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[*At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.*]

Discussions With Mr. Blair

Q. Mr. President, do you think you'll—[*inaudible*]—the next British Prime Minister?

Mr. Blair. Well, that is not a diplomatic question. [*Laughter*]

The President. If I were in his position that's the question I'd ask. Look, it's all I can do to keep up with American politics. I only hope he's talking to the next American President. [*Laughter*]

Q. Will you be sharing ideas, Mr. President?

The President. Yes, I'm looking forward to discussing a number of things, including, obviously, the Irish peace process and the process in Northern Ireland, which is very important to the United States. And I want to compliment Mr. Blair and his party. I think that the way they have proceeded in this has been very statesmanlike and very much in the interest of his nation and the cause of peace.

Q. And similarities between your two parties as well?

The President. I'll leave that to you.

Mr. Blair. I was saying to the President how immensely helpful people have found his visit to Northern Ireland a few months ago and what a boost it gave to the peace process. And I think that is still there, and it's still helping. I hope we can get it back on track very much.

Q. Mr. Blair, you'll be talking to the President about your own development of——

Mr. Blair. I think we will be talking about many things, Jeremy.

The President. If you give us a chance. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Blair. Quite so. And on that point——

The President. This is a great omen for the peace process. You've got the Americans' greatest Irish reporter here. [*Laughter*] How are you?

Mr. Blair. You're in very good company, Mary.

Q. Is there anything that Mr. Blair can practically do to bring about a revival of the peace talks in Ireland, a truce?

The President. He might have better ideas about that than I do. But the first thing, of course, is that there has to be an election law ratified in the Parliament. But I want to talk to him about it. We'll see what his ideas are.

Q. Do you want all of the parties to participate in the elections and to attend——

The President. Of course. We've always been for all-party talks and all-party participation. That is, all of the parties that are committed to a peaceful democratic future in Northern Ireland.

Q. And do you think Sinn Fein—[*inaudible*]—peaceful democratic future in Northern Ireland?

The President. We have to get back to the conversation here. I've already answered more questions than I meant to. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 10:45 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.

April 6

In the early afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Dover Air Force Base, DE, where they met with the families of those who died in the aircraft tragedy in Croatia. In the evening, they returned to Washington, DC.

April 9

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia.

April 10

In the afternoon, following the funeral of Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown at the National Cathedral, the President and Hillary Clinton attended the burial ceremony

at Arlington National Cemetery, VA. They then returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, the President traveled to Baltimore, MD, where he attended a Democratic National Committee reception at the home of Mayor Kurt Schmoke and a committee dinner at Cave Valley Golf Club. In the late evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to appoint Margaret A. Coil and Geri Marullo to the Federal Salary Council.

April 11

The White House announced that the President has directed the Department of Health and Human Services to release $180 million in emergency Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds for States, territories, and Indian tribes to help families affected by unusually cold winter weather.

April 12

In the afternoon, the President announced the recess appointment of Mickey Kantor as Secretary of Commerce at a meeting with auto executives, workers, and trade representatives on the Japan-U.S. agreement on autos and auto parts. Later, the President participated in a swearing-in ceremony for Mr. Kantor.

The President announced the recess appointment of Yolanda Townsend Wheat of Missouri to be a member of the National Credit Union Administration Board.

The President announced the appointment of Martin A. Kamarck of New York to serve as President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

The President announced the recess appointment of Robert Clarke Brown of Ohio as a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

The President announced the recess appointment of Lowell Junkins of Iowa to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

The President announced the recess appointment of Daniel Guttman of the District of Columbia to be a member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

The President sent to the Congress a request for $250 million in supplemental appropriations for drug law enforcement, treatment, and prevention.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 8

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown's funeral

Released April 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Announcement of 34 finalists for the 1996–97 White House Fellowships

Released April 11

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry and NSC Senior Director for Defense Policy and Arms Control Robert Bell on the African Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on U.S. intention to sign the African Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty

Fact sheet on the African Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty

Transcript of a press briefing by Labor Secretary Robert Reich, Treasury Secretary