

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.