

Dec. 2 / Administration of George Bush, 1992

That is the end. And I now would like to happily turn this over to Mike Deland, asking that he hand out the medals. Mike.

[At this point, the awards and citations were presented.]

Let me just thank you all once again for coming. I don't think it's too early to wish you a Merry Christmas. I wish in a sense it were Monday because this place will

come alive with Christmas trees and Christmas lights. And I hope you all have a wonderful one. Thank you.

Note: The President spoke at 2:29 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Deputy Secretary of Defense Donald J. Atwood, Jr., and former Senators Robert T. Stafford and Gaylord Nelson.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the President's Discussions on Somalia

December 2, 1992

President Bush today called President-elect Clinton to update him on the continuing situation in Somalia. They discussed the status of U.N. consultations. President Bush will continue to stay in touch with the Presi-

dent-elect on this issue.

The President today also is consulting with other world leaders concerning a possible U.N. resolution.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the United Nations Vote To Authorize Use of Military Forces in Somalia

December 3, 1992

We are pleased by the U.N. vote to authorize military forces to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid to alleviate the starvation and human suffering in Somalia. President Bush will meet tomorrow morning

with congressional leaders to discuss U.S. participation in a U.N. military action. Since August 14, the United States has airlifted 21,000 tons of food and medicine into Somalia. But the crisis remains urgent.

Address to the Nation on the Situation in Somalia

December 4, 1992

I want to talk to you today about the tragedy in Somalia and about a mission that can ease suffering and save lives. Every American has seen the shocking images from Somalia. The scope of suffering there is hard to imagine. Already, over a quarter-million people, as many people as live in Buffalo, New York, have died in the Somali famine. In the months ahead 5 times that number, 1½ million people, could starve

to death.

For many months now, the United States has been actively engaged in the massive international relief effort to ease Somalia's suffering. All told, America has sent Somalia 200,000 tons of food, more than half the world total. This summer, the distribution system broke down. Truck convoys from Somalia's ports were blocked. Sufficient food