

depend more for our protection on theories of deterrence than technologies of defense. Well, thank God that when those Scuds came in, the people of Israel and Saudi Arabia had more to protect them than some abstract theory of deterrence.

You just go over to Riyadh or Tel Aviv. And a theory didn't protect those citizens. Patriot missiles born of technology did. Because of science and technology, because of American creativity, thousands of innocent civilians—priceless human lives—have been spared. The Patriot and other missiles show how American innovation stems from American inspiration.

If the cause of peace is to continue being served by American military power, it must continue being advanced by American brain power. Ask our troops in the Gulf—yes, those finest soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, coastguardsmen any nation has ever had. Today, all of us are especially grateful that 10 coalition POW's, including several Americans, are on their way back home. And our remaining POW's should not be far behind. Welfare of our troops was our top priority in the war. And as we forge a new peace, all of them will be on our minds until all of them are back home. Each of these brave men and women know how science and technology brought closer freedom's ultimate victory.

Ask, too, those other great heroes, our teachers. Each day they give perhaps the greatest gift of sharing their knowledge with others. And ask, finally, America's students and parents. They know that while learning is very practical, it is also among mankind's most noble endeavors. It can presage a new golden age—a bold, new world order where

creativity flows more than ever from the human heart and mind.

Over the past half-century, scientific breakthroughs have benefited us all. From the first radar to pioneering advances in shock and burn treatment, to the revolutionary laser, to the high-tech of today, America's scientists have done their duty, as they will in the future, helping us not merely to prevail at war but also, more importantly, to win the peace.

What a magnificent legacy for the Westinghouse Science Talent Search. What a magnificent metaphor for the dream that is America. Thank you for all you do. Congratulations to each and every one of you. Please continue—I would ask this of all of you—to pray for our sons and daughters in the Gulf and for peace—lasting peace in that troubled corner of the world.

God bless you all, and thank you very much.

Note: The President spoke at 7:28 p.m. in the International Ballroom of the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his opening remarks, he referred to Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis L. Sullivan; John H. Sununu, Chief of Staff to the President, and his wife, Nancy; D. Allan Bromley, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology; Glenn Seaborg and E.G. Sherburne, Jr., chairman and president of Science Service; Paul Lego, chairman and chief executive officer of Westinghouse Electric Corp., who introduced President Bush; Carol Luszcz, program director for the Westinghouse Science Talent Search; Msgr. Louis Quinn of Saint Matthew's Cathedral; and Ira Flatow, president of Samanna Productions, Inc.

Remarks at a Briefing on Extension of the Fast Track Trade Negotiation Authority

March 5, 1991

One interrupts Carla at their own risk. [Laughter] But that gives me a good lead-in to express my confidence in our USTR, in our Trade Representative. Certainly, also, in our very able Secretary of Commerce,

Bob Mosbacher, who is behind me; Michael Boskin, upon whom I rely for so much in the economic field; and Fred McClure,

without whom we could not operate in terms of working with the Congress. So, you have four of our best here, and I hope that you've been able to glean from them how important we feel this Fast Track is.

Obviously, the attention has been focused by the whole country—indeed, the whole world—on the Persian Gulf. But I wanted to come over and talk about economic growth because I am optimistic about the economic future of this country. And frankly, one of the things that's going to lead us out of the recovery [recession] is this vital export segment of our economy. I'm confident that we can expand exports, and I'm confident that we can expand economic growth generally, but we've got to do it through opening world markets and not through throwing up barriers—not through protection that we might think, short run, will help somebody here at home but, long run, inevitably results in a diminishing of the worth of this country.

As these four have told you, our economic growth depends on free markets, and our trade agreements have got to open up these markets and provide rules for fair and free trade. I'll readily concede, and so will Carla and Bob, that we have further to go in terms of the fairness aspect. And we are going to continue to work on that. For many years, the Fast Track has allowed us to successfully negotiate the very important trade agreements in our history, reducing the barriers to trade and contributing to growth here and abroad.

We are committed—this administration is committed to America's leadership role in the global economy and to the extension of Fast Track. We want to continue our active partnership with the Congress and with the private sector in expanding trade. Congress has a very special role in international trade. As business and association leaders, all of you, you've been tremendously helpful so far, and I want to keep this partnership strong. Fast Track will do this.

