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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

January 16, 1985
The Briefing Room

12:01 P.M. EST

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12:30 P.M. EST

#1295-01/16

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January 16, 1985

The Briefing Room

12:01 P.M. EST

MR. SPEAKES: I've been asked to announce that the coffee concession in the back is back in operation in the filing center. And you're asked -- this is most important -- to please pay for your coffee -- (applause) --

Q That's right.

MR. SPEAKES: -- or there will be no coffee, right?
(Applause.)

Q No free lunch.

MR. SPEAKES: No free lunch.

The President today is announcing the appointment of Michael W. Grebe to be a member of the Board of Visitors of the United States Military Academy.

The President, this afternoon at 1:00 p.m., is meeting with the Committee for the Next Agenda. They will present its report on suggested Presidential initiatives for the second term at the 1:00 p.m. meeting. They will be having a luncheon that includes Ed Meese and his policy development staff at noon. The President joins at 1:00 p.m.

The group committee represents a broad range of public policy experts drawn from associations such as Hudson Institute, Brookings Institution, Hoover Institution, and Heritage Foundation. We made the list available to you. They've drafted a second-term agenda that covers management initiatives, domestic policy and foreign relations.

The Committee discussed their report at a press conference this morning and they will be available to you following their meeting, which should put them on the lawn at 1:15 p.m. or so.

We have copies of their report in the lower press office and you are welcome to those following the briefing.

Q Is the President likely to follow their recommendations?

MR. SPEAKES: We haven't studied them yet.

Q Any possibility we could do that in here because of the cold?

Q Oh, it's so cold out, Larry.

Q Please.

Q No, on the lawn. I vote for the lawn.

Q Why?

MORE

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MR. SPEAKES: Lawn.

Q No?

MR. SPEAKES: You had asked --

Q Why doesn't Marlin decide that?

MR. SPEAKES: -- earlier for the rundown on the Inaugural activities.

At 11:15 a.m., the guests will begin arriving at the Diplomatic Entrance of the White House. This is Sunday.

Shortly thereafter, the President and Mrs. Reagan will be joined upstairs by the Vice President and Mrs. Bush, Chief Justice and Mrs. Burger, Justice and Mrs. Stewart, for coffee prior to the swearing-in.

At this time, the United States Marine Orchestra will be providing music.

At 11:52 a.m. -- the Chief Justice and Mrs. Burger and Justice and Mrs. Stewart will come down to the State Floor at 11:45 a.m.

At 11:52 a.m., the President and Mrs. Reagan, Vice President and Mrs. Bush, come down the grand staircase to their seats on the front row. The seats will be assembled in the Grand Foyer of the White House.

At 11:54 a.m., the Reverend Don D. Moomau delivers the invocation.

At 11:56 a.m., the Vice President and Mrs. Bush, accompanied by Justice Stewart, proceed to the landing.

At 11:57 a.m., the oath is administered to the Vice President.

At 11:58 a.m., the Vice President and Mrs. Bush, accompanied by Justice Stewart who has joined them earlier, proceed from the landing and take their seats.

At 11:59 a.m., the President and Mrs. Reagan, accompanied by Chief Justice Burger, proceed to the landing.

At 11:59:30 a.m., the administration of the oath of office to the President.

At 12:00:10 p.m., the President and Mrs. Reagan will conclude the oath, remain standing for "My Country Tis Of Thee," sung by the United States Army Chorus.

At the conclusion of the song, the Reverend Moomau will proceed to the landing to join the President and Mrs. Reagan and Justice Burger.

At 12:02:45 p.m., there will be a benediction by the Reverend Moomau.

At 12:04 p.m., at the conclusion of the benediction, he gets -- no, he gets a minute and fifteen for his benediction.

Q More than I get here.

MR. SPEAKES: The conclusion of the -- at the conclusion of the benediction, the President and Mrs. Bush proceed down the landing to the Vice President and Mrs. Bush. Then the President and Mrs. Reagan --

Q The President and Mrs. Reagan.

MR. SPEAKES: The President and Mrs. Reagan step down the stairs from taking the oath; they walk to where the Vice President and Mrs. Bush are seated -- presumably by that time, they will be standing. The President and Mrs. Reagan and the Vice President and Mrs. Bush proceed out on the North Portico for a photograph, which will be --

Q What time will that be?

