

beginning to end and participating in only one press conference together and speaking with one voice—and as I'm sure you probably know, Russia has reached an agreement to join the Paris Club—it has enabled this body to go from a purely economic focus to deal with the common challenges that we have in the world we're about to enter and the one we face today.

For example, the work we're doing in nuclear cooperation would be impossible if Russia were not our partner here. And there are many other things that we're going to do together. So I think that this is a cause for celebration not only in Russia but in the other countries here.

Let me just say one final thing. I consider this day and all these things that are happening that are positive a tribute, first of all, to the support of the Russian people for democracy and reform and, second, to the unusual combination of vision and persistence that President Yeltsin has displayed over so many years. It's quite a hopeful moment for the world, I think, and I give him a lot of credit.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:03 p.m. at the Brown Palace Hotel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on the Tobacco Agreement

June 20, 1997

Less than one year ago, my administration announced an historic rule to protect children from the harm caused by tobacco products. Two months ago, a court in North Carolina issued a landmark ruling confirming my decision that the Food and Drug Administration has authority to regulate tobacco products to protect our children's health. These victories for the public health drove the tobacco companies to the bargaining table and extracted concessions from them that would have been unimaginable just a short time ago.

I commend the attorneys general and other people working with them, including children's health leaders, for their hard work in negotiating this agreement in a way that seeks to advance our struggle to protect the

health of children against the dangers of tobacco. They deserve our thanks for doing so.

We must now carefully consider whether approving this proposed settlement will protect the public health—and particularly our children's health—to the greatest extent possible. Until now, we have not had the opportunity to review the actual terms of the agreement, and we have not concluded whether it is in the best interests of the public health. Over the next several weeks, we will undertake a thorough public health review. I am asking Bruce Reed, my Domestic Policy Adviser—along with Donna Shalala, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services—to engage in extensive consultations with the public health community and others to subject this agreement to the strictest scrutiny. They will report to me on whether this agreement represents the best means of protecting the Nation's public health interests.

In the meantime, we will fight as hard as ever to ensure that the FDA rule stands. Each day, 3,000 young people become regular smokers; 1,000 of them will have their lives cut short as a result. Protecting the health of the public and these children will be our measure of this proposed agreement.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 13¹

The President announced his intention to appoint Abraham H. Foxman, Jay Mazur, and Aletta Schaap to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

¹ This release was not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

June 14

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC, from San Diego, CA, arriving after midnight.

June 15

In the afternoon, the President attended the final round of the U.S. Open golf tournament at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, MD.

June 16

In the evening, the President attended a book release party for former Texas Land Commissioner Garry Mauro at the Willard Hotel.

June 17

In the morning, the President met with President Kiro Gligorov of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the Oval Office to discuss a wide range of bilateral and regional issues.

June 18

In the afternoon, the President met with Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan in the Oval Office to review the Jordan-U.S. bilateral relationship and developments in the Middle East.

The President announced his intention to nominate Louis Caldera to serve as Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer for the Corporation for National and Community Service.

June 19

In the morning, the President met in the Oval Office with Gary Trew and Seamus McNeill, two teachers from Northern Ireland who are the first winners of the "President's Prize" for efforts to promote cross-community understanding.

Later, the President traveled to Denver, CO. In the evening, he attended a host committee reception at a private residence in Cherry Hills, CO.

The President announced the designation of James J. Hoecker as Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Ruby G. Moy as Staff Director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

June 20

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Fernando Cardoso of Brazil from the Presidential Suite at the Brown Palace Hotel.

In the afternoon, the President met separately with President Jacques Chirac of France and Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy in the Onyx Room at the Brown Palace Hotel.

In the evening, the President attended a reception with G-8 leaders in the Courtyard of the Governor's Mansion. Later, he attended a dinner with the leaders in the Music Room of the Phipps Conference Center.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted June 17

Shirley Robinson Watkins, of Arkansas, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, vice Ellen Weinberger Haas, resigned.

Submitted June 18

Frank M. Hull, of Georgia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, vice Phyllis A. Kravitch, resigned.

Submitted June 19

Louis Caldera, of California, to be a Managing Director of the Corporation for National and Community Service, vice Shirley Sachi Sagawa.

Stephen R. Sestanovich, of the District of Columbia to be Ambassador at Large and Special Adviser to the Secretary of State on the New Independent States.