It'll also give us the same bargaining power that our counterparts already enjoy: the ability to ensure that the agreement reached at the table is the same one voted on at home. Supporting Fast Track will allow our important initiatives for economic growth to go forward. And if a disapproval

resolution is passed by either House, the Fast Track for all purposes is history; it's gone, as—I would say with that—as is our ability to negotiate in the Uruguay round, the North American free-trade agreement, and the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative. All vital, vital interests of the United States of America.

So, a vote against Fast Track really is a vote against vibrant international trade. We're doing very, very well with Mexico. Our relations with Mexico have never been better. And I give great credit to the President of Mexico, Carlos Salinas, and to his trade people, just as I do to our Secretary of Commerce and to our very able Trade Representative. They've worked hard and closely with Mexico. And it would be a shame to see special interests in this country gun down the Fast Track and thus stop us from getting the kind of free-trade agreement with Mexico that is clearly in the interest of U.S.-Mexico relations, and I think will benefit all Americans as well.

And clearly, the Hispanic American population revels in the newfound improved relations with Mexico. And I think they would have a lot at stake in seeing that we have a good, strong agreement with the Fast Track leading the way.

We are the world's largest trader. And these exports in which many of you have been so active have become a vital source of strength to our economy. Even when the economy is weak and slow, the exports have been profitable and certainly leading the way.

So, I know we're facing a tough fight on this in the Congress. I have pledged to you that the White House will do absolutely everything we can to get the message across to the Congress as to how important this is.

But the bottom line is simply this: We have before us the opportunity to expand growth and prosperity for all Americans. We can look at it selfishly. We can look at it—what's in the best interest of the American people. And I am absolutely convinced that this Fast Track—it'll lead to the Uruguay round's successful conclusion, will lead to the Americas Initiative, and also will lead to the bilateral agreement with Mexico—are in our fundamental interests.

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So, I wanted to come over, thank you all for your very, very important work, and urge you to redouble your efforts as we get down to what will be critical votes in both Houses of the United States Congress.

Thank you all very, very much.

Note: The President spoke at 11:22 a.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Build-

ing. In his remarks, he referred to Carla A. Hills, U.S. Trade Representative; Secretary of Commerce Robert A. Mosbacher; Michael J. Boskin, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers; Frederick D. McClure, Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs; and President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez of Spain

March 5, 1991

The President. May I just repeat for our friends from Spain what I said earlier to the first wave, and that is that we on the United States side are very grateful for the cooperation that we've had with Spain regarding the Gulf crisis. And they've been steadfast, solid as a rock. And I am indebted, as I explained to the Foreign Minister, to him and to the Prime Minister and to His Majesty for understanding and support. And Spain was there, and they were very strong, and I am very grateful. And I know the Secretary feels the same way.

So, we're glad to have you here. Glad to see you.

The Foreign Minister. Thank you.

The President. The statement today—was this a regular meeting of Parliament at home?

The Foreign Minister. No, no, this was a special meeting.

The President. Special meeting.

The Foreign Minister. For the end of the Gulf war. It was a debate. We have the support of 90 percent of the Parliament. And he made the statement saying that we would continue providing the good support that we have made from there.

The President. Well, we got it.

The Foreign Minister. —is very good.

The President. That is very important.

And I might also add, I think the cooperation we've had in matters regarding this hemisphere—of course, the respect that Spain has and that your Prime Minister has in Central America and South America is legion. Everybody knows that. But it's—we've got to continue to work together.

We've been so busy with the Gulf that I just don't—have told our side that we don't want to neglect our own hemisphere. And Spain can be a tremendous catalyst for peace and democracy there, where you have already started to be. And every time I go down there, people speak so highly of the Prime Minister and your efforts. I wanted to mention that here, that we want to stay together as much as we possibly can on matters related to this hemisphere.

I'm optimistic about it, although there are some tough economic problems in there right now.

Note: The President spoke at 1:20 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Marquez and King Juan Carlos I of Spain, and Secretary of State James A. Baker III. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.