

May 24 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

help facilitate an end to the tragic war in Ethiopia. We hope at that time to see the establishment of a provisional government and agreement on a plan for a political transition leading to peace and democracy.

Israeli Prime Minister Shamir called President Bush at about 11 a.m. aboard Air Force One to thank him for the American role in release of the Falashas. The Prime Minister and the President also discussed

the Mideast peace process. The Prime Minister expressed his appreciation for Secretary Baker's efforts in the Mideast and said he hoped the peace process will continue.

*aNote: The statement referred to former Senator Rudy Boschwitz; Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel; and Secretary of State James A. Baker III.*

## Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on Multilateral Export Controls

May 24, 1991

Last evening, the United States and sixteen Western allies agreed in Paris to implement a new system of export controls for dual-use goods and technologies with significant military applications. The agreement brings to a close a major review of allied East-West export control policy initiated in January 1990, in response to the President's call upon the member states of the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (COCOM) to adapt their export control regimes to the rapidly changing international political and military environment.

For over 40 years, COCOM, comprised of NATO members (less Iceland) plus Japan and Australia, has maintained a system of export controls to keep key technologies with both military and civilian uses from being used to enhance the military capability of certain countries. Historically, these have included the Soviet Union, former members of the Warsaw Pact, the People's Republic of China, and several other countries. The changes to be implemented by COCOM partners demonstrate the continued relevance of COCOM and its ability to adapt quickly to changing world circumstances.

The agreement means a 50% reduction in existing export controls to a "Core List" of militarily strategic technologies and goods. That reduction is in addition to a 33% cut in the list agreed to by COCOM in June 1990. The United States and its

partners concluded that an overhaul of the lists was justified, based on a changing strategic situation and rapid diffusion of some technologies that were making the existing control lists obsolete. The Core List contains only the most critical goods and technologies, which are essential in maintaining the existing significant gaps between Western and Soviet-based military systems, gaps that were demonstrated to be critical to our national security in Operation Desert Storm. On the other hand, because of the broad diffusion of certain technologies, export controls have been eliminated, for example, on most of the computers exported from the United States today. COCOM member/states also agreed to significant reductions in controls on microprocessors, machine tools, aircraft, avionics, and propulsion systems. In addition, the United States will continue a presumption of approval for the export of Core List items to bona fide civil end-users for civilian purposes.

The new agreement continues the trend toward reducing controls on items destined for Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary, reflecting the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact and the fact that these three countries have entered into strategic trade agreements with Western nations to prevent diversion of Western-supplied technology to the Soviet Union.

COCOM partners agreed that individual countries will continue controlling goods and technologies dropped from the

COCOM list that could contribute to the development of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and the missiles to deliver them.

Full implementation of the new lists is planned for September 1, 1991, and a fact sheet is available that provides additional details on the COCOM agreement.

## Remarks at the Exports-Generating Jobs for Americans Luncheon in Boston, Massachusetts

May 24, 1991

Thank you all very, very much for that warm welcome. Secretary Mosbacher—and let me single out the other man up here—it's so good to see the Bay State's own, able, achieving Governor Bill Weld here, who is working hard also in his spare time on this very important question of exports. I salute him and thank him for what he and the other New England Governors are doing when they come together to do this.

I want to salute Lieutenant Governor Paul Cellucci, an old friend who is out here somewhere; and another one, the treasurer of this State, Joe Malone, who are with us right over here. I'm going to get in trouble on this, but I see, next to Joe, Pat Saiki, the new head of the SBA; and Ron Roskens of AID is over here. John Macomber, formerly one of you, one of the chief executives of one of the largest companies in America, now ably heading the Ex-Im Bank over here. Another one so well-known who came out of private business, a big success, and now in Government, Fred Zeder, the able head of OPIC. And then—many others—Priscilla Rabb-Ayres from the U.S. Trade and Development Program; Ron Skates, head of Data General. Let me just cut it off there. But I should have many, many more to whom I pay my respects and my thanks. Let me just simply say thank you all for coming out, all of you in the audience who are supporting American exports.

Frankly, having gone to school outside of Boston, it is nice to visit Boston, a place known for its humility and intellectual modesty. *[Laughter]* The old saying you remember: If you hear an owl hoot to “whom” instead of “who,” you can be sure it was born and educated in Boston. *[Laughter]*

But I am glad to be back here. This area

has been through hell, and I am absolutely confident that under the State's leadership of Bill Weld and under your leadership, Boston and Massachusetts has not lost its enterprise spirit. You're caught up in a regional problem with this recession, and I am confident that you'll come booming out of it, particularly if your work on exports is as successful as I'm sure it will be.

You know, it feels a little strange to be talking about exports in front of the real expert, my dear friend Bob Mosbacher. And I just can't tell you how much he's done on Fast Track and on all these regional conferences and in so many other ways. I'm glad to see him here. And I heard that he dashed back to Washington from yesterday's lunch to give a last-minute push for the extension of Fast Track.

Bob, you and everyone associated with our national export initiative have really done a spectacular job promoting exports from the United States. And, frankly, the numbers tell the tale. This nation enjoyed its greatest export month ever last October. And the latest monthly figures—and they're for March—nearly equaled the record. We exported \$34 billion in goods that month, and we had the smallest, the smallest monthly trade deficit that we've seen in 7½ years.

As you all know, the world economy has changed. It's changed dramatically in recent years. If you want to succeed in business these days, you can't worry just about competition from U.S. companies; you have to go head-on-head with firms from all over the world. The lesson is clear: If we want to remain the greatest economic power on Earth, we must build a strong economy at home. But in my view just as important, we