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nary work to achieve this historic result—I salute their teammates who are with us here today as well—and also because they will remain with you to answer your questions. Some of this is very, very technical. And they know how proud I am of their work. I've seen them in action both here and abroad, hammering out this agreement. It's taken a long time, but it was sound.

It's been a long and difficult course to the result that we've achieved today. I recall these extensive and frequently vigorous—I've chosen the word carefully—discussions on agriculture and other trade issues at the economic summit that we hosted in Houston in 1990 and at each of the summits that followed. But I am now absolutely convinced that the work was well worth it. I talked to Prime Minister John Major this morning, had an opportunity to thank him for his key role as the current President of the EC.

The next step then will be for the United States and the EC and all the other parties in the Uruguay round to return to the negotiating table in Geneva prepared to show the flexibility necessary to bring these negotiations to a successful close.

So, once again, I salute our partners in all of this. And I certainly salute our extraordinarily effective team that has been able to bring this about. And with no further ado, I will turn it over to them to take all your questions.

Note: The President spoke at 12:10 p.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House.

Statement on the Death of Roy Acuff

November 23, 1992

Barbara and I mourn the death of our long-time friend and the King of Country Music. Roy Acuff showed that America loves country music because country music loves America. He helped the Grand Ole Opry become America's heirloom of the heart.

Roy made his Opry debut in 1938 and played it nearly every weekend. Often, Barbara and I visited him and heard Roy sing "Great Speckled Bird" or "Wabash Cannonball." We marveled at his talent. Even more, we cherished his kindness, modesty, love of life, and loyalty to friends.

Roy said, "I want to go down as a gentleman in country music. That's all I care to be." Our great and good friend achieved that goal and more. Roy Acuff leaves what for 89 years he lived, a touch of the American dream.

Remarks at the Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation Ceremony

November 24, 1992

Thank you, kids. Thank you very much. Please be seated. And let me just say I want to welcome all of you. Certainly Mr. Cuddie, who is the president of the National Turkey Federation; Stuart Proctor, the executive vice president. I want to especially welcome all the kids: From Kent Gardens Elementary, now, where are you? Hold up your—there they are, right over—this group, good. Amidon Elementary? Yep. Holy Cross, and maybe some strays out there from other schools. Anyway, everyone is really welcome.

And of course, the special guest of honor, the bird over here. I hope you guys have seen him. After participating in this ceremony year after year, I've come to learn a little about the turkey. For instance, it's hand fed. It gets lots of personal attention. And it's over-weight and reminds me of

Ranger, who you may have seen running around here, our dog. We're trying to avoid a confrontation between the turkey and our springer.

But I want to set the guests at ease and especially tell the kids something. After all, this turkey represents America's 45 million turkeys who will begin making their irreplaceable contribution to our Thanksgiving celebration. So take it easy, turkey, we're just here to serve you. [*Laughter*]

We all know that Thanksgiving is more than just an occasion to stuff yourself. It's a uniquely American holiday, a time for remembering all the good things that we've been given or asking ourselves what good we can find to do. After all, only America would set aside a special holiday just for the purpose of giving thanks. George Washington, in the first Presidential Thanksgiving Day proclamation, spoke of, and here's the quotation, "the duty . . . to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor . . . ."

Well, this turkey must have said some prayers of his own. And we're going to grant him a special Presidential pardon. He will be going into early retirement, I'm told, living out his years on a Virginia children's farm.

I want to thank all of you for being here on this special occasion, welcome all our new friends to the White House. God bless you, and may you have a happy Thanksgiving.

Note: The President spoke at 2:05 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Bruce Cuddie, president, and Stuart E. Proctor, Jr., executive vice president, National Turkey Federation.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the President's Telephone Conversation With President Boris Yeltsin of Russia

November 30, 1992

The President called President Boris Yeltsin of Russia today on the eve of the Congress of People's Deputies meeting in Moscow. They discussed the situation in Russia and U.S.-Russian relations.

The President reaffirmed to President Yeltsin the strong and unequivocal U.S. support for efforts to promote democracy and economic reform in Russia. The President made it clear that the United States will not waver in its firm support for the Russian Government.

The United States and its Western partners have a unique and historic opportunity to construct a democratic peace in Europe as we approach a new century. Russia is pivotal to that opportunity, and the United States has committed itself to building a new partnership with Russia based on a shared commitment to ending the arms race, cooperation in resolving regional disputes, and strong Western economic support for Russia's reforms. The President supports the continuation of concerted and ambitious Western efforts to assist the Russian people in building a democratic society and in integrating their economy and future with the West. The President therefore believes it is imperative for the United States and other countries to do everything possible to support the Russian Government at this critical time.