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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

September 18, 1984

The Briefing Room

12:35 P.M. EDT

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12:54 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE
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PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

September 18, 1984

The Briefing Room

12:35 P.M. EDT

MR. SPEAKES: The President is announcing the appointment of William J. McGinnis, Jr., to be a member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, and Richard J. Herczog and Faye Barrett Howell to be members of the National Museum Services Board.

At 1:00 p.m., the President meets with the Executive Committee of the American Farm Bureau Federation in the Cabinet Room. We look for a statement at the conclusion of that meeting. And we've set up a mult. There'll be a one-wave photo-type opportunity.

At 1:30 p.m. --

Q What does that mean, Larry?

Q Use of a mirror? (Laughter.)

Q You'll pipe the statement --

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q You'll pipe the statement in here?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q You'll take cameras in there?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. And --

Q No correspondents?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, we'll have a pool in there. And -- it means everybody goes in at once, instead of stills and -- one wave and --

Q That's --

MR. SPEAKES: -- the other. Like that?

Q One wave.

MR. SPEAKES: One wave.

Q Oh, one wave --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q -- one-way mirror.

MR. SPEAKES: A 1:30 p.m. meeting with agricultural leaders. These are Jesse Helms and his colleagues from North Carolina.

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And at 2:00 p.m., Cabinet Council on Commerce and Trade in the Cabinet Room. Still do not know whether you might anticipate a decision today or not on that.

Q Can you give us any feel of the likelihood of that?

MR. SPEAKES: No. We won't know until the meeting.

Q Well, if there is a decision, would the President come out and announce it himself?

MR. SPEAKES: No. We would put out paper and probably have Brock give you the details on it.

Q Here?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q On camera?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. Might.

Q Well, could we just at least formally request that the President come out and discuss it with us?

MR. SPEAKES: You may. (Laughter.)

Following the briefing, we'll have the detailed schedule for the trip to Connecticut, New Jersey, which takes place tomorrow. And later in the afternoon, we'll have the schedule, for the Iowa and Michigan trips, along with fact sheets for both trips.

Q Iowa.

MR. SPEAKES: Iowa.

Q Iowa.

MR. SPEAKES: How do you pronounce it?

Q Iowa.

MR. SPEAKES: Iowa. Why all this accent business today? Hasn't changed in four years.

Q Well, we couldn't understand you the first time. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: Advance text for tomorrow's speeches will be available at Andrews Air Force Base 30 minutes prior to check-in time.

Tomorrow, the Vice President will be traveling. He'll be in Columbus, Ohio, to address the Ohio GOP Convention at 7:40 p.m.

Thursday, he will be in Brattleboro, Vermont, for a Reagan-Bush Rally and then to Burlington to address a student forum at St. Michael's College and a Vermont GOP fundraiser at the University of Vermont.

Friday, he will be at the Husson College Businessmen's Breakfast in Bangor, Maine.

The President -- I have several announcements here on -- regarding, I guess, foreign affairs.

The President will be visiting New York this Sunday and Monday, September 22nd and 23rd, for the 39th Session of the United Nations General Assembly -- 23rd and 24th is the dates -- and it opens today at 3:00 p.m.

The President will host a reception for Delegation leaders Monday night -- Sunday night -- address the Plenary Session of the General Assembly on Monday morning and have a series of meetings with UN officials and leaders of other governments on both Sunday and Monday, including consultations with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar.

This will be the President's third visit to the United Nations. We will have further details for you on the trip probably Friday. A sign-up sheet has been posted.

There will be a number of bilateral meetings, as I mentioned, both Sunday and Monday. And when we have the specifics on them, we will reveal them.

Any questions on the UN?

Q So the President will see Gromyko Sunday night at the reception?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q The President will see Gromyko Sunday night at the reception?

MR. SPEAKES: If Gromyko is there, he will see him. I do not know what Gromyko's plans are as far as attending this reception.

Q To what extent will they have a conversation at the reception, if Gromyko is there?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. It is a receiving -- the reception, I think, is almost entirely a receiving line. And it depends on what extent they will have a conversation there in a receiving line.

Q All the heads of delegations?

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Let's go one at a time --

Q For all the heads of delegation?

MR. SPEAKES: I think that is the reception. Now, who will attend, I don't know.

