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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

November 13, 1985
The Briefing Room

12:07 P.M. EST

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12:21 P.M. EST

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LARRY SPEAKES

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MR. SPEAKES: The President today is announcing the promotion of Nancy J. Risque to be Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs; Kathleen Osborne to be Special Assistant to the President; and Linas J. Kojelis to be Special Assistant to the President for Public Liaison; and John C. Layton, Inspector General of the Department of Energy.

This afternoon at 2:15 p.m. the President will meet with Representatives of the American Red Cross -- that's Chairman George Moody and the President, Richard Shubert to discuss their \$20 million disaster relief campaign.

There was a fundraising drive announced on November 7th to ensure that the Red Cross continue to meet the disaster victims' needs. To date the Red Cross has committed almost \$48 million on a series of natural disasters that have hit the United States. This year is only the third time this century that five or more hurricanes have hit the U.S. mainland. President Reagan will be doing various public service announcements and various private sector initiatives that are being developed to assist the Red Cross in its campaign for fundraising.

At 4:00 p.m. today there is a briefing on background by Bud McFarlane leading up to the Geneva summit.

Secretary Shultz tomorrow will have his briefing at Room 450 in the Old Executive Office Building, 10:15 a.m.

There will be some activities in that room prior to it, so there is a special set-up arrangement. Those of you who want to preposition your equipment may do so at 8:45 a.m. The mult will go at that time. And you will then leave and be out of the room by 9:15 a.m. At 10:00 a.m. we will take everybody back to polish off the camera angles.

I don't have anything specific --

Q What time -- can we go from here -- the writers?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, you can go from here.

Q At 10:00 a.m.?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Any questions?

Q Logistical questions? Yes. On the President's speech tomorrow, when will we get a text of that?

MR. SPEAKES: Probably late afternoon.

Q And what's the -- and what about a briefing tomorrow? You said you were going to --

MR. SPEAKES: Right now there are no plans for one. We'll revisit in the morning once we look at a final draft of the speech to see if it's the type of speech that needs any pre-brief.

Q You also said that you were going to check by now on the delegation going over.

MR. SPEAKES: I was going to do that by tomorrow, not today.

Q Have you found out any more about when we get the report -- or when the President will get the report from the Pentagon?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I would say in the next few days, but I don't have a specific timetable on it.

Okay, take the rest of the afternoon off.

Q Larry, just to clarify this morning on the SALT thing. Your point this morning is that Reagan will not reach any conclusions at the summit on continuing the no-undercut policy?

MR. SPEAKES: Right.

Q That is something that happens after he gets back and gets the second part of the report?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't believe that he will. It's a subject that is under constant review, whether, in his conversations with the General Secretary, that he might say go ahead. But I think that remains to be seen. There is no specific timetable for him to reach a decision on it.

Q Do you -- Cabinet meeting?

MR. SPEAKES: It was Secretary Shultz and Bud reporting on the summit, what you've heard them both say many times before. I don't think you really want one. (Laughter.)

Q Well, did they also talk about other things?

MR. SPEAKES: They didn't talk about other things. Jim Miller made a presentation regarding the submission by the departments and agencies of their '87 budget lineup, plus the fact that they'll get a little memo from him today that says don't write no more checks.

Q And did affirmative action come up or any of those other --

MR. SPEAKES: Did not.

Q Gramm-Rudman come up?

MR. SPEAKES: It came up only in the context of Miller's presentation on debt ceiling.

Q What's this fatherly advice he's going to give Gorbachev?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. What fathers always tell the younger, the elder to the younger.

Q Larry, in the President's interview yesterday, he mentioned as a possible solution to the fighting in Afghanistan and other regions an international custodial force. I haven't heard that --

MR. SPEAKES: No, he was discussing the U.N. -- the initiative that he outlined in some detail in the U.N. speech. That's what he was talking about.

Q That phrase -- I don't recall hearing that in any of the briefings or in his speech. Is that sort of a new detail that he's been thinking --

MR. SPEAKES: Not that I'm aware of. It's the U.N. initiative.

Q Might he propose it in that kind of specificity at the Geneva summit with Gorbachev?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think so.

Q Is he going to be muzzled in Geneva at every picture-taking?

MR. SPEAKES: That was a decision that he made on his own, and when he learned that there was a bet among the press corps that you could make him talk, he said, "I win, you lose."

