

more and spend less time with paper and forms.

I value what you do here at this hospital and what people like you do all over America. If the American people really knew what nurses and doctors have to go through today just to treat people, they would be up in arms, they would be marching on Congress, demanding that we do something to solve this problem.

I hope that, by our coming here today, we have made a very real and human connection between these magnificent children and all of the wonderful people who care for them and this awful problem represented by this board

up here. If we move here, it means more for them. And that's why we came here.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. in the Atrium. In his remarks, he referred to Lillian Beard, M.D., Washington, DC, pediatrician; Debbie Freiberg, R.N., pediatric cancer nurse; Michael B. Grizzard, M.D., vice president for medical affairs; Michelle Mahan, vice president of finance; Ben Bradlee, vice president at large, Washington Post; and author and journalist Sally Quinn.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi of Italy

September 17, 1993

The President. Hi, Helen [Helen Thomas, United Press International].

Somalia

Q. Hi. How are you? What do you think of Aideed's proposal, Mr. President, concerning Somalia and straightening out his position?

The President. Well, I think we have to—my main concern is not to allow Somalia to deteriorate to the condition which it was in before the United Nations went there. I look forward to talking with the Prime Minister about Somalia today.

Obviously, we would like it if some political initiative could be taken to stop the current violence, but we certainly can't afford to do anything that would permit the country, after all

of the efforts the United Nations has made, to deteriorate to its former condition where hundreds of thousands of people are killed or starved at random. So we'll just see—we're discussing it. We're going to discuss it today, and we have it under active discussion here what we should do, and we're looking at our options.

Q. Have you resolved your differences between U.S. and Italy on the question of Somalia?

The President. Well, I hope we have, but we haven't had a chance to talk about it.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:15 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Ciampi of Italy

September 17, 1993

The President. Good afternoon. It is a great pleasure for me to welcome Prime Minister Ciampi to the White House and to see him again after our very successful meeting in Tokyo this summer. I deeply value the opportunity to exchange thoughts on all the challenges that we face today with one of Europe's most respected figures.

The domestic reforms which have been undertaken during the Prime Minister's tenure are truly impressive, and I salute him for that. And I congratulate the people of Italy on achieving greater financial stability and laying the foundations for future growth. Our two nations share a wealth of cultural, historical, and personal ties. From the voyage of Columbus to the contribu-