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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

January 17, 1985

The Briefing Room

12:09 P.M. EST

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12:14 P.M. EST

#1297-01/17

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MR. SPEAKES: This afternoon, the President meets with the Cabinet in order to hear the current status of the budget process.

And at 5:00 p.m., there's a reception for Citizens of America.

An announcement of a visitor -- the President has invited Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain to make an official working visit to the United States. Prime Minister Thatcher has accepted the invitation and will meet with the President at the White House on February 20, 1985.

We're distributing this statement by the President on his meeting with Ambassador Goodby. One correction -- this morning I said, "beginning the fourth conference." It begins the fifth conference of CDE.

I don't have anything specific that's new from this morning. Do you have any questions?

Q How about Thatcher --

Q What do you think about this Thatcher -- I mean, wasn't she just here? Is there something pressing or --

MR. SPEAKES: No, the meeting was discussed at Camp David. This February meeting was discussed at Camp David and agreed to, subject to the two countries working out the details. As you recall, the meeting at Camp David was fairly brief. And it's an opportunity to continue the discussions that the President and Mrs. Thatcher have had from time to time on U.S.-British issues as well as East-West issues.

Q Would you expect the topic, the dominant topic to be arms control and Star Wars, as it was at Camp David?

MR. SPEAKES: There's a lot of water to go under the bridge between now and February 20th. But, conceivably, it could be, yes. There was considerable discussion there at Camp David and I think there will be continuing discussion and continuing interest because since that time, the Geneva talks have occurred, and by February, we should be well along with the arms control talks planning.

Q Will she have had her meeting with Martens by then, do you know?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. Bob, have you got any feel for whether -- I don't know. Martens plans to consult and whether it goes that way or not, I don't know.

Q Larry, is this in connection with the still unspecified timing of the new round of negotiations?

MR. SPEAKES: Not necessarily. It's just a continuing series of meetings we've had with the British.

Q What else is she doing here? Any other travel besides the meeting here?

MR. SPEAKES: That she will do? I don't know at the moment. The British Embassy could be more specific. I don't know of anything else.

MR. SIMS: There is some other in that visit.

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, is there? All right.

Deborah?

Q Can you give us any further guidance on a timetable for an announcement of a new negotiator?

MR. SPEAKES: No. I think there have been some discussions within the working group and some preliminary discussions with the President. It could be shortly. I don't anticipate it today, but it could be in the next several days.

Q Larry --

MR. Yes, sir.

Q -- Jackie Presser is listed as Co-Chairman of the Labor Inaugural Committee. Can you tell us how he was selected and whether you think it's proper for somebody under investigation by the Justice Department to hold that position?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know how he was selected. I presume he was selected by the Inaugural Chairman. And until a person is convicted, I think he should enjoy the benefit of a presumption of innocence.

We have conferred with Mr. Presser and other labor leaders from time to time in this administration and will continue to do so.

Q Is the President considering going to Mike Deaver's party tonight for Mrs. Deaver?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Absolutely ruled out? Not going to go?

MR. SPEAKES: Nor am I. In fact, that's the first I've heard of it. (Laughter.)

Q Yes, me, too. What party is it?

MR. SPEAKES: Too bad.

Q What party is that?

MR. SPEAKES: I didn't even get to come honor --

Q Are you going?

MR. SPEAKES: -- Sam and Lou last night at the Washington Journalism Review thing.

Q Lou is sick.

MR. SPEAKES: I understand; but he was honored at the --

Q Oh.

MR. SPEAKES: -- as the White House Reporter of the Year.

Q You weren't invited?

MR. SPEAKES: No, but I didn't really care to go anyway. (Laughter.)

Q You were not invited?

MR. SPEAKES: None of us were, right?

Q The invitation was kind of funny because it --

MR. SPEAKES: The entire Press Office was snubbed, socially snubbed by the Washington Journalism Review. What are we --

Q Are you sure you didn't get an invitation and you didn't know what it was for because it was a very -- It didn't say for these awards. It said something different and --

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think so. But my rule is accept all and attend nothing. (Laughter.)

Well, with that great note -- Had enough, Helen?

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

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