Andrea?

Q Even Calvin Coolidge lost.

Q Can you give us anything about what he hopes to achieve in the speech tomorrow night? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: He hopes to achieve a deep and broad understanding of his position, his approach to Geneva and his meetings with General Secretary Gorbachev among the American people -- phrased in a very disjointed way, but I think that's his --

Q It would be educative speech?

MR. SPEAKES: It would be that and other things.

Q Is he going to get into the specifics on the arms counter offer?

MR. SPEAKES: Not in that much detail, no.

Q Has he made up his mind on all the approaches now and all the dissension in the administration is by the board? I mean does he really have set positions he's going into talks on?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, he does.

Q What are they? (Laughter.)

Q You're saying that -- just to clarify -- you're saying that Weinberger's report has not arrived yet --

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q -- to your knowledge?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q And do you expect it today?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't expect it today, but I don't know.

Q But you have reason not to expect it today?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q Do you have reason not -- I mean is there something scheduled between --

MR. SPEAKES: No, not that I know of. I don't anticipate it today.

Q You may have covered this at 9:00 a.m., in which case I apologize, but can you tell us what the plans are once you get it insofar as any publication of it, backgrounding on it?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know that there's any specific plan to publish or background on it.

Q Leaks --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, leaks are in the plan. (Laughter.)

The President -- well, it's a two-part report and the recommendations would be the second part, which will come later. I don't have timetable from it. And that -- at that time, the President then would make decisions about -- and I'm sure make an announcement about his conclusions based on the report.

Q So that might not be until we get back from Geneva?

MR. SPEAKES: That's right.

Q But you've published other white papers, booklets -- in fact, very glossy ones on arms control violations, right?

MR. SPEAKES: These aren't -- this isn't the same. You know, we've had the congressional compliance reports, which we usually -- declassified version of it. This is not the same thing. This is sort of an internal deal that we don't put out.

Q What are his plans for the next couple of days, in addition to the speech in terms of meeting with his advisors --

MR. SPEAKES: He has a couple of one-hour meetings with National Security types Thursday and Friday.

Does he have a luncheon tomorrow? That's not on the thing? No? Okay.

Q Any further interviews, foreign or U.S. press?

MR. SPEAKES: No further foreign or U.S. interviews.

David?

Q Any response to O'Neill on summit?

MR. SPEAKES: I find it -- the -- you know, it's strange -- (laughter) -- I think somebody ought to ask the Speaker, and maybe it's too late to phone up there and get a question put in, but --

Q -- press?

MR. SPEAKES: That -- was that Chris that did the talking today in The Times?

Q -- important House aide. They know who they are.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, I -- but I'd like somebody to ask the Speaker, does he back up that kind of rhetoric that was reported in The Times today.

Q He apparently already --

Q -- this announcement this morning. I don't know quite what he said, but he's already done it.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q -- saying he thinks that there's every reason for lots of progress, and I just wondered if you have a feeling that he's trying to set Reagan up for a fall.

MR. SPEAKES: Well, I've seen that on the wire -- I don't know what he's trying to do, but you know, we're not going to play partisan politics, Democrat versus Republican, on the summit. We're just not going to get into that game.

Andrea.

Q Forgive me if you were asked this earlier, but --

MR. SPEAKES: You're forgiven.

Q -- the report on the fusion energy proposal, that Shultz sneaked --

MR. SPEAKES: It came in Evans-Novak, and I don't comment on Evans-Novak, so --

Q No, I'm not asking about Evans and Novak, I'm asking about a report that --

MR. SPEAKES: I don't have any comment --

Q -- Shultz sneaked it by everybody else and took it to Moscow without approval.

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know the sneak answer, but overall I don't have a comment on it.

Q Do you have a comment on whether we're bringing to Moscow a fusion energy proposal?

MR. SPEAKES: Don't.

Bill.

Q Or whether we did or not?

MR. SPEAKES: No. Bill.

Q Your reference to the strangeness of the Speaker's statements, are you referring to his news conference this morning, or are you referring to published reports prior to the news conference?

MR. SPEAKES: More to the published reports. You know, we're almost certain that the Speaker wished the President well going to Geneva, but there's a lot in there that doesn't make sense.

Owen.

