

Statement on Nuclear Nonproliferation Talks With North Korea *June 11, 1993*

I welcome the successful outcome of talks between the United States and North Korea today in New York, which have led to the agreement of North Korea to suspend its withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty. This agreement is a first but vital step towards ensuring North Korean participation in a strong international nonproliferation regime, a goal that will benefit all nations.

Preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons is one of the highest priorities of my administration, and we will continue to press the

North Koreans strongly to comply fully with international standards and to move towards the goal of a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula.

The American negotiating team, under the direction of Assistant Secretary Robert Gallucci, achieved this important step not only on behalf of the people of the United States but on behalf of the entire international community.

NOTE: The statement referred to Robert Gallucci, Assistant Secretary of State for Politico-Military Affairs.

Nomination for Five Ambassadorial Posts *June 11, 1993*

The President today announced his intention to nominate five career Foreign Service officers to ambassadorial posts. The five are:

William D. Montgomery, Bulgaria
Richard Boucher, Cyprus
Mark Hambley, Lebanon
Roger Gamble, Suriname
Jeffrey Davidow, Venezuela

“Each of these five men has demonstrated the high levels of talent and character required for a sensitive ambassadorial post,” said the President. “I salute them for their continuing service to the United States and thank them for taking on these important assignments.”

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

The President's Radio Address *June 12, 1993*

Good morning. Last night the United Nations, acting with American and other coalition forces, successfully attacked the military positions in Somalia of the warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed. Our forces, thankfully, have sustained no casualties.

The U.N.'s action was a response to a savage attack this past week by Aideed's forces carried out on U.N. peacekeepers. Aideed's attack killed 23 Pakistanis and injured 3 Americans serving in the U.N.'s force. It was a cold-blooded ambush on U.N. forces who were delivering food and building peace for the people of Somalia.

The United Nations and the United States refuse to tolerate this ruthless disregard for the

will of the international community. Therefore, following a request from the U.N. and pursuant to a U.N. Security Council resolution, I ordered the participation of our troops in this action. I commend the decisive leadership of the U.N. Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, the commander of the U.N. force, Turkish General Bir, and United States Major General Thomas Montgomery.

With this action, the world community moves to restore order in Somalia's capital and to underscore its commitment to preserve the security of U.N. forces. For if U.N. peacekeepers are

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to be effective agents for peace and stability in Somalia and elsewhere, they must be capable of using force when necessary to defend themselves and accomplish their goals.

We need to recall why U.S. forces were in Somalia to begin with and how much has been accomplished since they first arrived. Last December the United States first sent troops to Somalia to help the United Nations answer a desperate call for help. By the time we arrived over 350,000 Somalis already had died in a bloody civil war, shrouding the nation in famine and disease. Over 30,000 American men and women, both military and civilian, joined with troops and relief workers from all over the world in an effort to end the starvation and the hopelessness. They worked with courage and dedication to quell the violence, rein in the warlords, and deliver tons of urgently needed food and medicine. That humanitarian effort restored hope, advanced our interests, and represented the very best of America's ideals.

Today in Somalia, crops are growing, starvation has ended, refugees are beginning to return, schools and hospitals are reopening, a civil police force has been recreated, and Somalia has begun a process of national reconciliation with the goal of creating the institutions of democracy. As a result, over recent months, we have been able to reduce our troop presence in Somalia down to fewer than 4,000, a small fraction of the total U.N. force.

While American and U.N. efforts in Somalia have been successful, there remains a small but dangerous minority of Somalis who are deter-

mined to provoke terror and chaos. Last night's action was essential to send a clear message to the armed gangs, to protect the vast majority of Somalis who long for peace, to enhance the security of our forces still in Somalia, to hasten the day when they can safely return home, and to strengthen the effectiveness and the credibility of U.N. peacekeeping in Somalia and around the world.

The U.N.'s action holds an important lesson about how our Nation can accomplish our own security goals in this new era. Although the cold war is over, the world remains a dangerous place. The United States cannot be the world's policeman, but we also cannot turn a blind eye to the world's problems, for they affect our own security, our own interests, and our own ideals. The U.S. must continue to play its unique role of leadership in the world. But now we can increasingly express that leadership through multilateral means such as the United Nations, which spread the costs and expressed the unified will of the international community. That was one of the lessons of Desert Storm. And clearly, that was one of the lessons last night in Somalia.

On behalf of all Americans, I am proud of the American forces, who once again have demonstrated extraordinary courage and skill. The world thanks them and all of the U.N. forces in Somalia for their service, for striking a blow against lawlessness and killing, and for advancing the world's commitment to justice and security.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks to Volunteers for Presidential Correspondence

June 12, 1993

Thank you. Good morning. I want to thank you all for coming here and for being willing to help us with what is really a great problem for democracy. But as all of you know, we get a lot of mail at the White House. What a lot of people don't know is we're getting a lot more than anyone ever has. And by the time we had been here 3½ months, more letters had come to the White House than came to the White House in all of 1992.

We're getting about 40,000 letters a day. We are desperately working to try to answer those

letters with very limited staff. We've had already about 450 young people from the area agree to come in and help us in the past. But today I'm proud to say that there are over 800 young people who will be working today to help open and staple the mail that comes in here, so that then it can be read and sorted and answered.

We have gotten over 3 million pieces of mail, with more coming. And that's good. But we have to answer all those letters. We have to