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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

February 1, 1985

The Briefing Room

12:05 P.M. EST

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12:25 P.M. EST

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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PRESS BRIEFING

BY

LARRY SPEAKES

February 1, 1985

The Briefing Room

12:05 P.M. EST

MR. SPEAKES: The President is now having lunch in the Family Dining Room with the authors and educators and discussing the future.

The President will depart for Camp David at about 1:30 p.m. We are reasonably certain that he will be driving, but we don't have that for sure. We'll announce the travel pool information as soon as we have it.

The President plans to spend time on the weekend working on his State of the Union address. A photo of the President working on the speech will be available in the White House Press Office Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

The President will meet with Chief Gatsha Buthelezi of South Africa -- that's G-A-T-S-H-A, last name, B-U-T-H-E-L-E-Z-I -- on February 4th at 9:40 a.m. Chief Buthelezi is the President of the Inkatha, which is a national cultural liberation movement, and Prime Minister of the Kwazulu Homeland. He's one of the most important political leaders in South Africa.

Chief Buthelezi is a forceful advocate of eliminating the system of apartheid in South Africa. He is in the United States in a private capacity, attended the National Prayer Breakfast yesterday. The President will be interested in Chief Buthelezi's views on recent developments in South Africa and will express the President's continued support for the non-violent progress away from this system of apartheid toward a government based on the consent of all South Africans.

Q Spell his last name again.

MR. SPEAKES: B-U-T-H-E-L-E-Z-I. Following the meeting we will have a readout on background in the briefing room by Assistant Secretary Chester Crocker.

Additionally on Monday the President will drop by a meeting of the National Religious Broadcasters Association at the Washington Sheraton Hotel. Leave the White House at 4:15 p.m. and be back at 4:50 p.m. We'll have you details, perhaps, later today or first thing Monday on coverage.

On Monday at 9 --

Q Will he speak there, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q Will he speak there?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. Monday at 9:15 a.m., the regular briefing here. No noon briefing on Monday. The FY '86 budget press briefing will begin at noon on Monday in the State Department's Dean Atchison Auditorium. The briefing is scheduled to last 90 minutes. The press must present credentials at the 23rd Street entrance. The

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doors open at 8:00 a.m. for television crews which -- who wish to set up.

Q Will you do a 9:15 a.m.? (Laughter.) I thought I heard you say there'll be no noon briefing.

MR. SPEAKES: No. I said -- for -- before that, I said no 9 -- I mean a 9:15 a.m. But no noon.

Q Woke up a second too late. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: Well, you and John Riggins. (Laughter.)

The President has invited President Doo Hwan Chun of the Republic of Korea to make an official working visit to the United States. President Chun has accepted the invitation and will meet with the President at the White House in April of 1985. Exact dates will be announced later.

The President and President Chun will discuss a variety of important issues including Northeast Asia and the Korean peninsula.

President Chun visited Washington in February of 1981 and was the first visitor to the White House after the President was elected. And the President, of course, visited Seoul in November of 1983.

Q Larry, does the President know that his name is Chun Doo Hwan?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q His name is Chun Doo Hwan, isn't it, not Doo Hwan Chun.

MR. SPEAKES: I'm not sure.

Q It was when we were in Korea. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: You -- I think you're right.

Q Doo Hwan Hwan --

MR. SPEAKES: The President's unclassified report to Congress on the Soviet treaty compliance will be made available here at the State Department -- and at the State Department this afternoon. That material we will release is embargoed until 3:30 p.m. Eastern. We expect to have it available for handout here and at the State Department at 2:30.

We plan to have a background briefing at the State Department by Arms Control and Disarmament Agency officials at 3:00 p.m. That briefing will be piped into the briefing room.

Q Larry, when is that? I'm sorry.

MR. SPEAKES: When?

Q Here? Today or Monday?

MR. SPEAKES: Here. Today.

Bob?

Q Larry, in connection with the President's February 4 meeting, what is the White House reaction to the South African government's conditional offer to the release of Nelson Mandella from prison?

