

does. It is a very good agreement. It is completely in accord with the United Nations resolution, and it gives us the chance to save an awful lot of innocent people from starvation or freezing this winter and to remove yet another very dangerous source of instability in Europe.

**Q.** Sir, if he doesn't comply, will he escape paying any price for what has happened so far?

**The President.** Well, I think he is going to pay the price of a defeat here for continued aggression by his government and he's not going to succeed in his designs. I think the most important thing now is for us to save lives, return people to their homes, get them the humanitarian aid they need, and to remove completely and irrevocably the threat of aggression by the Serb military and other forces in Kosovo.

We've got to put first things first here. The most important thing is to right this situation, as we were able to do in Bosnia. And I think that today I'd say we have a pretty good chance of doing that. Again, we prefer compliance over conflict, and we hope that will be the case. But whether it is or not is entirely up to him now, and we have the verification system in place and so we'll know. And I'm very, very pleased with the work that all the people involved have done in these last several days. This is where the international community ought to be, what we ought to be doing, the position we ought to be taking. And I'm looking forward to events as they unfold.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:22 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); Special Envoy Richard Holbrooke, the President's nominee to be Ambassador to the U.N.; NATO Secretary General Javier Solana; and Gen. Wesley K. Clark, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.

## **Exchange With Reporters at Forest Knolls Elementary School in Silver Spring**

*October 13, 1998*

### **Classroom Space**

**Q.** Mr. President, Ashley Lewis was telling us before you came in that she actually likes this classroom, that it's one of the biggest in the school—

**The President.** It is big.

**Q.** Why should—can you explain to her, maybe, why you feel the need to spend \$1.1 billion to build new classrooms when the student population may not always be this size?

**The President.** Well, maybe I should let Secretary Riley answer that one, because it's going to be this size and bigger for a long time.

*[At this point, Secretary of Education Richard Riley made brief remarks explaining the need to replace temporary classrooms that are unsuitable for various reasons.]*

**The President.** Accessibility.

**Secretary Riley.** Heat, cool, it's different kinds of problems in all the different temporary facilities. Some are better than others, as the Governor pointed out, but they're temporary and it's not a permanent solution.

**The President.** Even if it is bigger. *[Laughter]*

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:05 p.m. in a portable trailer classroom. A reporter referred to sixth grade student Ashley Lewis, and Secretary Riley referred to Gov. Parris N. Glendening of Maryland. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

## **Remarks at Forest Knolls Elementary School in Silver Spring**

*October 13, 1998*

Thank you very, very much. Well, first of all, I'd like to thank Carlyne Starek for that marvelous statement. Didn't she do a good