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Let me also say while Chairman Shushkevich is here that I am very honored to have him here in the White House. And I want to thank him publicly for the support his country has given to the nonproliferation regime and to START I. We're going to have a good partnership. I look forward to its development. And I very much appreciate the fact that he has come here off of a successful commitment by his nation to be nonnuclear. And it means a lot to the United States and to the world.

Midwest Disaster Assistance

Q. Are you concerned about getting the flood money from the House, sir?

The President. No, not from what I heard about that. I think it's okay.

NOTE: The exchange began at 5:40 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Proclamation 6581—National Veterans Golden Age Games Week

July 22, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Today, as many veterans reach their senior years, they are discovering the benefits of physical fitness and recreational activity. In Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities, recreation has become an established part of the rehabilitation process. VA experience and research show that sports and competitive involvement can be enriching because of their physical benefits and because of their role in enhancing social, emotional, and psychological well-being.

Recognizing the need to establish meaningful activities for a rapidly growing number of aging veterans, the VA established the National Veterans Golden Age Games in 1983. Since then, numerous veterans have boosted their health and aided their rehabilitation through participation in this showcase program. These competitors remind us of the value of continued physical activity throughout a person's life and the physical goals and fulfillment we can achieve, regardless of age. These games demonstrate that age is no barrier to living life to its fullest.

The 7th National Veterans Golden Age Games, being held at Mountain Home VA Medical Center in Johnson City, Tennessee, offers a multi-event program of recreational competition for veterans, aged 55 and over, who are currently receiving VA medical care. Veterans whose military service covers the span of American history from World War I to Vietnam will participate.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 190, has designated July 17, 1993, through July 23, 1993, as ''National Veterans Golden Age Games Week'' and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in its observance.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim July 17 through July 23, 1993, as National Veterans Golden Age Games Week. I urge all Americans to observe the week by remembering our hospitalized older veterans as they struggle to overcome infirmity and disability and to renew their own commitment to personal well-being through healthy recreational activity.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:27 p.m., July 23, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 27.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Meeting With President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti

July 22, 1993

President Clinton held a cordial and constructive meeting this morning with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti. The

meeting lasted about 30 minutes. This was their first meeting since the signing of the so-called Governors Island agreement on July 3, although they spoke by telephone on July 4.

The President commended President Aristide on his signing of the agreement, which establishes a sound timetable for the restoration of democracy and for Aristide's return to Haiti on October 30, just 100 days from now. The President described the agreement as an historic step forward for democracy, economic prosperity, and freedom for Haiti. He reaffirmed that the United States will continue to play a leadership role with the international community in helping foster a better life for the Haitian people.

The President and President Aristide discussed the steps that need to be taken to fulfill the terms of the agreement, including the naming of a new Prime Minister by President Aristide in consultation with members of the Haitian Parliament.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Meeting With Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich of Belarus

July 22, 1993

In an Oval Office meeting, President Clinton today congratulated the head of state of Belarus, Stanislav Shushkevich, for the historic decision his country has taken to join the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The President praised Chairman Shushkevich for the support Belarus has given to the cause of nonproliferation.

The President noted that Belarus is the first of the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union to fully honor its commitments under the Lisbon Protocol to ratify START and accede to the NPT. He applauded this courageous step, stating that under the leadership of Chairman Shushkevich, Belarus has been in the forefront of the global effort to safeguard mankind from the threat of nuclear destruction.

The President announced that this week our countries have signed three agreements providing for $59 million in assistance under the Nunn-Lugar legislation for projects aimed at dealing with the legacy of nuclear weapons in Belarus. We expect to be working closely with Belarus in the near term to develop additional projects.

President Clinton also stressed the strong interest of the U.S. in expanding economic ties with Belarus, particularly in trade and investment opportunities for American and Belarusian firms. He expressed his hope that the U.S. and Belarus will conclude soon a bilateral investment treaty, a tax treaty, and a Peace Corps agreement.

Chairman Shushkevich's visit to Washington represents the President's first official meeting in the United States with the head of state of one of the newly independent states.

Remarks on National Service Legislation and an Exchange With Reporters

July 23, 1993

The President. Good morning, everybody. Before I leave I'd like to make a couple of comments, if I might.

First of all, I was frankly somewhat disappointed yesterday at the delay in the progress of the national service legislation in the Senate. This is one idea that all Americans should be able to agree on. We know we have broad bipartisan support. Several Republican Senators have told us that they like the bill and intend to support it. And I very much hope that next week whatever considerations were moving the Republican Senate toward filibuster will evaporate.

Mr. Segal and all the people supporting national service have worked hard with Republicans and Democrats from the inception of this legislation. We have a very large number of Republican supporters in the House of Representatives, as well as the Democrats, and significant support in the Senate. And this is not the bill to delay. America needs this. It's a very important part of our efforts to open the doors of college education to all Americans and give hundreds of thousands of young Americans over the next few years a chance to serve their country while earning