

met with our commander in chief there, Admiral Blair, and, obviously, I've talked to Secretary Cohen and General Shelton. What we have been asked to do so far relates to airlift; what countries are going to contribute to troops—someone needs to take them to the theater—relates to transportation, communications, intelligence, and the possibility of some engineering work. All of that would require some presence on the ground in East Timor, but no one has asked us for any combat troops.

Q. Mr. President, these are troops that, by and large, have never worked together before. It's not like the NATO kind of force. Do you see for the United States any kind of coordinating role to keep the peace-keepers together, to have a command structure for them?

The President. We might be asked to provide some help on command and control. But keep in mind, a number of these troops have worked together. There is a group here in this part of the Asia-Pacific region that train together, that work together, that do exercises together. So there is some experience here. But there will be some work to be done, depending on how many countries come on the command and control, and if we're asked to provide some technical assistance there, of course, we'd be willing to help.

Q. Mr. President, how much control will the Indonesians have about the makeup of the force? They've already said that they're uncomfortable with the Australians being the leaders.

The President. Well, that has to be worked out today. But my view is that we should work with the Indonesians in a cooperative fashion. Perhaps they should have some parallel presence even, but they should not be able to say who is in or not in the force and what the structure of the force will be. Otherwise it will raise all kinds of questions about whether there will be integrity in the force and it will also delay the implementation.

The truth is the Australians are willing to carry the lion's share of the role. They're willing to put in a large number of people. They have enormous military capacity. Our people have great confidence in working with them. And so I don't think that we should be in

a position of having this thing delayed for days and days and days over that, and I hope that it won't be when the talks occur today with the Indonesians leadership.

Q. Mr. President, as a practical matter, what's the quickest you think a deployment could occur—24 hours, 48 hours—how quick?

The President. I think we could begin to move quickly, but I think it depends upon the meeting today with the Indonesians. Let's wait and see what happens today, and then you ask me that question either late today or tomorrow, I can give you a more intelligent answer.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:45 a.m. at the Stamford Plaza Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to President B.J. Habibie of Indonesia; and Prime Minister John Howard of Australia.

Statement on the National Bioethics Advisory Commission's Report on Human Stem Cell Research

September 13, 1999

Today my National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) delivered its report on "The Ethical Use of Human Stem Cells in Research." Because of the enormous medical potential of such research, I asked the NBAC in November 1998 to look at the ethical and medical issues surrounding human stem cell research. The scientific results that have emerged in just the past few months already strengthen the basis for my hope that one day stem cells will be used to replace cardiac muscle cells for people with heart disease, nerve cells for hundreds of thousands of Parkinson's patients, or insulin-producing cells for children who suffer from diabetes.

The issues addressed by the NBAC's recommendations are complex and difficult. The Commissioners are to be commended for the thoroughness with which they engaged in this discussion and the national dialog that they facilitated, seeking the views and opinions of virtually every segment of our society, including scientists, patients, scholars from most of the major religions in the United States, lawyers, philosophers, ethicists, and the public.

I want to thank Dr. Harold Shapiro, Chairman of the NBAC, and other Commissioners for a thoughtful report that will contribute significantly to the efforts of my administration as we establish the highest ethical standards for the conduct of human stem cell research.

The Auckland Challenge: APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration

September 13, 1999

We, the Economic Leaders of APEC, celebrate here in Auckland ten years of unprecedented cooperation in our region, in pursuit of a vision of stability, security and prosperity for our peoples. We shall continue to exercise leadership to reach our goals and to meet the challenge we have set ourselves.

We welcome the improved performance and prospects of our economies since we last met, and commend the actions taken to reform those economies affected by the crisis. The cooperative growth strategy we adopted in Kuala Lumpur, and sound macroeconomic policies in key economies, have supported the restoration of confidence and growth, and have allowed us to share growing confidence about our prospects.

We are not complacent about the risks that might impede recovery and sustainable growth and we will sustain the momentum for reform. Continued multilateral and bilateral support is still important. We welcome and endorse the efforts of Ministers through the year in pursuit of APEC's goals. As Leaders, we accept responsibility for resisting protectionism, opening markets further, and addressing structural and regulatory weaknesses that contributed to the economic downturn from 1997. We will achieve this by strengthening our markets through regulatory reform and enhanced competition and by improving the international framework governing trade and investment flows. To this end we commit to the launch of a new Round of negotiations in the World Trade Organisation.

All people in our communities have a stake in the success of APEC. We want to ensure they achieve their full potential for improved economic and social well being. We particu-

larly welcome the more active participation of women and business in APEC's work this year.

Supporting Growth through Strong and Open Markets

Improved competitiveness through ongoing reform is the road to recovery and sustainable growth. Through APEC, we seek to expand opportunities for business and employment growth, build strong and open markets and ensure that our communities and economies can participate successfully in the international economy. Open, transparent and well-governed markets, both domestic and international, are the essential foundation of prosperity and enable enterprises to innovate and create wealth.

We will strengthen our markets by:

- providing greater transparency and predictability in corporate and public sector governance
- enhancing the role of competition to improve efficiency and broaden participation by enterprises
- improving the quality of regulation and the capacity of regulators to design and implement policies for sustainable growth
- reducing compliance costs and facilitating business growth
- building a favorable regional and international environment for free and fair competition

In reconfirming our commitment to achieve the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment by 2010/2020, we endorse the attached APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform. These principles provide a core part of the framework for strengthening our markets which will better integrate individual and collective actions by APEC economies to achieve those goals.

We accept Ministers' proposals for an initial work programme to strengthen markets. This gives priority to strengthening market infrastructure and human capacity in our economies and enterprises, especially in developing economies. It also calls for specific implementation strategies in areas such as natural gas and e-commerce. We call upon