

have talked that if they were willing to help us with the safe havens or with processing centers, depending on which country we're talking about, that they would bear no cost and that they would not have to worry about the security problems. Those are the two things that, I think, that are legitimate concerns.

Now, in Florida the main problem there is the cost problem. And since I have been President, I have worked very, very hard to increase the allocation of Federal assistance to States that have disproportionate refugee or illegal alien burdens. That's not only Florida but also California, Texas, New York, New Jersey—they are the major ones, and some other States. And we've increased that aggregate assistance by, oh, about a third, by several billion dollars since I have been in office.

Q. You said that, first of all, you referred to the lifting of the policy of direct return. Can you explain why you think it's appropriate, given the human rights deterioration that you cited in Haiti, to force people between choosing the right to political asylum in the United States and leaving Haiti? And second of all, you say your position has not changed on whether military invasion is an option, but has the deterioration and conditions in Haiti made that option more likely to pursue?

The President. I think the conduct of the military leaders will have more than anything else

to do with what options are considered when. And their conduct has not been good.

Now, secondly—but let me answer the first question. What we owe the people of Haiti is safety. There is no internationally-recognized human right to go to a particular place and to have a particular response. We have increased our processing in-country. We still know that's the safest and best way to get out. And we know that people are able to get to those processing centers. We've increased our processing in-country, and as the human rights situation has deteriorated; the percentage of people in-country qualifying for refugee status has increased as based on the objective conditions in the country.

So we are still doing what we said we would do, and we are going forward. There is a limit to how much the United States or anybody else can do given the facts that now exist. We are spending a lot of money to manage this problem. We asked some of our neighbors in the hemisphere—as I said last May when I announced this policy, we asked some of our neighbors in the hemisphere to help us when we needed it, and some of them are doing so, and we are very, very grateful to them for doing that.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President's 62d news conference began at 5:30 p.m. at the Zi Teresa Restaurant.

Statement on the Resignation of National AIDS Policy Coordinator Kristine Gebbie

July 8, 1994

Kristine Gebbie, the first National AIDS Policy Coordinator, served ably and with dedication as a member of our administration. With her help, the Federal Government finally began exercising real leadership in response to this terrible epidemic. Working together, we boosted funding for the Ryan White Care Act, increased resources for prevention and research, sped the research and approval process for new drugs, and required every Federal employee to receive comprehensive workplace education. While more needs to be done—and more will be

done—to fight AIDS, Kristine Gebbie's service as the Nation's first AIDS Policy Coordinator gave this vitally important battle a lift when one was desperately needed and long overdue.

NOTE: A statement by Kristine Gebbie was also made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.