

Note: The Press Secretary read the statement to reporters at 9:02 p.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House. John H. Sununu was Chief of Staff to the President, and Brent Scowcroft was Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the President's Health

May 6, 1991

At approximately 10:45 p.m. last night, the President resumed his normal heart rhythm, which was maintained until 4:45 a.m. this morning, at which time atrial fibrillation reoccurred. The attending physicians met at 5:30 a.m. this morning for approximately 2 hours to consider the situation. It was deemed unnecessary to carry out the electrical procedure since the President's response to medication had been encouraging. They decided instead to continue further adjustment of his medication and maintain observation of the President while working here at the White House.

President Bush will be discharged at approximately 9 a.m. this morning and return immediately to the Oval Office. His progress will be monitored here as his medi-

cation levels and dosages are observed. It should be stressed again that there continues to be no evidence of organic heart disease.

Today the President will continue his normal responsibilities and activities. He will meet with former Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze at 1:30 p.m. and will conduct other business during the day.

The President rose at 5:20 a.m. this morning. He's in good spirits and anxious to get back to work. We look forward to having him back in the White House very soon.

Note: The Press Secretary read the statement to reporters at 8:38 a.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House.

Exchange With Reporters in Bethesda, Maryland, on the President's Health

May 6, 1991

Q. Mr. President, what do you think?

The President. I feel all right. I've just got to get over and get back to work, and keep a little monitor going here.

Q. Have you had to change your lifestyle at all or—

The President. Go ahead and ask the doctors that, but not as far as I'm concerned.

Q. Are you going to lighten up at all for the next few days?

The President. Well, they said to gradually get back into the athletics and not overdo it, so we won't run today.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. No, it's not caused by jogging. But you ask the doctors; they'll tell you all that. I don't want to get a bad rap

on the joggers.

Q. —any particular stress situation?

The President. No. Ask the doctors, because I don't even know that that's the cause.

Q. But is it right now, sir, is your heart beating regularly?

The President. No, it's not in normal rhythm. Ask the doctors what all that means. I've never heard of this stuff before Sunday.

Q. Are you concerned about that at all?

The President. No. If I were concerned I wouldn't be here, I'd be up there.

Note: The exchange began at 9 a.m. on the grounds of Bethesda Naval Hospital, prior