

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt April 6, 1993

World Trade Center Bombing

Q. President Mubarak, did you give the United States a specific warning about the World Trade Center bombing?

President Mubarak. Let me tackle this problem in the press conference, if you don't mind.

Stimulus Package

Q. Mr. President, do you think you'll get your stimulus package intact after the recess?

President Clinton. Well, let me say this: We're going to give the Senate a chance to prove that the stated objections to some of the programs were their real objections. I mean, the American people, I'm sure, are disappointed to find that a program that would put a half-million people to work and that has the support of a majority of the United States Senate cannot be brought to a vote in the Senate, because democracy and the majority rule is being undermined.

The whole purpose of the Senate's debating rules is to allow all amendments to be offered. We've had amendment after amendment after amendment after amendment, and the Republican minority is just trying to keep it from being voted on. So we're going to give them a chance to see if they were serious about their specific concerns and if they really want to put the American people back to work or not. This is a big issue, and we'll just see what happens.

Q. You are going to have to compromise, though, aren't you?

Q. [*Inaudible*—frustrated about the delay?

President Clinton. Of course. I think that we ought to be—I can't imagine how they could be satisfied with the condition of this economy. I can't imagine how they could be satisfied with it. They were here, many of them, while we increased the national debt by 4 times, while we exploded the deficit, we drove down employment and drove up unemployment. And I've given them a plan to bring down the deficit and increase employment, put people back to work, and I think they ought to be for it. And we'll see if they will be.

Q. How much are you willing to cut—

President Clinton. As soon as the thing is over—when they come back, we'll see whether

they really care about putting people to work or whether this is all just political posturing to prove that a minority can paralyze the Federal Government. It's just more gridlock, and I think the people will rebel against it.

You can count how many people they're going to keep out of work. You will know job by job how many they'll be responsible for not putting to work. We'll see.

Q. You sound pretty passionate on the subject.

Serbia

President Clinton. What did you say about Milosevic?

Q. How do you feel—[*inaudible*]—by his message?

President Clinton. Oh, that was like the Iraqi charm offensive. He's just trying to head off tougher sanctions if the Vance-Owen plan is not embraced.

Q. Is it going to work?

President Clinton. No, it won't. Of course not.

Q. Do you think he's getting the wrong message, though, sir? I mean—

President Clinton. It's pure politics. He's trying to head off tougher sanctions in the U.N. if the Serbs don't sign off on Vance-Owen. That's all that's going on there. And it won't work.

Q. Don't you think he's sending a message saying it's actually—this is great, you're not going to hound us?

President Clinton. Well, we are going to press for tougher sanctions. We'll see.

Q. You don't want any compliments from him, huh?

Q. [*Inaudible*]—are you rethinking the arms embargo?

President Clinton. I'm always rethinking that. There's never been a day when I haven't rethought that. But I can't do that by myself.

[*At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.*]

Meeting With President Mubarak

Q. How about your first impression, Mr. President?

President Clinton. Very good. I'm glad to see President Mubarak. He and I have talked on the phone and worked on some things together, but this is our first personal meeting. And we'll have a press conference in a few minutes—in a couple of hours, I guess. We'll answer your questions.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:45 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, President Clinton referred to President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's News Conference With President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt *April 6, 1993*

President Clinton. Good morning. Today I have the great pleasure of welcoming President Mubarak to Washington and to the White House. We have had an excellent meeting, and I look forward to more in the coming years, as well as to a successful conclusion of our first meeting here at lunch after this press conference.

For nearly 2 decades, Egypt and the United States have worked together in a special relationship to bring peace and stability to the Middle East. American and Egyptian soldiers have served side by side in defeating aggression in the Gulf and in bringing humanitarian relief in Somalia. American and Egyptian diplomats have worked side by side to pioneer peace with Israel and lately to bring others to the negotiating table. And after our discussions today, I am convinced that we share a common vision of a more peaceful Middle East, and we are determined to see that vision realized.

Egypt has long experience in peacemaking and knows that only negotiations can resolve longstanding grievances. The Egyptian-Israeli treaty stands as a cornerstone of our common efforts to attain a just and lasting and comprehensive settlement based upon U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Our challenge is now to broaden the circle of peace, recognizing the principles that underlie the peace process: territory for peace, realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, security for all parties, and full and real peace.

As I have made clear, the United States is prepared to assume the role of full partner when the parties themselves return to the negotiating table for serious discussions. We both feel deeply that there is an historic opportunity to achieve real progress in the Arab-Israeli peace process

in 1993. This opportunity must not be missed. And all parties must live up to their responsibilities for making peace.

We discussed the need to ensure stability in the Gulf. We're determined that the hard-won achievements of Desert Storm will be protected and that Iraq will comply fully with all relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions. We're also determined to counter Iran's involvement in terrorism and its active opposition to the Middle East peace process.

Both our nations have suffered from the tragic consequences of terrorism. Both are absolutely determined to oppose the cowardly cruelty of terrorists wherever we can. We reviewed the common danger presented by religious extremism which promotes an intolerant agenda through violent means. We discussed ways of strengthening our cooperation in countering this and other forms of terrorism. We know that all Americans, including Americans of all races and all faiths, join us in strongly condemning such terrorism.

Mr. President, I know that you have undertaken the difficult task of reforming and restructuring your nation's economy to provide for the needs of tomorrow. We have a similar challenge here in the United States. We appreciate the gains that have been made in Egypt, as well as the bridges that remain to be crossed. We are impressed by your courage and your efforts.

We will continue to work together to stimulate trade, investment, and cooperation. Our economic assistance will continue to support Egypt's economic reform program, including privatization and Egypt's cooperation with international financial institutions.

We are fast approaching a new century. This is perhaps less of a milestone for Egypt, which