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## Exchange With Reporters During a Meeting With Mayor Jacques Chirac of Paris, France

*June 7, 1994*

***The President.*** Good morning. How are you? It's a wonderful city. It's wonderful to be back.

### *Bosnia*

***Q.*** Mr. President, do you think that the Bosnian Muslims should accept Akashi's proposal for a 4-month ceasefire?

***The President.*** Well, we'd very much like to see a cessation of the fighting, and we're working on it. Ambassador Redman is here today, and I hope to have a chance to talk to him about it. I think I should defer any other comments until I get a chance to get a direct briefing. But we're trying to work out our schedule so I can see him today and get a firsthand account.

Anything we can do to stop the fighting, in my judgment, is a good thing.

### *France*

***Q.*** Mr. President, how would you qualify the relationship between France and the United States today, as you are in Paris?

***The President.*** I think it's very good. And I think it will get better.

### *Bosnia*

***Q.*** Mr. President, on Bosnia, is the French Government applying any kind of pressure on Washington to apply pressure on the Bosnian Government to accept the peace plan that is proposed——

***The President.*** Well, I wouldn't characterize it in that way. We're having discussions—I just talked with the mayor about it. And I intend to meet with the Prime Minister and the President today, and of course, to speak to the Assembly. But all of us want to try to bring an end to the fighting and have a settlement which can be a part of a comprehensive resolution to this.

### *North Korea*

***Q.*** [*Inaudible*]—the North Koreans didn't show up to the armistice meeting today, do you see that as a provocation?

***The President.*** Excuse me, I didn't——

***Q.*** The North Koreans didn't turn up to the armistice meeting today. Do you see that as a provocation?

***The President.*** Not particularly. They've argued about the armistice setup for some years on and off. I don't—we're not in a good position there, as you know. Our relationships with them are not the best now because of this problem. And we're proceeding with the United Nations as we should. But I don't—this doesn't add any particular extra element to it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:51 a.m. in the U.S. Ambassador's residence. In his remarks, he referred to Yasushi Akashi, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Former Yugoslavia, and Charles E. Redman, U.S. Special Envoy to the Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

## Remarks With Prime Minister Edouard Balladur of France and an Exchange With Reporters in Paris

*June 7, 1994*

***The President.*** The Prime Minister and I had a very good meeting, and we just had a wonderful lunch.

We discussed a large number of topics. But the things I think I should emphasize are first, our common commitment to complete the GATT round and to continue the work of involving and expanding trade as a way of promoting economic growth; second, our desire to use the G–7 meeting which is coming up as a way of dealing with some of the difficult questions that the wealthier countries have to face in a global economy, questions of labor standards, of environmental protection, the question of how to generate new jobs for our people. These are questions that in many ways advance economies, if ever seriously discussed with one another. We are attempting to do that.

We also, of course, discussed our common concerns in the area of foreign policy. And we reaffirmed our determination to work together very closely on the question of Bosnia to try to first encourage both sides to support Mr. Akashi's proposal for a ceasefire, and secondly to support the work of the contact

group in attempting to come up with an appropriate division of territory, which can be the basis of a lasting settlement there. We intend to be as supportive as we can. We can work on the ceasefire, and we have to await the final results of the contact group on the territorial recommendations.

On balance, I felt it was a very good meeting. I reaffirmed the support of the United States for a stronger, a more integrated, more involved Europe in terms of security, political, and economic affairs. And in that regard, the last point I would like to make is how pleased I am that 19 other nations have agreed to join France and the United States and the other NATO nations in the Partnership For Peace. This is very encouraging. We should have some joint exercises before the end of the year, which will put us on the road to a more united Europe, in a very important security dimension.

So these are the things we discussed. We discussed other things as well, but these are the highlights from my point of view. I'd like to now have the Prime Minister say whatever he wishes to say, and then perhaps we can answer a question or two.

***Prime Minister Balladur.*** The President of the United States has just said, with great precision, exactly what we actually talked about. And well, we agreed on the importance of the fact that the trade negotiations should lead speedily to arrangements which would take into account the questions of labor and social legislation in various parts of the world. And the President suggested that we should ask experts to deal with these problems, and I, of course, immediately agreed.

Secondly, we stressed the importance for Europe and for the whole world of the nuclear safety issue, with particular reference to the Ukraine, and steps that should be taken to ensure that the situation there should not get worse, which would also have an impact on a number of other European countries.

Those, I think, are the main points that we talked about. But in addition, we had a very friendly conversation. If I may say so, Mr. President, I think we can say it was also a fruitful one. We, of course, reaffirmed the great importance and strength of the friendship between our two countries.

