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And again, I criticize those who put forth simplistic solutions in this area. Life is difficult. No one can prevent such events being conflictual. A little modesty on the part of those proposing miracle solutions will be necessary.

Greece

Q. Mr. President, Germany recently requested that the famous Article 5 of the NATO Pact should apply for the security for the Czech Republic, not a NATO member, in order to face a threat not been defined yet. Since Greece is a NATO member, according to the report many of them are facing a real threat in her northern border from an expected movement of Albanian refugees from Kosovo via Skopje. If the same article could apply on that case, keep also into account that European Union and Western European Union are not guaranteeing the Greek borders. And I'm taking this opportunity, Mr. President, to ask directly if America will be in the position to guarantee the security of Greece from such a threat on a bilateral basis?

President Clinton. Frankly, that's a conversation I think I ought to have with Prime Minister Papandreou before I have it in public in some ways. But let me respond in two ways. First of all, the United States has taken two strong steps to try to make sure that the dire situation you described does not occur. We have sent 300 troops to be located in Macedonia, or Skopje as the Prime Minister describes it, as a part of a NATO effort or a U.N. effort to contain the conflict in Bosnia.

In addition to that, shortly before I became President but after I was elected President, the previous administration with my strong support sent a very strong and firm warning about involving Kosovo in the conflagration in Bosnia. And we made it very clear that we would have very strong views about that and a strong reaction to it.

So I think the real issue is, are we trying to protect the interests of Greece and other nations from being embroiled in the conflict now in the Balkans. And the answer is yes, and I think we've taken two strong steps to do that. I believe we will be successful in doing that.

NOTE: The President's 41st news conference began at 12:49 p.m. in the News Conference Theatre at the headquarters of the Commission of the European Union, where he met with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou in his capacity as President, European Council, and Jacques Delors, President, European Commission. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this news conference.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters Following Discussions With President Václav Havel of the Czech Republic in Prague

January 11, 1994

President Clinton. Thank you very much. First, I want to express my thanks to President Havel for his warm welcome. I'm coming back to Prague only for the second time in my life. I was here 24 years ago in this same week, in a very different role in life.

I have been deeply impressed by the progress made by the Czech Republic, and was deeply impressed by the meeting I had today with the President and the Prime Minister and with other leaders of the government. I reaffirmed the fact that the security of this Republic, and of the nations of Central and Eastern Europe are important to the security of the United States and to Europe and to the Atlantic alliance, that the Partnership For Peace is the beginning of a genuine security relationship which can lead to full membership in NATO, and that we must also be mindful of the economic dimension of security. For it is difficult for nations to pursue good policies and to reflect democratic values unless they can also offer the hope of success to the people within their borders who work hard, obey the law, and try to contribute to the welfare of society.

So we talked about these things, and I look forward to talking tomorrow with all the leaders, who will be here together, in perhaps somewhat more specific terms about what we can do to further both these objectives. But I am very encouraged by this meeting tonight, and I thank President Havel for his support for the Partnership For Peace.

[*At this point, a question was asked in Czech, and no translation was provided.*]

President Clinton. That issue has not been resolved, so since it was not discussed one way or the other, I suppose it is theoretically possible. NATO is a security alliance in which all the members undertake to assume certain responsibilities for the welfare of the entire group. One of the things I want to emphasize about the Partnership For Peace is a security relationship that will permit immediately the military commanders of NATO to begin to work with the military leaders of each country involved in the Partnership, to look at joint training, to look at joint exercises, to deal with the whole range of issues which will help to move toward membership.

Q. President Havel, sir, can you tell us how concerned are you about the rise of ultranationalists and Communists in the parliamentary elections in Russia? Does that cast a cloud over this region?

[*President Havel answered the question in Czech, and no translation was provided.*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:50 p.m. in the First Courtyard at Prague Castle. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Appointment of Director of Presidential Personnel

January 11, 1994

The President today announced the appointment of J. Veronica Biggins to be Director of Presidential Personnel.

"I am very pleased that Veronica Biggins, a highly regarded executive and recognized leader of both her corporation and her community, will be joining our team," the President said.

"Her experience in human resources management, community relations, and business, as well as her commitment to improving the lives of all Americans, will enable her to make a significant contribution to this administration."

NOTE: A biography of the appointee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Nominations for the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy

January 11, 1994

The President today announced his intention to nominate Lewis Manilow, Charles H. Dolan, Jr., and Harold C. Pachios as members of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. Upon Mr. Manilow's confirmation by the Senate, the President intends to designate him Commission Chair.

"The Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy plays an important role in directing the USIA as it works to promote democracy abroad," the President said. "I am pleased to announce the addition of these three accomplished professionals to our team."

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Nominations for the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada

January 11, 1994

The President today announced his intention to nominate Thomas L. Baldini and Susan B. Bayh as members of the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada. Upon Mr. Baldini's confirmation by the Senate, the President intends to designate him Chair.

"I am pleased today to name these two hard-working individuals to the International Joint Commission," the President said.

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Exchange With Reporters Prior To Discussions With President Michal Kovac of the Slovak Republic in Prague

January 12, 1994

Partnership For Peace

Q. President Clinton, what's been the reception so far to what you have brought to these nations?

The President. So far, so good.