

day—[laughter]—and I expect my popularity to soar as a result of it. [Laughter] And we thank him so much.

I also want to say, I know we're all thinking about Sergei Mnatsakanov. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and with his family.

Now let me thank the entire team for letting us borrow the Cup to display here at the White House. You've earned it, and I don't expect you to give it up without a fight. So congratulations on your victory, and good luck in 1998.

Thank you. And now I'd like to introduce Senator Levin. Thank you very much.

*[At this point, Senator Carl Levin and Denise Ilitch-Lites made brief remarks, followed by Coach Scotty Bowman, who made brief remarks and presented the President with a miniature Stanley Cup replica with the President's name engraved on it.]*

*The President.* Oh, thank you. *[Inaudible]*

*[At this point, Steve Yzerman made brief remarks and presented the President with a personalized Red Wings jersey.]*

*The President.* Oh, isn't it great? Thank you. Thank you so much. Bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:16 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gary Bettman, commissioner, National Hockey League; Red Wings owners Mike and Marian Ilitch, and their children, Denise Ilitch-Lites, Ronald Ilitch, and Lisa Ilitch-Murray; Debbie Dingell, wife of Representative John D. Dingell; former Senator Donald W. Riegle, Jr.; former Gov. James J. Blanchard of Michigan; Mayor Dennis W. Archer of Detroit; and Red Wings defenseman Vladimir Konstantinov and team masseur Sergei Mnatsakanov, both of whom were seriously injured in an automobile accident a few days after the Stanley Cup finals in June 1997.

## Statement on the Japan-United States Civil Aviation Agreement January 30, 1998

I am pleased that the United States has reached a landmark agreement with Japan that will dramatically increase air service between our countries. This agreement will expand a \$10 billion market that services nearly 12 million passengers and carries well over 1 billion pounds of cargo each year. It will allow more U.S. cities to have direct service to Japan and give U.S. airlines extensive new rights to fly into and beyond Japan. This increased competition means more choices for American business travelers and tourists alike.

Like our agreements on telecommunications and financial services, this aviation agreement reflects my policy of opening the world's mar-

kets in areas where American companies are most competitive. In aviation alone, we have already concluded far-reaching agreements with Germany, Canada, and 20 other nations. Along with today's agreement, these pacts are moving international aviation into a 21st<sup>o</sup> century where consumer needs, not governments, will determine where and how often passenger and cargo planes travel.

I want to thank Secretaries Albright and Slater and the negotiators at the Departments of State and Transportation for their sustained efforts in reaching this historic agreement.

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<sup>o</sup> White House correction.