

Recess Appointment of Stephen T. Hart as an Assistant Secretary of Transportation

December 30, 1992

The President has recess-appointed Stephen T. Hart, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Public Affairs. He would succeed Marion Clifton Blakey.

Currently Mr. Hart serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Industry Affairs and Public Liaison at the U.S. Department of Transportation. Prior to this he served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Di-

rector of the Office of Legislative Affairs, 1991–92. He has also served as a Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Press Secretary, 1989–91; Assistant to the Vice President for Press Relations, 1987–89; and Assistant Press Secretary for Foreign Affairs for the Vice President's Office, 1985–87.

Mr. Hart graduated from George Washington University (B.A., 1982). He was born September 22, 1957, in Pasadena, CA.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on Recognition of the Czech and Slovak Republics

January 1, 1993

The President today recognized the new Czech and Slovak Republics and offered to establish full diplomatic relations. In an exchange of letters, Czech Prime Minister Klaus and Slovak Prime Minister Meciar welcomed U.S. recognition and accepted our offer of full diplomatic relations.

Both leaders provided assurances that the new states will fulfill the obligations and commitments of the former Czechoslovakia and will abide by the principles and provisions of the U.N. Charter, the Charter of Paris, the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent CSCE documents. They also pledged to prevent the proliferation of destabilizing military technology, to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, to uphold international standards concerning national minorities, and to move rapidly to create free-

market economies.

The United States looks forward to full and mutually productive relations with the new Czech and Slovak states. We commend both Republics for the peaceful means by which their separation was carried out. In the interest of ensuring stability and prosperity in the region and speeding full integration into the international community, the United States urges continued close regional cooperation among the states of central Europe.

Our Ambassador to Czechoslovakia will remain in Prague as the U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic. We look forward to appointing an Ambassador to the Slovak Republic as soon as possible.