

Ms. Woodruff. Do you think you've had the right foreign policy team to help you tackle them?

The President. Yes, I think they're quite up to the job, it's just that they're plowing new ground. We could have gotten less criticism in a way if we had just said, "This problem and this problem, this problem, don't involve our vital interests; therefore we will not commit our prestige or our efforts." But President Roosevelt once said he'd rather be part of a government that made a few mistakes in the cause of activism than be part of one that was frozen in the ice of its own indifference. I do not believe we can afford to be indifferent. But as we venture out in these new areas, we have to risk error. And so I have been willing to risk error. And when you do that, you get more criticism.

Ms. Woodruff. And when you're accused of vacillating, it doesn't bother you, right?

The President. Oh, sometimes it really bothers me. [Laughter] But I think, first of all, all leaders sometimes have had to back and fill and alter their course throughout history. But there is no vacillation in the principles of the policies here. It's just that we don't know what will work within the limits of our ability to deal with some of these problems.

Not every issue is one that you can put the entire wealth, the entire military might, the en-

tire prestige of the United States on the line for. But many issues are things that are worthy of our best efforts within the limits of our ability to proceed. And that is where all these gray areas are, the areas of frustration, particularly for the people who are on the receiving end of the problems. I didn't—I was waiting for my lecture from Sarajevo tonight, and I rather enjoyed it, because that poor woman has seen the horrors of this war and she has had to report on them.

Ms. Woodruff. Christiane Amanpour.

The President. Yes, she's been fabulous. She's done a great service for the whole world on that. I do not blame her for being mad at me, but I'm doing the best I can with this problem from my perspective.

I didn't know, you see, I would have to look at her—now I'll blush—[laughter]—anyway, go ahead.

Ms. Woodruff. That's a good note to end on. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you very much, all of you. Thank you.

NOTE: The interview began at 7 p.m. in the Cecil B. Day Chapel at the Carter Center. In his remarks, the President referred to Tom Johnson, president, and Ted Turner, owner and founder, Cable News Network.

Letter to the Speaker of the House on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

May 3, 1994

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On April 15, the United States and more than one hundred other nations signed the Uruguay Round agreement in Marrakesh, Morocco. It is the broadest, most comprehensive trade agreement in history.

For half a century, the United States has led the global effort to reduce trade barriers and expand trade. The Uruguay Round, which is scheduled to enter into force on January 1, 1995, represents the most important step in that effort.

This agreement will create hundreds of thousands of American jobs and new economic opportunities at home. Moreover, it will allow

American workers and businesses to compete in a freer, fairer, and more effective global trading system that lays the foundation for prosperity into the next century.

I intend to transmit legislation to implement the Uruguay Round and am committed to seeking bipartisan support for its passage this year.

The attached booklet describes the Uruguay Round's benefit to American workers and firms. I look forward to working with you in the months ahead to implement this important agreement.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON