

The President. I think we ought to give the new Prime Minister a chance to put his government together and develop a policy. We have—we've been pushing all over the world for democracy. And democracy means the people who vote get to determine who governs. That's what democracy means. Now, he said some very encouraging things to me on the phone and indeed in the election—in the 2 weeks leading up to the election.

I think it's obvious—if you look how closely divided the people of Israel are, I think that you could say an enormous number of the supporters of Prime Minister Peres wanted security as well as peace, and an enormous number of

the supporters of Prime Minister-elect Netanyahu wanted peace as well as security. I think that that's what that close election means. It's a difficult environment, a tough neighborhood. There's a lot of history there. But he says he wants to continue the process. And I think that—I hope that the friends of peace in the Arab world will continue to be committed to that.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister-elect of Israel, and King Hussein I of Jordan.

Statement on Arms Reduction Agreements With Russia and Ukraine *June 1, 1996*

Ukrainian President Kuchma has announced that all nuclear warheads have been removed from the territory of Ukraine. This is a remarkable achievement. In 1991, there were more than 4,000 strategic and tactical nuclear warheads in Ukraine. Today there are none. I applaud the Ukrainian Government for its historic contribution in reducing the nuclear threat. When the Presidents of Ukraine, Russia, and I signed the January 1994 Trilateral Statement on this issue, we looked forward to a day that has now arrived.

The trust and cooperation the United States and Ukraine have established in resolving this issue are a cornerstone of a broad and productive relationship. Ukraine has embarked on a bold course of political and economic reform, laying the foundations for democracy and a market economy. We remain committed to supporting Ukraine through its ambitious and far-sighted reforms and to working with Ukraine and our European partners to promote Ukraine's integration into the European community.

I also want to note the fact that both the United States and Russia are ahead of the reduction schedule provided for in the START I Treaty. To date, the United States has eliminated 750 strategic nuclear delivery vehicles, and about 800 strategic nuclear delivery vehicles in the former Soviet Union have been eliminated, including more than 700 in Russia. The Cooper-

ative Threat Reduction (Nunn-Lugar) program has played a major role in the elimination of these weapons in the former Soviet Union and in the denuclearization of Ukraine.

I have asked Secretary Perry to meet next week with his Ukrainian and Russian counterparts, Ministers Shmarov and Grachev, and mark the successful implementation of the Trilateral Statement by visiting a destroyed ICBM silo and a former nuclear weapons storage facility in Ukraine. In doing so, they will celebrate another important step in making the world safer for us all.

On this day of important milestones, I also welcome the agreement that was reached today in Vienna by the 30 nations party to the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty. This agreement resolves a difficult problem that had arisen concerning the level of Russian and Ukrainian military equipment allowed on the northern and southern flank of the CFE region.

This agreement is the culmination of 2 years of negotiations led by the United States. I congratulate all parties, including our NATO allies, Russia, Ukraine, and the states of the Caucasus and Central and Eastern Europe, for their hard work, cooperation, and dedication to preserving the integrity and effectiveness of this crucial treaty.

The CFE Treaty is a key element of a new, more stable Europe. The treaty has resulted in

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the destruction of over 50,000 tanks, armored combat vehicles, artillery pieces, combat aircraft, and attack helicopters. It has also established

a system of transparency measures which will increase confidence through on-site inspections, notifications, and information exchanges.

Statement on the Tornado in Kentucky

June 1, 1996

Last Tuesday many of you felt the real-life trauma caused by a powerful tornado. Many of your homes were damaged or destroyed. We have already begun to help you as you recover from this terrible storm. I have declared that a major disaster exists in portions of Kentucky, and I have directed the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), James Lee Witt, to make sure that Federal as-

sistance is available immediately. FEMA will work with State and local efforts to make sure that help continues with speed and efficiency.

The good people of Kentucky have already begun to help their neighbors recover from this tornado, and I want to assure you that we will do everything we can to continue to do our part to help rebuild the affected communities.

Our hearts and prayers are with you.

Exchange With Reporters

June 3, 1996

Balanced Budget Amendment

Q. Mr. President, Bob Dole is challenging you today to support a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. What do you say to Bob Dole?

The President. That he ought to come back to the budget negotiations and let's balance the budget.

Q. What's wrong with a constitutional amendment, though?

The President. He's pushed off the decision. Why don't we do it right now? We've got all the money we need. We can balance the budget tomorrow; all he has to do is come back to the negotiations. They walked out months ago. They should come back, take the savings we have in common, put it in the grill and, presto, we've got a balanced budget. We still have to

make these decisions. That's what we ought to do.

Q. Do you think he's going to propose cutting taxes, and how would you respond to that?

The President. I don't know about that. I'm just going to work.

President's Health

Q. How are you feeling, and have you picked a new Chief of Naval Operations?

Q. How do you feel?

The President. Great.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:32 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House, prior to discussions with Lech Walesa, former President of Poland. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.