

program know that there's \$100 billion in entitlement cuts there, know that the energy tax is going to work as an important part of getting the interest rates down and having credibility in the markets. So I think we've got a real shot at it.

Health Care Reform

Q. What about an entitlement cap, as some people on the Hill want? Wouldn't that help?

The President. Well, it has to be done in the right way. My view is—and this is a good place to discuss this—the United States Government has already contributed to the rising costs of health care for employers by squeezing Medicare and Medicaid and forcing those costs off onto private employers. So if we have a cap on health care spending, which I'm not opposed to, and it should be done in a right way, it

should be done in connection with the health care plan so that we're helping everybody. If we did it without doing it on the health care, if we did it now, it would run the risk of 2 or 3 years from now having another big increase in their costs, undermining their ability to hire American workers and to keep America competitive. So if we're going to do a health care cap, let's do it with health care. That's the way it should be done.

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:23 p.m. in the Residence at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to William Chee, chief executive officer, RESCO; Michael Armstrong, chief executive officer, Hughes Aircraft; and Steven Wolf, chief executive officer, United Airlines. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With
Archbishop Desmond Tutu
May 19, 1993

Angola

The President. It's an honor for me to welcome Bishop Tutu here. As every American knows, he has been a real leader in the fight for democracy and for an end to apartheid in South Africa. Almost a decade ago he won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts. And I want to assure him here today that the United States remains committed to the creation of a nonracial democracy in South Africa.

I also want to discuss a decision that I know has been very important to Bishop Tutu and to other leaders for democracy and human rights in Africa. Today I am pleased to announce the United States recognition of the Government of Angola. This decision reflects the high priority that our administration places on democracy.

In 1992, after years of bitter civil war, the people of Angola held a multiparty election that the United States, the United Nations, and others monitored and considered free and fair. Since taking office on January 20th, I have tried to use the possibility of United States recognition as a leverage towards promoting an end to the civil war and hostilities and hopefully the participation of all relevant political groups in the Government of Angola.

Sadly, the party that lost the election, UNITA, resumed the fighting before the electoral process could even be completed. And UNITA has now refused to sign the peace agreement currently on the table. The Angolan Government, by contrast, has agreed to sign that peace agreement, has sworn in a democratically elected national assembly, and has offered participation by UNITA at all levels of government.

Today we recognize those achievements by recognizing the Government of the Republic of Angola. It is my hope that UNITA will accept a negotiated settlement and that it will be part of this government. I intend to continue working closely with the Government of Angola and with UNITA to achieve a lasting peace settlement and a vibrant democracy there. I hope the efforts of the United States have been helpful. I am confident that the Government of Angola has more than earned the recognition that the United States extends today.

Q. Mr. President, human rights sources are—how do you plan to approach the occupation of East Timor by Indonesia, sir? Could you elaborate on that—how do you plan to approach

the problem of the East Timor?

The President. I don't want to talk about it today. We have discussed it, and we may have more to say about it later.

The Vice President. I think just before your question Bishop Tutu was about to say something.

Archbishop Tutu. Well, I just want to say how deeply thrilled I am at the President's announcement, because I have been speaking with the Assistant Secretary of State and Assistant Secretary for Africa yesterday and said I couldn't understand how the United States could not recognize a government that was democratically elected. And they were very cagey in their responses. And I am really over the moon in a sense because I was going to raise this issue with the President in my capacity as President of the All Africa Conference of Churches in our appeal to the administration to reward democracy. And this is happening, and I am certain it will help the process in our continent where not all countries have had a good record on human rights. And I am very, very thrilled. If my complexion was different you would probably see better. [Laughter]

Q. [Inaudible]—what message are you going to—the President about South Africa—the situation in South Africa today?

Archbishop Tutu. Well, I haven't yet spoken. I would have hoped we would do that and talk with you afterwards because, I mean, I don't think it is fair to say, I am going to say to the President—and I haven't said it yet.

White House Travel Office

Q. Mr. President, can we ask you if you feel you were fair in summarily dismissing some employees of this Government of long standing without a hearing and leaving the impression perhaps that they may have committed criminal acts?

The President. I don't know. I'll have to refer to the Chief of Staff about that.

Q. We're speaking about the Travel Office, sir.

The President. I know. All I know about it is that I was told that the people who were in charge of administering in the White House found serious problems there and thought there was no alternative. I'll have to refer to them for any other questions. That is literally all I know about it. I know nothing else about it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:37 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Archbishop Tutu referred to George Moose, Assistant Secretary of State for Africa. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on the Human Rights Situation in Burma

May 19, 1993

I was moved by the stories of individual suffering I heard this afternoon and am deeply concerned by the tragic human rights situation in Burma, as well as by the continued detention of Burmese pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest since 1989. I strongly urge the Burmese government to release Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners, to respect the results of the May 1990 elections, and to commit itself to genuine democratic reforms.

The Burmese people should know that America stands with them and with others in the

international community in the struggle for freedom in Burma.

NOTE: The President issued this statement following a meeting in the Cabinet Room at the White House with a group of Nobel Peace Prize laureates including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Betty Williams, and Kara Newell, who had traveled to Thailand earlier this year to focus international attention on the human rights situation in Burma.