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Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali

February 23, 1993

Aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina

Q. Mr. President, is an airdrop enough to relieve the suffering? Will that do the job of getting food to people?

The President. Well, if we can reach an agreement, it will help, I think.

Q. How close are you to an agreement, Mr. President?

The President. I don't know. We can't talk until you leave. [*Laughter*]

Q. Do you think that there is some risk, though, of this being the first step to an engagement that we won't be able to get out of?

The President. Not necessarily, no. Not at all.

Q. Why not?

The President. Because what we're discussing is very different. It has no combat connotations whatever, and it's purely humanitarian and quite limited.

Q. Isn't there a risk of people being shot at by antiaircraft artillery?

The President. Well, if we do it, we'll have an announcement that deals with that. We think the risks are quite small.

NOTE: The exchange began at 4:10 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Meeting With United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali

February 23, 1993

During their meeting on February 23, the President and the Secretary General of the United Nations discussed the role of the U.N. and the support of the United States, Somalia, Haiti, and a wide range of other issues.

They also discussed the tragic situation in the former Yugoslavia. They agreed on the urgent need for an end to the fighting and the violations of international humanitarian law.

In this regard, the President and the Secretary General urge the leaders of the parties involved in the peace talks on Bosnia and Herzegovina to come to New York immediately to resume discussions in pursuit of an agreement to end the conflict.

In view of emergency humanitarian needs in Bosnia, the Secretary General welcomed the President's explanation of the possible use of airdrops into isolated areas that are in critical need of relief and cannot be reached at this time by ground. They agreed that such drops would be temporary and supplemental to land convoys in accordance with existing procedures. The President stressed the United States intention to coordinate such operations closely with the United Nations relief effort.

Proclamation 6530—American Wine Appreciation Week, 1993

February 23, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The wine industry in this Nation has a heritage dating back to our Founding Fathers. Today it continues as a proud tradition, nurtured by thousands of family-owned farms, in every region of our country. From generation to generation, grape growers have helped sustain and preserve our agricultural resources, keeping 850,000 acres of American land as open space for active agricultural production.

More than 8,000 grape and other fruit growers work together with more than 1,300 wineries to produce 85 percent of all wine consumed in the United States. This $8 billion industry strengthens the American economy by supporting more than 200,000 jobs and contributing $1 billion a year in government taxes and fees.

The history of wine grape growing in the world spans more than 7,000 years. In our own history, wine has continually played an important role in a wide variety of American

cultural, religious, and familial traditions. Vineyards and wineries across the Nation are scenic tourist attractions, drawing millions of foreign and American visitors each year.

In gratitude to those who contribute to the high quality of agricultural products produced in the United States, and in recognition of the role of agriculture in our daily life and our life as a Nation, the Congress, by Public Law 102–468, has designated the week of February 21–27, 1993, as ''American Wine Appreciation Week'' and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of February 21–27, 1993, as ''American Wine Appreciation Week.'' I call upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 5:01 p.m., February 23, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the Federal Register on February 25.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom

February 24, 1993

Bosnia

Q. Mr. President, are you going to make an announcement on Bosnia today? On the airdrop?

The President. I don't think we'll have a final announcement today. But the Prime Minister and I certainly are going to discuss that along with a number of other things.

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, are you concerned that American airdrops might endanger British troops on the ground, put them subject to Serbian——

Prime Minister Major. No, I'm not remotely concerned about that. We'll discuss the airdrops. I think, as a humanitarian initiative that's very welcome. And it'll have our support. I don't think it is going to endanger British troops.

Q. What is holding you up, Mr. President, in your decision?

The President. Just going through the procedures we have to go through to discuss this with our allies.

News Conference

Q. When are you going to announce a press conference?

The President. You know, I didn't realize it had been so long since I had one. I really didn't, Helen [Helen Thomas, United Press International], until you mentioned it the other day. I need to give you one. I'll get——

Q. When?

The President. I'm going to take it up with our folks. I didn't even know it had been a long time, since I answer these questions all the time.

The Vice President. It seems like there is a press conference everyday.

Q. That's not a press conference.

The Vice President. Oh, I know. I know.

The President. I'll do better on that.

Q. You promise?

[*At this point, one group of reporters left the room and another group entered.*]

Prime Minister Mulroney of Canada

Q. Do you gentlemen have anything to say about Brian Mulroney in his resignation today?

The President. I wish him well. I talked to him. We had a nice visit. And I don't think that I can add anything to the statement that was made. But I was very appreciative of the conversation we had, and I wish him well.

Relations With the United Kingdom

Q. Can we ask how the special relationship is, Mr. President?

The President. Excuse me?

Q. Can we ask how the special relationship between the U.S. and Britain is?

The President. Absolutely.