

we always thought we'd have to do. In fast track, I think the Democrats only had—when they voted for the fast track negotiations here, I think they only had 95 votes. But I've always thought we could do our part and we could get 218 votes on Wednesday, and I still believe we're going to.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:19 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

### **Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel**

*November 12, 1993*

#### **Middle East Peace Process**

**Q.** Mr. President, are you considering a stop in the Middle East during your Europe trip in January to help the momentum of the Middle East peace process?

**The President.** The Prime Minister and I are going to talk about what we can do to keep this going, but that's not one of the things that's been raised so far by anyone.

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

**Q.** President Clinton, is King Hussein strong enough to make peace with Israel before President Asad?

**The President.** I think he's in a good position to proceed now. And of course, we all have come out for a process that will lead to comprehensive peace in the Middle East. But I think King Hussein obviously wants peace, and the recent elections must surely encourage him. I think the people of Jordan want peace.

**Q.** Do you think there's a chance to reach any progress with the Syrians?

**The President.** I hope so. We're going to discuss that today and a number of other issues. Over the long run, I think we'll have to make progress with everyone.

#### **PLO Terrorism**

**Q.** Mr. Prime Minister, what's your comment on the involvement of PLO people in the kidnaping and killing of an Israeli?

**Prime Minister Rabin.** We consider it as a great and dangerous violation of the commitment of the PLO. In the letter that was signed by the chairman of the PLO to me, he committed himself to renounce and reject terrorism. Keeping commitments is the basis for the advancement towards peace. We'll keep our commitments; we demand them to keep their commitments and to come up openly in renouncing and taking the disciplined measures to which he is committed, as it is written in the letter that he signed and sent to me.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:41 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

### **The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin**

*November 12, 1993*

**The President.** Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. It's a great pleasure for me once again to have the opportunity to host my friend Prime Minister Rabin. I first welcomed him to the White House last March. At that time, he stated with great conviction that he felt the time had come to make peace and that he was ready to make the necessary steps and to take the necessary risks for peace. I told him that if that were to be the case, it was the job of the United States to minimize those risks. We both committed to make 1993 a year of breakthrough for peace in the Middle East.

On September 13, that commitment was transformed into history through the simple handshake on the South Lawn of the White House. Israel's historic effort with the Palestinians was due, in large measure, to the courageous statesmanship of Prime Minister Rabin.

Shortly thereafter, the United States convened a donors' conference to help provide