

leaders indicating their willingness to help Nicaragua clear its arrears with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank as soon as possible. The United States is prepared to make a substantial contribution to this effort, and so is Venezuela. Spain, Mexico, and other countries are also offering very generous contributions. We hope that with this assistance, Nicaragua will be able to move forward with its economic reform program.

Both Presidents reaffirmed their strong commitment to democracy and pluralism in Haiti. Ori Suriname, the President and President Perez also set forth their strong support for civilian democratic rule; both agree that the May 25 elections will be a fundamental test of the Surinamese military's willingness to permit a genuine demo-

cratic process.

Finally, the two Presidents discussed international oil issues. President Perez briefed the President on a proposal for a multilateral consumer-producer dialog. The President reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to strengthened bilateral energy cooperation and consultations, including our excellent consultations with Venezuela. He reaffirmed the U.S. position that price, production levels, and related issues should be determined by market mechanisms, not by multilateral negotiations.

Following their meeting, President Perez left for Houston, TX, Tulsa, OK, and Palo Alto, CA. He will be honored at the graduation ceremony of the University of Tulsa on Saturday.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on Disaster Assistance to Bangladesh

May 3, 1991

The President has sent a message to Prime Minister Zia of Bangladesh expressing his condolences and those of the American people on the horrible devastation caused by the recent cyclone. Our hearts go out in particular to the families of the numerous victims of this terrible tragedy.

We also have assured the government of Bangladesh that the United States stands ready to assist in the tasks of relief and reconstruction. The U.S. Government already has provided \$2.1 million in disaster assistance for medical supplies, water purification tablets, and funds to support the pro-

curement and distribution of other high priority relief items by nongovernment agencies.

We are looking into other means to help Bangladesh obtain its highest priority needs for clean water, dry food, helicopter transport, clothing, and temporary shelter.

We will be providing additional U.S. Government assistance and we call upon individual Americans and indeed all members of the international community to be as generous in providing aid and comfort to the people of this disaster-stricken nation.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the Establishment of the George Bush Presidential Library in College Station, Texas

May 3, 1991

Pursuant to the provisions of the Presidential Libraries Act of 1955, the President has accepted a proposal that a library to house the official records of his Administra-

tion be constructed at Texas A&M University. This decision follows an extensive review of the various library proposals by the Archivist of the United States, Don W. Wilson.

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The library will be constructed on the campus of Texas A&M University at College Station, Texas. It will be financed through

non-Federal funds, and will be administered upon completion by the National Archives and Records Administration.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Cyprus Conflict

May 3, 1991

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with Public Law 95-384 (92 Stat. 739; 22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I am submitting to you this report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question. This report covers the period from January through March 1991.

This was a period characterized by developments that hold promise for reopening negotiations, under the aegis of the United Nations Secretary General, for further work on a draft outline for a final settlement. As I reported on January 30, the Secretary General's Special Representative in Cyprus, Ambassador Oscar Camilion, and his Director for Cyprus in New York, Mr. Gustave Feissel, had for several months been meeting with leaders of the two communities to explore elements of the outline on which they might agree.

In support of this process, Mr. Feissel held during January and February a series of discussions with a representative of the Turkish Government. After concluding these discussions, Mr. Feissel traveled to Cyprus during the first week of March where he joined Ambassador Camilion for separate meetings with President Vassiliou and Mr. Denktash.

On March 27 the Secretary General reported orally to the members of the Security Council on the status of his good offices mission on Cyprus. His assessment included the main issues that require further clarification. The Secretary General noted that "current conditions are favorable. Progress is within reach if all concerned are willing to seize the moment and make their contribution." He called for a continuation of the discussions of the last few months in order to resolve outstanding issues, and said that once this was accomplished, it would then be possible to complete the draft out-

line and invite the two leaders to meet with him again.

On March 28 the President of the Security Council issued a statement in response to the Secretary General's oral report. The statement renewed the full support of the members of the Security Council for the Secretary General's efforts, and encouraged him to continue those efforts. It also urged "all concerned to act in a manner consistent with resolution 649 (1990), to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and to continue the discussions that have taken place over the past few months in order to resolve without delay the outstanding issues."

On the island, other developments contributed to a more positive environment between the two communities. First, on February 12, several Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political leaders met jointly for the first time in almost a year at the Ledra Palace Hotel in the buffer zone. On March 18 several Greek Cypriot political leaders crossed the buffer zone to north Nicosia to attend an anniversary reception for a Turkish Cypriot opposition political party. Additional intercommunal contacts among political party delegations followed.

Second, on March 21 the Minister of Defense of the Government of Cyprus, Mr. Andreas Aloneftis, announced that his government's defense fund expenditures for 1991 were to be cut in half. This is a welcome development.

With respect to U.S. involvement in the Cyprus issue, I am pleased to report that Secretary of State James Baker met on March 1 with Foreign Minister George Iacovou of the Republic of Cyprus for a thorough discussion of prospects for movement on the Cyprus issue. Foreign Minister Iacovou also met with my Assistant for National Security Affairs, Brent Scowcroft, Assistant