

May 19 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994

term security interest to develop such weapons. That's our position.

What we're trying to do is to keep the number of people in the nuclear club as small as possible and then reduce the nuclear arsenals that they have, including our own. As you know, we've worked hard to reduce our own with the Russians.

So that is our position. But our position further is that no one should be asked to put their own security at risk to achieve that. So any dialog we have with India on this would be in the context of what is pivotal for India's security: How can we enhance your security, not diminish it? It would be wrong for the United States to tell your great nation, or the

smallest nation on the face of the Earth, that we recommend a course of action for them that would reduce security. We should be in the business of increasing security.

But I believe you can increase your security and avoid becoming a nuclear power. Japan did it. Germany did it. A lot of other countries have done it. We can do it together.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President's 57th news conference began at 2:04 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Michael Armacost, Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University.

Nomination for the United States Information Agency

May 19, 1994

The President today announced his intent to nominate Barry Fulton as Associate Director for the United States Information Agency's new Information Bureau.

"I am pleased to name Barry Fulton to serve as the first Associate Director of this new Bureau," the President said. "He was instrumental

in the development of the new Information Bureau and is uniquely qualified to lead USIA's information programs in a changing global environment."

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

Remarks on the Death of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

May 20, 1994

On this sad occasion, Hillary and I join our Nation in mourning the loss of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Jackie Kennedy Onassis was a model of courage and dignity for all Americans and all the world.

More than any other woman of her time, she captivated our Nation and the world with her intelligence, her elegance, and her grace. Even in the face of impossible tragedy, she carried the grief of her family and our entire Nation with a calm power that somehow reassured all the rest of us.

As First Lady, Mrs. Onassis had an uncommon appreciation of the culture that awakened us to all the beauty of our own heritage. She loved art and music, poetry and books, history

and architecture, and all matters that enrich the human spirit. She was equally passionate about improving the human condition. She abhorred discrimination of all kinds. And through small, quiet gestures, she stirred the Nation's conscience. She was the first First Lady to hire a mentally retarded employee here at the White House. And she made certain for the first time that minority children were all welcome in the White House nursery.

She and President Kennedy embodied such vitality, such optimism, such pride in our Nation, they inspired an entire generation of young Americans to see the nobility of helping others and to get involved in public service.

When I became President, I was fortunate enough to get to know Mrs. Onassis better, and to see her and her children as friends as well as important American history models and good citizens. I can say that, as much as anything else today, I am grateful for her incredible generosity to Hillary and to Chelsea, the way she shared her thoughts on everything from how to raise children in the White House to ideas about historic preservation, to her favorite current books.

We hope that Mrs. Onassis' children, John and Caroline, and her grandchildren find solace in the extraordinary contribution she made to our country. Our thoughts and prayers are with her children and grandchildren and her entire family as we grieve over the passing of a cherished friend.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:39 a.m. in the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden at the White House.

Remarks to the Community in San Bernardino, California

May 20, 1994

Thank you very much. Thank you, Senator Feinstein, for that fine introduction, Senator Boxer, Congressman Brown, and Congressman Lewis. I'm glad to see Supervisor Jerry Eaves; he's already been to see me in Washington. Mayor Minor, it's good to see you. We talked on the phone about law enforcement not very long ago. I was thinking, when I saw Mr. Larson up here talking, he's about a head taller than I am; he could run any airport in the country for me. [Laughter] I kind of like that.

And I also want to thank our Secretary of the Air Force, Sheila Widnall, for being here and for the very poignant remarks that she made about the importance of these military bases to our communities and our life here. I would like to say also a special word of appreciation for the intense efforts that the California delegation has made to bring to bear in the Oval Office the needs of the people of California. I know you thought that Senator Feinstein was being somewhat aggressive here on the public forum. That is nothing compared to what I hear in private. [Laughter] If you've never been worked on by Feinstein and Boxer at one time, just imagine if somebody took a huge fingernail file and applied it to your head. Sooner or later you just say, "All right, whatever you want, take it and run." [Laughter]

I'd like to say a special word of thanks, too, to George Brown for his brilliant leadership in the fields of science and technology, trying to help us to modernize the economy in ways that can only help. And I want to say a particular word of thanks to Jerry Lewis for his work with

me on a number of issues and for his kind comments today and for holding out the prospect that we can still bridge some of the awful partisan divide that still paralyzes Washington too often. I thank him for what he said; I especially thank him for what he said about Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

This is a very sad day for my wife and for my daughter and for me because, in addition to being a very important figure in our Nation, she was a personal friend of ours. Last summer on our family vacation, we had one of the most wonderful days I ever spent with Jackie and her daughter, Caroline, and her son-in-law and her brother-in-law and a number of members of her family. She was an astonishing woman who I think did a remarkable thing in raising two very fine children in what could have been the destructive public glare of the spotlight.

I'd like to just echo one thing that Jerry said. When President Kennedy was elected, he inspired a whole generation of Americans, I think, without regard to party, with the promise that public life could be a noble and good thing and that together we could make a difference. The country had grown somewhat weary after the burdens of World War II and then the war in Korea, and he said we ought to get moving again; we ought to get the country moving again. And people felt good about it, even when they disagreed about the specifics. The main reason I ran for President is that I thought we ought to get the country moving again and that we ought to pull the country together again.