MR. SPEAKES: Bob, I don't have anything on that specifically. I think the State Department did yesterday and I don't have those words before me. I can get them for you if you would like. But I don't have them.

Q Since we -- some of us don't follow the intricacies of South African politics, is this chief that he's meeting on the order of Bishop Tutu in political terms -- that he's a strong opponent of apartheid and a moral voice against apartheid?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Well, are you -- does the White House look at him as a -- as another in a series of Tutu-like -- (Laughter) -- visitors?

Q Larry, what we want in South Africa are a lot of other Tutu's. (Laughter.) The second, since Tutu --

MR. SPEAKES: The President is interested and has solicited the views of political leaders in South Africa, both in government and out, and this is one of those. I don't know whether any others are planned, though, Ira.

Terry?

Q Is the invitation to the President of South Korea in any way tied to an assurance of safety for the return to Korea of Kim Dae Jung?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q There is no -- can we have any -- have we had any assurance from the South Korean government that -- for his protection?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't want to go into diplomatic contacts, but we are hopeful that his return to South Korea will be uneventful and unimpeded.

Q Would this invitation have been extended had we not been assured of his safety?

MR. SPEAKES: That's hypothetical on two points, and I just don't wish to address it.

Q I mean, we have extended the invitation, haven't we?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q I said we have extended the invitation.

MR. SPEAKES: Well, actually the invitation was extended in principle when we visited there, and the date has been worked out between the two countries. And when it was worked out we announced it.

Bob?

Q Kim Dae Jung's been living over in Arlington for about the last two years. Do you know if there's been any contact during that time between the administration and --

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

Q Larry? Is there any link between Kim Dae Jung's schedule to return to Korea and the second part of the announcement?

MR. SPEAKES: Second part of the announcement being?

Q Subject of the date.

Q Date.

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, date. Oh, I'm sorry -- no. No, it's just to work out a mutually convenient time on the President's schedule -- both President's schedules.

Q Can you give us the --

Q Is a meeting of this type -- or an invitation of this type -- would you say it puts pressure on the South Korean government to take pains to protect this man?

MR. SPEAKES: I wouldn't say that.

Q You mean you don't think that would happen, or you wouldn't say that?

MR. SPEAKES: I just can't pass judgment on it, Terry.

Q Can you give us the week ahead?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes -- have you got your week ahead there? Got a fresh week ahead?

All right. On the weekend, of course, the President's at Camp David. The radio address will take place tomorrow at 12:06 p.m., and they'll be back on Sunday afternoon.

Q Subject?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q Subject?

MR. SPEAKES: Subject -- don't announce in advance. The Democrats will get us again.

Keep in mind that we do put on the recording here -- that'll have the President's return schedule sometime mid-day Sunday. It saves us a lot of phone calls to our phone duty person.

Q Larry, is it possible he might break the embargo on the budget, and put out budget figures?

MR. SPEAKES: The President would -- I don't think he would break the embargo.

Chief Buthelezi, at 9:40 a.m. on Monday, the --

Q Who?

MR. SPEAKES: -- the religious broadcasters, and at 10:15 a.m. on Monday he will receive the budget from the budget directors and so forth. Is that a session where he actually presents it to Tip and them?

MR. ROUSSEL: I don't know --

MR. SPEAKES: I'm not sure whether that's -- what that is. Then he drops by a budget briefing in the East Room for administration officials, I believe, and in the afternoon he meets with representatives of the deficit reduction group in the East Room.

Q Private?

MR. SPEAKES: Business leaders, association leaders, or something along that line.

Q Would you expect him to make remarks at that briefing, the budget briefing, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q That's what time?

MR. SPEAKES: Like 10:30 a.m. Receives the budget in the Oval Office and at 10:30 -- or maybe he presents the budget to the Hill in the Oval Office at 10:15 a.m. -- at 10:30 a.m. he goes to the East Room for the budget briefing. In the afternoon we have the deficit reduction group.

Q Can those remarks be piped in, or --

MR. SPEAKES: If they're covered in the East Room, yes, they will be. I'm not sure which of these, or all of them, that we might want to cover on Monday. So -- but, we'll know at 9:15 a.m.

