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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

May 31, 1984

The Briefing Room

12:03 P.M. EDT

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#1110-05/31

12:18 P.M. EDT

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
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May 31, 1984

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12:03 P.M. EDT

MR. SPEAKES: I hope everybody's in this good a mood about 10 days from now. (Laughter.) The President's announcing the --

Q If we aren't, you'll be the first to know --
(Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: That's right. (Laughter.) -- appointment of Owen W. Roberts, as Ambassador to the Republic of Togo. And Jorge L. Mas is going to be a Member of the Advisory Board for Radio broadcasting to Cuba.

And, at 2:15 p.m. the President will slip out into the Rose Garden and make a surprise announcement -- (Laughter.) -- on the Federal Reserve Board.

How long has that been out -- about three months?

Q Yes.

Q Who is it --

MR. SPEAKES: Open press coverage.

This afternoon, the President will also be having separate interviews with foreign print and television correspondents representing the summit countries. That will be on the trip to Europe.

The transcript of the interview with television correspondents will be available for immediate release about 5:00 p.m. here in the press office.

The transcript of the interview with print journalists will be available on Saturday, June 2nd in Galway. It will be for immediate release on that day.

The final background briefing on the President's trip to Europe today at 2:30 p.m., Room 450, Old Executive Office Building. The briefer will be Bud McFarlane.

We hope to have a detailed schedule of the President's trip available later this afternoon. These are the pocket-sized travel schedules for those traveling with the President, and will be also available on the plane tomorrow. If you get one today, you do not get one tomorrow -- limited supply, so hang on to it.

Press traveling with the -- on the White House press charter to Europe on Friday may leave their baggage in the Transportation office between 12:00 noon and 4:00 p.m. today.

Tomorrow, check-in time with baggage is 6:00 a.m. If you don't -- if you plan to go without baggage, you can go in at 6:30.

Q That's right --

MR. SPEAKES: That way you don't have to worry about cleaning your clothes. (Laughter.)

Q Good. (Laughter.)

Q -- or sitting next to anyone. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, you'll have three seats across for sure.
(Laughter.)

The press charter will be leaving at 7:30 a.m., Air Force
One check-in at 8:30 a.m.

The President will depart from the South Lawn at 8:40 a.m.,
with open coverage. I think the Vice President will see him off, but
there'll be no departure statement.

Q Ummmm --

MR. SPEAKES: We'll just hang on the arrival statement
there at Shannon.

During the President's trip to Europe, there's pool
coverage of the dinner at Buckingham Palace on Saturday evening, the
9th. The pool will be required to wear black tie, or evening attire
for the ladies. But, we don't know who the pool is going to be.
(Laughter.)

Q Everyone. (Laughter.)

Q Everybody wear a tie -- (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: That's right. (Laughter.) There are not
going to be very many people, there will be one or two people, and
one television crew.

Q Ferrugia, bring your tux -- (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: -- in fact, I don't think there will be a
correspondent, so --

Q Forget it Ferrugia --

MR. SPEAKES: We will probably deal with social writers
unless anybody has any strong objection, I think they usually --

Q Who do we protest to?

MR. SPEAKES: Do you want to go?

Q Sure.

MR. SPEAKES: Bring your evening clothes -- go.

Q But, you said no print -- didn't you?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I said no correspondent, probably.
There will be one or two persons that will be the representative of --

Q Oh.

MR. SPEAKES: -- for the writing press, correspondents,
and so forth. And we'll probably go with a social writer, who usually
come with a built-in evening attire. (Laughter.)

However --

Q Donnie says thanks. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: However, if we're able to expand wire and
magazine photographers, wire writers and social writers, television
crews should carry them --

Q Pete, you've got your evening attire in the car, right?

MR. ROUSSEL: Same place you saw me this morning --

Q Oh, wherever, yes --

Q Will there be a ceremony tomorrow when Reagan leaves?

MR. SPEAKES: No. It'll just be a walk out with the VP, handshake type of thing.

Q So, the Vice President won't speak either -- no one will speak?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Larry, will we get an advance text of the Shannon arrival statement on the plane?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, you will on the plane.