Q Well, will there be open coverage?

Q How about the bilaterals?

MR. SPEAKES: Let's go one at a time.

Q Will there be coverage of the receiving line and when the President --

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MR. SPEAKES: There will be coverage of the reception --

MR. SIMS: Reception, remarks by the President and --

Q Will that be at the Waldorf?

MR. SPEAKES: All right.

Q But if Gromyko is there and they shake hands,
you'll have cameras there, is that it?

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Q No.

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. There are a number of -- Have we decided on receiving line coverage?

MR. SIMS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKES: There will be receiving coverage, so whoever shakes hands with him you'll get it from start to finish. If you're on that pool, keep in mind what it is like to watch a receiving line for 30 or 40 minutes. So --

Q Who's in the bilaterals --

Q -- speech Monday?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q What time is the speech Monday?

MR. SPEAKES: Time on the speech --

MR. SIMS: Mid morning, 10:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. I don't have a precise time. It'll be in the schedule.

Q What's it --

MR. SPEAKES: Who's in the bilaterals? We'll have the bilaterals to announce on Friday.

Q What's his speech on?

Q Is there any travel --

MR. SPEAKES: Susan?

Q -- next week besides the trip to New York?

MR. SPEAKES: To New York? Yes, there will be travel -- probably Wednesday. Don't have a specific announcement on that. So, you'll be out of town on Sunday, Monday -- overnight New York -- and then you'll be out on a one-day on Wednesday.

Andrea?

Q The reception: Is that late afternoon or early evening or --

MR. SPEAKES: Late afternoon. Do we have a time on that?

MR. SIMS: At 6:30 p.m.

MR. SPEAKES: At 6:30 p.m. Be perfect.

Q What time is his departure Sunday?

MR. SPEAKES: Mid morning because he's probably going to do a luncheon.

The President has invited Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada to meet with him in the United States. Prime Minister Mulroney has accepted the invitation.

Q Mulroney.

MR. SPEAKES: Mulroney. Okay.

Will meet with the President at the White House on September 25th, 1984. The President met with Mr. Mulroney on

June 21st, 1984. The forthcoming visit is an outgrowth of the rapport established between the two on that occasion and the calls the Prime Minister made during his recent campaign for better ties with the United States and more frequent meetings with the President.

The President telephoned the Prime Minister on August 24th from Chicago to the Prime Minister's home in Ottawa, and both expressed an interest in an early meeting and more frequent consultations. We see this session building on the unique relationship between our two countries, occurring between the President's United Nations speech and his meeting with Foreign Minister Gromyko. Attention in the meeting will be concentrated mainly on international security issues.

The President will solicit Mr. Mulroney's views on East-West relations, Atlantic Alliance cohesion and arms controls measures. The two leaders will, of course, discuss the general subject of how to best to promote Canadian and U.S. relations in the years ahead.

Q What about acid rain?

Q Acid rain?

MR. SPEAKES: Don't know whether that'll come up or not.

The President has invited Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel to make an official working visit to the United States. The Prime Minister has accepted the invitation and will meet with the President at the White House on October --

Q October 8.

Q -- 8?

MR. SPEAKES: -- 9th --

Q Ha-ha.

MR. SPEAKES: -- 1984.

Q Congratulations.

Q Ohhhh.

Q Right.

THE PRESIDENT: The President invited the Prime Minister to Washington to discuss matters of mutual interest concerning our close and cooperative relations with Israel. We expect the discussions will cover our common interest in the Middle East. We expect we will be discussing U.S.-Israeli economic relations as well as other important bilateral matters. And I will not be in a position to speculate on any of those other matters.

Q Is Mulroney a working visit --

Q Rooney.

Q -- or another type of visit?

MR. SPEAKES: Meeting.

Q There's no military?

MR. SPEAKES: No. They may do the thing out here.

Deborah?

Q Given that it's the 9th, does that mean that we will be overnighing in the debate city?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. The debate is on --

Q It's in Louisville.

Q -- 7th.

MR. SPEAKES: -- 7th.

Q That'll be in Louisville, Kentucky.

Q But it's an evening.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q It's overnight.

MR. SPEAKES: We're not that far ahead. We could have an event on Monday of that week. The debate's on the 7th, on Sunday. The 8th, we could go somewhere else then. So, we're just not that far along with our schedule -- and to give you much guidance.

