

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister
Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan in Manila, Philippines
November 24, 1996

*Discussions With President Jiang Zemin of
China*

Q. Could you give us your assessment of your meeting with the Chinese leader?

The President. Well, I'm sure you've gotten a report. I think it went very well. It was a good meeting, and I think that the next steps were appropriate.

Q. You're looking forward, then, to going to Beijing?

The President. Very much.

Discussions With Prime Minister Hashimoto

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, the last time you met with Mr. Clinton, you gave him a saxophone. What are you going to do this time to make him happy? [*Laughter*]

The President. And I played it, too.

Prime Minister Hashimoto. What should I do about that? I think you're giving me more difficult questions than you're giving to the President. Well, it's a diplomatic secret. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The exchange began at 1:58 p.m. at the Central Bank. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President
Kim Yong-sam of South Korea in Manila, Philippines
November 24, 1996

President Clinton. Hello, Mr. President.

President Kim. Congratulations on your victory. I was assured of your victory much in advance. [*Laughter*]

President Clinton. You knew about it before I did, then.

Japan-U.S. Trade

Q. Mr. President, did your meeting with Prime Minister Hashimoto produce any expectation of reducing the trade imbalance?

President Clinton. We've made a lot of progress in the last 4 years. And we spent a lot of time on trade in that meeting, and he reaffirmed his willingness to resolve the remaining disputes between us. But if the economy keeps growing in Japan, that should help us reduce the trade imbalance.

Korean Peace Process

Q. Mr. President, are you optimistic that perhaps the four-way talks that were proposed can actually get underway?

President Clinton. Well, we're going to talk about that.

Q. But didn't you talk about it in your meeting with the Chinese leader?

President Clinton. Absolutely, I did.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:19 p.m. at the Central Bank. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan and President Jiang Zemin of China.