

## Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Democratic Congressional Leaders

March 2, 1993

### *Spending Cuts*

Q. Mr. President, we hear you're not going to ask for any more spending cuts. Is that right?

*The President.* Where did you hear that?

Q. Well, there's a little piece in the paper that says somebody on your staff admitted that, well, they didn't really think you'd be able to find any more spending cuts.

*The President.* Well, I expect there will be a lot more as we go along. I just don't think we should shut the Congress down while we all look for them. Keep in mind that we've got more than they've had in a long time, and we need to go forward with this program. But I think you'll see a continuous stream of them coming out as we go along.

Q. From you?

*The President.* From me and from others.

### *Bosnia*

Q. Mr. President, are you satisfied with the airdrops in Bosnia, the success of the airdrops?

*The President.* Well, the last report I got this morning was pretty good, based on the last information I had. And I haven't talked directly to General Powell today, but he thinks they've gone pretty well, and I have to rely partly on—largely on his judgment.

Q. How long do you think they need to go on there?

*The President.* I don't have an answer to that now.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:19 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

## Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Secretary General Manfred Woerner of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

March 2, 1993

### *Branch Davidian Religious Sect Standoff*

Q. Mr. President, the incident in Waco appears to be ending. Do you have any misgivings at all about how that was executed?

*The President.* I don't think now is the time to discuss that. I'm pleased that it's ending. I think it's ending in a way that's very consistent with a similar incident that occurred in my State, very similar, when I was Governor there many years ago.

Q. Are you satisfied that the appropriate action was taken in the first place?

*The President.* I don't think this is the time for me to comment on that. It's not appropriate at this time for me to comment on it.

### *Haiti*

Q. Are you having any second thoughts about your criticism of George Bush's Haiti policy during the campaign, given that today you went to court to essentially support his position?

*The President.* But our position is different. Our position now is that there's a difference

if there are extreme circumstances, and I think there are. You know, maybe I was too harsh in my criticism of him, but I still think there's a big difference between what we're doing in Haiti and what they were doing in Haiti. And there's a big difference between the kinds of problems that are created by the Haitian circumstance. I mean, something that was never brought up before but is now painfully apparent is that if we did what the plaintiffs in the court case want, we would be consigning a very large number of Haitians, in all probability, to some sort of death warrant. I mean, if you look at how many people have been lost at sea, look at the number of people who died not even trying to come to the United States in a much shorter trip recently, given the means they had to get here, the kinds of boats they have and all of that.

We have now cut from 2 months down to 1 week the amount of time it takes to process