

will eventually be passed, and on the national defense system that you deferred last week?

President Clinton. I believe the legislation will pass, and I'm pleased at the progress it's making in the Senate. But of course, we still have some work to do. The missile defense issue will be resolved by my successor, although I hope we get a chance to talk about it a little bit today.

Human Rights in China

Q. Mr. President, will you make any requests of President Zemin on the question of human rights as attached to the permanent normal trade relations bill?

President Clinton. We're going to discuss human rights issues, as we always do, but I feel very strongly that PNTR should pass. And I think over the long run it's good for the development of democracy and human rights in China, and I know it's good for America-Chinese relationships over the long run.

United Nations Security Council Summit

Q. Mr. Clinton, I know that yesterday you were present at the P-5 summit, which was a Chinese initiative. So as the President of the United States, also a permanent member of the Security Council, what would you say about the P-5 summit yesterday? And also, how do you see the role of China for international peace and security in this century?

President Clinton. Well, first of all, I think it was a very good idea by President Jiang to have the P-5 meet. I was amazed that they had never met, or hadn't met in a long time. And I think it was a very good idea. And we actually made a specific decision to, as a group, help the Secretary-General implement his report on peace-keeping and to continue to explore what else we could do together.

I think it might be a forum in the future that would provide an opportunity for Chinese cooperation with the other members of the P-5 in a way that would be very helpful to the rest of the world, as well.

President Fidel Castro of Cuba

Q. Could you describe your encounter with Fidel Castro yesterday?

The President. What Joe said is right. It just happened. There were a whole lot of people in a line. I was talking to them. I turned around, and he was standing there. He apparently had come up and waited, and we must have—the encounter lasted just a few seconds. That's all that happened.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:40 a.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria. In his remarks, the President referred to White House Press Secretary Joe Lockhart. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

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.

September 2

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton visited the New York State Fair in Syracuse. In the afternoon, they traveled from Syracuse to Cazenovia, NY, and in the evening, they returned to Washington, DC.

September 5

In the morning, the President met with Democratic congressional leaders in the Oval Office.

In an afternoon ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Davorin Kracun of Slovenia, Kgosi Seepapitso IV of Botswana, Andres Bianchi of Chile, S Tu'a Taumoepeau-Tupou of Tonga, Atan Shansonga of Zambia, Yusuf Abdulrahman Nzibo of Kenya, Przemyslaw Grudzinski of Poland, Teodoro Biyogo Nsue of Equatorial Guinea, Francisco Javier Ruperez-Rubio of Spain, Leila Rachid-Cowles of Paraguay, Yang Sung-chul of South Korea, Bader Omar Al-Dafa of Qatar, and Jan Kenneth Eliasson of Sweden.

The President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom concerning trade between the United States and the European Union.

In the evening, the President traveled to New York City.

The President announced his intention to nominate David A. Nasatir to be a member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute.

The President announced his intention to nominate Frederick Slabach to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Foundation.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Connecticut and New York on September 11.

September 6

In the morning, the President met with President Tran Duc Luong of Vietnam at the Waldorf-Astoria. In the afternoon, he met separately with Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority at the Waldorf-Astoria. In the evening, he met separately with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and King Abdullah II of Jordan at the Waldorf-Astoria. Later, he attended a Progressive Governance dinner in the Hilton Room at the Waldorf-Astoria.

The President announced the nomination of Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and Senator Rod Grams to be United States Representatives to the 55th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

September 7

In the morning, the President met with President Ahmet Sezer of Turkey at the Waldorf-Astoria. In the afternoon, he met separately with Presidents Jiang Zemin of China, Jacques Chirac of France, Vladimir Putin of Russia, and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom at the Waldorf-Astoria.

September 8

In the afternoon, the President met separately with Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland and President Hugo Banzer of Bolivia at the Waldorf-Astoria.

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 September 6

Joseph R. Biden, Jr., of Delaware, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-fifth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Rod Grams, of Minnesota, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-fifth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Submitted September 7

Valerie K. Couch, of Oklahoma, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, vice Wayne E. Alley, retired.

Marian McClure Johnston, of California, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of California, vice Lawrence K. Karlton, retired.

David A. Nasatir, of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute for a term expiring September 17, 2003, vice Terrence B. Adamson, term expired.

Robert B. Pirie, Jr., of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of the Navy, vice Jerry MacArthur Hultin, resigned.

Frederick G. Slabach, of California, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2005, vice Norman I. Maldonado, term expired.