AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on Namibia's Accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

October 13, 1992

The United States welcomes and commends the Government of Namibia's accession on October 7, 1992, to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The administration has been encouraging President Nujoma to make this important decision. Namibia's accession to the NPT represents a positive response to the international community's heightened concern about the global spread of weapons of mass destruction.

The United States firmly believes this action by Namibia represents another important step toward strengthening international security as well as peace and cooperation in southern Africa.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Partial Suspension of the Davis-Bacon Act

October 14, 1992

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I hereby report that I have exercised my statutory authority under section 6 of the Davis-Bacon Act, 40 U.S.C. 276a–5, to suspend the provisions of sections 276a to 276a–5 of the Davis-Bacon Act in the event of a national emergency. I have found that the conditions caused by Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki constitute a "national emergency" within the meaning of section 6. I have, therefore, suspended the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act in designated areas in the States of Florida, Louisiana, and Hawaii.

This action is more fully set out in the enclosed proclamation that I have issued today.

Sincerely,

GEORGE BUSH

Note: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Dan Quayle, President of the Senate. The proclamation is listed in Appendix E at the end of this volume.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on Russian Action To Resolve Questions Concerning the Korean Airlines Flight 007 Incident

October 14, 1992

Russian President Boris Yeltsin met today in Moscow with U.S. Ambassador Robert Strauss and family members of Americans killed in the Soviet shootdown of Korean Airlines flight 007 in September 1983. President Yeltsin offered his condolences to the American people, the American families of the victims, and the other countries involved. He also transferred to the United States important documents and information concerning the shootdown from Soviet archives, including information pertaining to the aircraft's black box.

The President is deeply grateful to President Yeltsin for this courageous effort to resolve the many questions which still linger from one of the cold war's greatest tragedies. President Yeltsin's actions dem-

onstrate once again the benefits from the new U.S.-Russian relationship which is grounded in cooperation, respect, and a commitment to forge together a new era of peace.

Today's meeting followed years of discussion of the KAL tragedy between the United States and the Soviet and Russian Governments. The President and other senior American officials have raised this issue repeatedly during the last 2 years in an effort to discover the truth concerning the deaths of 63 American citizens who were aboard the flight.

The delegation of American family members will continue discussions with the Russian Government in Moscow this week on the important issues that remain to be resolved, including disposition of the remains and personal effects of the victims which may have been uncovered during the Soviet search effort, the families' desire to hold a memorial service near the crash site, and *ex gratia* payments to each American family. The administration supports the family members in their efforts to reach a final resolution of all issues concerning this tragedy.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the 1992 Winners of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards

October 14, 1992

The President today congratulates the five winners of the 1992 Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award for excellence in quality management.

The winners in the manufacturing category are AT&T Network Systems Group/Transmission Business Unit of Morristown, NJ, and Texas Instruments Inc. Defense Systems and Electronics Group of Dallas, TX. The winners in the service category are AT&T Universal Card Services of Jacksonville, FL, and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Co. of Atlanta, GA. In the small business category, the winner is the Granite Rock Co. of Watsonville, CA.

The Baldrige Award is given annually, in memory of the late Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige, to acknowledge exemplary efforts of U.S. companies in instilling in their workplaces a commitment to quality products and services.

Statement on Signing the Advisory Council on California Indian Policy Act of 1992

October 14, 1992

I am signing into law H.R. 2144, the "Advisory Council on California Indian Policy Act of 1992." The Council is to review the status of, and Federal policy towards, California Indian tribes.

In 1978 the Department of the Interior established the Federal Acknowledgment Process to ensure that all petitions for recognition as a federally recognized tribe would be evaluated in an objective and uniform manner. The process, developed with the support of the Indian tribes and the Congress, provides each petitioning group the opportunity for an unbiased, detailed review of its petition.

I support the Federal Acknowledgment Process for the review of all petitions for tribal recognition. It is a stated policy objective of the Administration to restore terminated tribal entities, as appropriate. I do not, however, support establishment of separate recognition procedures or policies exclusive to one State. I note that the mem-