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people who want to be considered to be refugees in Haiti. When we bring people back, we meet them there now. We don't just let them get dispersed into the country. We're going out into the country and doing the refugee handling. So it's a very different set of circumstances than it was.

NOTE: The exchange began at 4:25 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement by the Director of Communications on the Situation in Haiti
March 2, 1993

Today the Supreme Court heard arguments concerning the current repatriation policy regarding Haitian asylum-seekers. At that time, the Justice Department supported the President's legal authority to carry out the practice of direct return. The President believes it is essential that he retain the ability to implement such measures when exceptional circumstances demand.

The current practice of direct returns is based on the President's conviction that it is necessary to avert a humanitarian tragedy that could result from a large boat exodus. Hundreds, if not thousands, could lose their lives in overloaded, unseaworthy vessels if the United States reversed the practice of direct return precipitously.

At the same time, the President regards the current practice of direct return as a policy for exceptional circumstances. It is continually under review and will be adjusted when conditions permit.

In addition, the President is taking a series of initiatives to promote human rights and democratization in Haiti and to enhance the safety and well-being of those who have reason to fear persecution.

First, the Clinton administration strongly has supported the negotiating process undertaken by the United Nations and the Organization of American States (U.N./OAS) and has urged other nations, both within and outside the hemisphere, to provide diplomatic and financial support to the U.N./OAS effort. A U.N./OAS civilian monitoring team now is being deployed in Haiti. We hope and expect that their presence will create an atmosphere conducive to respect for human rights and political dialog, including progress on a settlement to this crisis.

The President will continue efforts to move the negotiating process forward as expeditiously as possible, leading to the restoration of constitutional government and the return of President Aristide. President Clinton will meet with President Aristide on March 16 to review the progress that has been achieved and the challenges that lie ahead.

Second, the President is committed to enhancing the safety and well-being of those in Haiti who have reason to fear reprisal for their political activities and affiliations, and has taken a number of actions to improve in-country processing of Haitian refugees, the procedures by which Haitians may apply in Haiti for refugee status and resettlement in the United States.

Shortly after January 20, the President directed that U.S. officials double our capacity for the interviewing of refugee applicants in Haiti by officials of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The President also directed the State Department to send a technical mission to Haiti to develop detailed proposals for:

—more rapid refugee processing;

—making it easier for Haitians outside of Port-au-Prince to apply for refugee status and U.S. resettlement; and

—enhancing the safety of the repatriation process for returnees.

Since return of the technical team, we have streamlined procedures and added staff in Port-au-Prince and have reduced considerably the processing time for refugee applications in Haiti. We have already developed the capacity to reduce processing time for high priority cases from 2 months or more to about 7 working days.

The technical team, which also included congressional staff and representatives from the INS, made a series of additional recommendations for improvements in procedures, including the addition of personnel at the U.S. Refugee Processing Center in Haiti to serve as liaison

with human rights groups and as a resource for INS adjudicators; procedures for identifying those who may be especially at risk; and the establishment of processing centers outside of Port-au-Prince to enhance access to the program for Haitians throughout Haiti.

Based on these and other recommendations made by the team, the President has directed that U.S. officials implement further improvements in the process. To accomplish these goals, the President is authorizing expenditure of up to $5 million from the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund (ERMA).

The United States has been in the forefront of refugee protection around the world. We will continue to play this important role in the years to come.

Nomination for Posts at the State and Education Departments and the Environmental Protection Agency

March 2, 1993

The President announced today his intention to nominate a total of 11 officials for senior sub-Cabinet jobs at the Department of State, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Education.

"This group of nominations continues the process of filling our Government with top-flight public servants," said the President. "I am proud that they have agreed to join my administration."

The individuals named today are:

State Department

Patrick Kennedy, Assistant Secretary for Administration

Elinor Constable, Assistant Secretary for International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Alexander Watson, Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs

John Shattuck, Assistant Secretary for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

Mary Ryan, Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs

Wendy Sherman, Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

Robert Sussman, Deputy Administrator

Bailus Walker, Jr., Assistant Administrator for the Office of Research and Development

Steve Herman, Assistant Administrator for Enforcement

David Gardiner, Assistant Administrator for Policy Planning and Evaluation

Education Department

Kay Casstevens, Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Democratic Congressional Leaders

March 3, 1993

Texas Senatorial Campaign

Q. When are you going to Texas to campaign for Mr. Krueger?

The President. I don't know. I want to go. I haven't been invited yet. I imagine I'll get a way down there.

The Vice President. I'm going next week, aren't I?

The President. You're going——

The Vice President. I'll be there next week, Carl [Carl Leubsdorf, Dallas Morning News]. You didn't ask, but that's the answer.

Senator Krueger. Don't insult the Vice Presi-