

Note: President Bush spoke at 9:03 a.m. in the ballroom of the Sheraton Washington Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to the following officials of the National Religious Broadcasters: Jerry Rose, president, Brandt Gustavson, executive director, and Billy Graham, Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, and

James Dobson, members of the board of directors; Charles W. Colson, president of Prison Fellowship Ministries; Alfred C. Sikes, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and Commissioners Ervin S. Duggan and James H. Quello; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Foreign Minister Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid of Egypt

January 29, 1991

May I just say welcome to the Egyptian journalists, and we're glad you're here.

I might violate a rule here. I normally don't have much to say in the Oval Office, but I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Egyptian Government, specifically to President Mubarak and to Foreign Minister Meguid, for standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the coalition, leading it in many ways, and for the steadfast position that Egypt has taken in trying to counteract this aggression by Sad-

dam Hussein. It's been a miraculous—a strong, wonderful leadership coming out of Egypt, and we are very grateful. And I'm very happy that I can say that here from the bottom of my heart.

Thank you all very much.

Note: President Bush spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Foreign Minister Hans Van den Broek of The Netherlands

January 29, 1991

Q. Mr. President, could the third time be the charm here, sir? Could we ask you—

The President. What he doesn't understand is that I don't take questions at these photo opportunities. Of course, our guests—

The Foreign Minister. I've heard that before, Mr. President. [*Laughter*]

The President. —although our guests are more than able to. This is a new animal that's been added to our repertoire since you've come back.

The Foreign Minister. That's a very interesting one.

Q. Your aides, sir, are taking bets on whether we'll ask a question, sir. [*Laughter*]

Q. Could you answer one of ours, please,

and prove them wrong? [*Laughter*]

Q. Mr. President, what do you think about the Dutch support so far?

The President. You know, I feel very badly I didn't explain to your press corps that I don't take questions in the Oval Office. I can understand why she would ask. However, let me just tell you that one of the reasons I'm delighted to have this meeting is to be able to express to you and to Prime Minister Lubbers and others the appreciation on the American side for this outstanding cooperation. And I think we've worked very closely together. We've noted your statements with great approval and appreciation, I might say. And so, I look forward to hearing from you any further thoughts you have on the Gulf or any other