

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Press Secretary, Office of the:
Press Releases and Press Briefings: Records, 1981-1989

Series: II: PRESS BRIEFINGS

Folder Title: 01/30/1986 (#1677)

Box: 41

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit:
<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: **reagan.library@nara.gov**

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

January 30, 1986

The Briefing Room

12:25 P.M. EST

INDEX

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
ANNOUNCEMENTS	
President's Schedule	1
CPAC Dinner	
Personnel Announcement	
Travel to Houston	
DOMESTIC	
Shuttle/Travel to Houston for Ceremonies	2-4, 5
Shuttle/Manned Space Flight	3
Shuttle/Contractors/Subcontractors	5
FOREIGN	
Libya/Sanctions	5-9
Savimbi	9-10
Philippines/Elections	10

12:44 P.M. EST

#1677-01/30

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

January 30, 1986

The Briefing Room

12:25 P.M. EST

MR. SPEAKES: Eugene J. McAllister is being appointed Special Assistant to the President and will serve as Executive Secretary of the Economic Policy Council. He has been the Deputy Assistant Director for Economic Affairs in the Office of Policy Development.

Tonight's travel plans are a 7:15 p.m. departure, Washington Hilton Hotel, Conservative Political Action Dinner. And the President will have remarks at 9:35 p.m., open press coverage, be back at 10:20 p.m. We have excused the pool from wearing black tie. They should assemble here in the briefing room at 6:45 p.m. We are still looking at 5:00 p.m. for a text.

Tomorrow, we will have a full schedule and fact sheet later this afternoon. Press check-in is 6:30 a.m. Departure is 7:00 a.m. Air Force One is 8:00 a.m. -- Air Force One check-in is 8:00 a.m. The Reagans depart the White House at 8:45 a.m. They leave Andrews at 9:00 a.m. The Press Plane gets into Houston at 9:00 a.m. Central. President and Mrs. Reagan get in there at 11:00 a.m. Central.

We are really faced with an overwhelming press situation down there. We've been talking to our people and to NASA's public affairs people and the numbers, which was 500 this morning, is now 1,000. So we are working as diligently as we can to be sure that you can get off the airplane and get to the site of the event and have space to stand or sit or however it works out and that there's platform space there. That's why we're getting in there early and I think we're going to end up taking television -- leaving a tight pool back at the airport and taking the television crews in early for a pre-position.

Q Will you have remarks in the morning at Andrews?

MR. SPEAKES: Will I, or he?

Q No, will the White House Press Office have Reagan's speech?

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, we don't know what the status of that is. The President is going to spend some time on it late afternoon, early evening, and so until we see what he has got, we won't know. But, once again, we are asking you tomorrow to, number one, be on your best behavior and bear with us with the severe numbers of press we've got going down there.

Q Do you expect that the event down there is going to be open for all of us to cover?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, we do. I mean, you may be 200 yards from the speech site, but -- No, I think it will work all right.

Q Is the government flying the relatives all to the site and so forth?

MR. SPEAKES: Most of the relatives live in Houston, with the exception of two families. Mark, do you know if NASA is making any special provision to take relatives that may not be immediate family that may live somewhere else?

MR. HESS: No, I don't, but I'll be glad to find out.

MR. SPEAKES: Okay.

Q Are all the families going to be there?

MR. SPEAKES: We don't know yet. We judge that most of them will be. There may be an exception or two here or there, but I think --

Q What about the Resniks?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, we don't -- Is that -- that's the one we don't know about.

Q And how about the McAuliffe's? Do we know?

MR. SPEAKES: We assume yes. That's what we've been told from Houston.

Q That they are coming?

MR. HESS: That's another one that we're not sure of. We'll find out.

Q Is this going to be --

Q Larry, is there going to be a tight pool position aside from the main stand?

MR. SPEAKES: There will be a tight pool position and it will be probably a tighter pool than usual. I think what we'll probably have is one television camera up front plus a couple of stills.

Q What were you saying about the airport in terms of tight pool?

MR. SPEAKES: That the Air Force One pool will be the motorcade pool, so everybody else will go on in. You will not have four cameras out at the airport.

Q Will the entire astronaut corps be present?

MR. SPEAKES: A good many of them will. Once again, we don't know. I'm sure that I could, almost without checking, say all of those who are based in Houston will be there and those who are not may be on special assignment and that kind of stuff.

Q Any delegation from Congress traveling with the President?

