

The President. Well, I have only made about 10 calls, but of course, Secretary Cohen and Mr. Podesta have been back there, and they've been talking to more. My sense is that the Congress, even though we are heavily committed in the Balkans and elsewhere, will support a mission if we are there in a clearly supportive capacity, if we're talking about a few hundred people, not thousands of people on the ground, and the work we've been asked to do is actually work that a mission like this would need America to do the airlift, some of the internal transportation, the communications, the intelligence, some of the engineering work. These are things that, because of the size of our military, we are uniquely positioned to do.

And I stopped off in Hawaii, talked to Admiral Blair, our commander in chief in the Pacific, and he had been having very detailed conversations with the Australians. That's what we understand they're asking for. It would be a matter of a few hundred people, and I think we could do that.

Indonesian Response to United Nations

Q. Mr. President, how much trouble are the Indonesians making for the Security Council about the Australians leading—[inaudible]?

The President. Well, I know there was a statement yesterday by an Indonesian official, but we do not understand that to be the official position. So, so far, no trouble has been made. I hope that there won't be any. I think that we have tried to make it clear that we would welcome the cooperation with the Indonesian forces if they would work with us; they would be in a position to do some things there to

help facilitate this mission. But I do not believe they should be able to dictate the composition of it once having acknowledged that the United Nations should come in.

Australian Leadership in East Timor

Q. Is Australia's leadership nonnegotiable—[inaudible]?

The President. Well, that's, of course, for the U.N. to decide, but as far as I'm concerned, I'm quite comfortable with it and strongly supportive of it. Keep in mind, they are willing to provide what, in all probability, will be more than half of the total force needed.

We have a high regard for their abilities. We train with them. We work with them. We know that they can do this job, and in so doing, they make it possible for large numbers of other nations to participate who can make only more modest contributions. It's easier for New Zealand, for Malaysia, for the Philippines, for Korea, for any number of other countries to send in troops according to their ability to do it, knowing that there will be a large and very well-trained and led anchor force there. So the Australian commitment makes possible the effective commitments of a lot of other countries, just as our airlift capacity does.

So I would hope we can stick with it, and I think we will. I feel good about it.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:55 a.m. at the Stamford Plaza Hotel prior to departure from Auckland, New Zealand. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Jennifer Shipley of New Zealand; and President Jiang Zemin of China.

Exchange With Reporters in Queenstown, New Zealand
September 14, 1999

Q. How's your golf game today, Mr. President? Did it improve as you went along?

The President. It got a lot better. It had nowhere to go but up when I started. No, we did better, and we won the match, thanks mostly to my partner here. But we did okay. We played the way partners should play. When I had a good score, he didn't; when he had a good score, I didn't play good. We wasted no shots.

Burton Shipley. The President suggested at one stage that we were playing very good brother-in-law golf. I thought the line was very good.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. We did, we actually played the pro and his partner, and we won, and they bought me a Diet Coke. It was a big stake here; it was great.

Q. [Inaudible]—the last hole?

The President. No, we won that, too. All four of us parred all four holes the second time we played.

Mr. Shipley. But we got a couple more strokes.

Situation in East Timor

Q. Are you satisfied with how the talks went in New York today?

The President. What?

Q. It seemed to be positive. It seemed that the Indonesians signed on to what the United States wants.

The President. It appears so. You know, the initial report I got was quite good, but I want to get a detailed briefing about exactly where we are. I think the important thing is to get the force mobilized, get it in in a hurry, and also get the humanitarian aid out there. There are a lot of people still actually in East Timor who need food and supplies, so we've got a lot of work to do.

Hurricane Floyd

Q. What have you heard about the hurricane?

Q. Are you monitoring Hurricane Floyd?

The President. Yes. I talked to Mr. Witt this morning, and he told me he would call me back in about 12, 14 hours and let me know where it was. I've not talked to him since I got up this morning.

Q. It sounds like a monster storm, sir.

The President. Yes, he said it's going to be huge. And we didn't know at the time how many States would be hit for sure. But all the experts think it's going to be a very, very large storm. We'll just have to hope for the best.

President's Visit

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. It's fabulous; it's really quite a wonderful course. It's an honest course. It's a good course. It plays hard, but it's an honest course.

Q. What do you think of Queenstown?

The President. I wish I had weeks to spend here. You know, when we were coming in the airplane, landing, everybody on our plane was just gasping when we saw the landscape. It's just so beautiful. You're all very fortunate.

Q. When are you coming back, Mr. President?

The President. How about next week? [Laughs]

Round of Golf

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. This guy hits the ball further than any person his age I've ever played with, including a lot of the pros I've played—water treatment.

Mr. Shipley. Just not as straight as the pros.

The President. And it's only because his public service has kept him from playing every day that he's not a scratch golfer.

Chelsea Clinton

Q. What did Chelsea do today?

The President. I think she looked around here and went running. I don't think she went caving or anything as great as yesterday.

NOTE: The exchange began at 6:41 p.m. at the Millbrook Resort following a round of golf. In his remarks, the President referred to his golf partner Burton Shipley, husband of Prime Minister Jennifer Shipley of New Zealand; and his opponents, professional golfer John Griffin and publisher Mike Robson. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Memorandum on the Working Group on International Energy September 14, 1999

*Memorandum for the Assistant to the President
for Science and Technology*

Subject: Working Group on International Energy

The report of the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), *Powerful Partnerships: The Federal Role in*

International Cooperation on Energy Innovation, will help advance my Administration's goals for addressing energy-linked economic, environmental, and security challenges. As you point out in the synthesis of the report, our window of opportunity for moving the world off of its