage over the use of force in Vilnius and Riga in January, and he emphasized his conviction that the only solution to this situation was good-faith negotiations between the Baltic States

and Moscow. He assured President Ruutel that he had personally made this point to President Gorbachev on many occasions. President Bush took note that negotiations had begun between Estonia and Moscow, and he discussed with President Ruutel the results to date.

Note: The statement referred to President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union.

Message on the Observance of Passover, 5751

March 29, 1991

As Jewish people around the world gather to celebrate Passover and to recount through the *Haggadah* the story of the Exodus, we are reminded of the triumph of good over evil. We are also reminded that the enduring spirit of liberty can never be crushed by the cruel hand of tyranny and enslavement. This lesson appears time and again in the pages of the Bible; and following the recent coalition victory in the Persian Gulf, it is a lesson all the more vivid to us today.

The traditions honored in Jewish homes during Passover, the festival of freedom,

celebrate the blessings of life and liberty and underscore their precious nature. This year, we join with our Jewish neighbors in giving thanks to the Almighty for those blessings and for His aid in preserving them. Indeed, as we strive to learn from the past and to face the future with renewed faith, we are united by our gratitude and by our renewed hopes for a safer, more peaceful world.

Barbara and I extend our best wishes to members of the Jewish community for a happy and joyous Passover holiday.

GEORGE BUSH

Statement by Deputy Press Secretary Popadiuk on the Resignation of Richard R. Burt as Head of Delegation to the Nuclear and Space Talks in Geneva and Chief START Negotiator

March 29, 1991

President Bush has accepted the resignation of Ambassador Richard R. Burt as Head of Delegation to the Nuclear and Space Talks in Geneva and Chief START Negotiator. After 10 years in government, serving in both the Reagan and Bush administrations, Ambassador Burt is moving

into the private sector.

In addition to his current post, Ambassador Burt, during his tenure in government, served in several other important positions, including as Director of the Politico-Military Affairs Bureau in the State Department, Assistant Secretary of State for European and