Q What time is that, please?

MR. SPEAKES: That photograph will be at 12:04 p.m.

At the conclusion of the photo op, which should be about 12:07 or :08, the President and Mrs. Reagan, the Vice President and Mrs. Bush proceed from the North Portico to the Blue Room.

The following will be played during the reception --
Then their guests will have a reception --

Q Who's at that?

MR. SPEAKES: -- on the State Dining floor. Guests of the Reagans. I don't know names.

The following will be played during the reception period by the United States -- by the United States Marine Orchestra: Columbia, Gem of the Ocean; I guess a repeat of This Is My -- no, This is My Country; and God Bless America. Columbia, Gem of the Ocean having been written by David Shaw. I don't have the author of This Is My Country.

Q -- key --

Q It must be --

MR. SPEAKES: And God Bless America written by Irving Berlin. It's in the key of C flat.

Q C flat. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: At 1:15 p.m. the President and Mrs. Reagan, the Vice President and Mrs. Bush depart the State Dining Room for the elevator, after which they'll go upstairs --

Q Hah.

Q How long did it take them to get to the elevator?

MR. SPEAKES: -- after they'll go upstairs. You asked, you got it.

Q Okay. The coverage -- the coverage is pool coverage of watching the swearing-in?

MR. SPEAKES: The coverage is a pool in the North Foyer for the swearing-in of the Vice President and the President. There is open coverage on the North Portico when they walk out for their photo.

Bob?

Q In his State of Black America address, Urban League President John Jacobs issued a request for President Reagan to meet with minority leadership and also he called on the President to order a reappraisal of the administration's South Africa policy. Would you address yourself to -- those two points?

MR. SPEAKES: I am unable to do so, Bob, because we have not seen the report of the book that the Urban League has produced nor have we seen the full account of the press conference, nor have we received any direct communication from them. When we do, we'll be glad to address it.

Q Excuse me, do you have more agenda?

Q -- generally, though, to meet with black leadership who are -- who are -- not necessarily share the same views that Reagan does.

MR. SPEAKES: We haven't received a -- anybody requesting such a meeting.

Q What about the President's or this White -- the intention of this White House to meet with --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. I just don't know the plans on that.

Q Do you have more agenda for Sunday?

MR. SPEAKES: I did have more agenda.

Q Could we have that?

MR. SPEAKES: Not more Inaugural Sunday agenda.

MORE

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Q Oh, I thought -- the rest of the day -- do you --

MR. SPEAKES: But I do have more items. I was somewhat

Q Can I ask you about Sunday --

Q Can you tell us what the -- can you just tell us what he does for the rest of the day. I'm -- I understand he goes to the Jefferson Memorial. But, do you have times?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. We went through this.

Q Do have times?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes -- no, I don't have specific times.

Q Is there pool coverage of the reception or is that closed?

MR. SPEAKES: That's closed.

Q Larry, I don't --

Q Will we have free access to the White House Monday and Tuesday through Northwest Gate?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q What did you say?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Sunday or Monday?

Q What was the question?

MR. SPEAKES: Free access. No charge on Sunday or Monday.

Q Larry, so what is doing between 1:15 p.m. and --

Q But you -- Helen means the Northwest Gate.

MR. SPEAKES: As far as I know the Northwest Gate's open. See if Mark know anything about the Northwest Gate.

Q Larry, what is the President going to do between 1:15 p.m. and flipping the coin before the Super Bowl?

MR. SPEAKES: Visit with family and friends.

Q Right, call --

Q Make some bets.

Q In the White House? What -- so -- does he go to the Jefferson Memorial?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q About what time is that?

MR. SPEAKES: I think around 5:30 p.m.

Q And is that where he's going to flip the coin?

MR. SPEAKES: No. He'll flip the coin here.

Q And then go to the Jefferson Memorial?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q The game starts at 6:00 p.m.

Q Well, wait a second. I thought the game started about 6:15 p.m. or so.

MR. SPEAKES: It'll work out. (Laughter.)

Q Will he flip the coin immediately before -- I mean, they're all out on the field and the captains are there, and he flips the coin?

MR. SPEAKES: They don't do that anymore, Sam.

Q They don't?

MR. SPEAKES: No. Not -- television.

Q What time is the interview?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon? (Laughter.) Oh, your interview? (Laughter.) Okay.

