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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

July 22, 1985

The Briefing Room

12:00 P.M. EDT

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12:28 P.M. EDT

#1508-7/22

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MR. SPEAKES: The President today is announcing the appointment of Bill D. Colvin to be Inspector General of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

For those who are keeping timetables, the President spent about 50 minutes in staff meetings this morning -- 25 minutes with the Vice President and Don Regan; then Bud joined for 25 more minutes.

The question this morning about the International -- what is it -- Democratic Union Conference, IDU Conference, is that we still don't have information as to whether the President will be able to see any of those people.

At 2:30 p.m. today, Paul Wolfowitz will be here on background to talk about the President Li visit.

Q -- 2:30 p.m.?

MR. SPEAKES: -- 2:30 p.m.

Q Thank you.

MR. SPEAKES: The --

Q Do you expect an announcement in that briefing as to whether or not they're going to sign the agreement?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Okay.

MR. SPEAKES: There will be on the state arrival and visit of the Prime Minister -- or the President of China -- there will be military honors, national anthems and remarks by both leaders. The only thing missing will be the Fife and Drum Corps.

Q Hooray.

MR. SPEAKES: That was a Canzeri creation.

Q --have an operation, too?

MR. SPEAKES: Both leaders will sit during each other's remarks, and there'll be simultaneous translation.

Q President Li infirm, is he?

MR. SPEAKES: After the arrival ceremony which will go about 15 minutes, instead of 20 minutes as usual, the leaders will go to the Blue Room for their meeting. And at that time, there'll be the customary photo that will take place.

Q And how --

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Q From the --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

During that period, Mrs. Reagan will visit with Madame Lin. And the other guests, both Americans and Chinese, they will be in the Oval Room for coffee -- yellow Oval Room for coffee.

State Dinner: The President and Mrs. Reagan will welcome President Li and Madame Lin on the North Portico at 7:45 p.m. And, then, they will proceed directly to the Red Room where Mrs. Reagan will host a receiving line in the East Room.

Q Wait a moment.

Q Wait a second.

MR. SPEAKES: They go to the Red Room -- the President will go the Red Room while Mrs. Reagan hosts a receiving line in the East Room for about 20 minutes.

Following the receiving line, President Li, Madame Lin, and Mrs. Reagan will join the President in the Red Room, and they'll go to the State Dining Room. Dinner; then, after dinner, the President will offer a toast. President Li will make remarks.

And, then, the four principals will go to the Blue Room where the President will say goodbye to his guest at about 10:00 p.m. and go to his private residence.

Mrs. Reagan will then escort the guests into the East Room for entertainment which will last until about 10:30 p.m. Following entertainment, she will go to the North Portico where she will bid them farewell.

Other guests can stay until 11:00 p.m. And that's it.

Q What is the entertainment?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know.

Q -- Grace Bumbry?

Q About what time --

MR. ROUSSEL: Grace Bumbry.

Q -- the White House Fife and Drum Corps.

MR. SPEAKES: Grace Bumbry.

Q Can you tell us what --

Q Crispen what's his name -- had to talk to?

MR. SPEAKES: -- what, John?

Q About what time do you expect the toasts?

MR. SPEAKES: Be right at the end of the dinner, I think, which -- I don't know.

Q That's good.

Q -- 9:45 p.m.?

(laughter) Q Well, what does this all mean? I mean, does --
-- how much less time is the President spending with --

MR. SPEAKES: It means the President is magnificent, Lou.

He -- well, what it means is that the lawn ceremony is about five minutes shorter than usual, but it includes everything except the Fife and Drum Corps. The two will sit instead of stand.

Q Could we petition to just do away with this --

Q On a platform?

Q Let him finish.

MR. SPEAKES: And then the meeting in the --

Q Where will the meeting be?

MR. SPEAKES: -- takes place in the Residence in the Blue Room instead of in the Oval Office. It will last for thirty minutes, which -- I don't know, maybe the other one lasted -- what -- maybe fifty minutes or something like that.

State Dinner -- the guests will arrive about fifteen minutes later than usual. The President won't do the receiving line, but will do the dinner and the toasts and everything else. Won't stay for the entertainment.

Q About an hour or less?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, maybe so.

Q They are going to sit on a platform on the South Lawn?

MR. SPEAKES: On chairs on a platform. (Laughter.)

Anything else?

Q Obviously, a chair.

Q Well, now can we petition to do away with that Fife and Drum Corps entirely?

