

of State. He would succeed James A. Baker III.

Mr. Eagleburger has served as Acting Secretary of State since August 23, 1992.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on Operation Restore Hope *December 8, 1992*

President Bush is pleased by the success of the initial landing phase of Operation Restore Hope in Somalia. United States forces went ashore at approximately 8:30 p.m. e.s.t., this evening (4:30 a.m. Somali time). This initial phase will focus on establishing secure airport and port facilities. President Bush will be advised of developments in Somalia on a regular basis by his national security staff in the White House Situation Room.

Earlier today the President spoke by telephone with Ambassador Robert Oakley, our special envoy in Somalia. Ambassador Oakley briefed the President on his meetings with relief agency representatives and Somali factional leaders. Ambassador Oakley

indicated that the discussions were encouraging. The President also spoke by phone with United Nations Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali and discussed with him the latest developments and plans for the humanitarian effort.

The President met with his national security advisers around 5 p.m. this afternoon for a final update on the status of the coalition preparations. General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Operation Restore Hope was on schedule and proceeding well. The response from other nations to join the coalition has been quite positive. Forces from several countries are being integrated into the overall operation.

Message on the Observance of Hanukkah *December 8, 1992*

I am delighted to send greetings to members of the Jewish community in the United States and around the world as you celebrate Hanukkah.

As you commemorate the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem more than 2,000 years ago, you call to mind the many great spiritual and political struggles that have been borne by the Jewish people—a people of faith and resolve. When it burned miraculously for eight days instead of one, the small cruse of oil that was found in the reclaimed Temple by Judah Maccabee and his followers symbolized the power of prayer and the unfailing wisdom of the Almighty.

Now, as you once again light the menorah,

in keeping with centuries-old Judaic law and tradition, know that countless others join with you in praying for peace and for the expansion of religious liberty and tolerance around the world. During this time of renewal, we pray especially that the Middle East peace talks will lead to a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors.

Barbara joins me in sending best wishes for a Happy Hanukkah.

GEORGE BUSH

Note: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 9.