AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

nologies addresses some of the real distortions in the American economy, such as the exploding cost of health care and the fact that we spend 30 percent more on it than anybody else does, and attempts to develop policies for defense conversion, technology, and trade which will hook us into the global economy in a better way.

We also tried to achieve an agreement at GATT toward more coordination of our economic policies to produce higher levels of global growth. And there was some modest success. For the first time in a decade, GATT did not criticize America's trade—I mean, budget deficit. They complimented us for trying to get it down, which is nice.

But we also got an agreement, I think, to continue to work with the Europeans and the Japanese, but there are domestic political considerations which limit what they can do. The Germans are bringing their interest rates down, but they're also tightening up their economy. The Japanese are stimulating their economy, but not as much as we wish they were. Nonetheless, I think on balance things are going in the right direction at home, and the G–7 was a big, big plus for the concept of an open trading system and for the promise of future growth.

Now, having said that, obviously there are a lot of differences between words that are spoken by people in political life, and even that are put down on paper, and the way things operate in fact. So I'm here today as much as anything else for an hour now just to listen to you, to ask you how we can help to support your mission here. America had a 20-year high in productivity increase in the last quarter of last year. There are many, many areas of the world now where in products and services we are the high-quality, low-cost producer. And there are all kinds of opportunities for us around the world that we need a good partnership between the United States and the private sector to achieve.

And so unless we know what you're thinking and what we're supposed to do, it will be hard to do that. And that's why the Secretary and I and all the folks on the wall are here today, and the rest of his hour belongs to you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:40 a.m. at Yongsan Army Base. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters at the Demilitarized Zone in South Korea

July 11, 1993

Q. So what do you think?

The President. I think anyone who sees this would understand how important it is for us to stay strong on the issue of North Korea staying in the NPT and allowing those atomic energy inspectors back in there. And I think anyone who sees this would be proud of these young men in uniform for being here.

NOTE: The exchange began at 1:45 p.m. at a lookout post near Camp Bonifas. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters at the Demilitarized Zone

July 11, 1993

North Korea

Q. How many more years do you think this line will hold?

The President. I don't know. I hope it won't be long. But in the meanwhile, I'm glad these people are here. All these young men are doing something very important. And when you see, as I said, when you see the way North Korea's been behaving, their presence here is even more important. The American people should be very proud of them. They are making a major contribution to the defense of freedom and also to the spread of freedom. And in the end our side of that bridge will prevail.

Q. Do you think they know you're here?

The President. I imagine they do. They were certainly looking. And someday they'll be able to——

Q. Menacingly?

The President. Well, I hope someday they'll just be able to walk on over here in peace.