MR. SPEAKES: That I don't -- not -- we may have some Congressional people with us. I don't think that has been determined and then, you know, NASA could offer transportation to them.

So, Ira?

Q Do you know whether the individual families will have individual ceremonies in their home towns other than this one?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't think we know that much,

whether they will or not.

Q May I ask one more logistical question because of the tight pool situation? The Air Force One pool report could be very important because a lot of us are going to be going on live with the ceremony. So if there could be some provision to get that out to us as soon as you arrive at --

MR. SPEAKES: Okay. I think the first thing you do, you prevail on your colleagues to get it typed early so we can reproduce enough on the airplane to get to you. But we'll do that and Denny should make sure that they are distributed in the press area.

Q Can we call ahead? You know, sometimes you let us do that.

MR. SPEAKES: You could conceivably do that. I don't know. We really won't have anybody on the ground there though.

Q And how will you give us a readout of what happens in his private meeting with the families?

MR. SPEAKES: I will arrange to dictate it to somebody in the Press Office during the service, I guess -- the ceremony -- and then go -- and then have it reproduced as soon as the event is over. We'll be working on it during the event and try to have it when you get back to the Press Room.

Q Well, for those of us who will be on the air, can it be done somehow?

MR. SPEAKES: Maybe we can work to get somebody to deliver it down. We need to remember all these things I'm promising here. We need to deliver it to your on-the-air spot, I guess, and put it in your hands.

Q Or we can have someone --

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know how much I can -- I mean, I'll surely tell you everything, but I don't know how much there'll be other than what you expect. But if I come up with something --

Q Will you be in the room, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: What?

Q Will you be in the room?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q I just have a space question.

MR. SPEAKES: All right.

Q There has been some commentary in news reports by legitimate space experts who have questioned manned space flight. Has that issue come up with the President or with the national security liaisons?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think it has come up specifically, but look at the President's speech on Tuesday evening in which he very emphatically endorsed the continuation of man in space.

Q Since then there has been some, what I would consider legitimate --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. I don't know that the issue has been raised specifically.

There are probably a couple more -- Wendy, did you have

something?

Q Well, if the Air Force One pool is the motorcade pool, do we have to keep a crew out at the airport for the arrival and departure?

MR. SPEAKES: No. To do what?

Q For the landing.

Q To shoot the arrival and the departure. We'll have to have a crew out there.

MR. SPEAKES: That's true.

Q Do they have to stay at the airport for the whole event?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, they couldn't go in the motorcade. The main problem is to get the motorcade -- to reduce the size of the motorcade is what we're trying to do.

Q Will there be transportation for those crews or will we have to keep them at the airport?

MR. SPEAKES: Let's work on that. Talk it over with Denny, who is handling the trip.

MS. BRISLEY: There is no provision right now for that, but give me a call on it.

MR. SPEAKES: We can figure out what we do, but the question is, you know, I guess they could try to get into the site, but it may be that all the space is taken by the time the President gets there is what I'm getting at.

Okay.

Q Larry, are there any changes --

MR. SPEAKES: Called on Peter.

Q -- contemplated into contractors or subcontractors

--

MR. SPEAKES: Too early to tell.

Q -- for NASA?

MR. SPEAKES: Too early to tell.

Peter?

Q Larry, another follow up on Ira's text question. Will you know at the end of business today whether you'll have a text tomorrow morning?

MR. SPEAKES: We might have a better feel. We also -- I think we're ready to make available these -- compilation of all the messages received through 6:00 p.m. last evening.

Q Yes, we got them.

MR. SPEAKES: That's -- okay, you got that.

Libyan sanctions: As I said this morning, this is in a little bit more effusive language. We have no evidence indicating that U.S. oil companies have shifted assets or operations to third countries or foreign subsidiaries. We expect the companies to fully comply with the Executive Orders issued by the President. And we have no reason to believe that they're taking any action inconsistent with the orders.

The administration will shortly announce general guidance for implementation of the Executive Orders. Our goals are that U.S. economic ties with Libya be sharply and expeditiously reduced and, ultimately, severed; that all Americans working in Libya leave; that other nations be encouraged to take actions against Qaddafi; and that Qaddafi not reap a windfall.

Q Now, what about what you said this --

MR. SPEAKES: Two weeks ago, we issued regulations implementing the President's sanction orders. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control has provided extensive guidance to companies about compliance with the sanctions.

