

after the series, America is proud of you.

And in a larger sense I want to salute all of baseball, a game that I've loved since my dad took me to my first game—I think it was in Yankee Stadium—many, many years ago. In that spirit let me recognize the future major leaguers that are here this morning: The world Little League champions, the All Stars from Long Beach, California—you guys stand up for one second. There they are. Welcome, and I'm glad you came all this way. No speeches out of you guys; I'll do that. *[Laughter]* Okay. Special congratulations to the Babe Ruth League champs from Lexington, Kentucky, in the 6-to-12 division—where are they? You guys stand up. Thank you. And then from Phoenix in the 13-to-15-year-old division, big guys—where are they? Well done. And then lastly from Vancouver, Washington, in the 16-to-18-year-old category, we have some of those—there they are.

I hope all of you recall this day and these world's champions from Toronto. I can't think of better role models to follow or better examples of character: Fight clean and fair, and do your best.

Joe McCarthy, the great Yankee man-

ager—Bobby, did you play for Joe?—once said, "Give a boy a bat and a ball, and he'll be a good citizen." And those words are as relevant today as when I was playing baseball some 40 years ago, hitting eighth, second cleanup we called it. *[Laughter]* And to the heroes of baseball, young and old, I congratulate you on behalf of our Nation, and I extend to you a very warm welcome to the White House. You've all excelled in that great American pastime we follow to this day. And so congratulations.

At this very special time of year, may God bless each and every one of you. Thanks for coming to the White House.

And now Cito, as a closing thing, I wish you'd come over here. This is a rookie ball player who needs a job. *[Laughter]* And I'm going to give you this baseball card. Take a look at him. You need a good-fielding first baseman; I'm your man.

Good to see you all, and thanks for coming.

*Note: The President spoke at 9:47 a.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building.*

## Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the President's Meeting With King Hussein of Jordan

*December 16, 1992*

The President today met with King Hussein of Jordan in connection with the King's private visit to the U.S. for a medical check-up. The two leaders had a discussion of the situation in the Gulf, especially the importance of maintaining U.N. sanctions

against Iraq, and the Middle East peace process. The President also welcomed Jordan's decision to commit forces to both the peacemaking and peacekeeping phases in Somalia.

## Recess Appointment of Sean Charles O'Keefe as Secretary of the Navy

*December 16, 1992*

The President today announced his intention to recess-appoint Sean Charles O'Keefe, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the

Navy. He would succeed H. Lawrence Garrett III.

Since July, Mr. O'Keefe has served as

Acting Secretary of the Navy. Prior to this, Mr. O'Keefe served as Comptroller for the Department of Defense, 1989–92. He has also served on the Defense Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee as minority counsel, 1987–89; minority staff director, 1986–87; and majority professional staff member, 1981–85. Mr. O'Keefe also served as a budget analyst for Naval Sea

Systems at the Department of Defense, 1980–81.

Mr. O'Keefe graduated from Loyola University (B.A., 1977) and Syracuse University (M.P.A., 1978). He was born January 27, 1956, in Monterey, CA. Mr. O'Keefe is married, has three children, and resides in Arlington, VA.

## Remarks Prior to Discussions With Ambassador Saud Nasir Al-Sabah of Kuwait

*December 17, 1992*

*The President.* I don't think anybody has been more steadfast in their support of a common purpose than you have, and I am very grateful to you. And I hope you'll pay my respects, when you go home, to His Majesty.

But I want to take this opportunity to thank you all. During that Desert Storm you stayed in close touch, and you just did a dramatic and wonderful job for the coalition. And we're going to miss you, darn it.

But best of luck back there.

Q. Going to Somalia?

Q. Mr. President, are you going to Somalia for Christmas?

*Ambassador Al-Sabah.* I wanted to say a few words to express on behalf of His Highness the Amir and my government and the people of Kuwait our deep sense of gratitude for your support, your leadership, and the liberation of Kuwait. And our relationship with the United States, I assure you, will remain steadfast, strong as you like it to be.

And I wish you all the best in your future endeavors, Mr. President, and tell you the Kuwaiti people hold you in deep respect for your role here. And we're all looking forward to seeing you in Kuwait as soon as your time allows it, Mr. President.

*The President.* Well, someday I want to do that, I tell you. I really do. It's a wonder-

ful, wonderful invitation.

Q. Will we see you in Somalia soon, Mr. President?

*The President.* Maybe some of these fellows don't understand that under our new policy that's been in effect now for 2 months, that we have a more rigid policy than we used to. You've been in here many times. But under the new policy, I don't take questions at these, essentially what are photo opportunities. And so I just simply cannot—I understand their interest in whether I might travel someplace, but of course you're welcome to say anything you want.

Q. Are you going?

Q. May we request a news conference then, sir?

*The President.* We've had 235 news conferences. Isn't that enough?

Thank you all very much.

Q. You mean, you won't answer the question of whether you're considering?

*The President.* I hope you have a wonderful Christmas.

Q. I hope you—

*The President.* We will, we will. We're having the family coming here soon and everything.

*Note: The President spoke at 9:30 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.*