

SFOR's limited and focused mission is to consolidate the peace that IFOR successfully established and maintained. During the past 12 months, IFOR separated and ensured the demobilization of former warring factions. It provided the secure conditions in which democratic elections could be held and the reconstruction of Bosnia's shattered economy could begin. IFOR succeeded in bringing an end to a war that threatened stability in Europe. Now, by preventing the parties from sliding back into armed conflict and providing more breathing space for political and economic efforts to take hold, SFOR will help Bosnians assume full responsibility for their future—a future without an outside military presence.

As the leader of NATO and the principal architect of the Dayton peace, the United States must continue to lead in this new mission to

consolidate the peace in Bosnia. At the same time, our European allies are sharing the responsibility for building long-term stability. The European Union is the leading donor to the economic reconstruction effort and shoulders the burden of helping Bosnia's refugees. Europe will also contribute a greater share of the troops for SFOR than it did for IFOR, with the U.S. providing less than half of what we provided for IFOR.

SFOR's mission will last 18 months. Every 6 months we will review and consult with Congress on whether stability can be maintained with fewer forces. By helping the Bosnian people build a peace that is self-sustaining, SFOR will also help advance our fundamental goal of building a Europe that is peaceful, undivided, and democratic.

Remarks Following a Briefing on the Television Rating System and an Exchange With Reporters *December 19, 1996*

The President. Let me begin by saying that, as all of you know, that the Vice President and Secretary Riley and members of the White House staff and I have just met with Jack Valenti and Eddie Fritts and Decker Anstrom.

I want to thank the industry leaders for the television rating system which they have proposed today. Earlier this year, in February, I asked them to do this. They said that they would and that they would do it by January 1st. They are on time, and they have done what they said they would do. And they are going to give America's families more help in choosing appropriate television programming for their children.

Now, it is now appropriate to say that it is the personal responsibility of the family, first of all, to make use of this system. In a year, you know, the new televisions will have these V-chips, but for right now there will be other ways that the industry will work to make available the information to parents. They have to use it. They have to evaluate it, and then they have to communicate back to the industry how they feel. Do they like it; do they not like it; where is it inadequate; what suggestions they have for changes. As this system is implemented,

the ball will plainly be in the court of the parents of America to make the most of this and to actually give feedback about it.

I would also like to say that at the request of the Vice President, the industry has agreed to make a systematic effort to get the continuous parental input and evaluation so that they will know how this system is going down, to what extent it's being used, and how it's being received by the parents of this country.

So I feel that this is a very important step forward. Over the next several months the industry has agreed that they will review their findings and the reactions to what they're doing. I think that's a very positive thing.

And I want to thank the Vice President for what he has done and ask him to say a word or two. And then if you have any questions, we'll try to answer them.

[At this point, the Vice President made brief remarks.]

Q. Mr. President, are you then leaving open the possibility that at some future time the administration might agree with the parents' groups who want this rated by content?

The President. No, what I—let me reformulate the question in a way—what I’m saying is, and I don’t think the industry disputes this, I have no idea if this is the very best system that could be devised. I do believe it’s a huge step forward over what we have now, which is nothing. And this issue has been debated, as I said the other day, for years and years and years. Now finally something significant has been done.

You know what the argument is. The argument is, should these rating systems be age-related or should they be content-specific? If you think about the literally hundreds and hundreds, maybe thousands and thousands of programs that are on all the stations available, on all the cable channels, as well as all the networks every week, it seems to me that organizing them by age and then letting parents use the system and seeing how it works and giving feedback—if the consensus is reached down the road that there ought to be more content in the rating system, it will be a lot easier to do and to know what the content indicators mean once you group these programs in an age-based way.

So that’s what—it was not for me to do. We’ve been very circumspect here in believing that this is not a Government function; this is a private function. And that’s what we mean by—it’s not up to—in my view, the only thing that I would condemn would have been bad faith. There has been no bad faith here; there’s been an extraordinary effort.

The only point I’m making is, I don’t have any idea if we can make it better. We might be able to make it better. The parents’ group, the advocacy groups deserve to be heard and considered, but we are now doing what I think ought to be done. The industry kind of put the ball in the parents’ court, and then it’s going to systematically, rigorously ask them what they think.

So really I would say this is a great day for the parents of America, because what most parents want is more freedom to raise their children according to their own values and to balance the demands of work and childrearing. And this is a big step forward in helping them do that. Now they have to seize the opportunity. They have to give the industry feedback. And if we get strong feedback that something more could be done, I think it will be a lot easier to take the next step, because in the first in-

stance these programs are going to be grouped in this way. So let’s see what happens.

