President Menem. We have discussed this, and I have told President Clinton what I told Mr. Kantor yesterday. This draft law on patents has been introduced through the Senate to the Argentine Parliament, and we are expecting that it will be passed soon. But the executive power of Argentina has sent this draft law to Parliament.

And on subsidies, this is a subject we discuss constantly not only with the President of the United States but also with the Presidents of the European Community countries since they have taken the more difficult stand on this issue when they are subsidizing agriculture, damaging countries such as Argentina. You must not forget that the amount of subsidies is now exceeding $300 billion. It becomes difficult to compete under these circumstances. And I always tell the people in the United States, the U.S. President, and the Europeans they were the masters in free trade and economic freedom. It is not understandable that they should insist on these attitudes that go against the teachings that they sent to the world at large.

President Clinton. The answer to your question is, just as President Menem said, we discussed the patent protection legislation, and I expressed the hope of the United States that it would pass soon by the legislative body in Argentina.

I also, with regard to agricultural subsidies, pointed out that the United States had reduced agricultural subsidies unilaterally in 1990, that our budget reduces them again this year, and that we strongly support the Blair House accords which were reached last year to reduce agricultural subsidies in the Uruguay round of GATT, and that we are with Argentina on that. Also, having grown up in a farming area, I expressed enormous admiration for the fact that Argentina has the deepest topsoil anywhere in the world. So, if I were in his position, I would be taking exactly the same position. With 20 feet of topsoil he can grow anything and do well.

Yes, one last question, and then we've got to go.

Iraq

Q. Despite what General Powell said, I don't understand why the United States went after the facility at night, rather than going after the intelligence facility during the daytime when the top people were there. And will you take action if the Iraqis go after the Kurds or the Shiites?

President Clinton. I think we’ve made it clear to them what our position is on the second question you asked. The reason we went at night was quite simply that we wanted to make a strong point. We wanted to do as much damage to the facility as we could. We wanted to minimize the loss of human life because of the nature of what actually happened. I think everyone knows what our military is capable of doing. What we needed to show them was that we were fully possessed of the will to do it under these circumstances. And I think we picked the appropriate target, and I think we did it at the appropriate time under these circumstances.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President’s 18th news conference began at 1:50 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. President Menem spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Executive Order 12852—President’s Council on Sustainable Development
June 29, 1993

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. There is established the “President’s Council on Sustainable Development” (“Council”). The Council shall consist of not more than 25 members to be appointed by the President from the public and private sectors and who represent industrial, environmental, governmental, and not-for-profit organizations with experience relating to matters of sustainable development. The President shall designate from among the Council members such official or officials to be chairperson, chairpersons, vice-chairperson, or vice-chairpersons of the Council as he shall deem appropriate. The Council shall coordinate with and report to such officials of the executive branch as the
President or the Director of the White House Office on Environmental Policy shall from time to time determine.

Sec. 2. Functions. (a) The Council shall advise the President on matters involving sustainable development. “Sustainable development” is broadly defined as economic growth that will benefit present and future generations without detrimentally affecting the resources or biological systems of the planet.

(b) The Council shall develop and recommend to the President a national sustainable development action strategy that will foster economic vitality.

(c) The chairperson or chairpersons may, from time to time, invite experts to submit information to the Council and may form subcommittees of the Council to review and report to the Council on the development of national and local sustainable development plans.

Sec. 3. Administration. (a) The heads of executive agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide to the Council such information with respect to sustainable development as the Council requires to carry out its functions.

(b) Members of the Council shall serve without compensation, but shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in the Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707).

(c) The White House Office on Environmental Policy shall obtain funding for the Council from the Department of the Interior or such other sources (including other Federal agencies) as may lawfully contribute to such activities. The funding received shall provide for the administrative and financial support of the Council.

(d) The Office of Administration in the Executive Office of the President shall, on a reimbursable basis, provide such administrative services for the Council as may be required.

Sec. 4. General. (a) I have determined that the Council shall be established in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, except that of reporting to the Congress, which are applicable to the Council, shall be performed by the Office of Administration in the Executive Office of the President in accord with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services.

(b) The Council shall exist for a period of 2 years from the date of this order, unless the Council’s charter is subsequently extended.

(c) Executive Order No. 12737, which established the President’s Commission on Environmental Quality, is revoked.

William J. Clinton


[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:40 p.m., June 30, 1993]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the Federal Register on July 2.

Memorandum on Delegation of Authority on Trade With Japan

June 29, 1993

Presidential Determination No. 93–29

Memorandum for the United States Trade Representative

Subject: Delegation of Authority to Modify or Terminate Title VII Trade Action Taken Against Japan

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including 3 U.S.C. section 301, I hereby delegate to the United States Trade Representative the powers granted the President:

(1) in section 305(g)(1)(A) of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2515(g)(1)(A) (the Act)), to formally identify Japan as a country that discriminates against U.S. products or services in government procurement of construction, architectural, and engineering services; and

(2) in section 305(g)(2) of the Act to impose, modify, or restrict sanctions in response to the discrimination so identified.