

cussion, improve the environment for business, and develop the commercial infrastructure.

Business Development Committee: President Clinton is making bilateral trade and investment growth with Russia a major priority. Implementation is centered in the U.S.-Russia Business Development Committee (BDC) cochaired by Secretary of Commerce Brown and Deputy Prime Minister Shokhin. Secretary Brown will travel to Moscow to begin the process in May. The BDC will be the primary vehicle to help identify and remove impediments to trade and investment, unblock specific U.S. investment projects, press for Russian Government policy reforms, and improve the commercial infrastructure for bilateral commercial growth. The BDC meeting will focus on eliminating obstacles to investment in the energy sector and will include a high level session of the Defense Conversion Subcommittee.

Generalized System of Preferences: President Clinton seeks to extend the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to Russia to provide duty-free treatment for a broad range of Russian exports. Over 440 million of Russian goods will benefit.

GATT: The United States will support Russia's application to become a member of the GATT and will help build the institutions necessary for Russia to become a full GATT member.

American Business Centers: The administration will open four American Business Centers in Russia this year to help American and Russian companies do business with each other and to serve as business incubators.

Export Control Development: Technical assistance will be provided to Russia to improve its export controls development. An effective Russian export control system would allow the sale of higher levels of technology to Russia to assist the reform and modernization of the Russian economy.

Eximbank Loan: The Export-Import Bank of the United States has just finalized an \$82 million loan to finance sale of Caterpillar pipeline construction machinery for Gazprom. This equipment will be used on construction of a gas pipeline in the Yarnal Peninsula region of Russia.

OPIC Investment Support: The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) has approved its first loan and major insurance coverage to a private commercial venture in Russia, a \$150 million package consisting of a \$50 million loan guarantee and \$100 million investment insurance coverage to support CONOCO's \$300 million Polar Lights project.

TDA Feasibility Study Grants: The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (TDA) is granting \$1.4 million for oil and gas feasibility studies as part of a package of TDA grants totaling \$3.8 million.

Special American Business Internship Training (SABIT): 300 additional internships with American companies are being created for business executives, entrepreneurs, and scientists under the Commerce Department's highly successful business internship program. This doubles the number of Russians who will acquire on-the-job experience in a market economy. (\$2 million).

Total Trade and Investment Development Program: \$9 million in direct program expenditures; trade and investment loans and guarantees; expanded trade and investment.

Exchange With Reporters En Route to the Opening Day Baseball Game in Baltimore, Maryland

April 5, 1993

Affirmative Action in Baseball

Q. Mr. President, what do you think of Jesse Jackson's protest today?

The President. I think it's an informational protest. I think it's fine. The owners put out a statement a few days ago which they say was the first step in, you know, efforts to increase minority ownership and minority increases in management. I think we should. I'm encouraged by Don Baylor's appointment out in Colorado. And I think it's time to make a move on that front. So, I think it's a legitimate issue, and I think it's, like I said, it's an informational picket and not an attempt to get people not to go to the game. So, I think it's good.

Q. Do you think they're moving fast enough?

The President. Well, I think that it was a good first step. And I think you'll see some movement now. And I think it's an issue that deserves some attention, and they're obviously going to give it some. And I think that Reverend Jackson being out there will highlight the issue. So I think it's fine.

Stimulus Package

Q. Mr. President, how about the logjam in the Senate on the economic stimulus plan? Do you think they'll be able to break that and get cloture?

The President. I don't know. We're working at it. I mean, it's a classic—there was an article in the paper today, one of the papers I saw, which pretty well summed it up. They said, you know, it's just a political power play. In the Senate the majority does not rule. It's not like the country. It's not like the House. If the minority chooses, they can stop majority rule. And that's what they're doing. There are a lot of Republican Senators who have told people that they might vote for the stimulus program but there's enormous partisan political pressure not to do it.

And of course, what it means is that in this time when no new jobs are being created even though there seems to be an economic recovery, it means that for political purposes they're willing to deny jobs to places like Baltimore and Dallas and Houston and Pittsburgh and Philadelphia and Portland and Seattle. It's very sad. I mean, the block grant program was designed to create jobs in a hurry based on local priorities, and it's one that the Republicans had always championed. Just about the only Democrat champions of the program were people like me who were out there at the grassroots level, Governors and Senators. I just think it's real sad that they have chosen to exert the minority muscle in a way that will keep Americans out of work. I think it's a mistake.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:45 a.m. aboard the MARC train en route to Oriole Park at Camden Yards. In his remarks, he referred to civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt

April 6, 1993

World Trade Center Bombing

Q. President Mubarak, did you give the United States a specific warning about the World Trade Center bombing?

President Mubarak. Let me tackle this problem in the press conference, if you don't mind.

Stimulus Package

Q. Mr. President, do you think you'll get your stimulus package intact after the recess?

President Clinton. Well, let me say this: We're going to give the Senate a chance to prove that the stated objections to some of the programs were their real objections. I mean, the American people, I'm sure, are disappointed to find that a program that would put a half-million people to work and that has the support of a majority of the United States Senate cannot be brought to a vote in the Senate, because democracy and the majority rule is being undermined.

The whole purpose of the Senate's debating rules is to allow all amendments to be offered. We've had amendment after amendment after amendment after amendment, and the Republican minority is just trying to keep it from being voted on. So we're going to give them a chance to see if they were serious about their specific concerns and if they really want to put the American people back to work or not. This is a big issue, and we'll just see what happens.

Q. You are going to have to compromise, though, aren't you?

Q. —frustrated about the delay?

President Clinton. Of course. I think that we ought to be—I can't imagine how they could be satisfied with the condition of this economy. I can't imagine how they could be satisfied with it. They were here, many of them, while we increased the national debt by 4 times, while we exploded the deficit, we drove down employment and drove up unemployment. And I've given them a plan to bring down the deficit and increase employment, put people back to work, and I