

leaders indicating their willingness to help Nicaragua clear its arrears with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank as soon as possible. The United States is prepared to make a substantial contribution to this effort, and so is Venezuela. Spain, Mexico, and other countries are also offering very generous contributions. We hope that with this assistance, Nicaragua will be able to move forward with its economic reform program.

Both Presidents reaffirmed their strong commitment to democracy and pluralism in Haiti. On Suriname, the President and President Perez also set forth their strong support for civilian democratic rule; both agree that the May 25 elections will be a fundamental test of the Surinamese military's willingness to permit a genuine demo-

cratic process.

Finally, the two Presidents discussed international oil issues. President Perez briefed the President on a proposal for a multilateral consumer-producer dialog. The President reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to strengthened bilateral energy cooperation and consultations, including our excellent consultations with Venezuela. He reaffirmed the U.S. position that price, production levels, and related issues should be determined by market mechanisms, not by multilateral negotiations.

Following their meeting, President Perez left for Houston, TX, Tulsa, OK, and Palo Alto, CA. He will be honored at the graduation ceremony of the University of Tulsa on Saturday.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on Disaster Assistance to Bangladesh

May 3, 1991

The President has sent a message to Prime Minister Zia of Bangladesh expressing his condolences and those of the American people on the horrible devastation caused by the recent cyclone. Our hearts go out in particular to the families of the numerous victims of this terrible tragedy.

We also have assured the government of Bangladesh that the United States stands ready to assist in the tasks of relief and reconstruction. The U.S. Government already has provided \$2.1 million in disaster assistance for medical supplies, water purification tablets, and funds to support the pro-

cedure and distribution of other high priority relief items by nongovernment agencies.

We are looking into other means to help Bangladesh obtain its highest priority needs for clean water, dry food, helicopter transport, clothing, and temporary shelter.

We will be providing additional U.S. Government assistance and we call upon individual Americans and indeed all members of the international community to be as generous in providing aid and comfort to the people of this disaster-stricken nation.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the Establishment of the George Bush Presidential Library in College Station, Texas

May 3, 1991

Pursuant to the provisions of the Presidential Libraries Act of 1955, the President has accepted a proposal that a library to house the official records of his Administra-

tion be constructed at Texas A&M University. This decision follows an extensive review of the various library proposals by the Archivist of the United States, Don W. Wilson.