

to get a peace agreement. They're a little closer than I think it looks, but eventually they're going to have to agree to that or the fighting will go on.

Mr. King. Are you optimistic?

The President. Oh, I've learned not to be optimistic there. I was optimistic a time or two and had my hopes dashed.

Mr. King. —got to take a break.

The President. But the people are still killing each other because they're fighting over land. They're going to have to reach a territorial accommodation so that all three of those ethnic groups can live with a reasonable breathing room there.

Mr. King. We'll be back with our remaining moments with President Clinton right after this.

[At this point, the network took a commercial break.]

The Presidency

Mr. King. We're running out of time. Biggest hope as we enter the second year of the Presidency.

The President. That we can get health care for all Americans.

Mr. King. Biggest fear?

The President. That democracy will face reversal somewhere in the world and dash my hopes of having a more peaceful world that has more trade opportunities and less military dangers for the United States.

Mr. King. Are you happy?

The President. Oh yes, and grateful for the chance to serve and grateful that we're making progress. I know a lot of Americans are still in trouble, and their lives haven't been affected yet, but at least we're facing these tough issues that have been ignored for too long, and everybody here gets up and goes to work every day and works like crazy and I think in a spirit of genuine hopefulness.

Mr. King. Some said that you even like the bad days. I mean, you like this job, right?

The President. I like the job. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve. The bad days are part of it. I didn't run to have a pleasant time. I ran to have a chance to change the country. And if the bad days come with it, that's part of life. And it's humbling and educational. It keeps you in your place.

Mr. King. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you.

NOTE: The interview began at 9 p.m. in the Library at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With King Hussein of Jordan

January 21, 1994

Russia

Q. Mr. President, with the key reformers out of the Russian Government, does that mean that radical reform is over in Russia?

The President. I wouldn't go that far. Already Russia has privatized more rapidly than any of the other former Communist countries. They have a much higher rate of privatization than any of the other countries. But what we're concerned about obviously is whether they will be able to manage their inflation problem. And I think the Secretary of the Treasury said it the best: We're going to support democracy, and we're going to support the fact that Russia respects its relationships with other nations, and those are fundamental to our interest. How much economic help they can get from the international community will be directly related to what kinds of reforms they decide to undertake. And that I think is the best connection. They'll have to make those decisions for themselves.

Q. Mr. President, the reformers who were pushed out were in favor of curbing inflation by cutting subsidies. The people who are staying on are the people who fear unemployment. Which is a bigger threat, and do you favor cutting subsidies or easing the cuts?

The President. As I said, that's a decision they'll have to make. But what we offered to do and what we still offer to do is to try to help set up the sort of job training and unemployment and other systems, support systems, that any market economy has to have. You can't blame them for being concerned about the consequences of going to a market economy if they're not able to cope with them. And they need it, and so do all the other countries. And we're prepared to help do what we can. But they'll have to chart

their course, and then we'll be there to try to be supportive.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Your Majesty, after the signing of the accords, the economic accords between the PLO and the Jordanians and other agreements, how do you see the coordination continuing, and when do you expect to meet with Mr. Yasser Arafat? And how do you see the peace process going in the next peace round, sir?

King Hussein. I believe that—[inaudible]—very, very well and recent developments of—[inaudible]—encouraging. As far as coordinating the Palestinian—[inaudible]. And it's all part of the—[inaudible]—everyone, I believe is, the majority of the people are convinced that this is the time and that you must move rapidly to—[inaudible]. But we're working on our agenda and all the items there, and I hope that the crowning achievement will be a peace treaty.

Q. Can you see a future meeting or a near meeting between Your Majesty and President Yasser Arafat soon and continued coordination?

King Hussein. [Inaudible].

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:15 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Adjustment of the Deficit

January 21, 1994

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

Pursuant to section 254(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended ("Act") (2 U.S.C. 904(c)), notification is hereby provided of my decision that the adjustment of the maximum deficit amount, as allowed under section 253(g)(1)(B) of the Act (2 U.S.C. 903(g)(1)(B)), shall be made.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

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

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.

January 14¹

The President named Michael Gillette as the first Director of the Support Implementation Group (SIG)

January 15

In the morning, the President participated in a formal departure ceremony at St. Georges Hall in Moscow. Following the ceremony, the President and Hillary and Chelsea Clinton traveled to Minsk, Belarus.

Following an arrival ceremony in the late morning, the President met with Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich of Belarus in the Blue Room at the Voyskovoy Four. At the conclusion of their meeting, they participated in a U.S.-Belarus investment treaty signing ceremony.

In the afternoon, the President met with Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich of Belarus in the Blue Room. The President then met with opposition leaders in the upstairs suite at the Voyskovoy Four. Later that afternoon, he went to Victory Square where he placed a wreath at the World War II Memorial.

In the late afternoon, the President went to the Kuropaty Memorial where he participated in a candlelight remembrance ceremony in honor of the thousands of Belarusians who were killed during the reign of former Russian leader Joseph Stalin. Following the ceremony, the President and Hillary and Chelsea Clinton traveled to Geneva, Switzerland.

In the evening, the President met with President Otto Stich of Switzerland at the Intercontinental Hotel.

January 16

In the afternoon, the President attended a reception at the U.S. Mission.

¹ This announcement was not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.