

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on President Bush's Meeting With President Hassan Gouled Aptidon of Djibouti

April 24, 1991

The President held a meeting and working lunch today for President Hassan Gouled Aptidon of Djibouti. The two Presidents discussed bilateral and regional issues including the situation in the Horn of Africa.

The United States and Djibouti have maintained excellent relations since Djibouti's independence in 1977, and we

are pleased to have the opportunity to develop them further.

The President thanked President Gouled for Djibouti's support of the coalition and in opposing Iraq's aggression. The two Presidents reaffirmed their support for stability in the Middle East and peace in the Horn of Africa.

Remarks at the National Summit on Mathematics Assessment

April 24, 1991

Thank you, Lamar. Thank you all. And let me just say how pleased I am to be here. I'd like to thank Dr. Frank Press for inviting me once again to this wonderful place. I know we're all grateful for the chance to have this meeting held here.

I salute Dr. Bromley, who is at my right hand in terms of science. He's doing an outstanding job coordinating the science work for the White House and taking a leadership role in many of the most important issues of our day. And, of course, Lamar Alexander. The only problem I've got with Lamar is he has the propensity for working people to death. *[Laughter]* And we've announced this Education 2000 just last week. He's been grinding away ever since he got in this job. And I have this ugly feeling that he's going to kill me. *[Laughter]*

But we were yesterday down in Annapolis together and a couple of days ago up where we saluted the Teacher of the Year, incidentally, up in West Virginia. But it's going to be like that because this is a team effort. And we don't want any of you to escape without at least letting you know we want your support, your ideas in terms of fulfilling our objectives for the Education 2000 program.

When I first heard that I was invited to a math summit, I kind of had images of

Gorby and I going head on head, you know, in long division, something like that. *[Laughter]* That's not to be, so let me just make some comments on the—*[laughter]*—maybe never, I don't know, but—*[laughter]*—

I like what Lamar said about Tom Romberg's challenge assumptions. That's a lot of what our program is about. "Think anew," as Abraham Lincoln called it. Your purpose here transcends public figures, talking about Bush and Gorbachev. It concerns our nation's future. Of the six national education goals that we established with the Nation's Governors down in Charlottesville, you're helping to realize one of the most ambitious: that American students be first in the world in math and science achievement by the year 2000.

This challenging goal, worthy of a great nation and its future ambitions, plays an important role in our America 2000 Strategy to reinvent the American school. We can't expect kids to meet the test of worldwide competition unless we first establish world-class standards, standards that define the knowledge and skills we expect students to learn and master.

Once we've set standards we must assess our progress in meeting them. I salute the Mathematical Sciences Education Board for hosting this conference, the National Edu-