Remarks Announcing the Nomination of Dan Glickman To Be Secretary of Agriculture and an Exchange With Reporters

December 28, 1994

The President. Good morning. I am very pleased that Dan Glickman has accepted my offer to become the next Secretary of Agriculture. He comes to the Cabinet after a distinguished 18-year career representing Wichita and south central Kansas in the House of Representatives. During that period, he rose to prominence on the House Agriculture Committee and became a leading spokesman for American agriculture and a key architect of the last four farm bills. His knowledge, experience, his understanding of the needs of the American farmer make him exactly the right person to be Secretary of Agriculture in 1995 when we will be writing the next farm bill.

I've told Dan that I expect him to continue being a vocal advocate of the interest of American agriculture and to carry on the groundbreaking work done by Secretary Mike Espy during the last 2 years. I am very proud of the work that our administration, under the leadership of Secretary Espy, has done for America's farmers and ranchers and for America's taxpayers.

Mike Espy has been tireless in his efforts to expand trading opportunities. I can tell you as a citizen of the largest rice-growing State in America, I never thought I would live to see the day when American rice would be available in Japanese markets. But thanks to Mike Espy, it is.

The reorganization that he has put into effect at the United States Department of Agriculture is the most sweeping in 50 years. And in many ways, it's the prototype of the plans we have to streamline the entire Federal Government to make it work better for the American people.

Mike Espy has been a partner of ours in developing the empowerment zones for distressed rural areas where we try to solve our most fundamental economic problems by creating partnerships at the grassroots level to help people help themselves. When livelihoods and lives were threatened by the awful floods and natural disasters in the Midwest and elsewhere, Secretary Espy managed our agriculture relief efforts with speed, compassion, and confidence. He did a superb job. In the area of crop insurance, in the area of food safety, in so many other areas Secretary Espy and his administration were friends of the American farmers.

I am confident that Congressman Glickman will not only carry on the innovations begun by Secretary Espy but break new ground in our efforts to increase farm exports and bridge the differences between rural and urban Members of Congress.

I can say one thing that has pleased me greatly over the last year or so, and that is to travel around America and have farmers come up to me and say that they now consider the Department of Agriculture a friend and not a problem in their efforts to produce food for the United States and for the world. It will be our goal to continue that as we work so hard to balance the concerns of farmers and ranchers, consumers, environmentalists, and others.

I know Dan Glickman will meet this challenge. He has always been more interested in solving problems for people than scoring political points. The many awards and the recognition he has received from farm groups, from environmental groups, from consumers testify to his fairness and to his ability. I picked him for this job because the Department of Agriculture and rural America more than ever need a leader who is experienced, aggressive, and innovative. I know he will be an advocate and a spokesman for making sure that American agriculture enters the 21st century on a prosperous and solid foundation. Our agricultural system is the envy of the world, and it must remain so.

I also chose Dan Glickman for his common sense and his good humor. He says he always wears a sunflower on his lapel to remind him of where he's from, the values of the heartland that make him what he is. I hope and expect he will keep wearing that sunflower and keep us in a sunny disposition.

Mr. Glickman.

[*At this point, Representative Glickman made brief remarks.*]

North Korea

Q. Mr. President, what do you hear about the talks in North Korea? And would you hold

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up that January 21st oil shipment if Airman Hall is not released?

The President. Well, let me say first of all that we have made it clear to the North Koreans that we want the prompt release of Airman Hall and that there is no reason for his detention. He was on a routine training mission; that's all. They made an error, which we have acknowledged, and drifted into North Korean airspace.

We now have an administration official in North Korea, as you know, and talks are ongoing. And I think it would be premature for me to say anything else at this time. Let's give our people there a chance to do their work and see what happens.

Q. Are we asking for an apology, and isn't there a split in the North Korean Government between the military and the——

The President. I think it would be better for us to say nothing until my representative there has a chance to do his work. And we are in constant contact with him; he's working hard. We want Airman Hall released. There is no reason to detain him. It was a routine training mission. Anything else would be premature at this time.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:14 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

December 28, 1994

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with Public Law 95–384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I am submitting to you this report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question. The previous report covered progress through September 30, 1994. The current report covers October 1, 1994 through November 30, 1994.

During this period, senior U.S. officials met frequently with President Clerides and other officials of the Republic of Cyprus. In late October, Greek-Cypriot leader Clerides and Turkish-Cypriot leader Denktash had five face-to-face meetings in Nicosia under the auspices of the United Nations. No concrete agreements were reached, but all the main issues involved in a settlement were addressed. Mr. Clerides has stated his willingness to continue discussions if a substantive basis for negotiations is established within the framework of U.N. resolutions and the high-level agreements of 1977 and 1979.

In addition, Mr. Denktash wrote to U.N. Secretary General Boutros-Ghali on November 21 reaffirming his commitment to a bizonal, bicommunal federation. He has also stated his willingness to enter immediate negotiations with Mr. Clerides. We hope that these statements will facilitate efforts to develop a basis for immediate talks between the two leaders on an early implementation of the U.N.-proposed package of confidence-building measures and on an overall solution.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Claiborne Pell, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Statement on the Resignation of R. James Woolsey as Director of Central Intelligence

December 28, 1994

Jim Woolsey has been a staunch advocate of maintaining an intelligence capability that is second to none. He has taken initiatives to streamline and improve costly collection systems, im-