Q Well, all right. Serious question is --

MR. SPEAKES: All right.

Q -- there is a piece in the paper this morning, if I may ask about the published report, saying that the President will not be interviewed around the Super Bowl on ABC. Is that correct?

MR. SPEAKES: If I told you you weren't getting it then they would think they were getting it.

Q Well they don't have the Super Bowl this year.

MR. SPEAKES: Charles?

Q For the benefit of the rest of us, do we really have to watch the half time of the Super Bowl?

MR. SPEAKES: No. Don't sweat it. (Laughter.) Regular access -- what was the other question? What time will he go over to the Jefferson and how he's going to flip the coin and be at the Jefferson at the same time?

Q What?

MR. WEINBERG: Me?

Q What comes first?

Q Which comes first?

Q What time does he flip the coin?

Q -- going to the Jefferson.

Q -- chicken?

MR. WEINBERG: -- I'll get a time for you.

Q Thank you, Mark.

MR. SPEAKES: Okay. The President this afternoon -- continuing his schedule --

Q Saturday? Saturday? Will there be a pool going over to Blair House, or the President --

MR. SPEAKES: If he drives, yes, there will be.

Q Larry, are you going to furnish guest lists? Can you tell us how many guests and also whether all his family members are going to be there or not?

MR. SPEAKES: That's more of an East Wing business, if you want to check with them, or we can try to get it for you. But, Sheila can give it to you for sure. I don't know whether she has a full guest list.

Q Well, there's this story that they say there's no time for a family dinner. Is that -- what does that mean? They are going to get together, are they not -- all the family?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. The President has sent a message to Brazilian President-Elect Tancredo Neves. The message as follows: "Dear Mr. President-Elect: My warmest congratulations on your electoral victory. I look forward to working with you during the coming years

to fulfill our shared aspirations for peace, democracy and prosperity.

"My fellow Americans join me in congratulating you and the Brazilian people on this happy occasion."

Signed, Ronald Reagan.

This morning, as we announced earlier, the President met with the Geneva delegation. And prior to the meeting, Bud McFarlane had a meeting with the Senior Arms Control Group. That meeting lasted 20 minutes. Attending that meeting, as well as the second --

MR. SIMS: His meeting was longer than -- the President's meeting was --

MR. SPEAKES: I'm sorry, the President's meeting.

And --

Q Wait a minute. What's that?

MR. SPEAKES: Bud met with the Senior Arms Control Group prior to the President's meeting.

The President's meeting took place and lasted 20 minutes. Attending that meeting were the President, Vice President, Shultz, Weinberger, McFarlane and other delegation members, as well as staff.

In the meeting, the President thanked and congratulated the group, expressed appreciation for their efforts in bringing the Soviets back to the table. He said we should have "no euphoria." He added, "We can't rest on our laurels."

Q Is that a quote or not?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Sounds like it.

MR. SPEAKES: "This is the beginning of a process," closed quote.

Q Wait a second.

MR. SPEAKES: Closed quote. Got that?

Q Yes.

MR. SPEAKES: Two things, " ".

He wants -- the President wants the "comprehensive and thorough preparations" to be continued. Pointed out that "people throughout the country have a great sense of pride in American diplomacy."

Q Is that a --

MR. SPEAKES: Quote.

Q -- quote?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Wait. Wait. Wait. What's the quote, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: The quote is "people throughout the country have a great sense of pride in American diplomacy." Continuing the quote: "It was diplomacy at its best."

Q Why so many partial quotes, Larry? A former UPI guy -- can you get more?

MR. SPEAKES: Partial quotes fit --

Q Need there be any further explanation?

MR. SPEAKES: -- make a story flow better.

Q How does he know the people have a great sense of pride? (Laughter.)

Q Well --

MR. SPEAKES: They're flying the flag.

Q -- except for George Will, of course, who --

MR. SPEAKES: They're flying the flags.

He said, "We want an agreement -- "

Q Is it a quote?

MR. SPEAKES: Quote. "But if it isn't a good agreement, if it won't work, we just don't seek a piece of paper."

Q We what? " -- a piece of paper"?

MR. SPEAKES: " -- just don't seek a piece of paper."

Shultz pointed out that we were able to get what we wanted in Geneva because of preparations and because of the President's instructions. We did not have to come back and ask for additional guidance.

Q Take that, Dan Rather.

