

*The President.* We're on a cell phone, but I think we're doing all right. I can hear you fine.

*Coach Chancellor.* Yes. I do appreciate your support of women's athletics in general.

*The President.* Well, I'm strongly supportive of it, and I hope that—like I said, I want you to stay with it, and I'll be supporting you all the way, and congratulate the players for me.

*Coach Chancellor.* I will. They're all in the dressing room, and they will be honored that you have called us.

*The President.* Cynthia had a great game, and any of us who has ever been through a childbirth were awful impressed when Sheryl Swoopes came back to play so quickly.

*Coach Chancellor.* Yes. I'm amazed that she was able to have a child and come back and

play for us. Cynthia's had some great games. This has just been a total team effort for us.

*The President.* Yes. Well, give them my best, and I hope to see you up here someday pretty soon.

*Coach Chancellor.* Okay. I would love to come up there.

*The President.* Thank you, Van.

*Coach Chancellor.* And thank you very much for calling us. I'm very honored.

*The President.* Bye-bye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:50 p.m. from a private residence to the game site at The Summit in Houston, TX. In his remarks, he referred to Houston Comets players Cynthia Cooper and Sheryl Swoopes.

## Remarks in a Telephone Conversation From Martha's Vineyard With the WNBA Second Place New York Liberty

August 30, 1997

*The President.* Hello?

*Maureen Coyle.* We have a couple of people here who want to say hi to you.

*The President.* Oh, great. Congratulations on your season.

*Team members.* Thank you!

*The President.* I can't believe you're all there.

*Ms. Coyle.* Our head coach, Nancy Darsch, wanted to say hey to you.

*The President.* Great.

*Coach Nancy Darsch.* Hey, Mr. President, how are you?

*The President.* I'm fine, Coach. Congratulations on your season.

*Coach Darsch.* Well, thank you. We met this past fall at Ohio State, and I'm glad to say that I've moved on, taken this team to the WNBA championships, and I'm jealous of you being on Martha's Vineyard, my home State.

*The President.* Well, it's beautiful up here, and I tell you, I was really pleased with the way your first season worked out. I saw a lot of the games on television and tried to keep up with you, and I hope that there's a bright future ahead for it. I'm really enthusiastic about it, and I'm very pleased about all that you and all your players have done to keep it going.

*Coach Darsch.* Well, thank you very much. We're very happy that you've followed us and very pleased that you have been able to reach us here tonight.

*The President.* What are you doing? Are you having a party somewhere?

*Team members.* Yes!

*Coach Darsch.* We are having a celebration of our season. We're very proud of the way that we've played this season and of the WNBA inaugural season and also the fact that we all kind of separate here in the near future. So we're having a little get-together, and probably someone here that you are very well familiar with, Teresa Weatherspoon, as well as Rebecca Lobo, would like to say hello to you.

*The President.* Yes, I know them both. [Laughter]

*Teresa Weatherspoon.* What's happening, Mr. President? [Laughter]

*The President.* Well, I wish——

*Ms. Weatherspoon.* This is Teresa Weatherspoon talking to you.

*The President.* I wish I were there with you. How are you doing?

*Ms. Weatherspoon.* I'm doing fine. We're doing much better. We're enjoying ourselves and just happy to be able to say hello to you.

*The President.* Well, I'm proud of your season. I know that you're feeling good, and I think that you've really got the interest of the country going.

*Ms. Weatherspoon.* We're trying. We're trying to be positive role models for young ladies, even for the younger guys. Hopefully we've done some positive things to somehow, somehow have younger girls to want to be like one of us.

*The President.* I think you have. And you've taught a lot of people a lot about defense. [Laughter] I'll tell you, the next time—

*Kym Hampton.* Mr. President, I'm Kym Hampton, the other president, and you've been doing your homework, haven't you? [Laughter]

*The President.* I watch you all on television. I watch you on television.

*Ms. Hampton.* Okay. Well, you know, I can teach them a little bit about defense; you just continue to defend our little country here there, you know?

*The President.* I'll do it. You've got a deal.

*Ms. Hampton.* Well, I appreciate talking to you. Here's Rebecca Lobo.

*The President.* Thanks, Kym.

*Rebecca Lobo.* Hello, Mr. President.

*The President.* Hey, Rebecca. How are you?

*Ms. Lobo.* Great. How are you doing?

*The President.* I'm okay.

*Ms. Lobo.* Thank you very much for taking time out to speak with us.

*The President.* Well, I'm really pleased. I hope you're pleased with your first season, and I hope it continues, because I thought it was great.

I watched several of the games on television from the White House, and I thought they were exciting and good, and I think you've got a real future.

*Ms. Lobo.* Thank you very much. We appreciate it.

*Ms. Weatherspoon.* Can I say one more thing?

*The President.* Sure.

*Ms. Weatherspoon.* Even though we didn't win it all and, you know, normally the winners get the visitation there at your place, can we still come? [Laughter]

*The President.* Yes. You bet. If you want—

*Ms. Weatherspoon.* Because in our own right we're still champions.

*The President.* [Inaudible]—if you want to come down here and have a tour, I'd be glad to have you down here.

*Ms. Weatherspoon.* We're coming! [Laughter]

*The President.* All right.

*Team member.* You are one of a kind, aren't you, honey? [Laughter]

*Ms. Coyle.* Mr. President, this is Maureen Coyle again. I'm actually going to hold your scheduling people to that.

*The President.* All right. We'll do it. We'll set up a tour.

*Ms. Coyle.* Thank you very much.

*Team members.* Thank you.

*The President.* Goodbye. Thanks.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:53 p.m. from a private residence to the game site at The Summit in Houston, TX. New York Liberty director of public relations Maureen Coyle and players Teresa Weatherspoon, Kym Hampton, and Rebecca Lobo participated in the conversation.

## Remarks on the Death of Princess Diana and an Exchange With Reporters in Martha's Vineyard

August 31, 1997

*The President.* Good morning. Let me say again how very sad Hillary and I are about the terrible accident that has taken the life of Princess Diana and the others who were with her. We liked her very much. We admired her work for children, for people with AIDS, for the cause of ending the scourge of landmines in

the world, and for her love for her children, William and Harry.

I know that this is a very difficult time for millions of people in the United Kingdom who are deeply shocked and grieving, and the American people send their condolences to all of them. We value their friendship, and we understand this great and painful experience.