At 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday the President meets with new industries leaders --

Q News?

MR. SPEAKES: -- and once again, I'm not sure what the --

Q Did you say "news"?

MR. SPEAKES: New.

Q New.

MR. SPEAKES: Industries leaders. I'm not sure what that is.

On Wednesday, GOP Congressional leadership and State-of-the-Union address is in the evening at 9:00 p.m.

On Thursday, he meets with Prime Minister Hawke of Australia at 11:30 a.m. Luncheon and departure statements. Takes care of that.

On Friday he will be meeting with members of Congress on Enterprise Zone legislation. He will have a luncheon that marks the Boy Scouts 75th Anniversary. And, in all probability, we will have an oval office ceremony for James Baker and Don Regan, with their families.

Q Will that be swearing-in then?

MR. SPEAKES: It will be the second swearing-in, which is

Q Do they actually switch Monday, I mean, would --

MR. SPEAKES: They actually will be sworn in at home as a formality on Sunday afternoon by a notary public which officially puts them in office. And then we'll do this thing in the Oval Office

Q For our reference, by mid-afternoon Sunday, Baker is Secretary of Treasury --

MR. SPEAKES: That's right.

Q This Sunday, right?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Are we through with the week ahead?

Q Did we ever establish whether he speaks to the religious broadcasters?

MR. SPEAKES: I believe he does. I'm reasonably certain he does.

MR. ROUSSEL: It's just basically a drop-by.

MR. SPEAKES: I'm sure he'll have remarks --

Q What time is that --

Q Say that again?

MR. SPEAKES: Will he speak with religious broadcasters, I'm almost certain he will.

Q And the time of that again, Larry, please?

MR. SPEAKES: What's the time on it?

MS. HOGGARD: At 4:15 p.m.

MR. SPEAKES: At 4:15 p.m. departure, 4:40 p.m. return.

Q Well, Larry, the --

MR. SPEAKES: Ira?

Q -- the President appeared to have a little cold and he is going on vacation. Can you speak about his general health?

MR. SPEAKES: General health is first-class, A-1.

Q Camp David next weekend, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: I would bet, Jerry. Does that show Camp David for next weekend? I didn't look past Friday.

Q How firm is Santa Barbara, can you tell us at this point?

MR. SPEAKES: How firm is Santa Barbara?

Q It's definitely the 13th through the 18th?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. It's Wednesday through -- return on Monday.

Q No stop on the way --

Q Return on Monday?

MR. SPEAKES: No stop planned. Return on Monday.

Q Do you know if that's an early Monday, or an -- because I thought it was Sunday originally. Do you know if --

MR. SPEAKES: Monday's a Holiday, I think it's George Washington's birthday on Monday, so we'll just fly back that day.

Q Anything scheduled out there?

MR. SPEAKES: I'm sure it'll be a 9:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. departure from out there.

Q Anything scheduled out there?

MR. SPEAKES: No. Bob?

Q You may have talked about this in the morning briefing, but what's the status of Vernon Walters.

MR. SPEAKES: I just don't have anything to announce.

Q What was the question?

Q Can you give us any guidance on --

Q Vernon Walters --

MR. SPEAKES: Vernon Walters -- papers look pretty good on it.

Q Larry, do you think that there will be an announcement in the next couple of weeks on that issue, or not? Or are you going to wait until March --

MR. SPEAKES: On the U.N.?

Q Yes.

MR. SPEAKES: I would anticipate it, yes. I really don't know how that's flowing along right now, but my guess is, yes.

Q On the budget, is what you said some time ago -- or the leak from a long time ago -- about the 5 percent across the board paycut for federal employees still a good story?

MR. SPEAKES: Ira, I don't know. Marlin?

MR. FITZWATER: I won't say --

Q I mean, is there any change from what was on before
-- I mean --

MR. FITZWATER: I'm not aware of any change.

Q What about the 10-percent pay cut?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think that's in -- and that was sort of if Congress does it, the White House ought to do it, and if the White House does it, the President will do it, and --

Q So, really the will of our leaders -- (laughter) --

MR. SPEAKES: -- nobody ever stood up.