Q Yes.

MR. SPEAKES: We knew, as a negotiator, that we were free to walk away from the table if we didn't get what we wanted.

Q Is that a quote?

Q -- Shultz.

MR. SPEAKES: No.

At Ed Rowny's suggestion, the President wished Paul Nitze a happy 79th birthday.*

Q Today?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Picking up where we left off on Sunday, the President departs the White House at 5:20 p.m.; arrives at the Jefferson Memorial at 5:30 p.m.; departs the Jefferson Memorial at 5:45 p.m.; arrives White House at 5:55 p.m., tosses coin sometime after 6:10 p.m., perhaps precisely at 6:11 p.m.

Q 6:11:00?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Well, so, then, he does it after he goes now.

MR. SPEAKES: That's it; 6:10 p.m. and 6:11 p.m. come after 5:20 p.m.

*78th birthday.

Q As I said, he does it right before the 'game starts.

Q Right.

Q The captains are on the field --

MR. SPEAKES: We're distributing a statement on the Geneva meeting by the President, which is being Xeroxed now.

Q Where's he going to do it here at the White House?

MR. SPEAKES: It hasn't been determined yet.

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q On the quotes you just read --

Q Here they come.

Q -- could you put any context around the "no euphoria" quote?

MR. SPEAKES: Put any what on it? Quotes --

Q Could you be more specific about what -- what he said when he said that it should be no euphoria?

MR. SPEAKES: We recognize that there are differences between the United States and the Soviet Union and that there will be tough bargaining ahead on these issues.

Q Larry, could you summarize -- the President talks about if it's not a good agreement. Could you at least give us a summary of what the criteria for a good agreement is?

MR. SPEAKES: David, that's a little difficult to summarize specifically since we haven't worked the specifics out on the talks. I think a good agreement, to summarize it in glowing terms, would be an agreement that offers a prospect of real arms reduction on both sides and it would offer the prospect of lessening tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Q So one that preserves the status quo and doesn't reduce arms probably wouldn't be good. You definitely want reductions.

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, yes.

Q You wouldn't be satisfied with freezing the status quo.

MR. SPEAKES: I'm not going to make that statement. But we would certainly push for reductions.

Q Was there any discussion at all of a time or place for the talks or of negotiating teams for the talks?

MR. SPEAKES: No, was not.

Q Not brought up at the meeting?

Q What is the status --

Q Well, wait a minute. How about at the McFarlane meeting beforehand?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. We're not discussing the McFarlane meeting beforehand.

The status of it, Lesley asked, we're keeping in touch. We will work it out on a diplomatic level, and hope to in the next month.

Q Now, Bob said the McFarlane meeting was longer than the President's meeting. Is that -- how long was it, can you tell us?

MR. SIMS: About an hour.

Q A half hour?

MR. SIMS: About an hour.

Q So they never had to ask for instructions --

Q An hour.

Q -- and they had the right to walk away from the table if nothing --

Q Was there any discussion, Larry, of who will make up the team or when that will be decided or how those preparations begin?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q What you told us the President said and what the

statement says is nothing that could be new to these people on the team, that he expressed his thanks and that he said we can't rest on our laurels. Was there any substantive discussion of the guts of an arms control agreement?

MR. SPEAKES: That has been discussed over the past several months by the President and his senior advisors and leading up to Geneva. He has received full reporting from Secretary Shultz in about two and a half hours here the day Shultz got back. He received full reporting from Bud McFarlane on Monday of this week, and others who have visited other capitals.

Q Well, what I'm asking is, at today's meeting, was there any substantive discussion of the negotiating position in light of anything that might have changed or any new information or any new thoughts?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Larry, did the members who were in Europe give Reagan an assessment of what happened in Europe, and can you tell us what that was?

MR. SPEAKES: Did Rick and others report back?

MR. SIMS: There was very little discussion of that because most of it had been reported to the President already.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, by written report or through Bud. I think the allied reaction, to sum it up, has been very good. There has been unanimous and solid backing of the Alliance as we headed into Geneva, and I think that was one of the strengths of our position with the Soviets in Geneva. And that was borne out as Bud, Rick Burt and Nitze and others carried the results of the Geneva talks to the allied capitals after -- early -- last week, I guess.

Q Was there any discussion of the confusion over the Belgian --

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q -- visit and statements afterwards?