Q Il Giornale --

MR. SPEAKES: We -- pardon?

Q Il Giornale -- the Italian newspaper?

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, yes. What time are we going to do the Italian release -- this afternoon, too?

MR. SIMS: No. Tomorrow on --

MR. SPEAKES: Tomorrow on the plane. That's right.

Q But when is the -- release?

Q Larry, you told us --

MR. SPEAKES: Il Giornale.

MR. SIMS: -- newspaper, editor --

Q Why can't we have it today?

MR. SIMS: Because they have not published it.

Q Yes, they have. Today.

MR. SIMS: Well, their agreement with us was release tomorrow. That's their interview so we're --

Q Yes, but we could hold it and still -- like, it would help a lot if we could have it today and then even write advance stories we can't file just because -- how are we going to file tomorrow?

MR. SPEAKES: It's in Mr. Sims' hands. He'll debate it.

Q What about -- can we just ask a moot point -- did he do an interview with this Italian newspaper?

Q They didn't hold to their word. They gave it to their news agency.

MR. SPEAKES: So is there a lesson to be learned there?

All right, anything else?

Q Is there any possibility that we could get the arrival statements before we leave? I mean, for those of who are --

MR. SPEAKES: You'll be in there at 3:00 p.m. Eastern time so you're all right. No, we'll wait until we get on the airplane.

Q Well, Larry, are those Shannon remarks going to be available here, too?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, we can make them available here if you like.

Q Yes, would you please?

Q Larry, will the President lend Mr. Wick --

Q Just --

Q -- an armored limosine or is that, I suppose, balderdash?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Oh?

Q We are -- getting a transcript of the TV interview, though, right?

Q Lester, just a minute.

MR. SPEAKES: TV interview this afternoon, yes.

Q Yes, like at 5:00 p.m.?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

No, he will not loan him a limo.

Q Is that all the TV --

MR. SPEAKES: -- was balderdash or not.

Q You don't know whether it's balderdash?

Q He's doing more than one, isn't he?

MR. SPEAKES: No, it's one group.

Q It's a group, I see.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q What's going on? Really strange. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: I can't hear a thing except for Lester.

Q Are you responding to Lester or to somebody else?

MR. SPEAKES: Everybody.

Q Oh.

Q He was in his car, huh? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: Yes -- car.

MR. ROUSSEL: I hate to think that's the big news item in the briefing.

Q -- so far it is.

Q -- an airport would be -- when we leave.

MR. SPEAKES: When we land -- to break up.

Q -- 7-11 --

MR. SPEAKES: Any more trip paraphernalia?

Q -- do you have an advance copy? When is the advance copy of the President's arrival remarks? Is that on the plane?

MR. SPEAKES: -- that's on the plane. (Laughter.)

MR. ROUSSEL: -- try again.

Q Are we the ones --

Q What about Volcker, Larry? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: -- what about Volcker?

Q Can you hear, John?

Q How old is the Xerox machine? (Laughter.)

Q How old's the Xerox --

Q -- 45 years later.

Q Forty-five years, huh?

MR. SPEAKES: -- he never got his Xerox back, did he?

Q -- xerography.

Q But we've got Marlin.

MR. SPEAKES: That's right. He got Marlin. He did --

Q Yes.

Q Yes.

MR. SPEAKES: He's the Xerox man.

Q How's Marlin feeling today? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: All right. Lester has a question.

Q Ohh.

Q Since the President has certainly been very supportive of the freedom fighters that are trying to regain freedom in Nicaragua, why has he been unwilling to give any support whatsoever to the Republican freedom fighters in the House of Representatives? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: Where is your tape recorder? Was it repossessed? (Laughter.)

Q Larry, you're one of the most -- you're one of the greatest dodgers I've ever heard. (Laughter.) But I mean, could you tell me why is the President absolutely mum on this -- there's fights going on up there and the Republicans are in battle. He's the leader of the Republican party, Larry. Why is he deserting these embattled and intrepid young men?

MR. SPEAKES: They're winning.

Q They're winning?