Hostage Crisis in Peru

Q. Mr. President, could you give us your evaluation of the hostage crisis in Peru at the moment?

The President. Well, obviously, we are keeping up with it very closely, and we’re very concerned about it. We’re concerned about all those who are held hostage. But it’s been my experience in matters like this that—first of all, the Peruvian Government is doing its best and the President, too, to manage this difficult situation in an appropriate way. We are having communications with them. And I think the less any of us around the world say beyond that, the better, because we don’t want to do or say anything that would complicate what is already a very difficult undertaking that we obviously hope will have a good outcome.

Second Term Transition

Q. Do you expect to wrap up your Cabinet announcements tomorrow?

The President. Well, we have, I think, four more announcements to make, and I think we will be making them in a timely fashion. But I don’t want to go beyond that. We’re working very hard on that, you know, every day we’re working on it, and there’s more to come.

Q. That means not tomorrow?

Q. You want to wrap up the week with some announcements, don’t you? [*Laughter*]

The President. Like I said before, you know, this is a partnership between us. It’s Christmas; it’s down time. I need to give you something else to do and help you do your job, and it will help me do mine to get it out of the way. So I’m working on it. I want to do it as quickly as I can, but I don’t want to tie my hands. You understand how this appointments process has developed over the last several years and all the things that have to be done before you can nail down these decisions. But we’re working very hard on it, and I’ll do my best not to disappoint you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:53 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Jack Valenti, president, Motion Picture Association of America; Edward O. Fritts, president and chief executive officer, National Association of Broadcasters; Decker Anstrom, presi-

dent and chief executive officer, National Cable Television Association; and President Alberto

Fujimori of Peru. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Announcing the Second Term Domestic Policy Team and an Exchange With Reporters *December 20, 1996*

The President. Thank you very much. Please be seated.

I thought the era of big Government was over, and then I saw all of these people here. [Laughter]

Let me say as we move into my second term, we have the obligation to continue the progress we have made and to build on it to prepare America for the 21st century with a Government that is smaller but works hard not to abandon people but instead to give them the tools they need to make the most of their own lives and to build strong families and strong communities and a strong America. Today I want to announce the members of my domestic policy team who will make this happen.

Today the Labor Department is more critical than ever as we work to make job training available to all who need it and make sure that employee rights are secure and our workplaces are safe. I am very sorry to lose the services of my old friend Secretary Reich, who has truly made this a Department of the American work force. But I am proud to nominate as Secretary of Labor one of my closest advisers, a talented leader, Alexis Herman, who got her start as a social worker for Catholic Charities on the Mississippi Delta. I first met her in the 1970's when she was Director of the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor, pioneering efforts to give women training and economic opportunity. She has been a successful businesswoman and a leader in efforts to bring minorities into the economic mainstream. And for the past 4 years, as Director of the White House Office of Public Liaison, she has been my eyes and ears, working to connect the American people, business and labor, individuals and communities, with their Government.

I said throughout the campaign that we have to help parents succeed at home and at work and give working people the training they need to succeed in the new economy. For years now,

I have been trying to prevail upon the Congress to consolidate training programs and pass the "GI bill" for America's workers. All these things we must do in the next 4 years. As Secretary of Labor, Alexis Herman will be a true national leader in this mission on behalf of working families.

Let me also say that I considered a number of superbly qualified people for this position. I'd like to mention two in particular and thank them for their willingness to be considered: first, to Congressman Esteban Torres and second, the director of the Corporation for National Service, Harris Wofford, who has done a wonderful job in heading AmeriCorps, which has now enabled 70,000 young people to serve in their communities all across America and which will play a vital role in the next 4 years.

Over the last 4 years Henry Cisneros led a revolution of ideas at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He and his team have spent every day questioning old approaches and searching for new answers. He is my friend, my adviser, someone who has poured his heart into making the American dream of owning a home a reality for all people. Today a smaller and smarter HUD brings more hope and greater opportunities to American communities than ever before, not only in housing but in developing economic opportunities in ways that had not before even been imagined. I think it is not too much to say that he is clearly the finest HUD Secretary who has ever held the position. I will miss him greatly and will continue to rely upon him for his advice and counsel.

I believe that the best person in this country who is today suited to lead HUD into the 21st century is Andrew Cuomo. He has lived and breathed housing and economic development for more than a decade, first at the grassroots as a community housing developer and then as our Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.