

have to decide which ones in which we will become involved.

There are several issues here. And if I might, let me just outline some of them. Some of them relate to the management of the peacekeeping operations rather than particular decisions. The United States has long favored tighter financial controls and oversight. And we have urged the appointment of an inspector general at the United Nations publicly. We have also felt that our overall contribution to the peacekeeping cost was higher than it should have been and considerably higher than our world's share of annual income. So we have asked for some—we will seek some change of that. We also want to be very clear about the standards for our involvement in peacekeeping operations.

Now, having said that, I met with a bipartisan committee of congressional leaders yesterday morning and urged them to support our peacekeeping budget this year because we have a sensible way of avoiding dropping behind again in our obligations, dividing the responsibilities between the Defense and State Department. And I asked Congress to help me pay the arrears that we owe to the United Nations in peacekeeping. Even our own forces who went to Somalia can't be fully reimbursed in large measure because the United States owes more debt to the peacekeeping fund than any other country.

So I believe being involved with other nations in peacekeeping is a good way of burden shar-

ing. After all, we only have—I think fewer than one percent of the forces involved in peacekeeping in the world now are American forces. We have about 5 percent of the world's population. We have less than one percent of the world's forces involved in peacekeeping.

So while we pay a little more than I think we should, our commitment in terms of manpower is less than our population would appear to warrant and certainly than our military capacity would. So we have been advantaged by multinational peacekeeping, and I will support it. I do think we need to have higher standards, and that will be in my directive when it comes out.

Thank you.

Q. Sir, when do you sign the—

The President. If you all have any other questions that are unrelated to health care, I'll answer them, too.

Q. Sir, when do you sign it?

The President. I'm not sure. We're working—we're very close. We've been working on it for a long time, as you noted.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:51 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House, prior to a question-and-answer session with the Louisiana and Texas media. In his remarks, he referred to Ambassador Charles Redman, U.S. Special Envoy for the Former Yugoslavia.

Statement on Disaster Assistance for California

April 15, 1994

Our administration is doing everything we can to respond to the continuing needs of individuals, families, businesses, and communities arising from the January earthquake. California's economic future depends in part on a strong recovery from the earthquake, and the loans and other assistance included in this package will help considerably. Our departments and agen-

cies will continue to monitor events in California and take whatever actions are needed to meet Federal responsibilities there.

NOTE: This statement was included in a White House statement on disaster assistance for California.