MR. SPEAKES: Go with it. (Laughter.)

Q How? How would you say that? How would you say they're winning, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Just the same way you always win.

All right, anything else? (Laughter.)

Q Larry, there's a report circulating that the U.S. is backing a plan to build a 545 mile pipeline from Iraq through Jordan to the Gulf of Aquaba or the Aquaba Port. Do you have anything on that?

MR. SPEAKES: Dave, I don't know a thing about that. Anything to add to it?

MR. SIMS: We don't have anything on that.

MR. SPEAKES: We don't have a thing on it anywhere.

Q How about Stingers for Kuwait?

MR. SPEAKES: Stingers for Kuwait was addressed in detail by the Defense Department this morning.

Q What did they say?

MR. SPEAKES: They said we're reviewing Kuwait's defense requirements but are not proceeding with and Stingers at this time.

Q Have they requested them?

MR. SPEAKES: We don't discuss the diplomatic communications, but we know that the Kuwaitis are reviewing with us their security requirements in light of what it considers is needed for its own self defense.

Q Okay. (Laughter.)

Q Is the President going to discuss interest rates or anything else in his appearance in the Rose Garden or is it strictly a --

MR. SPEAKES: He hasn't finished his remarks so I don't know. He could very easily make some comments on the --

Q Will Volcker be there?

MR. SPEAKES: -- current status of the economy. I don't know. Marlin, do you know whether --

Q Is he invited?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know whether Volcker will be there or not.

David?

Q The House may take up the MX about 11:00 p.m. tonight, from what we understand, Larry. What's the White House doing, or the President himself doing, with arms --

MR. SPEAKES: Nothing specifically. They may try another vote, as you say, on the MX funding when they go back to the DOD appropriations

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this afternoon. We're watching the situation very closely. There are a number of people on both sides out of town, and we don't know who's going to be here and who's not. So, we'll -- about all we can do is watch it closely. There are no specific plans for the President to become involved. I think he's pretty well talked to everybody that needed talking to on the last vote.

Q Are you confident then, that --

MR. SPEAKES: But, he's prepared to step in if he needs to.

Q He's not lobbying now. Are you confident, then that you'll keep the fifteen that you already have?

MR. SPEAKES: I think it should be very close, Mick, depending on the absentees.

Q President Carter --

Q -- boll weevils live. (Laughter).

Q When do we get the U.S. delegation to Salvador -- three?

MR. SPEAKES: Sometime this afternoon.

Q I can't believe I just heard that.

Q There's a lot of reports that you've had trouble getting people to go.

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know of any reports.

Q I'm in the third row and I can't even hear the questions. Can you --

MR. SPEAKES: Salvador inauguration delegation, reports of trouble getting folks to go. I don't -- I don't know of any problems with it. Always these delegations to inaugurations and funerals tend to run very late. In fact, we sometimes get them after they're on the air.

David?

Q Larry, there was an explosion where Eden Pastora was having his news conference this morning, and there was also a report that the CIA was urging him to join up with the other Contra groups. Do you have any comment on the -- on either of those two things?

MR. SPEAKES: We can comment on the -- on that. We've seen the reports on the bomb explosion, a number of conflicting reports. The bomb did explode, as, according to our information, during a press conference that Eden Pastora called at La Pinca, which is about two kilometers inside the Nicaraguan border, where the San Juan and San Carlos rivers meet.

Preliminary reports that we received indicate as many as five were killed and twenty-five to twenty-eight injured. Embassy in San Jose has confirmed that American citizen, Linda Frazier, who was employed by the San Jose English-language newspaper, The Tico Times, was killed in the incident.

Two other American citizens were wounded. We don't have any further information. We certainly deplore the lost of life and injuries resulting from this incident. As far as Pastora being injured, we've had an embassy report that he was injured, but we don't

have anything further.

Q Do -- do you have any idea who did it? Did the bombing?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes?

Q What was -- what is the President's reaction to Senator Hart's claim that there is a problem in the Mondale campaign of tainted money? Does he think that Senator Hart is right or wrong?