MR. SPEAKES: We can't. It was created by Joseph Canzeri -- a Joseph Canzeri production.

So, yes, Sue.

Q Any change in the President's diet for the dinner from what the other guests will be served?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know whether he will get anything different or not, but he is, you know, on a gradually-returning-to-normal diet, so I don't know what they plan to serve the others, but -- I don't know.

I think we have stumped everybody. Had enough?

Johanna.

Q The Times piece on Geneva.

Q No, what about the revision of the Geneva Convention?

Q The Geneva Protocol thing.

MR. SPEAKES: Geneva Protocol Convention? Departments of State, Defense, and the Joint Chiefs are consulting on this matter. There are problems with these protocols, one of which is equating national wars of liberation with belligerent status under the Geneva Protocol. Accordingly under this a terrorist could be given belligerent status under international law. We will continue to

study this issue. May have something later.

Q Later today, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Johanna?

Q You were going to find out about the Ambassador to South Africa?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, I announced that in the briefing. He is here.

Q He is here?

MR. SPEAKES: He is still here, yes.

Q This is unprecedented to sit at a welcoming ceremony, isn't it?

MR. SPEAKES: No, the President sat when President Bourguiba was here, because Bourguiba wanted to sit.

Q Two questions. One, has Reagan made the unipartisan call you told us about this morning?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know that he has.

Q And, two, may we assume that the fact that they are sitting down comes at the White House's request?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't think you may.

Q Do you have anything more on --

Q Did President Li want to sit down?

MR. SPEAKES; I think anything we do in the State Arrival Ceremony will be by mutual agreement, as always with a foreign leader.

Q Anything more on phone calls today or in the remainder of the week or on the meeting with congressional leaders?

MR. SPEAKES: None of the above.

Q Is there any reaction to the terrorist bombing in Copenhagen against the Northwest Airlines office?

MR. SPEAKES: You got something there? Good. Right up to the minute.

Two bombs exploded in Copenhagen at midmorning local time, one at the office of Northwest Orient, the other a synagogue.

Twenty-four people were injured in these two events, several seriously. There was heavy damage to the front of Northwest's office. Confirmed that three of those injured are Americans. Their injuries were not serious. All three were treated and released. We've seen press reports from Lebanon that Islamic Jihad has also claimed responsibility for that -- that one, also, I guess. But we have no confirmation.

Third bomb was found in the water in the harbor area near the tourism center in Copenhagen. Police have sealed off the area.

We strongly condemn this type of cowardly act. We regret the injuries caused to innocent people and the damage to property. There can be no justification for these actions against airline offices or houses of worship or other places where people gather. We do not see how these reprehensible terrorist attacks can bring sympathy to the cause of the perpetrator. To the contrary.

Q Larry, is this sufficiently grave provocation that would fall within the area of possible U.S. retaliation?

MR. SPEAKES: Pat, I think we would seek additional information on it and make our judgments based on that.

Bob.

Q This morning you said regarding the budget that it's Congress' problem right now. However, the President is going to be making phone calls, etc.

Is it basically the situation now that the President wants a budget but is not going to forcefully involve himself in terms of --

MR. SPEAKES: No. That's not so. I would judge when the Senate Republicans have finalized their next step that they'll certainly keep us abreast of it and we'll take a good look at it.

The President's consideration is he wants a budget. He's outlined, really, a set of basic principles in the past, and those still hold. They are that the House has come -- that we're not going to accept revenue increases, that differences in the defense area can be adopted by taking the Senate position on it, 033, and the House outlay savings. And that, third, that there are serious difficulties on the COLA freeze, but these savings are necessary and they must be replaced. And, finally, the deficit remains large and dangerous and that the Senate savings in domestic areas are fully justified and something close to them is essential for an adequate deficit reduction package. That's the President's viewpoint, and that's what he's working toward.

Owen.

Q Did the President ask the Senate to take up the line-item veto bill? How does that come about?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. Our position has been that he certainly favors -- it's one of his favorite subjects is the line-item veto. And the matter has been presented to the Senate. The Senate has not been allowed to vote. The President saw Senator

Dole on television saying we were three votes short of cloture. The President thought it was a perfect time to weigh in, ask for names to call, and he did.

Q Did he or Regan or someone from the White House ask that it be brought up at a certain time? How did that come about?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know that, Owen. Whether it's just on the normal track -- we've met with Mattingly, who's the primary sponsor of it, a number of times -- or a couple of times. So --

Q Who's "we"?

