

Week Ending Friday, January 22, 1993

**The President's News Conference
With Canadian Prime Minister Brian
Mulroney at Camp David, Maryland**

January 16, 1993

The President. May I just say how wonderful it is to have the Prime Minister of Canada here with us today. He's a great friend of the United States. The relationship between Canada and the United States is strong. They're a tremendous trading partner. Prime Minister Mulroney has done an awful lot in all ways in cooperating and working with us. Their leadership in many areas of peacekeeping is one that we respect and admire. He was the one that prodded me to do more on environmental legislation.

And so for me and for Barbara, this is a fond farewell as we leave this job. And it's most fitting, in our way of looking at things, that Prime Minister Mulroney and his wonderful family are with us here today. So we're going to talk some business, and then we're going to look around and have a little R&R. The floor is yours, sir. Welcome.

Prime Minister Mulroney. Thank you, George.

Well, we're delighted to be here. The President has pointed out the strength of the Canadian-American relationship. It's, as you know, a huge and a complicated one and not always an easy one. But it indicates the extent to which neighbors can become friends and mutually assisting partners.

Canada is the largest trading partner that the United States has, and you are ours. And so President Bush's visionary initiative in respect to free trade throughout the hemisphere is one part of a very important legacy that he will be leaving.

The Clean Air Act that gave rise to the Canadian-American treaty on acid rain is another very important matter that people in both countries had fought for for literally decades.

And I can tell you that because I happened to be there that his remarkable assembling of the coalition in terms of the Gulf war—

Q. What do you think ought to be done on the Gulf—

Prime Minister Mulroney. —is probably without precedent, certainly in recent decades.

So I'm delighted to have a chance to come by and say hello to the President and the family before he leaves office. And of course, he'll always have a friendship and the respect of Canadians.

Iraq

Q. Are you with him now in this current standoff with Iraq?

Prime Minister Mulroney. Yes, I am.

Canada-U.S. Trade

Q. Prime Minister, you said there would be structural changes in the relationship between Canada and the U.S. to avoid some of the trade irritants when you were last here and met with the President. Do you think they'll survive the new administration, or will you have to work to put them in place again?

Prime Minister Mulroney. Well, I think we have to—we have to work hard at trade at all times. It's a difficult matter because it affects jobs sometimes in both countries, and so it's not easy. And we're going to have to work hard to maintain this relationship, as we did in the past. Fortunately, in the past, we had a friend in the White House, and I suspect that will be the case in the future. Governor Clinton understands and has told the President—

The President. That's right.

Prime Minister Mulroney. —and told me of his recognition of the great importance of Canada as a trading partner and a friend to the United States.

The President. No question about that. No question about that.

Iraq

Q. Mr. President, what's your response to 'Aziz, Mr. President? Are there any more warnings?

The President. We have no response now. We're interested in knowing what the United Nations response is. There's the United Nations going on with this; it's the United Nations, Dr. Ekeus, that we'll be talking to. And we'll all be talking about that a little later. But his move just was announced, and we'll just have to wait and see how it's regarded. We don't do these things unilaterally. We consult. We'll be able to talk now with the Prime Minister. We'll be talking with others as well, I think, during the course of this afternoon.

Q. Mr. Prime Minister—

[At this point, a question was asked and answered in French, and a translation was not provided.]

Canadian Elections

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, after a week of reflection, have you decided that you will definitely lead your party into the next election?

Prime Minister Mulroney. I've already spoken to that issue in the year-enders in Canada, and I've got nothing further to add.

Canadian Ambassador

Q. What signal did you hope to send to the Americans with the appointment of General de Chastelain? Was there a message in it in terms of the role and expanded relationship we want with the United States?

Prime Minister Mulroney. No. He's just an outstanding Canadian, a remarkably talented man who can do a very good job for Canada in Washington at a crucial moment. And he's held in very high regard. In fact, he'll be here this afternoon at Camp David.

The President. Yes, I'm looking forward to that.

Q.—push them on the U.N. or other matters?

Prime Minister Mulroney. Well, we're not pushing anybody. He'll be there to defend our interests.

President's Diary

Q. Mr. President, on your diary, do you think you got a fair shake?

The President. I don't like any stuff about that.

Prime Minister Mulroney. Helen [Helen Thomas, United Press International], what we want to do is read your diaries. *[Laughter]* That's what I'm waiting for.

[At this point, a remark was made in French, and a translation was not provided.]

Prime Minister Mulroney. I'm going to read them, Helen, I tell you.

Haiti

Q. —tighten the net around Haiti as a favor to Clinton?

The President. I don't think of that as a favor to Clinton. I will say this for the Clinton security team, and I'm sure General Scowcroft would agree with this: There's been extraordinarily good cooperation. I determined early on that from our end the transition would go well on these important issues. I think he made the same determination. And so there's nothing being done to kind of look like we're doing something that wouldn't be done, as if it were one team running the show.

Q. But do you resent the fact that he insulted your Haiti policy during the campaign, and now he's adopted it?

The President. No, I don't resent anything. It's a funny thing. I'm in a mood where I don't have any resentment in my heart. *[Laughter]* It's not ever—I can tell you guys. *[Laughter]*

Transition

Q. He doesn't think the transition's going well because you're not leaving anyone to hold over for a few weeks to—

The President. I think we're following what they want. They want to have the decks cleared. They—remember all the stories you people wrote about—what was it? Calling—how was it? It wasn't rat-holing, but it had a lovely term like kind of people wedging their way into the bureaucracy so they could be employed. What we've done is follow the agreement—so to clear the decks with those, those people who were not civil service. And that's what an outgoing administration should

do. So if they want somebody to stay, they're welcome to ask them, of course.