### *North Korea*

***Q.*** Mr. President, did you discuss North Korea at all, or sending a special emissary to Seoul?

***The President.*** We did discuss North Korea, of course. And I reaffirmed the position of the United States that the Security Council must take up this question and consider a sanctions resolution.

I believe that the Prime Minister agrees with that position. You might want to ask him, but I was very satisfied with the response with regard to North Korea. Of course, France's position on this is pivotal, since it is one of the permanent members of the Security Council.

***Prime Minister Balladur.*** I agree that nonproliferation is an extremely important aim, both for the United States and for France. And I assured the President of our support for a Security Council resolution.

### *Europe-U.S. Relations*

***The President.*** Is there a French question?

***Q.*** Yes, sir, thank you. Mr. Prime Minister, are you satisfied with President Clinton's position on Europe and the relations with France? Are you reassured after one year of American foreign policy about which we said that it was a rather uncertain one?

***Prime Minister Balladur.*** I am not reassured, because I was not worried. I have full responsible confidence in the United States administration and President Clinton's administration. Now, naturally, we don't necessarily see everything exactly from the same viewpoint, and the opposite would be extremely surprising. But we do share the common aim of peace and security worldwide.

And I would like to add that I found in President Clinton a great openness of mind and a great appreciation of European problems and the need that Europe should organize itself better, and indeed, he made this point at the end of the luncheon. So I think that most of the causes that could possibly already have led to difficulty in understanding each other's viewpoint have, in fact, disappeared.

***The President.*** Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:20 p.m. at the Hotel Matignon. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## Remarks to the French National Assembly in Paris

*June 7, 1994*

Mr. President, distinguished Deputies, representatives of the people of France, it is a high honor for me to be invited here, along with my wife and our distinguished Ambassador, Pamela Harriman, to share with you this occasion. There is between our two peoples a special kinship. After all, our two republics were born within a few years of each other. Overthrowing the rule of kings, we enthroned in their places common ideals: equality, liberty, community, the rights of man.

For two centuries, our nations have given generously to each other. France gave to our Founders the ideas of Montesquieu and Rousseau. And then Lafayette and Rochambeau helped to forge those ideas into the reality of our own independence. For just as we helped to liberate your country in 1944, you helped to liberate our country two full centuries ago.

Your art and your culture have inspired countless Americans for that entire time, from Benjamin Franklin to John and Jacqueline Kennedy. In turn, we lent to you the revolutionary genius of Thomas Jefferson, the fiery spirit of Thomas Paine, and the lives of so many of our young men when Europe's liberty was most endangered.

This week you have given us yet another great gift in the wonderful commemorations of the Allied landings at Normandy. I compliment President Mitterrand and all the French people for your very generous hospitality. I thank especially the thousands of French families who have opened their homes to our veterans.

Yesterday's sights will stay with me for the rest of my life, the imposing cliffs of Pointe du Hoc, the parade of our Allied forces on Utah Beach, the deadly bluffs at bloody Omaha, the rows upon rows of gravestones at our cemetery at Colleville.

D-Day was the pivot point of the 20th century. It began Europe's liberation. In ways great and small, the Allied victory proved how democracy's faith in the individual saved democracy itself. From the daring of the French Resistance to the inventiveness of the soldiers on Omaha Beach, it proved what free nations can accomplish when they unite behind a great and noble cause.

The remarkable unity among the Allies during World War II, let us face it, reflected the life-or-death threat facing freedom. Democracies of free and often unruly people are more likely to rally in the face of that kind of danger. But our challenge now is to unite our people around the opportunities of peace, as those who went before us united against the dangers of war.

Once in this century, as your President so eloquently expressed, following World War I, we failed to meet that imperative. After the Armistice, many Americans believed our foreign threats were gone. America increasingly withdrew from the world, opening the way for high tariffs, for trade wars, for the rise to fascism and the return of global war in less than 20 years.

After World War II, America, France, and the other democracies did better. Led by visionary statesmen like Truman and Marshall, de Gaulle, Monnet, and others, we reached out to rebuild our allies and our former enemies, Germany, Italy, and Japan, and to confront the threat of Soviet expansion and nuclear power. Together, we founded NATO, we launched the Marshall plan, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and other engines of economic development. And in one of history's great acts of reconciliation, France reached out to forge the Franco-German partnership, the foundation of unity and stability in modern Western Europe. Indeed, the members of the European Union have performed an act of political alchemy, a magical act that turned rubble into renewal, suspicion into security, enemies into allies.

Now we have arrived at this century's third moment of decision. The cold war is over. Prague, Warsaw, Kiev, Riga, Moscow, and many others stand as democratic capitals, with leaders elected by the people. We are reducing nuclear stockpiles, and America and