

FED Chairman Alan Greenspan

Q. Mr. President, are you going to reappoint Alan Greenspan, as the New York Times says?

The President. Did they say that? [*Laughter*] To be honest with you, that's very premature. I haven't even given much thought to it, one way or the other. We've had a few other things on the griddle here.

Balkan Peace Process

Q. Speaking of that, Mr. President, do you think you'll have a resolution of support on Bosnia before the treaty signing in Paris next week?

The President. Will we have one? Well, I hope so. I don't know. I'm working on it, but I hope so.

Q. What do you think about half of the House Members signing a letter opposing the deployment?

The President. I hope that both Houses will vote to do it. It's the responsible thing to do, and those who paid any attention to the trip that I made to Europe last week know that all of the people in Europe are looking to see whether the United States will continue our 50-year partnership with Europe for security, will continue our leadership in NATO, and will do our part. They have only asked us to do a part. They, after all, are doing two-thirds of the work on the ground in Bosnia. They have asked us as the leader of NATO and the Alliance to send about a third of the troops. And in every nation I visited, people came up to me and said that America had been able to make peace in Bosnia, and they were desperately hoping we would participate so that we could prevent any kind of a resumption of the slaughter there, prevent the conflict from spreading, and prove that Europe and the United States are still partners for security in the post-cold-war era. I feel far more strongly about it even than I did before I went last week.

It's clear to me that our Nation's ability to work with these European countries on every other security issue—reducing the nuclear threat, fighting terrorism, you name it—depends upon our partnership here. That is the issue of the day for them and for millions and millions and millions of them. And

I think we have to do our part, and I'm going to do what I can to persuade the Congress of that.

Q. Is there any possibility, sir, that the Paris signing next week will slide because of what's going on there?

The President. I know of no plans to delay it. I believe it's going to go forward on time.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:38 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Jose dos Santos of Angola and an Exchange With Reporters
December 8, 1995

Angolan Peace Process

President Clinton. Hello. I'd like to say that I'm very pleased to welcome President dos Santos and his party here to Washington. He's taken some bold steps to move the peace process forward, and we understand this has made possible some changes in our relationship with Angola.

It's obvious that some further things will have to be done in light of the recent cease-fire violations. But we know that President dos Santos is critical to the success of the peace process, and we look forward to a good relationship with a reconciled, peaceful, and stable Angola.

Q. Do you think there can be peace in your country, Mr. President?

President dos Santos. I believe so. But first of all, I would like to thank the—of welcome by President Clinton, to thank also for the kind invitation to visit the United States at this time of year.

I would like to restate our commitment to the peace process. We will do our best for this process to become irreversible, and to—[inaudible]—possible. And we are convinced that with assistance from the United States of America and from the international community in general, peace will be consolidated and a new page will be opened in Angola.

We mark our presence here with you to discuss issues regarding bilateral relations. We are convinced that our visit will serve

to deepen the friendship between the United States of America and Angola and will set up the basis to establish a trade exchange for more investors to go to Angola in order for them, together with us, to launch into the adventure of economic reconstruction and to consolidate peace and national reconciliation.

U.S. Aid to Angola

Q. Will he be asking for aid for his oil industry during his visit, and how much aid will he be asking for if he is?

President dos Santos. We've come to thank you for the assistance that has been given to us, the assistance that has been given to us to maintain peace. But we also intend to go from this phase of assistance to trade and investment. There are sectors whereby we will be together with the United States of America, and one of those sectors is the oil sector, where the big investments from the United States will be. In other words, we want more investment, not only in the oil sectors but in other sectors of our economy which are open.

Government Shutdown

Q. Do you think there's going to be a Government shutdown again?

President Clinton. I certainly hope not. I have done exactly what I've said I'd do. I vetoed the budget that was passed, and then I made an alternative budget, which I presented yesterday, that fulfills the criteria of the resolution: it's a 7-year budget; it protects Medicare, Medicaid, education, the environment; it doesn't raise taxes on working people. That's the commitment that I made, and I hope that it will be taken as a good-faith gesture by the Republicans, and we'll have some further negotiations.

Now, apparently, they're deciding what they want to do. But I have done what I think I should do, and this budget would be good for America. It will balance the budget and keep our commitments to our future, to our children, to our environment, and to the health care system of this country.

Q. Will you try to keep them in session if they close down the Government?

The President. Well, let's see. I think—that is December 8th? We've got a week,

and I think they're waiting for—maybe to do some calibrations of their own on their own numbers. I don't know, but I don't think we should assume that this thing is going to break down. I'm prepared to work as hard as I can to do anything I can to keep working to try to resolve this in a positive way. That's why I presented this budget and why I hope that they will respond in good faith, just as I have.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:41 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. 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.

December 2

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled from Dublin, Ireland, to Ramstein, Germany, and then to Baumholder, Germany.

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton had lunch with American troops of the 1st Armored Division at Baumholder Army Base.

In the early evening, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Ramstein, Germany, and then to Madrid, Spain.

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton toured the Prado Museum in Madrid.

December 3

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton returned to Washington, DC, and in the evening, they attended the Kennedy Center Honors at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

December 5

In the morning, the President met with Bosnian refugee families who have resettled in the United States.