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THE WHITE
Office of the Pre.

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PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

November 14, 1984

The Briefing Room

12:01 P.M. EST

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#1223-11/14

12:14 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

November 14, 1984

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12:01 P.M. EST

MR. SPEAKES: To begin with, we have Latina Butler here with us who is a fourth grade student from Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School. She's been with us all morning under the guidance of Robin Gray.

This Martin Luther King Elementary School is one that is adopted by the White House in the President's Adopt-a-School program. Latina is with us, and Ramon Kirby is in the News Summary this morning. These are part of -- there's Ramone.

Have a seat, Ramon. You can sit over there if you'd like.

These are part of 50 students who are visiting various offices to learn how the White House operates. Latina is nine and is a fourth grader.

Ramon, how old are you?

RAMON: Eleven.

MR. SPEAKES: Ramon is eleven. And what grade are you in?

RAMON: Sixth.

MR. SPEAKES: Sixth grade. All right.

MR. ROUSSEL: He's going to be a reporter, too.

MR. SPEAKES: And Ramon worked and prepared -- we have a noon update from our News Summary each day, and Ramone prepared that today, and did a good job with it.

This afternoon, the President has just left from the Oval Office and walked over through the Colonnade to have lunch with Dr. Richard Leakey and the Board of Directors of the National Geographic Society in the Family Dining Room on the first floor.

At 2:30 p.m., the President will -- well, let's see. At 1:30 p.m., the President has a meeting with Secretary Shultz and Bud McFarlane.

And at 2:30 p.m., the meeting with the President's Task Force on Legal Equity for Women in the Cabinet Room.

We'll do that photo. Remind Robin to be sure we get that White House photo done.

Q Of the Shultz-McFarlane?

MR. SPEAKES: Shultz-McFarlane meeting, right.

The President has requested that the Vice President represent the administration tomorrow at the funeral of the Reverend

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Martin Luther King, Sr. The funeral will be at 11:00 a.m. at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

The White House Working Group on Central America will hold a meeting at 2:30 p.m. today in the Old Executive Office Building. The speakers will be Max Singer, professional policy analyst of the Potomac Organization, speaking on the elections in Nicaragua; and Dr. Edmund Robb, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Institute for Religion and Democracy, speaking on the elections in Nicaragua and the church.

Those who wish to attend may call 456-6623.

I have only one item for you that -- in addition to what we had this morning, and that's a statement on Mr. Trudeau's remarks.

Our appreciation of NATO's political consultations differs from Mr. Trudeau's.

Q -- from what?

MR. SPEAKES: Differs. Political consultations. The NATO meetings.

NATO has preserved peace for over three decades. During this period, it has dealt regularly and intensively with the questions of war and peace in a variety of fora. At the meetings of heads of government --

Q Could you repeat the last sentence?

Q Fora?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. It's different from fauna.
(Laughter.) Or flora.

War and peace in a variety of fora -- at meetings of heads of government, at meetings of foreign and defense ministers, and through bilateral contacts among NATO members. These consultations within the Alliance have been intense and productive.

Major defense and arms control initiatives have emerged from these meetings -- an example being the December 1979 decision on intermediate range nuclear forces, INF. In 1983, NATO defense ministers meeting in Canada agreed upon a unilateral reduction in NATO's nuclear stockpile by 1400 weapons. And last May, Allied foreign ministers reviewed the course of East-West relations for the past decade and put forward a comprehensive program for their improvement.

We, of course, support efforts to further strengthen these consultations. As for Mr. Trudeau's idea of a conference of the five nuclear powers, we have stated that we have no fundamental objections to such a conference at some point. However, our priority is to convince the Soviets to return to nuclear negotiations they disrupted last year.

The national positions of other nuclear powers on this matter are on record.

That's all I have on Mr. Trudeau.

(Laughter.) Q It sounds like you were cut to the quick.

Q Do you have any response --

Q By Trudeau's statement. The President upset?

MR. SPEAKES: Not terribly.

Q Pardon?

MR. SPEAKES: Not terribly. As you can remember --

Q Did he read the statement?

MR. SPEAKES: -- what he said to Mr. Trudeau.

Q No, he took his glasses off --

Q What?

MR. SPEAKES: You remember his remark to Mr. Trudeau?

Q Do you have any response to Trudeau's criticisms of the President personally saying that he wasn't engaged enough? He was interviewed on television --

Q Can we follow this a second? What remark were you referring to?

MR. SPEAKES: The reported remark at last summer's economic summit, Mr. Trudeau's last one.

Q Which one was -- what was that? I --

MR. SPEAKES: Your colleagues can help you.

Q Pardon?

MR. SPEAKES: Your colleagues can help you.

Q No. I'm asking you.

MR. SPEAKES: I understand. And I told you your colleagues can help you.

