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Remarks Announcing Additional Sanctions Against Haiti

June 10, 1994

Good afternoon. Today I want to have Bill Gray, our Special Adviser on Haiti, announce two new steps that are necessary to intensify the pressure on that country's military leaders, a ban on commercial air traffic and sanctions on financial transactions.

As Bill Gray will explain, these steps represent an important new stage in our efforts to restore democracy and return President Aristide to Haiti. The message is simple: Democracy must be restored; the coup must not endure.

In the past month, we have taken steps to advance the interests of the Haitian people and the United States. Our national interests, to help democracy thrive in this hemisphere and to protect the lives of thousands of Americans who live and work in Haiti, require us to strengthen these efforts.

Under our leadership, comprehensive United Nations trade sanctions have gone into force. To enforce these sanctions, we are moving to assist the Dominican Republic to seal its shared border with Haiti. The Dominican Republic has agreed to welcome a multilateral sanctions monitoring team to help the Dominicans seal their border.

We've deployed U.S. naval patrol boats to the area to stop smugglers and have begun detaining ships suspected of violating the sanctions. We've also made important strides in dealing with the difficult issue of Haitians who leave that country by sea. A facility to interview Haitians who have been interdicted will soon open in Jamaica. And one month from now, we will open a second interview facility on the Turks and Caicos Islands. I want to thank the governments of those countries and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees for their collaboration in this effort.

I want to be clear about this issue. I continue to urge all Haitians to avoid risking their lives in treacherous boat voyages. Anyone who fears persecution should apply for refugee status at our facilities within Haiti. Since our administration began, those offices have arranged resettlement for some 3,000 Haitian political refugees, far, far more than was the case prior to that time. They stand ready to review further cases and represent the safest and fastest way for Haitians to seek refuge.

Now I'd like to ask Bill Gray, who stepped into this very difficult role and has used great skill to make real progress, to explain these new steps which we're announcing today.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:22 p.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House.

Remarks in a Telephone Conversation With Senator Edward M. Kennedy

June 10, 1994

The President. Hello.

Senator Kennedy. Mr. President.

The President. How are you, Senator?

Senator Kennedy. Well, real well, better today than any other time we've been for a long time. Your program is on track. We've got a lot of enthusiasm for it. People are excited. They know that for the first time in the history of the country we're going to get a chance to debate this. And your leadership and Mrs. Clinton's leadership has just made an extraordinary difference.

The President. Well, I thought you were terrific. I tell you, you and all the people that voted with you in the committee are really going to give the country a chance to have an honest debate about this now. There's been an awful lot of charges and countercharges in the air and a lot of misinformation. But the fundamental fact is that we're now going to have a chance to decide as a nation whether we're going to give health care coverage to all of our people in the context that will enable us to bring some of the costs down and keep some of the bad things from occurring that are happening today. And I'm really elated about it.

Senator Kennedy. Well, I think the people are really beginning to sort of understand that after all the posturing and statements and speeches, that we are for the first time going to have a chance to do something for families in this country. And I think that's really the good news.

The one thing that we have seen very, very clear in the last 2 weeks is that the politics

of negativism and the politics of criticism and the naysayers may be able to get attention for the early rounds, but I just can't believe that that kind of attitude can last. I find in traveling around Massachusetts, people are asking, "If you're against the program, what are you really for?" And I think that the fact that you've been out there day-in and day-out, fighting for something that's going to make a difference for families, working families, is really making a difference. And we've had good conversations today and last night with Chairman Moynihan and a number of the members of that committee this morning. And I know we've got a battle through there, but quite frankly, I think that this health program of yours has come to pass.

The President. Well, you were there a long time before anybody else. I still remember the speech you gave in Memphis in 1978. And you convinced me we needed to get off our dime and go to work. It's just taken us 16 years to get a bill out of committee, but I'm ready to roll. [*Laughter*] And the American people are deeply in your debt, and we now have a chance to do it. And I just want to assure you, I'm going to do everything I can.

I want to also say a special word of thanks to you for making the effort to reach out to Republicans and give them a chance to be part of the process. You and I know they're under enormous partisan pressure not to participate. But Senator Jeffords voted with us yesterday, and many of the Republicans offered amendments and did other things that you gave them a chance to do. And I hope this will be eventually like Social Security and Medicare, where a number of them will finally come around in the end. And I think they will, in part because you kept the door open and worked with them so carefully.

Senator Kennedy. Well, just on that, on the benefit package approach on it, we had 17 to nothing, all the Republicans as well as the Democrats; and the long-term care, we are 15 to 2; on the privacy provisions that are going to even fill in some of the abuses that exist today, we had virtually unanimous support; the training programs, 11 to 6; the quality issues, which are so important, 13 to 4. We picked up many Republicans on different provisions of it. And I think, obviously, I know how you have worked to try and make sure they're going to be there during the debate on the floor. I think they will be.

The President. We've just got to keep hitting it. I'm ready if you are.

Senator Kennedy. Okay. Listen, it's good to—really appreciate you. We're all looking forward to you coming back to Massachusetts sometime.

The President. Me, too.

Senator Kennedy. Particularly Patrick. He said you had a good time up there with him the other day, too.

The President. We really had a good time. And I was so pleased. He seemed to be doing very well, and he seemed to be enjoying himself immensely.

Senator Kennedy. Well, it was very kind.

I talked to the First Lady this morning, as well. So she's already busy strategizing and moving along on the program.

The President. Thanks.

Senator Kennedy. Thanks an awful lot.

The President. All right, man.

Senator Kennedy. Good to talk to you.

The President. Goodbye. Thank you, sir.

Senator Kennedy. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The President. Bye-bye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:48 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Senator Kennedy's son, Patrick. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks in a Telephone Conversation With Senator James M. Jeffords

June 10, 1994

The President. Hello.

Senator Jeffords. Hello, Jim Jeffords here.

The President. Hi, Senator. I just wanted to thank you for your help yesterday and for your leadership on the health care bill and to say especially how much I appreciate the work you did to get the WIC program fully funded. I know how much it means to you and how much it's going to do for the children of this country.