Q Do you have any more on that?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Charles?

Q Larry, Bob Michels says that there may be a deal swung to save the MX in exchange for other concessions. What's your reaction to that? Is it worth --

MR. SPEAKES: I think Bob has discussed that with other members, Democratic members of the House. But we have not -- it has not been, as far as I know, discussed here, and I really don't have anything on it, Charles, until we hear a little more.

Q Is that a deal that's worth swinging from the White House's point of view?

MR. SPEAKES: I think we'd have to hear more about it.

Q Is that the only way you're going to save the MX?

MR. SPEAKES: I think we'd have to hear more about the deal before I comment.

Q When do you expect to hear more about it?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know.

Q Was there any meeting today between the Senate Republicans and Baker, Stockman --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, there was a morning meeting with the Republican leadership between Baker and Stockman, and then a noontime lunch with the Senators -- continuing group of Senators.

Q Was this morning thing with House only?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon? No, it was the Senate and House leadership.

Q Larry, do you have anything on consultations between Moscow and Washington on the Middle East?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't. Did State have any more than that?

MR. SIMS: Nothing beyond what we've already said.

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Which is -- could you refresh my memory?

MR. SIMS: We're interested in talking to the Soviets on regional issues, one of the regions being the Middle East. This was not a subject in the Geneva talks. However, we would hope that in the future we will be able to talk with the Soviets about the Middle East.

There's no change in our view that an international conference involving the Soviet Union would be unhelpful. We want to see a regional settlement in the Middle East, but we're -- would want to engage the Soviets in discussions about what's going on there.

Q How's Chernenko?

Q Fine.

MR. SPEAKES: Ted?

Don't comment on that.

Q Yes. Larry, the Senate Republican -- Senator Simpson said today that the \$8 billion in defense cuts that Mr. Weinberger got the President to accept are "illusory," his quote, and not real. Is that true?

Q Yes. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: I think you'd better ask the budget people. I haven't looked enough -- closely enough to see whether they're illusory or not.

My judgment would be that they're not illusory.

Q It's a bookkeeping -- It's a bookkeeping funny money.

MR. SPEAKES: Okay.

Q I mean, you know that.

MR. SPEAKES: Frank.

Q Larry, what was the sum and substance of McFarlane's meeting prior to the President?

MR. SPEAKES: It's just a continuing discussion with the group about the arms control positions and so forth. Really, we won't discuss it in any detail.

Q Well, what was substantive, say, as opposed to the Reagan meeting, which is more ceremonial?

MR. SPEAKES: Not necessarily.

Q Not necessarily what? Ceremonial or substantive?

MR. SPEAKES: As opposed to the Reagan meeting.

You know, Ira --

Q Well, I'm confused here.

MR. SPEAKES: -- look -- Well, you can remain confused.

Q Well, are you going to call on me again so I can follow this up?

MR. SPEAKES: I will after I get through calling on a few more people. Rowley is waiting.

Q Larry, what about the Baker-Stockman meeting this morning? Can you give any sort of readout on that?

MR. SPEAKES: No, we really haven't. It's a continuing update of the leadership on our budget process as we proceed, working with them about how it'd be presented, that kind of thing.

Q But you are aware and accept the fact that the Senate leadership is going to present its own budget before the President sends his up.

MR. SPEAKES: I'm still not sure that's going to be the case, Sam. I just don't think so.

Q Is that right?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, we've been discussing that for about 10 days and everybody persists in writing it. But I just don't think that's --

Q I think people persist in writing it because members of the Senate leadership persist in saying it.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, I don't look for them to present a budget. I think we'll -- we will work with them. We'll keep them posted on what we're doing and then --

Q Well, they're not going to present a budget --

MR. SPEAKES: -- always variations.

Q -- but they're going to present, they say, a budget deficit-reduction plan. Do you accept that they will probably do that and make that --

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. But if they do -- it's part of the budget process. We present a budget. They look at it. They can make changes if they wish. The President can accept or reject them.

Q But at least one member of that leadership says that one of the reasons for doing it is to take the spotlight off the President's budget, which he says is not going to be seriously considered, so that people can concentrate on their budget and save you all some additional embarrassment for having your budget presented and immediately discarded.

MR. SPEAKES: I just don't think that's going to be the case. I think our budget will be seriously considered.

Charles.

