

Mar. 11 / Administration of George Bush, 1992

helping build a safer, more peaceful world.

As we look toward the future, the only thing that is certain is that it will bring a new world. Our task, our opportunity is to make it orderly, to build a new world order of peace, democracy, and prosperity. Let's dedicate ourselves to making the most of this precious opportunity, of this privilege.

Thank you all very much. Mr. President, thank you, sir. It's a joy being with you. And may God bless the United States.

Note: The President spoke at 9:35 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel. In his remarks, he

referred to James Schlesinger, chairman of the conference on "America's Role in the Emerging World" sponsored by the Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace; Walter H. Annenberg, Gavin Herbert, and George Argyros, members of the library's board of directors; Mr. Annenberg's wife, Lee; Mr. Herbert's wife, Ninetta; John H. Taylor, director of the library; and Brian Crozier, British biographer of Charles de Gaulle. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With King Hussein of Jordan

March 12, 1992

Q. Mr. President, may we ask King Hussein whose side he's on in the latest confrontation with Iraq?

The President. We agreed that we weren't going to take any questions, just because we want to get into the business side. I just want to say here, though, I will say this, that I am just delighted to see His Majesty again. For years we've had strong relations with Jordan. We know there were difficulties. He is my friend, and I welcome him back here.

And I might point out in a positive way that Jordan has taken a very courageous and forthright position on the peace talks, rec-

ognizing we should talk for peace. And now we want to develop more on that and talk more about that. So, we're looking to the future. And I'm very pleased he's here. And I hope that will—it didn't exactly answer your question, but we're not going to take questions. And I just want to make sure that people know across this country how pleased I am to see His Majesty again.

Thank you all very much.

Note: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the President's Meeting With King Hussein of Jordan

March 12, 1992

The President and King Hussein met for approximately one hour in the Oval Office. Also attending the meeting were Secretary Baker, General Scowcroft, and Jordanian Prime Minister Bin Shakir. Following the meeting, the President and the King, and their respective staffs, had a working lunch in the Residence.

There was considerable discussion of the peace process. The President stressed the

importance of all parties continuing to participate in the Madrid process. The two agreed to continue to consult closely, both about ways to solve remaining procedural issues affecting both the bilateral and multilateral talks and on how best to advance the peace process more generally.

On the question of Iraq, the two leaders agreed on the importance of full Iraqi compliance with all Security Council resolu-

tions. King Hussein said that Jordan would continue to do its part. President Bush and King Hussein also agreed that the United States and Jordan would continue to consult closely on questions relating to Iraq and the Gulf war aftermath.

King Hussein also raised the matter of Jordan's economic situation, which has been

made more difficult by the more than 300,000 men, women, and children who have entered Jordan from the Gulf. The President told the King that the United States would continue to do what it could to help Jordan, both directly and via international financial institutions.

Remarks to Recipients of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching

March 12, 1992

Welcome to the chilly Rose Garden. I don't know whose idea this was, but—[*laughter*]. In any event, we are just delighted to have you all here. And it's great to see Lynn Martin, our Secretary of Labor; Dr. Massey; Dr. Wong; and most of all, let me welcome 108 very special men and women chosen from over one-quarter of a million secondary teachers in their fields. And congratulations to all of you in receiving this Nation's highest honor for math and science teachers.

As teachers, you know firsthand what the spirit of innovation has brought to this country, though we're not always ready for change. Sometimes I think that if Edison were to invent the light bulb today, newspapers would headline the story "Candle Industry Threatened." [*Laughter*] The one I like best, though, is one Lyndon Johnson used to tell about. Pointing down to the Potomac, he said, "If I walked across the Potomac, the press would say 'LBJ can't swim.'" [*Laughter*]

You have shown the kind of excellence that will help this country meet the ambitious goals that we've set for our Nation in this America 2000 education strategy, goals worthy of the talent you have and of the potential of these wonderful young kids that you teach. We know we've got to be competitive in math and science in a changing world. Our economic health, our economic strength, our survival, depend on how we educate ourselves to face the challenges of the next century. We've called on our kids to be number one in the world in your subjects by the turn of the century.

And it's teachers like you who will help us reach our goal, set an example, and help America to excel.

As you know, we're helping to develop world-class standards for national assessment in five core areas, including math and science. And we've set a deadline for the first phase of the American Achievement Test, the start of the 1993-94 school year.

All told, we have requested more than \$2 billion in Federal spending on math and science education for next year's budget. And if my math is correct—and with this crowd it better be—[*laughter*—\$768 million of that is for pre-college. That's an increase of 123 percent in the last 3 years.

But I believe that the single most important thing we in the Federal Government can do is to simply help you do your jobs. For instance, also in next year's budget, I have proposed an expanded program of federally assisted training for math and science teachers, in part using Federal labs, Federal laboratories and Federal personnel. Innovations like this will help us create a world-class corps of teachers.

We also want to bring new technology into the classroom, so that kids can interact with astronauts and explorers and scientists; so rural schools can have access to state-of-the-art resources; and so all American kids can be exposed to the cutting edge technologies and ideas that will shape their future.

The Federal Government can do a lot. We can do an awful lot, but we cannot do it all. Real excellence demands commitment