Q The UN speech -- will that be focused on arms control again?

MR. SPEAKES: Hasn't been completed, so I won't really discuss that yet.

Okay.

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Hold up, Lester. Leo?

Q Larry, half an hour ago, apparently broke up a meeting here with Weinberger and Shultz, the Joint Chiefs, Adelman, Rowny, Nitze -- was the President present and what was the --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q And what was the purpose of the meeting?

MR. SPEAKES: One of the regular meetings that we have with a number of foreign policy people from time to time. This was one of them. We don't reveal the subjects.

Q Was it in any way preparatory for Gromyko --

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think so, Leo.

Q What was the question? With whom? Who was he meeting?

MR. SPEAKES: It was who -- the Joint Chiefs and --

Q Today?

MR. SPEAKES: -- Rowny and others.

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Q When was this?

MR. SPEAKES: This morning.

Q Today?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Was Shultz around for that, Larry?

Q I knew. I just wanted --

MR. SPEAKES: Was Shultz here?

Q And Nitze was also there? Is that what he said?

Q And Adelman and Rowny?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't have my list of who was there.

Q What time was it?

MR. SPEAKES: 11:00 a.m.

Q Was the President preparing a new arms control proposal or modification of an old one?

MR. SPEAKES: We're constantly reviewing it. One thing I failed --

Q Was he?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q Is he? I didn't hear whether you said he was or not.

MR. SPEAKES: I said we're constantly reviewing our arms control situation, but I wouldn't characterize it as preparing a new proposal, no.

Q So you're just calling it a regular --

Q Well, this sounds like a very high-powered meeting.

MR. SPEAKES: They do -- they do it every couple of weeks. I don't know the subject of this one, but meetings take place, NSC-type meetings, that are not a full NSC staff.

Q There's some speculation that we might say to Gromyko that we would go to the table on ASAT if they will come back to the table on the other disarmament matters that they've left.

MR. SPEAKES: I wouldn't really want to speculate on what will be discussed at the Gromyko meetings. I think we'll wait a little first.

Let me mention one thing before I forget it. State has discussed this in detail and a couple Senators have talked about it, but it's to keep you up to date.

The Soviets have agreed to an exchange of the five American seamen. This exchange will take place in international waters, we would presume, in the next day or so. The procedure for it is a U.S. Coast Guard cutter will be utilized for the exchange. The Coast Guard cutter's 24 hours away from an exchange point.

We understand, too, that the supply boat will be returned. As far as whether the statements were signed by the crew of the ship, we do not know the answer to that and probably will not know until the crew returns.

Q You said, an exchange. Is the U.S. exchanging something or --

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q -- did you mean a release?

MR. SPEAKES: No. They get from one ship to another.

Q We're giving them George Bush.

MR. SPEAKES: Lester.

Q Larry, when the rival nominees are briefed, as I gather -- seem to recall you mentioned yesterday that -- you made reference to Mr. Mondale being briefed by the National Security Council. This is done, as I understand, because there's a possibility he might be elected. Now, in being briefed, Larry, he has to arrange this -- he, or Mrs. Ferraro -- have to arrange this through the White House. They can't just go out to some agency and arrange a briefing, can they?

MR. SPEAKES: I would assume -- I don't know how the mechanics are set up but it's customary --

MR. SIMS: In that case, Larry, the President offered a briefing to the candidates and they accepted and it was arranged.

MR. SPEAKES: And this is customary in other Presidential --

Q This is always done. Has Mrs. -- has Ms. Ferraro requested any briefing with regard to the Department of Defense?

MR. SIMS: She's had a briefing from the National Security Advisor.

Q Oh, she has had a briefing. Has she had one by Defense?

MR. SIMS: She's had one on national security issues by Bud McFarlane.

Q Just one. That's the only briefing she's had? Is that right?

MR. SPEAKES: One briefing --

Q That's the only briefing?

MR. SPEAKES: -- by Bud McFarlane. That's it.

Q That's all. Thank you.

Q You know, Mondale said today --

Q How many? One?

Q -- this election was going to be a referendum of the world --

Q How many briefings?

Q -- or something like that. (Laughter.)