Q Can I come back to this Urban League Report --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q -- for one thing? I know you haven't seen it; but my understanding is that it calls for support of the Civil Rights Bill to overturn Grove City. Could you refresh me, what is the White House position on Grove City?

MR. SPEAKES: The position on Grove City is that we support the bill that Senator Dole is presently drafting, which I really don't know the details on. Do you know any more on it, Marlin, what the Dole bill is going to be?

MR. FITZWATER: I can get specifics later; but generally, it's designed to overturn the Grove City decision.

Q But only -- only in regard to education.

MR. FITZWATER: -- the bill that was in the session last -- in last session. Whether that will be reintroduced or not, we don't know.

Q But you support the narrow version, rather than a broader version?

MR. FITZWATER: We support the Dole version.

Q Which is the --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q That Urban League Report, I just came from that press conference, calls on President Reagan to do a number of things besides supporting that bill and says that if he doesn't take all these steps that he's going to be remembered as one who presided over the sharp deterioration of the conditions of black people or as the author of policies that encourage permanent cleavage between blacks and whites.

Among the other things that this report calls on Mr. Reagan to do is to reappraise our policy towards South Africa; to stop attacking affirmative action; to appoint more blacks to key positions in the administration, such as in the Treasury Department and to take more action on the initiatives that the President has already said he supports, like the Enterprise Zone Bill.

What's your reaction to this report --

MR. SPEAKES: Same reaction I gave Bob when he asked the question at the beginning of the briefing is that we haven't had the benefit, as you have, of attending the press conference, nor seeing the report, nor seeing a press release on it. So I just can't comment until we have an opportunity to look at it.

Ira, you want to go back to your substance versus frivolity question?

Q It wasn't frivolity. I said "ceremonial."

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, I see.

Q Earlier, you seemed to say no to the question if there was substance in terms of negotiating posture, facts, new ideas in the meeting with the President. Did these items come up in the McFarlane meeting --

MR. SPEAKES: I'm not discussing the McFarlane meeting.

Q So I could draw my own conclusion?

MR. SPEAKES: You may.

Q Why won't you discuss the McFarlane meeting?

MR. SPEAKES: We just don't discuss what's going on. As you recall, there was an unprecedented blackout on a discussion in the -- leading up to Geneva. It worked well. And I don't -- I think we'll continue that process as the Interagency Working Group continues to have discussions among themselves.

Q Well, you say an "unprecedented blackout," I remember the stories leading up to Geneva, some on television, some in newspapers, how they were going to be a two-track system, what our posture would be, what we'd try to do. What is this blackout?

MR. SPEAKES: They were all basically the same story rewritten over a period of two or three weeks.

Q So you mean there was only one leak that's now, I take it, being investigated, since they signed that piece of paper, signing their lives away.

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know.

Q Are you investigating any --

MR. SPEAKES: But I'm not discussing them. We don't ever discuss whether we investigate leaks or not.

Q Well, you seem to be implying that in this McFarlane meeting, that there might be some positions that are not fully agreed to on our side. Are you intending to leave that implication?

MR. SPEAKES: Would you please repeat for me the statement that indicates to your mind that I made that implication.

Q Well, the logic that there was apparently substance discussed at the McFarlane meeting. You're not going to talk about it, just as you didn't talk about the negotiations leading up to the Geneva talks which we have reported did involve perhaps a need to get our stories straight on our side.

MR. SPEAKES: You have added two and two and come up with five.

Q But you don't want to tell me what four is?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Larry, what's the Mayors' meeting about this afternoon?

MR. SPEAKES: It's -- the Mayors are in town for the Conference of Mayors meeting, I believe it is -- National Association of Mayors. The Republicans are coming over to meet briefly with the President and receive thanks and appreciation.

Let's get Paul, Helen, and we'll go.

Q How about the agenda -- the next agenda meeting?

MR. SPEAKES: Did you come in late?

Q Yes, I did.

MR. SPEAKES: All right. We have a copy of the next agenda meeting agenda.

Q Does the White House have a view of what appears to be admission by the government on Taiwan that its agents murdered a person in the United States?

MR. SPEAKES: The State Department addressed that yesterday. I don't have the benefit -- I don't have their statement with me and it was addressed yesterday. I just don't have anything on it.

Q Anything on the Jamaica situation?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

12:30 P.M. EST

#1295-01/16