Q Well, you shouldn't make a reference like that unless you're willing to explain.

MR. SPEAKES: Well, now, I don't know what prohibits me from that.

Andrea asked about Mr. Trudeau's remarks about the President personally, particularly the ones where he said if he didn't quit following the Pentagon's advice, the Star Wars business would lead us closer to war. Oh, I guess you could say we reject it. That make him happy? Thank you. (Laughter.)

Anything else on Trudeau?

Q Larry, on a similar topic, the United States finally went ahead with its second test of the ASAT warhead which seems to be a rejection of the Soviets' call for a moratorium after some months of suggestions that they might observe one. What is the U.S. position at this point on the Soviets' call for a moratorium?

MR. SPEAKES: That we would certainly be willing to discuss a moratorium, but -- as we would many topics -- but we would have to go to the conference table to discuss it. The United States stands ready for serious arms control in this area. We're prepared

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to discuss a wide range of issues that concern both sides, but I think we have to sit down and talk before we can discuss any of them. And as we said, we put no preconditions on the talks.

Q Could we then interpret this test as a signal to the Soviets that the United States is going to proceed with testing unless they come back to talk about it at some table?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, we have had a testing program in place, and this is what we're proceeding with doing. So --

Ann?

Q Will the Secretary of State or the National Security Advisor brief us afterwards on the meeting?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know that -- I know they will not. I will talk to them afterwards, and if I have something to offer -- why don't we -- what's that meeting, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. with Bud? We'll put on a lid until 3:00 p.m. And then check with us at 3:00 p.m. to see if there's anything forthcoming.

Q -- report also the report you said was going -- when is that going to be released, not until after 3:00 p.m.?

MR. SPEAKES: The Legal Equity? After the meeting. Yes. We'll have copies available.

David?

Q This agenda that McFarlane and Shultz are supposed to talk -- is he supposed to make some overall choices today or this week?

MR. SPEAKES: No. No decisions anticipated. This is just an opportunity for them to brief him on the direction of their thinking. And at some time in the future, he would give them directions. But for the main part, I think they're simply amplifying on his overall directions that have been in place for a couple years.

Q Will they be talking to him about the latest state of discussions with the Soviets on the umbrella talks --

MR. SPEAKES: I would assume they would, but I don't think it is that kind of -- that much detail. But I'm, once again, I don't know. So, I think we're just --

Q Is there some reason that Weinberger was not invited to -- because a lot of the issues concern national security --

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know of any specific reason, no.

Anybody got anything else?

Q -- on naming a successor to Ted Bell?

MR. SPEAKES: There's no specific time frame. The President said he would like to take his time and look at a number of candidates before he did it. I presume there are some -- many being offered from various sources, but I certainly don't have any names.

Q -- have you --

MR. SPEAKES: Alfreda?

Q Have you gotten any new intelligence on what the ships may be carrying to Nicaragua -- the new ships?

MR. SPEAKES: No. There may be some, but I don't have anything to offer.

Alfreda?

Q -- I see you had these black students in here today. And then also the President to note visited the home of his black pen pal. And then shortly -- two years ago -- I guess, after this couple over in Prince George's County, one of the Maryland counties, had crosses burned on his lawn, the President visited there.

And George Bush said that they were against racial bigotry, whether it comes from Louis Farrakhan or the Ku Klux Klan. Of course, Louis Farrakhan, nobody agrees with what he said, unless it's Louis Farrakhan. It was only talk.

What has the President said about what happened up in Cicero, Illinois, when this baby just barely missed death and these blacks had to escape from their home and leave all their belongings; and you saw all of these whites out there with the placards and yelling and carrying on -- has the President said anything about that?

MR. SPEAKES: I haven't heard him say anything specifically, but he would certainly condemn any violence of this type.

Q But we don't know that he will condemn it if he keeps quiet. He made a whole lot about his visit to these other places and about the lunch. I'm sure the little boy appreciated having lunch with the President --

MR. SPEAKES: I can assure you I speak for him on that.

Q Say what?

MR. SPEAKES: I can assure you that I speak his sentiments on that.

Q What -- what are his sentiments? You say he --

MR. SPEAKES: He would certainly condemn it, not condone it.

Q But condemning -- we can't read his mind. We don't know that he's condemning it if he hasn't said anything. He didn't need mindreading for the other things.

MR. SPEAKES: I can assure you that I can read his mind.
(Laughter.)

Q Well, then, let him express it to the public. I mean, publicly, Larry. I'm not playing. This is a serious matter.

MR. SPEAKES: He has spoken out on racial bigotry and violence in racial areas many, many times.

Q What about this time? I don't know that -- about many other times.

MR. SPEAKES: And will continue to do so.

Q I know we'll see the picture of these little children sitting here, fine. I want to see him say something about what's happening there.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

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