

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Rafael Callejas of Honduras

May 6, 1992

Legislation on Social Programs

Q. Mr. President, do you think your feelings about the blame game have been misinterpreted?

The President. I hope not. I've made it very clear, you heard me speak on it. I hope it's clear.

Q. Your remarks on Monday and your spokesman's remarks?

The President. My remarks on Monday about what?

Q. Blaming Congress for not passing your programs.

The President. Well, I'd like to get them passed. But I really don't think this is the time for blame; I think this is a time to move forward. And I think what Marlin said

got grossly misinterpreted.

So I don't want to discuss it anymore. I've got a distinguished visitor and a good friend here. The man is doing a first-class job down there, and we've got some business to talk about.

Q. You're not taking him to the woodshed—Marlin?

The President. Absolutely not.

Q. Do you think that Clinton's playing politics—

The President. Helen [Helen Thomas, United Press International], you're out of here. Come on. We've got to go to work.

Note: The exchange began at 3:15 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Statement by Deputy Press Secretary Smith on the President's Meeting With President Rafael Callejas of Honduras

May 6, 1992

The President met this afternoon with President Rafael Callejas of Honduras. The President congratulated him on the success of his 2-year-old economic reform program. He praised President Callejas' efforts to reduce tariffs, thereby opening Honduras' markets and increasing its trade. The President thanked President Callejas for his efforts to strengthen democracy and economic integration in the region.

President Callejas expressed his apprecia-

tion to the President for the generous assistance to his country from the United States, including substantial debt relief. He indicated that he remains committed to the market-oriented economic reforms that have begun to spur economic growth in Honduras. He thanked the President for his firm support for liberalized trade in agricultural products in the ongoing GATT trade negotiations.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting

May 6, 1992

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (47 U.S.C. 396(i)),

I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for Fiscal Year 1991 and the Inventory of the

May 6 / Administration of George Bush, 1992

Federal Funds Distributed to Public Telecommunications Entities by Federal Departments and Agencies: Fiscal Year 1991.

The White House,
May 6, 1992.

GEORGE BUSH

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Cyprus Conflict May 6, 1992

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with Public Law 95-384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I am submitting to you this bimonthly report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question. This report covers January and February and, for the sake of continuity, the first 10 days of March 1992.

As reported in my last letter to you on this subject, we were in contact with the U.N. Cyprus negotiators at the end of 1991 in preparation for the installation on January 1 of the new U.N. Secretary General, Mr. Boutros Ghali. On January 3, the first full U.N. workday in 1992, the U.S. Special Cyprus Coordinator, Nelson Ledsky, consulted in New York with the new Secretary General on how to proceed during Ambassador Ledsky's projected trip to Ankara, Nicosia, and Athens.

Ambassador Ledsky was in the Eastern Mediterranean from January 7 through January 17, and during that time he received assurances from Prime Minister Demirel of Turkey, the leadership of the two Cypriot communities, and Prime Minister Mitsotakis of Greece that the parties were committed to proceed with the U.N.-sponsored settlement process, taking up where it had left off in the late summer of 1991.

By the end of January, the U.N. negotiators had themselves returned to the area and began their first round of consultations in 1992 with the Governments of Greece and Turkey and the leadership of the two Cypriot communities. This round ended without progress when, due to the illness of Turkish Cypriot Leader Rauf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriots were unable to address substantively the issues contained in the Secretary General's "set of ideas" for a Cyprus settlement. Disappointed by this lack

of progress, the Secretary General's negotiators returned to New York on February 7.

On February 10, I discussed the Cyprus issue with Prime Minister Demirel during his official visit to Washington. He repeated his assurances that Turkey wanted a Cyprus settlement and would work cooperatively in support of the U.N. Secretary General's good-offices mission in an effort to obtain such a solution. He gave similar assurances directly to Secretary General Boutros Ghali 3 days later in New York.

The Secretary General's Cyprus negotiators returned to Ankara on February 17. After meeting with representatives of the Government of Turkey, they expressed concern that Turkey appeared to be placing conditions on the continuation of the negotiation along lines put forward earlier by the Turkish Cypriots. Moreover, these conditions seemed to go beyond the mandate conferred on the Secretary General by the U.N. Security Council as reaffirmed in U.N. Security Council Resolutions 649 (1990) and 716 (1991).

On March 3, Under Secretary of State Arnold Kanter met with Prime Minister Demirel in Ankara. During their discussions of Cyprus, Under Secretary Kanter reiterated the desire of the United States for the success of the U.N. Secretary General's efforts to resolve peacefully, fairly, and permanently the Cyprus problem. Under Secretary Kanter had assured Greek Foreign Minister Samaras of the same commitment in Athens on February 29. Prime Minister Demirel told Under Secretary Kanter that he understood the U.S. position and that any impression that Turkey had reversed itself on the Secretary General's good-offices mission was a result of a misunder-