Q Yes, Sam?

Q Well, I'm trying to ask the --

MR. SPEAKES: Could you flush that out a little bit more?

Q No, I wasn't there. But I just was told that Mondale said two things today -- the President never answered questions --

Q Here, here.

Q -- and the election was going to be a referendum of the world. How do you answer those charges? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: That's a tough one, Sam.

Q Go get 'em, Larry.

MR. SPEAKES: I don't really want to lash into that. No, I don't have anything to say about it. Sorry.

Q How about Tip O'Neill? How about Tip O'Neill's terrible statements --

MR. SPEAKES: I got nothing for Tip, either. Yes. I got nothing for Tip.

Q Well, the President -- Mondale says -- the other day he said it was the most isolated Presidency in American history, and this morning he said the President is trying to get through the election without having to answer questions about his future plans. Isn't that a fair summation of what's happened?

MR. SPEAKES: I've got nothing to say to Mondale today.

Q Earlier, Sam asked you if there was a new arms control plan being prepared. You said you wouldn't characterize it that way. Is there any way you would characterize what's going on?

MR. SPEAKES: I wouldn't raise any nuances in what I said or try to look for any -- I'm not crossing any --

Q -- this meeting with all the heavyweights, disarmament experts in the administration, what are we to conclude?

MR. SPEAKES: We continually review arms control policy. We're always prepared. There are a number of options that come before the President, a number of discussions. Today happens to be the day that we would have been in Vienna had the Soviets been in Vienna. A number of things like that.

Q You remembered that.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Well, wouldn't it stand to reason that if

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the President's going to make a major address to the UN and also to meet with Gromyko next week, that he would call in such advisors?

MR. SPEAKES: I think -- Well, I wouldn't read that into it either, Helen.

Q Why does everything have to be routine?
(Laughter.)

Q All right. Let's go the other way. It's a crisis meeting, right? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: That's right.

Q Which small island? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: Mike von Fremd, ABC News.

They're planning the Grenada visit right before the election.

Q I asked that question once before. Next time, I want to get it right. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: I told you they planned on your Grenada invasion.

Q Has the President called the hot air balloon man -- (laughter) --

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Is he planning on calling him to congratulate him?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. (Laughter.) I don't know about this fellow.

Q -- searching for a hot air man in an election year.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, Mike, I don't know. That thought occurred -- crossed my mind it might be a good idea; but I quickly dismissed it.

Q Has the President ever been in a hot air balloon himself? Has he ever --

MR. SPEAKES: This question is worthy of you.

Q What is his question? What is his question? Has the President ever expressed hot air?

Q Turn up your gizmo.

MR. SPEAKES: Let's go. Let's go. I want to go to the agriculture meeting.

David. Wait a minute. David doesn't have anything. Bob's waiting. Let's get Bob, Helen, before we leave.

Q The doctor praised by the President the other night credits the programs that the President has tried to cut. Can we assume from the President's remarks last week that he will indeed try to cut grants for college students and low-interest loans?

MR. SPEAKES: I'd have to look at the budget as to what we've done in the past years and I can't predict what we'll do in the future until we get a budget.

Q Are we supposed to assume that he will --

Q You can't predict what --

Q -- these areas?

Q You can't predict what you're going to do in the future?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, that's right.

Q Well, then why are -- you keep telling us to look at the budget to get an idea of what you're going to do?

MR. SPEAKES: I didn't --

Q He doesn't. It's Ronald Reagan who keeps saying that.

Q Well, you've said that, too.

MR. SPEAKES: Bob, what was your final question there?

Q -- going into those areas?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know until we do the '86 budget.

Q Does the President have second thoughts about Dr. Giordano after his comments in The LA Times?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know that the President's read them. And I haven't talked to him about it.

Q Why can't I get as close to the President as Mondale? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: I thought he said -- Oh, that's right, yes. From Saturday.

Q Does he think bad research was done on Dr. Giordano?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q Does he think that he had poor research in the White House with his stable of speechwriters?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. I haven't talked to him about it.

Q It was Benjamin Aaron who operated on him. Not Giordano. Giordano was part of the team.

Q It wouldn't have sold.

Q Aaron that used the scalpel.

MR. SPEAKES: That enough?

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

12:54 P.M. EDT

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