

so much extra work. But on behalf of all the American people, I want to thank those of you who work at our Embassies in Rome and the Vatican, our mission to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, our consulates, our military personnel here, for all the work you do always, and especially to make this trip a success.

I'll be back in a month for the G-7 meeting in Naples. And the Prime Minister said that they had a little deficit problem here, too, and if I kept coming back, we'd have to start paying taxes and contribute in Italy—[laughter]—to the economic recovery here as well.

I do want to tell you that back at home things are turning around. The economy is picking up. Unemployment is down. We have plain evidence that our country is in a process of renewal. We're treating a lot of problems seriously we've ignored for a long time. Whether it's international trade or the education and training of our work force or the most serious approach on crime in a generation, the American people are beginning to come to grips with the challenges before us.

We still have a lot of work to do. We're trying our best. And I believe we're going to be very successful in our attempt to pass a comprehensive health reform bill this year. Our European friends find it difficult to believe that the United States is the only advanced nation in the world that can't find a way to provide health coverage to all of its people. So we're going to do that this year.

And we're going to deal with a lot of our other challenges. There is a sense of possibility of movement, that those of us in public service

are part of a partnership to make America what it ought to be as we move into the 21st century. But there is also an awareness at the end of the cold war that we can no longer do what America has so often done in the past, which is to withdraw from the world and to make a clear distinction between our policies abroad and our policies at home. Now we know they are two sides of the same coin, and they must be part and parcel of our commitment to renew our country and to move with confidence and success with our friends and neighbors into the 21st century.

I can say that I have been deeply moved by the reception we've received here in Italy. I agree with what Ambassador Flynn said about my meeting with the Holy Father yesterday. And I must say that all the conversations we've had with the officials of the Italian Government have been very satisfactory from my point of view.

So I think we've got a lot of good things coming up. I look forward to coming back next month. I can't wait to come back, even if I do become a taxpaying, quasi-citizen of Italy. [Laughter]

I thank you again for all your enormous effort and work. You have made us very, very proud of the United States by your efforts. Thank you so much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:58 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Reginald Bartholomew, U.S. Ambassador to Italy, and his wife, Rose-Anne; and Raymond L. Flynn, U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See.

Remarks on the Economy and an Exchange With Reporters in Rome June 3, 1994

The President. As all of you know, we got some good news from the homefront today. The unemployment rate has dropped almost a half a point to 6 percent. We now know that over 3.3 million new jobs have come into the economy in the last 16 months. The economy is creating jobs at 7 times the rate of the previous 4 years. I think this is most of all a tribute to the American people, but clearly supports the wisdom of the economic strategy we have

been following: a determined effort to bring the deficit down, to get investment in education and training and new technologies up, to expand trade.

We have to stay on this course. We have to pass this new budget. We have to keep going. This is the thing which will enable us to do the other kinds of reform and renewals that we need to do in America. I am very, very encouraged.

And again, I want to say how much I appreciate the work that was done by the Congress last year in passing this tough economic program. There is no question that it spurred an enormous percentage of this activity. And I am very pleased by it.

North Korea

Q. Mr. President, have you spoken to Boris Yeltsin about the situation in North Korea?

The President. No, I have not talked to President Yeltsin or President Kim, but I will today. And I don't think I should—I have nothing to add to what I said yesterday except to tell you that I will talk to them, and after I do I'll be glad to—

Q. Do you support his proposal for an international conference on the situation?

The President. I don't want to say anything about President Yeltsin or President Kim until I talk to them today. I have to talk—

Q. [Inaudible]—say something about the United Nations, whether you think the United Nations is up on this. It has not done a very good job in Bosnia and other parts of the world.

Are the allies strong enough to stand up to this regime?

The President. I have nothing to add to what I've already said about it right now.

Thank you.

Nettuno Memorial Ceremony

Q. How do you feel about this morning's ceremonies, Mr. President? Could you chat about that for a moment?

The President. I was very proud. I was very proud, and I was terribly moved by what the veterans and their family members said after the ceremony. There were so many who felt that for the first time in 50 years our country and the world had recognized the importance of the Italian campaign and the massive sacrifices that were made there. It was very moving, and I was very proud.

Q. Did you think about your father, Mr. President? I know you mentioned—

The President. Yes, I did.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:45 p.m. at the U.S. Embassy.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Telephone Conversations With President Boris Yeltsin of Russia and President Kim Yong-sam of South Korea

June 3, 1994

President Clinton spoke separately today with President Yeltsin and President Kim Yong-sam of the Republic of Korea, who is currently in Moscow. The topic of both calls was the current situation in North Korea.

President Clinton told President Yeltsin that following the IAEA's report to the United Nations that the continuity of safeguards had been broken, the United States is pursuing the issue of sanctions in the United Nations Security Council. They discussed President Yeltsin's proposal that an international forum on the Korean situation be convened. President Clinton said that such a meeting might be appropriate at some point while underscoring the need first

to return the North Korean nuclear issue to the United Nations Security Council. The two agreed to remain in close contact as the issue develops.

In the conversation with President Kim, both Presidents agreed that the next step is to pursue the issue of sanctions in the United Nations Security Council. President Clinton reaffirmed the United States desire for a diplomatic resolution of this issue but emphasized the United States commitment to the security of the Republic of Korea. They, too, agreed to work closely together in addressing the issue.