AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

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

credit against their college costs. I think it's very important that we move on it.

The next thing I would like to say is I'm very encouraged and I have very positive feelings about the progress made in the conference on the budget plan. The conferees are obviously determined to move toward the largest deficit reduction package in history and to do it in a way that promotes growth and jobs. I was quite encouraged that some of the provisions that were agreed on yesterday were those that I think are important to encourage people to invest in new jobs in this country, including the provision long championed by Senator Bumpers to give a significant tax break to people who make investments of 5 years or longer in new businesses and smaller businesses in this country. So I think we're off to a good start on that, and I'm very hopeful about the spirit that is prevailing in the conference today.

Deputy Counsel Vincent Foster, Jr.

Q. Mr. President, do you have any update on the Park Police or the Justice Department on Vince Foster and the investigation?

The President. No. It's just a normal, routine thing that would be done. I don't think anything's going to come out other than what you already know.

Q. What will you say about your friend in Arkansas?

The President. That he was a wonderful person. That I don't think that any of us will ever know exactly why his life ended the way it did. But today I think that we should all determine not to judge his life by the way it ended solely. He was a terrific friend, a great father, a great husband, a great lawyer. He was one of the ablest and best people I ever knew in my life. That's what makes this day the more painful. But we have to accept the fact that there are many things we're not in control of, many things we don't understand, and we have to be grateful for what his life was.

Thank you.

Midwest Disaster Assistance

Q. The floods—what about the funds, and are they playing politics on the flood issue?

The President. Who?

Q. The House?

The President. I don't think we should read too much into that. Let's wait and see what happens next week. There are people in the House that have very strong feelings about the procedures by which matters should be brought to vote and debated, and I think that's what's going on. I wouldn't read too much into that one way or the other. Let's wait and see what they do. I think they'll work through it next week.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:15 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House prior to his departure for Little Rock, AR. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 17

In the morning, the President traveled to St. Louis, MO, where he took a helicopter tour of damage caused by severe flooding.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Little Rock, AR.

July 18

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

July 19

President Clinton declared major disasters exist in Nebraska and South Dakota as a result of severe storms and flooding and ordered the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance to affected individuals and communities in those States.