

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

Balkan Peace Process

Q. President Clinton, what mechanisms are you going to use in Dayton, Ohio, to convince the Serbian side that the reintegration of Eastern Slovenia is the only solution?

President Clinton. Well, first of all, the United States is hosting these talks along with our Contact Group partners—the Germans, the British, the French, and the Russians—to give the leaders the opportunity to come here to make their own peace. And we will do whatever we can to be useful in that regard. But my position is that we have to seize this moment. This is by far the best chance we have had because

of the circumstances on the ground and because of the resolve of the international community, because of the diplomatic mission. And we have to seize this moment and resolve these issues. And I believe it can be done diplomatically if all the leaders proceed in good faith. And I have no reason to believe they won't.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:30 p.m. in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel prior to meeting with President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia. In his remarks, he referred to President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters in New York City Prior to Discussions With President Jiang Zemin of China

October 24, 1995

China-U.S. Relations

Q. President Jiang, are you still hoping for a promise from President Clinton that the Taiwan President will not be allowed to visit America again?

President Jiang. We will discuss this issue. We will—[inaudible]—discuss this issue.

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

Q. Mr. President, will human rights be an issue in your talks today with President Jiang?

President Clinton. We'll talk about a lot of things, but we're just meeting. We haven't even had a chance to say anything yet, but we'll give you a report later.

Q. Mr. President, with symbolism being so important with these kind of meetings, why would you allow the Chinese to dictate the

meeting place so they could avoid confronting a Tiananmen Square display?

President Clinton. The important thing is that we're going to have this meeting. It's very important. And we'll have it. It'll be a good exchange. And then afterwards we will report about it.

Q. Well, what is the purpose of this meeting, Mr. President? Is it a face-saving gesture on both sides?

President Clinton. No. These are two great countries that have a real interest in maintaining a constructive dialog with each other and, wherever possible, a partnership.

NOTE: The exchange began at 3:05 p.m. at the Lincoln Center. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.