MR. SPEAKES: We haven't ever commented on --

Q Well, I mean --

MR. SPEAKES: -- Democratic candidates --

Q It could involve the law though, couldn't it, Larry, that the President's been sworn to uphold, so -- so he is concerned, of course, that there might be tainted money.

MR. SPEAKES: We don't have any comment, period.

Q What was his comment on Jesse Jackson's description of the United States as arrogant?

MR. SPEAKES: He didn't have any comment on that either.

Q Does he think that Jesse Jackson is a model of humility? (Laughter).

MR. SPEAKES: I don't have any comment, period, on any Democratic candidates. (Laughter).

Q Do you know what the subject of his speech at Galway University -- or college?

MR. SPEAKES: At Galway, it's more or less Irish --

Q -- bull -- (Laughter).

MR. SPEAKES: -- heritage. U.S. Irish relations, Irish heritage, close contacts. The one at Dublin before the Irish Parliament will -- will be the President's major address of the trip. And it will be, to some extent, on East-West relations.

Q Is he still going to have a Saturday radio address?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, both Saturdays. The one this Saturday will come from Ashford Castle.

Q Will he talk at all on this trip, particularly in Ireland where it seems to be such an issue, about Central America?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know that it's specifically in his speech, which I haven't seen the draft on, but certainly, he's prepared to discuss Central American and U.S. policy there, and the reasons for it, if asked by anyone.

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Q When will we get it?

MR. SPEAKES: Get what?

Q Saturday's speech.

Q The radio broadcast.

MR. SPEAKES: You will get it when it's made.

Q Is he on his jet lag diet --

Q Will we be able to hear it?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q Will we be able to hear it?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know whether we'll be able to arrange to pipe it in the briefing room or not. If not, we can probably play a tape or we'll certainly make a transcript.

Yes, he is on his jet lag diet.

Q Is he excited that he's going?

MR. SPEAKES: What you do when you go to Europe, you change the days, you see. You feast one day and you fast one day when you go to the East. You fast one day and feast one day when you go to Europe. (Laughter.)

Q Variety is the spice of life.

MR. SPEAKES: You fly south, you eat all you want. You fly north, you can't eat at all. (Laughter.)

Q Larry, I want to know your reaction to the ad in Lester's magazine this month.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, there's one in there that caught my eye. (Laughter.) What is that for, Lester? (Laughter.)

Q Larry, I had absolutely -- I had nothing to do with it.

MR. SPEAKES: What do you do when they call that number? (Laughter.)

Q What's the number, Larry? Do you have it memorized yet?

MR. SPEAKES: I didn't memorize it yet. Marlin's going to take care of that. (Laughter.)

Q That's terribly embarrassing --

Q What's the President doing today to prepare for the trip?

Q Are you disavowing this, Lester?

MR. SPEAKES: What's the President doing today to prepare for the --

Q I just want to say I had nothing to do with the advertising. (Laughter.)

Q Do you know what they sell at the --

Q If you want a transcript of -- show, we'll be glad to do it, Bruce.

Q Do you disavow this month's issue?

Q What's the President doing?

MR. SPEAKES: What's the President doing to prepare for the trip? The President is doing the interviews this afternoon and he read his briefing books on the way back from Colorado yesterday, on the trip.

Q Him, too, right?

MR. SPEAKES: No meetings specifically scheduled on the trip today.

Q Who will be on the plane with him tomorrow? Shultz and Regan?

MR. SPEAKES: Neither -- neither of the above. Shultz will be --

Q Going to El Salvador.

MR. SPEAKES: -- in El Salvador, Regan is in meetings in Europe.

Q Larry, is the top senior staff going also? Meese, Deaver?

MR. SPEAKES: No Meese. Baker, Deaver, McFarlane.

Q Are any Cabinet members going?

MR. SPEAKES: Regan and Shultz will join us. I think Shultz is now going to join us, I believe, in Ireland.

Q Is there no plan --

MR. SPEAKES: And Regan --

Q Won't Meese be at the summit, itself?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. Maybe you know more than I do. I didn't -- I didn't know he was coming.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

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12:18 P.M. EDT