Canada-U.S. Relations

Q. President Bush, what is your assessment of Canada-U.S. relations as you leave office? Have they improved?

The President. Thumbs up.

Q. Still any problems that have to be worked out?

The President. None. Well, once in a while you can run into a little hiccup, a little bump in the road. But once in a while we've had some trading differences on trading problems. But look, you've got to look at the big picture. And the relationship is outstanding. It's important. I mean, it is vitally important to the United States. It's important today, was yesterday, will be tomorrow. And so it really is fundamentally sound and good and strong.

[At this point, a question was asked and answered in French, and a translation was not provided.]

Iraq

Q. Sir, have we moved back from the brink of military action that you hinted at yesterday?

The President. We're not on the brink or moved back from anything. We're just going to be consulting, and we'll see where we go from there. I wasn't trying to be belligerent. I'm just simply saying they're going to comply with these resolutions, period. And so we'll see.

Q. Well, was it more conciliatory, their response today? Was there any movement?

The President. Well, we're going to talk about it. I mean, I've learned something about this. You don't jump to conclusions until you know all the facts, get all the translation. I heard him. What I heard in English sounded that he was going to let these people in, but we've got to wait and see. I don't know about these conditions and all of that. But those are the things you consult about. He's put some—thrown some conditions on it.

Thank you all.

Prime Minister Mulroney. Thank you very much.

Camp David

Q. How do you feel about leaving Camp David?

The President. Leaving Camp David? Well, I'm not leaving until—[laughter]—Monday night. But Monday night if you ask me, I expect I'd feel sad about that. This has been a wonderful retreat here, and I've sure enjoyed sharing it with friends, domestic and from overseas. And this weekend is going to be pure joy because we've got some good friends here.

Q. What have you got in store for the Prime Minister and his—

The President. A lot of exercise. A lot of exercise. [Laughter]

Q. Are you flying back to Houston without us, sir?

The President. Look for deer.

Q. Are you going to take a press pool to Houston?

The President. No. Oh, I forgot to tell you. On January 20th at noon, I'm through with press pools. We're shifting. It shifts over to the new President. And I'm going back to private life. And it's going to be low key. And it's going to be—there's no point in trying to continue something that isn't. And I'm trying to conduct myself with dignity and hopefully in a spirit of total cooperation with Governor Clinton. No bitterness in my heart. But look, January 20th when I walk out of that Capitol, I'm a private citizen. And I hope I'll be treated as a private citizen by my neighbors in Houston. And I'm not looking to sit at the head table. I'm not looking to have press conferences. I love you guys, especially the photo dogs. [Laughter] But we're not going to—we're going to really shift gears like that. It's going to be interesting.

Q. —on that last ride in the big Government plane?

The President. No, no, no. January 20th it ends at noon. It ends.

Q. I bet you won't be able to do it.

The President. I'm going to try. I'm going to sure try.

NOTE: The President's 142d news conference began at 12:15 p.m. at Camp David. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this news conference.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting the Report on the
National Security Strategy**

January 19, 1993

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with section 603 of the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-433; 50 U.S.C. 404a), I hereby transmit the annual report on the National Security Strategy of the United States.

Sincerely,

George Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Dan Quayle, President of the Senate.

**Statement on the National Security
Strategy Report**

January 19, 1993

Today, as required by the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reform Act of 1986, I signed and forwarded to the Congress the National Security Strategy Report. This report comes at a particularly important time, when the international security environment is in the midst of a turbulent transition and when the continuity of America's engagement and leadership is perhaps more important than ever before. No other nation can provide the same combination of moral, cultural, political, economic, and military leadership. No other has won such confidence, respect, and trust. If we are to seize the opportunities that will be offered and reduce the dangers that will surely confront us in the future, America must lead. We must lead because we simply cannot hope to achieve a more democratic and peaceful future in a world still rife with turmoil and conflict and political or economic isolation. This does not mean we aspire to be the world's policeman or that we can postpone addressing our own domestic imperatives while we devote attention and resources to international demands. It is not an either/or choice. We cannot be strong abroad if we are not strong at home. We cannot be strong at home if we are not strong and engaged abroad.

The National Security Strategy Report acknowledges the diverse political, economic, and military challenges that America faces, as well as the domestic imperatives that define our overall national health. It identifies our enduring national security interests and objectives: the security of the United States as a free and independent nation; global and regional stability; open, democratic, and representative political systems worldwide; an open international trading and economic system; and an enduring global faith in America.

The report acknowledges our political achievements over recent years and outlines both short- and long-term approaches to promote peace and democracy worldwide. It specifically addresses priorities of our bilateral efforts as well as initiatives in multinational and regional organizations designed to influence the future. Emphasizing the now-diminishing distinction between domestic and international economic policy, it identifies the steps necessary for domestic economic renewal, as well as prioritized initiatives to strengthen our international economic competitiveness. It also emphasizes the need to reform U.S. economic institutions and our bilateral development assistance and to expand considerably our efforts in the environment and in space.

Stressing the continued mandate for security through strength, the report defines four enduring and mutually supportive strategic goals: deterrence and the capability to defeat aggression should deterrence fail; strengthening our alliance arrangements and our preference for multilateral action; maintaining stability through forward presence and force projection; and helping to preclude conflict and keep the peace. Most important, the report identifies a strategy for near-term leadership and outlines ways the United States can help influence the future through the United Nations, regional organizations, and alliances.

America has always stood for much more than the sum of its political and economic goals and aspirations. We do care about the world around us, and our contributions are written in history for all to see. We inspire others because of what we have achieved and