

Apr. 10 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

The White House,
April 10, 1991.

Note: H.R. 1282, approved April 10, was assigned Public Law No. 102-28.

Nomination of John E. Bennett To Be United States Ambassador to Equatorial Guinea

April 10, 1991

The President today announced his intention to nominate John E. Bennett, of Washington, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. He would succeed Chester E. Norris, Jr.

Since 1987 Mr. Bennett has served as consul general at the U.S. consulate in Monterrey, Mexico. Prior to this Mr. Bennett studied at the National Defense University, 1986-1987. In addition, he has served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Kampala, Uganda, 1983-1986; consul general at the U.S. Embassy

in Lagos, Nigeria, 1979-1983; and consular officer at the U.S. consulate in Guadalajara, Mexico, 1978-1979. Mr. Bennett served as a political analyst at the Department of State, 1976-1977; a consular officer at the U.S. consulate in Bremen, Germany, 1973-1976; and a consular officer at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, Spain, 1972-1973. He joined the Foreign Service in 1971.

Mr. Bennett graduated from Harvard University (B.A., 1970). Mr. Bennett was born June 4, 1941, in Atlan, British Columbia, Canada. He served in the U.S. Army, 1965-1969. Mr. Bennett is married, has two children, and resides in Belfair, WA.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Jacques Delors of the European Community Commission and President Jacques Santer of the European Council of Ministers

April 11, 1991

President Bush. You're not going to need these because this is a photo opportunity. [Laughter]

Q. Mr. President, do you support a safe haven for the Kurdish refugees?

Q. Haven't you, in effect, sir, created an enclave there by telling Iraq you will shoot down any planes that threaten the refugees?

President Bush. Photo opportunity.

I think our distinguished guests are going to have a press conference later on. I'll have a little something to say on this subject in a bit, too. But the main thing we want to do is welcome these European leaders here. The United States values its relationship with the EC—and of course, on a bilateral basis we have a wonderful relationship with Prime Minister Santer and his country,

and the same for Jacques Delors when he's wearing a French hat, which is very seldom these days. We've got a great, cooperative relationship with the EC and with individual countries in Europe, and that's what this meeting is about, to put the emphasis on the EC.

Iraqi Refugees

Q. Well, you are going to discuss the Kurdish refugees?

President Bush. Absolutely. We'll be discussing that and a wide array of other questions. And I'm very pleased with the enormous cooperative refugee program now underway. It is tremendous. The suffering there is enormous. And the United States is

in lockstep with Europe in terms of our approach to helping these unfortunate people that are being victimized by this brutal dictator in Baghdad.

Note: President Bush spoke at 11:05 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. President Santer was also Prime Minister of Luxembourg. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Jacques Delors of the European Economic Community and President Jacques Santer of the European Council of Ministers

April 11, 1991

President Bush. I was delighted to have the opportunity to meet with two friends, the EC Council President Jacques Santer and Commission President Jacques Delors. We gather at a time of extraordinary challenge and opportunity throughout the world. Our victory in the Gulf—collective victory in the Gulf—has proven that international cooperation can defeat aggression and lay the groundwork for new international cooperation.

As part of our mutual efforts to deepen U.S.-EC cooperation, we discussed a wide range of issues today. We talked about the situations in the Middle East, in Europe—East and West—and in the Soviet Union.

I'm happy to report that we see eye to eye on these issues and that the EC is prepared to take on growing responsibilities. For example, we're going to work together to support reform in Eastern Europe. They are vitally interested in that, have been doing a lot in that regard. We agreed to continue to encourage the people of Yugoslavia to work out their differences peacefully and through democratic dialog.

Presidents Santer and Delors and I reviewed the situation in the Soviet Union. We agreed to encourage constructive Soviet involvement in world affairs and to support constructive domestic reform within the U.S.S.R.

We also discussed, obviously, the Middle East. This administration values the excellent support we received from our European friends and allies in the Gulf crisis, and we continue to work with them on what we must do to help create a stable environ-

ment to promote peace and prosperity in that region.

Presidents Santer and Delors and I also reviewed the massive and urgent U.S. and European relief effort currently underway for the Iraqi refugees and displaced persons in Turkey, northern Iraq, and Iran. To ease the human suffering caused by Saddam's brutality and repression of his own people, the United States and the European Community are working to get urgently critical supplies of food and shelter and medicine to the refugees as quickly as possible. A number of European nations are cooperating with the United States in airlifting these supplies to Turkey and to concentrations of refugees in the largest relief effort mounted in modern military history.

We had a broad and useful discussion of our views of Europe after the Paris CSCE summit. Of particular interest to us are the EC's plans for greater political and economic union. And I reiterated our support for European integration and our shared interest in the development of a European security in the transatlantic alliance. We reaffirmed our mutual commitment to continuing transatlantic cooperation on issues involving our mutual security, foreign policy, on our economic interests.

And we also talked about our hopes for renewed progress on the Uruguay round. In a world increasingly defined and bound by economic interests, we all have an interest in free and fair trade. An open trading regime would permit each of us to build on our strengths and take advantage of the