Q -- has not been fully expressed yet.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. Nobody ever stood up.

Gerald?

Q This may have come up at the morning, but did -- Weinberger was talking about this great Soviet buildup yesterday. And it seemed to be somewhat different to what the President had been saying during the campaign about closing the gap. Is there a inconsistency there?

MR. SPEAKES: No, there's a consistency. The inconsistency seems to be in the press. The Post said this morning that they were not in sync, but The Baltimore Sun says, "join forces in policy review." So --

Q Well, I would like to know why Burch and Weinberger don't have their stories straight.

MR. SPEAKES: (Laughter) -- shooting down that -- as yet.

Q Yes. I mean, why is the Pentagon correcting the Secretary of Defense and vice versa?

MR. SPEAKES: I wouldn't presume to correct the President, would I? (Laughter.)

Q And the Secretary --

MR. SPEAKES: The Pentagon said that the missile ceased to fly. (Laughter.)

Q Ahhhh.

Q Larry --

Q A real term of art.

MR. SPEAKES: That's right --

Q -- Mr. Weinberger brief the President on this mystery weapon that the Soviets had that shot it down? Did he tell the President this?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q He didn't?

MR. SPEAKES: Look at the Pentagon's explanation. That was very good. I commend it to you. (Laughter.)

Q -- Mr. Weinberger ever brief the President on this new weapon?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, if you look at the Pentagon correction, you will find there is no new weapon. (Laughter.)

Q On the arms violation -- the report that's coming out -- at yesterday's meeting, did the President address that to the members of the committee and say anything specifically about --

MR. SPEAKES: I don't believe it came up.

Q -- how this might affect arms control?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. I don't believe it came up.

Candy?

Q Can you clear up this Monday morning Oval Office receiving of the budget stuff? I mean, are -- can you find whether Tip and Packwood are coming up --

MR. SPEAKES: Sure.

Q -- or if he's just --

MR. ROUSSEL: We'll check on it.

Q -- they're just giving Reagan the formal book or what's going on?

MR. ROUSSEL: We'll find out.

Q Any --

MR. SPEAKES: Why don't we just call around and see if that's what's coming, if Tip is coming. I think it's the leadership comes down, formally gets the budget, we make a photo and send them on their way.

Q Any new --

MR. SPEAKES: I believe that's it, just based on recollection.

Q Any new development on the farm --

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't know whether they went back up there today or not.

Q On the budget, is it still the expectation of the White House that the Senate Republicans and the President will reach a quick agreement or some kind of compromise on this? What's your assessment of -- what's the next step after Reagan proposes this?

MR. SPEAKES: Next step: We send up the formal budget and continue to work with them, David, hopefully arriving at something that suits us all with the budget. We're -- hopefully, it'll be as close to our figures as we can make it.

Q But the strategy is still to get a Senate version through quickly and then take the whole package to the House?

MR. SPEAKES: I think that's the way it'll probably play out, yes.

Bob?

Q You said that the arms violations reports -- they would be here and at State? You didn't say Pentagon, did you?

MR. SPEAKES: No, here and at State.

What is Hunt reading back there? What --

Q New York Times.

MR. SPEAKES: No, it says some kind of gazette.
(Laughter.)

Q An ad.

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, I see. (Laughter.) I don't mind your reading. I just wonder what it -- what language you were reading.

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes?

Q Larry, could we arrange to have the Sunday duty officer inform us when Baker and Regan have both been sworn?

MR. SPEAKES: That's going to be a little hard without disturbing them at home. Maybe we can try to find out over the weekend what time they -- I mean, I'm sure they know when the guy's coming out with the oath in his hand.

Q Is there some reason for that? I mean, why couldn't they do it -- why are they waiting until Sunday to have a notary public show up at their house? It seems sort of strange.

MR. SPEAKES: Didn't have anything else to do Sunday afternoon. Football's over.

Q -- church.

MR. SPEAKES: No basketball Sunday afternoon.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

12:25 P.M. EST

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