MR. SPEAKES: The President.

Q It's the royal "we."

Q There's -- the conference on Contra aid begins today. Does the White House have a position on how you want that to come out?

MR. SPEAKES: Contra aid? I don't have the specifics. Ed, do you want to fill in any blanks there?

MR. DJEREJIAN: No blanks to fill in.

MR. SPEAKES: Our position hasn't changed. We don't want restrictions imposed on us and we favor the CIA as the proper agency for the funding.

So, yes, sir.

Q Any progress to report on getting our allies to support our boycott of Beirut Airport?

MR. SPEAKES: Continuing to have discussions with our allies. There is a meeting of the Economic Community Foreign Ministers today and tomorrow, I believe, or early this week in Brussels, and there will be a later meeting there this -- a meeting later this week that includes the terrorist experts from the Bonn 7, which is the economic summit 7, which is part of the ongoing cooperative venture that has been underway since the London summit and was underscored again in the Bonn summit. Ambassador Oakley will be representing us on -- at that meeting.

David?

Q Do you -- have you been informed -- have we been informed by the Soviets of any intention to replace Dobrynin with the current Soviet Ambassador to France?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't have anything on that, David.
Sorry.

Q Anything new on the seven hostages still in Lebanon?

MR. SPEAKES: Nothing that I can report.

John?

Q At that meeting, will Ambassador Oakley still be attempting to persuade the allies to join the U.S. in closing down Beirut Airport?

MR. SPEAKES: Ed, do we want to be specific on that or is it a general approach?

MR. DJEREJIAN: No, it's going to be basically a general review, follow-through on our international terrorism policies and coordinating with the allies to come upon an agreed agenda of actions

that could be taken within the Bonn 7 context.

Q Is that a "no"?

MR. DJEREJIAN: The Beirut International Airport issue probably will arise during those discussions. And our position on that is well-known -- basically that the security at the airport must be improved and not remain a safe haven to terrorists. That situation doesn't prevail yet.

Q On the same subject, does the United States believe that security has improved at the Beirut Airport, that they've taken measures that we've asked them to take? What's the view?

MR. SPEAKES: We've seen some outward signs of it, Lou. There was a big to-do on television last night about it. But, specifically, there's more to be done and it's a situation that we constantly review.

For your information, the State Department will have an announcement today concerning the Athens airport and that should come to you shortly.

Q What --

MR. SPEAKES: So -- that will indicate some progress in international airport standards.

Q Well, what is the position of the United States government now with respect to the Beirut airport? Did they have to do a certain number of other things that they've been asked to do, or --

MR. SPEAKES: That's true, yes. We enumerated a group of them -- I don't have them before me now, but the -- all of the major measures, including security of the area around the airport.

Q Well, Amal never lost my bags.

Q Is consideration being given to replace the White House gardner?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Well, I mean, they threw up a tree out here and we've all noticed it's promptly died. (Laughter.)

Q It hibernates --

MR. SPEAKES: Johanna?

Q Well, it has. Did you see that?

Q Is there any word from the advance team that was to get back from Geneva --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q What is that?

MR. SPEAKES: What kind of --

Q Did they --

Q Mark do any good shopping?

Q Did they -- selected sites for the two leaders --

MR. SPEAKES: No, Mark didn't do any -- Oh, that's very premature to -- (laughter) -- discuss those kind of things. They look at a number of things, come back and make recommendations. It's -- this is very early on in the process.

Mike?

Q Senator Dole's feathers still appear to be somewhat ruffled by Mr. Regan's comments last week and -- is the meeting today designed to smooth those feathers?

MR. SPEAKES: No, it's to talk about the agriculture bill, but I would judge it will smooth any ruffled feathers.

Q Do you have a lead --

Q Have you got anything on --

MR. SPEAKES: Lead?

Q Have you got anything today on the Miller replacement at FCC?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, Jessie?

Q I tried for two hours to reach 2100 and 2343 this morning. What's wrong with the --

MR. SPEAKES: We've finally figured out that -- how to cut our business down here. I don't know. There's something the matter with the phone system somewhere. Somebody said there's a Bruce Springsteen concert. I don't know how that --

Q Is the President going to see Bruce Springsteen?

Q -- noted Republican --

Q New Jersey's own?

Q That's apparently true. Has the White House been affected by that?

MR. SPEAKES: We've got ways to get around it.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

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