

every one of you. It means you can't talk freely about much of your work with your family and your friends. For some, it means spending a lot of time far away from home. For others, it's meant serving in situations of significant personal danger. While much of your work is sensitive and cannot be discussed publicly, I know what you do. I value it, and I respect you for doing it. And I wanted to come here to say thank you.

The 56 stars carved into the wall here in this lobby remind each who passes by this place of the ultimate risks of intelligence work. Each star memorializes a vibrant life given in the service of our Nation. Each star reminds us of freedom's high price and how the high share some must bear that all the rest of us must respect. My heart goes out to the families and to the friends of each of those whose sacrifices are represented here.

Two of the stars added just this year commemorate two devoted agency professionals who were slain last January entering this compound, Dr. Lansing Bennett and Frank Darling. All of us were shocked and saddened when they were

killed and others were seriously injured. The First Lady represented me here at the memorial service, but I want to say again personally how much I admire the service that they gave, the sorrow and anger we all felt and continue to feel about this outrageous act.

The CIA was established over 45 years ago to help confront the challenges to democracy. These stars remind us that the battle lines of freedom need not be thousands of miles away, but can be right here in the midst of our communities with our families and friends. Jim Woolsey and I know that all of you here today are called to a very special kind of public service.

I celebrate your commitment. I appreciate your contributions. As President, I will do my best to learn from you, to help you to do your work, and to stand by you. And on behalf of the American people, let me say again, I thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:12 a.m. in the lobby of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers of The Netherlands

January 4, 1994

The President. It's a great honor for me to welcome Prime Minister Lubbers here today. As I'm sure all of you know, he is one of the senior statesmen in Europe, and he has been a great ally of the United States. We've worked together very closely on issues of international security, issues of European security, trade, and economic issues. His nation is one of our larger trading partners, has had a very constructive attitude about that, and of course, I think, the third biggest investor in the United States. So, our relationship with The Netherlands is very, very important. And I'm glad to have him here today, and I look forward to the visit we're about to start.

Eastern Europe and NATO

Q. Mr. President, why do you seem to be having trouble generating enthusiasm for the

Partnership For Peace among Eastern European nations?

The President. As you remember, when they all came here, all the leaders of the Eastern European countries came here for the dedication of the Holocaust Museum, they were looking for ways to become more identified economically and militarily or at least in terms of security issues with the West, and NATO seemed to be an easy way or a clear way to do it. But we're not closing the door on that. What we're trying to do is to open the door to a developing relationship and to do it in a way that is consistent with what all the European nations have indicated they were willing to do at this time and also to do it in a way that doesn't divide Europe.

I think General Shalikashvili, who, as you know, was a child in Poland, spoke about that today. We're trying to promote security and sta-

bility in Europe. We don't want to do anything that increases tensions. I think that what we have decided to do will work if the Eastern European nations will make the most of it, and I hope they will.

Q. Do you think they just don't understand the concept well enough? I'm referring specifically to the President of Poland today.

The President. Yes, President Walesa. Well, you know what he said today in his interview. I think that that's why I'm going to see him. I'm going to Prague to see them, and we're going to talk about it. And Ambassador Albright and General Shalikashvili are both going to Eastern Europe ahead of me, and we're going to work hard to try to make everybody feel good about this approach. I think it's what our NATO partners want to do, and I think that it's a good beginning.

Q. How long does the evolutionary approach take?

The President. We don't know. We'll just have to see how it goes.

Q. Do you have a hope that all the nations of Europe eventually will be a part of NATO, including Russia?

The President. Well, I have a hope that all the nations of Europe will eventually be clearly and unambiguously committed to a peaceful and stable, secure Europe where the nations respect each other's borders. And I think we're working toward that.

[At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.]

Visit of Prime Minister Lubbers

Q. Mr. President, did you invite Mr. Lubbers to come to the White House because you expect him to be the next President of the European Community and successor of Jacques Delors?

The President. No, I invited him to come to the White House because he is already one of the leading statesmen in Europe and because our two nations have had a very strong relationship. We've worked together on matters of European and international security, on matters of trade and economic growth. There is a very large investment in this Nation from The Netherlands. We feel very good about our relationship. We met a couple of years ago, but we've not had a chance to visit since I've been President. So, that's why I asked him.

Europe

Q. Mr. President, Dutch politicians are afraid your administration is losing its interest in Europe. Is that a correct observation?

The President. No. I'm going to Europe three times this year to try to allay that. I asked for this NATO summit so that we could get together and talk about the future of NATO, our common security future. I intend to make it very clear that as long as I am President, we will maintain a strong military position in Europe and a strong support for NATO. One of the reasons that I asked General Shalikashvili to be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is that he had just come from being the Supreme Commander in Europe and the commander of our forces there. And of course, I worked very hard to get the GATT round completed, along with Prime Minister Lubbers. So, we've done this together.

I think our economic and our security ties to Europe are as critical as they've ever been. And I hope that the opportunities that I'll have on this trip and again at the G-7 meeting with Naples and in-between, when I go back to commemorate the—and at least three different nations—the 50th anniversary of the events that brought an end to World War II, that all those things will reassure the people of your nation and of Europe about the United States intentions.

Q. [Inaudible]—to expand the NATO, you seem to have another opinion, right?

The President. No, I'm not against expanding NATO. I just think that if you look at the consensus of the NATO members at this time, there's not a consensus to expand NATO at this time, and we don't want to give the impression that we're creating another dividing line in Europe after we've worked for decades to get rid of the one that existed before. What we want is a secure Europe and a stable Europe. And I think that the proposal that I put forward would permit the expansion of NATO, and I fully expect that it will lead to that at some point.

Q. A part of the feeling of neglect in Europe is that there is not really a response of the State Department, from the European Bureau, to discussions with the diplomats here. They feel that inadequate. Are you aware of that, and what's your comment on that?

The President. No, I'm not, so I can't have a comment.

O. [Inaudible]

The President. I'm going to go see them next week and try to convince them that—[inaudible]—and I hope that I can. I have a very high regard for them. I'm going to see them next

week. Ambassador Albright and General Shalikashvili are going ahead of me just in the next few days. So we're going to work very hard with them and see what we can do.

NOTE: The exchange began at 5:10 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Nomination for Ambassador to New Zealand and Western Samoa

January 5, 1994

The President announced today that he intends to nominate Josiah Beeman to be the U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand and to Western Samoa.

“Josiah Beeman’s career has been marked by both accomplishment and concern,” said the

President. “He will serve our country well as Ambassador.”

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Nomination for Director of the United States Geological Survey

January 5, 1994

The President announced today that he intends to nominate Gordon P. Eaton to be the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior.

“Gordon Eaton is a highly respected earth scientist with a strong understanding of the

workings of the USGS,” said the President. “I believe he will do a fine job as Director.”

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Statement on the Death of Thomas P. O’Neill, Jr.

January 6, 1994

The Nation mourns the loss of our beloved former Speaker of the House, Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill, Jr.

As U.S. House Speaker, Tip O’Neill was the Nation’s most prominent, powerful, and loyal champion of working people. He loved politics and government because he saw how politics and government could make a difference in people’s lives. And he loved people most of all—his neighbors, his constituents, and his family.

Last fall, Tip was generous to me with his advice and his stature when he joined our effort to win approval of the North American Free

Trade Agreement. His stand moved me, because working people had been the cause of his long and colorful career, and in his heart he knew that more open trade would mean a better quality of life for working Americans.

On a day of sadness for my family and Tip’s, Hillary and I wish his wife, Millie, and their family our deepest sympathies for a husband and a father now gone and for a beautiful life well lived.

NOTE: The related proclamation is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.