Q Since fusion was mentioned, did the President recently receive a Darth Vader doll that was supposed to be Gorbachev and repeat that he really did think that they're an evil empire, as one of my favorite columnists reported yesterday?

MR. SPEAKES: What was that -- Evans-Novak, too?

Q Same column.

MR. SPEAKES: I didn't read that.

Q You stopped reading at fusion. You missed the good stuff.

MR. SPEAKES: I haven't seen no doll. (Laughter.)

Q Do we have a picture --

Q The report said that our recent visitor --

Q Do you have a White House photo release of that?

Q You've gotten a Cabbage Patch -- I think that that's the -- if you got a Cabbage Patch --

Q -- it was, someone said, "I have for you a model of Gorbachev, gave him a Darth Vader doll --

Q It was Jack Matlock.

Q -- said they are an evil empire.

MR. SPEAKES: I usually look at the goodies stacked on the table, but I didn't see a Darth Vader doll.

Q That's because he kept it.

MR. SPEAKES: His latest statement regarding the evil empire came yesterday.

Q Cabbage Patch --

Q Is the President doing any sort of --

Q He did?

Q -- game-playing -- preparing for Gorbachev?
Somebody saying --

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Talking about the muzzling which he apparently decided on himself, did the President feel that that was successful at the UN in terms of keeping our eye on the ball of what the story was and not getting things --

MR. SPEAKES: He hasn't expressed a view. I think it was successful in keeping our eye on the ball.

Q Well, now to get to the point, is he planning to do the same thing in Geneva?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. I haven't asked him.

Q Will we have any press contacts with him in terms of will he answer questions at any point during the summit?

MR. SPEAKES: There's nothing scheduled, no.

Q Have you -- has the White House staff begun working on themes for the speech to the Joint Session? Seriously.

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, I think there's been some thought, yes, about themes for future U.S. relations with the Soviets, yes.

Q So he goes to Geneva with -- does he go with a draft of next Thursday's speech?

MR. SPEAKES: No, no draft done yet. There have got to be some blanks in it. Fill in the blanks. (Laughter.)

Jan?

Q Do you think the Democrats are trying to increase the political stakes for the President at the summit?

MR. SPEAKES: At the summit? I don't know. I can't -- their motives escape me.

Ira.

Q Can we quote you on that?

Q On Jim Baker -- default, do you happen to know when -- if the federal employees all get paid on the same day --

MR. SPEAKES: They have checks that are being processed and the Friday checks will be good. Right?

MR. BRASHEAR: It all depends whether or not you get --

MR. SPEAKES: Electronic transfer or get your check at home --

MR. BRASHEAR: -- electronic transfer, whether the check is mailed to your home, or whether you pick it up at the office. Those people -- it would appear that those people who were going to have the most difficulty, should we go on to default, are those who receive their checks at home in the mail.

Q So you can go to the bank Friday with your check to get it cashed?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Before 10:30 a.m. (Laughter.)

Q And is that a normal, bi-monthly payday for all federal employees?

MR. BRASHEAR: Not for all federal employees.

MR. SPEAKES: Everybody doesn't get paid on the same day.

Q Has the President talked to the former presidents at all?

MR. SPEAKES: What?

Q Has he had a chance to talk to the former --

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. All of them? Everybody?

Q All of them?

MR. DJEREJIAN: No, not everybody.

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, okay.

Q Who? Who did he --

MR. SPEAKES: He's talked to some, but I think he's still waiting.

Q Which two? Which two, Ed?

Q Nixon on -- by telephone, right?

Q Which two did he talk to?

MR. SPEAKES: We'll get that for you.

Q On the phone?

MR. SPEAKES: We'll get that for you.

Anything else?

Q Any reaction to Congress passed -- or a CR?

MR. SPEAKES: Clean debt ceiling? Yes, that was what we -- we backed that and the Senate has passed it, and I think it's identical to the House. So we do avert the CR, and now we stare debt ceiling dead in the eye.

Q Are the former Presidents going to be here Saturday morning for this --

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q No?

MR. ROUSSEL: -- keeps coming back.

Q I know, it keeps coming back.

MR. ROUSSEL: Who puts that out?

Q I don't know. I do.

MR. SPEAKES: Carter. (Laughter.)

Q Who is going to be here Saturday morning?

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

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