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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.

Q. No objections, sir?

The President. We've had three different conversations, of course, and this will be the fourth. And each of them, although leaders can characterize them for themselves, but I have been very pleased so far.

Q. Have they raised security issues with you, that they are worried that if there should be some kind of resurgence in Russia that they feel protected, or are they still worried about this?

The President. No one has said that they expect something like that in the near future. What no one knows is whether the future of Europe will be like its past or if it will be different.

Q. Are you saying that all have accepted the Partnership so far?

The President. You'll have to ask them when we do the press conference.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:06 a.m. in the library at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's News Conference With Visegrad Leaders in Prague

January 12, 1994

President Clinton. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the very beautiful American Embassy.

I have just finished a very productive and enjoyable working lunch with the leaders of the Visegrad states: President Václav Havel and Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus of the Czech Republic; President Arpad Goencz and Prime Minister Peter Boross of Hungary; President Lech Walesa and Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak of Poland; and President Michal Kovac and Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar of Slovakia.

I want to, at the outset, stress my appreciation to President Havel, Premier Klaus and the Czech people for their hospitality and contributions to our meeting, and I thank again all the Visegrad leaders for joining here today.

This region, where the great democratic rebirth of Europe began 5 years ago, holds a special place in my own affections. I first came to this city 24 years ago this week, and two of my senior national security advisers were born in this region: the Chairman of our Joint Chiefs of Staff General Shalikashvili, who spent most of his early years in Poland, was born there; and my U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright who was born here in Prague. I told President Havel yesterday that the Czech Republic is the only nation in the world that has two ambassadors in the United Nations.

I have come to Europe to help build a new security for the transatlantic community for the 21st century. During the cold war the security of the Western alliance was defined by the division of Europe. Our new security must be defined by Europe's integration, the integration of a broader Europe based on military cooperation, robust democracies, and market economies. That was my message in Brussels, where I met with our NATO and European Community allies. And it will be my message as I travel to Moscow.

I am mindful of an old Polish saying, which I have, I hope, learned to pronounce properly: *Nits o nas bez nas*; Nothing about us without us. And so I have come to this region to share my thoughts directly with your leaders and your people. I believe the United States must make clear to all of you first that we are committed to helping you continue your work of reform and renewal in peace. That commitment derives from more than our shared values and our admiration for your efforts. It also derives from our own security concerns. Let me be absolutely clear: The security of your state is important to the security of the United States.

At today's lunch I discussed three ways in which my nation is prepared to advance Europe's democratic integration by supporting your region's continued renewal and security. First, we discussed the Partnership For Peace, the American proposal NATO has just adopted. The Partnership invites all former Warsaw Pact and former Soviet states, plus other non-NATO members in Europe, to join in military cooperation with NATO in training exercise and operations jointly.

While the Partnership is not NATO membership, neither is it a permanent holding room. It changes the entire NATO dialog so that now the question is no longer whether NATO will take on new members but when