

Special Assignment of Reggie B. Walton to the White House Media Affairs Office

May 21, 1991

The President today announced that Judge Reggie B. Walton will serve in the White House Office of Media Affairs on special assignment focusing on the President's Comprehensive Violent Crime Control Act of 1991.

Prior to this, Judge Walton served as Associate Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy for the Bureau of State and Local Affairs in the Executive Office of the President, 1989 to present. In addition, he served as deputy presiding judge of the criminal division of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 1986–1989; as an associate judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 1981–

1989; as Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, 1980–1981; as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, chief of the career criminal unit, 1979–1980; and as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, 1976–1980. Judge Walton also served as a staff attorney for the Defender Association of Philadelphia.

Judge Walton graduated from West Virginia State College (B.A., 1971) and American University Washington College of Law (J.D., 1974). He was born February 8, 1949, in Donora, PA. Judge Walton is married, has one child, and resides in Washington, DC.

Exchange With Reporters on Soviet-United States Relations

May 22, 1991

The President. I just wanted to spread good will. No questions, no questions.

Q. Why not?

The President. Spreading a little—well, because mostly the answers are already out there. [Laughter] But I just wanted to say everything is fine.

Q. How did the Moiseyev meeting go, Mr. President?

The President. As far as I'm concerned, it went very well. We don't have all the results yet, obviously, but I talked to our experts, and they thought there was some progress out of our meeting. But it's at a stage where we need some confidential discussions going on. But I was pleased with it.

Q. Well, can you discuss at all—

Q. —this week and on track a summit by—

The President. I hope so, I hope so. Well, there's two questions, as you know: CFE and START. But one thing I came away with was the idea that they genuinely want to resolve both these matters, and I really felt that.

Q. Well, is this a political matter or military matter at this point? Is the political will there but the military resist—

The President. No, I think it's an arms control matter. It's an interpretation of arms control agreements, and it's highly technical. But you know, there's some question as to whether the Soviets had wanted a deal or whether we did. And the answer is: we both do. So, I think—the experts told me after the Moiseyev meeting that they felt there was some reason to be optimistic. Now, whether that held true after yet further meetings last night—

Q. Do you think they'll pull those divisions out, make them part of the—

The President. Well, I don't know. I don't know. But it's—

Q. That's sort of the problem on CFE.

The President. Well, on the total limits—the full limits, counting on the full limits, that everything has got to be accounted for.

Q. So, you're optimistic about a summit then?

Q. If that's resolved this week—

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The President. I can't quantify it. I just say the talks went reasonably well. But there's some story that we don't want a summit, and that's crazy. And I've assured Gorbachev of that personally.

It's great having you guys back on the plane again. It's wonderful.

Q. You don't want him in London?

The President. Who said I don't want him in London?

Q. Some anonymous official quoted by the New York Times says—

The President. That story is totally erroneous, I regret to say—totally.

Q. What does that mean?

The President. That means that it's wrong.

Q. You want him at the economic summit? You'd like him there?

The President. No decisions have been taken on that. If his coming there can help with the reform and genuinely help with

the reform, why, that would be a very, very important matter. But that story I can categorically say is wrong. And there was another one that said the same theme—somebody is peddling an erroneous line. We are dealing straight with Gorbachev; we're not playing games with him. I think he knows that, and I think Moiseyev knows that.

Q. A June summit?

The President. It's been a pleasure, gang, it's been a great pleasure. Great pleasure to be with you.

Note: The exchange took place in the morning aboard Air Force One while the President was en route to St. Paul, MN. In his remarks, President Bush referred to Gen. Mikhail Moiseyev, Chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Union, and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session With Students at the Saturn School of Tomorrow in St. Paul, Minnesota

May 22, 1991

The President. Is it scary to have the President coming? You see, I'll tell you something—the reason I ask the question is you guys may not know this, but I learn from this. Mr. Alexander is our Secretary of Education—where is he? Over here. And he's designed the program that's now our administration program, and one of the things in it is that adults, not just children but adults, should learn. And so he and I talked about—and the thing that I'm trying to learn is the computer. So, what you think is maybe elementary, but for me it's rather advanced. So, it's helpful to learn it on that basis, and then it sets a good example for other kids around the country because they'll see what you can do. You talk about programming this thing—a lot of kids are going to say, hey, maybe we can do more. Do you know what I mean?

That's good. Any questions? Have you got all the answers or—don't ask me about computers, okay?

Q. This is a question she wanted to say,

but I guess she couldn't get it out. She wanted to know: Did any of your grandchildren work with Legos?

The President. Work Legos? Yes. Yes, but not in—you mean in a computer sense or just playing with them?

Q. Yes, in a computer sense.

The President. I don't know the answer to that question. I would doubt it because I don't think this is widespread. And our grandkids are in Texas, Florida, Colorado, Virginia, and Maryland—and I don't know if at this level—and we have some grandchildren—that they have this kind of programming.

Q. It's available through the schools. It's probably not available commercially.

The President. Yes, but I'm wondering in the schools. He meant in school, didn't he? I don't know; I'm embarrassed to say I don't know what the programs are they're into. But I sure love to see them learn stuff. They all fool around with computers. I guess everybody does that around here.