other challenging assignments,” said the President. “I have full confidence in his ability to
maintain our strong relationship with Italy, an important ally whose friendship America highly
values.”

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Sam
Nujoma of Namibia
June 16, 1993

Economic Program

Q. Mr. President, there are indications that
the Senate Finance Committee may not hit your
$500 billion target. They may fall short because
of this problem on the gasoline tax. Would you
accept less than $500 billion, which is one of
your main principles?

President Clinton. Well, let’s see what they
do. I think the—and I think ultimately the con-
ference report will—I think the bill that the
Congress ultimately votes on will hit the $500
billion.

Q. If they come out under $500 billion—
usually in conference they cut things in half—
would mean that you would get less than
$500 billion out of the final product.

President Clinton. I’m not—let’s see what
they do.

Space Station and Super Collider

Q. Are you going to have a space station
decision today—super collider?

President Clinton. There is a deadline some-
time in the next 3 days. I don’t know exactly
when it is, but there’s a congressional deadline,
and we’re working on a statement right now.

Namibia

Q. Do you think Namibia can be a model
for South Africa, Mr. President?

President Clinton. I absolutely do. I think it’s
a model for all of Africa. The reason I asked
President Nujoma to come here and be the
first African leader at the White House is be-
cause of the remarkable success that he and
his country have made in promoting democracy
and market economies, and they’ve done it in
a multiethnic society with great complications.
But they’ve managed to do it. And I think
they’re a real shining example for emerging de-
mocracies in Africa and on other continents as
well. I’m very excited to have him here today.

Somalia

Q. President Nujoma, are you concerned
about the American role in Somalia, Mr. Presi-
dent?

President Nujoma. We are grateful. In fact,
I have come to express our gratitude to Presi-
dent Clinton, although the original initial send-
up of U.S. troops to Somalia was under the
Bush administration—Americans—American
President who did that—and when he won in
the elections, continued supporting the U.N. ac-
tion in Somalia, while we were sitting there,
while thousands of Somalis were dying every
day. And I’m glad that U.S. Government and
the President Bush saw the need to quickly
move the U.S. troops there to stop the starvation
of thousands of Somalis and—the distribution
of food to the people who were in need. And
that today the Somalis seem like anybody else.
And we all see how, before the U.S. troops
in Somalia, it was terrible. So we certainly hope
that other situations, President Clinton and the
people of the United States were not to be
tired of not making the great efforts either di-
rectly or through the auspices of the United
Nations to ensure that this—instability through-
out the world.

Q. Do you think Aideed, the warlord, should
be arrested?

President Nujoma. If he is, he has a hand
in committing a crime to ambush and to kill
the United Nations peacekeepers, certainly he
should be punished for that.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:40 a.m. in the
Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not
available for verification of the content of this ex-
change.