We are determining what action should be taken with respect to Libyan-related activities of certain companies in order to reduce their involvement in Libya without, at the same time, providing any benefit to Libya.

These regulations contain certain provisions that prohibit evasion of these sanctions and these provisions are backed by criminal penalties. Treasury will be looking carefully at actions by U.S. companies with respect to Libya to make sure they comply with the regulations.

We are confident that the oil companies and other U.S. firms will cooperate with the effort to convince the Qaddafi regime to halt its support for terrorism. In our opinion, this effort is more important than any immediate financial gain.

Q Could you give us that, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Will I give you that?

Q Yes.

Q Would you repeat the last sentence, please?

MR. SPEAKES: No, because I have -- Oh, I'll read back anything you didn't get. The problem with this is that what I have here is not necessarily what I said. (Laughter.) Said it like I wanted to say it.

Q Can you read the last sentence?

MR. SPEAKES: Last sentence? We're confident that the oil companies and other U.S. firms will fully cooperate with the effort to convince the Qaddafi regime to halt its support for terrorism. This effort -- I think I said -- in our opinion this effort is more important than any immediate financial gain.

Q Larry, how does this conflict with --

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, wait a minute.

Q How does this conflict with what you told us this morning --

MR. SPEAKES: Doesn't conflict at all.

Q -- with -- well, on the point, then, that you were aware that their deferrals and other actions might take place but had not issued regulations on those specifically --

MR. SPEAKES: It's true.

Q So is that effort underway to deal with what's happening over there now?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. That's what I say right here -- administration will shortly announce general guidance for implementation of the Executive Order. Our goals are -- etc., etc.

Q What did you say about we've already issued loads and loads of regulations?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. We have issued the -- two weeks ago we issued regulations implementing the sanction orders. Additional regulations will be issued shortly. That's what I said this morning that we were considering and reviewing the current situation.

Q So what are you going to issue -- is it on this deferral question that will be issued shortly?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q And can you give us a sense of when?

MR. SPEAKES: No. It's still being considered in an interagency group -- make recommendations to the President. At that time, then we will issue the orders.

Norm, did you get what you need?

Q Yes. I'm just wondering how this new set of guidelines are going to differ from the other --

MR. SPEAKES: Just further -- yes.

Q -- this is just expanding on them and dealing with the specific issue that --

MR. SPEAKES: I think it may. That's one we've got under consideration, so it will --

Q But it doesn't upset the administration that they are doing these reports?

MR. SPEAKES: No. Once again, as we said, we have no evidence. Look at your first sentence there.

Q Are these also to be enforcement guidelines?

MR. SPEAKES: They will have some of that in there, sure.

Q Larry, the sanctions, as they were announced, specifically exempted foreign subsidiaries. So under what circumstances could any activity by a foreign subsidiary run counter to your goals?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, wait a minute. It runs counter to our goals, maybe not counter to the regulations as they exist at present. Extraterritoriality, as you know, is a very complex issue. Many of these contractual arrangements border on -- are involved with extraterritoriality type of situations. It is something that we didn't touch in the original Executive Order. I'm not sure whether we would go into that now. It's complex. It's difficult to enforce. It involves relations with other countries,

so, it would be something -- all of this would be something we would consider. Our goal is to seek ways to keep companies from circumventing the orders.

Q So, are you basically jawboning them, asking them, "We know that technically under the sanctions we issued you could do this, but, really, fellows, it's not" --

MR. SPEAKES: Well, once again, we have a number of things still under consideration. And that's what we would address. So, first, we've asked them. Then, whether we would take any further steps remains to be seen.

Q Larry --

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: As far as our discussion's concerned -- Leo, I'll come to you at an appropriate time.

Q When you say that you're confident that they will cooperate with this effort, is that an expression of hope or is that based on --

MR. SPEAKES: Expression -- expression of --

Q -- Treasury's looking at what's happening so far?

MR. SPEAKES: Expression of hope and an appeal to them in a sense of the seriousness of the situation and our seriousness in order to deal with Qaddafi.

Q And do you say that there's no evidence that they're not --

MR. SPEAKES: That's right.

Q -- complying? Is that also -- what is that based on, on Treasury --

MR. SPEAKES: That we just simply do not have those type of -- the evidence, either from -- from any of our departments.

Leo?

Q If I remember correctly, the President's Executive Order has a February 1 compliance deadline. Is that deadline still operative? And, if so, can you give us a kind of a reading from the administration on how much compliance, in effect, has taken place?

MR. SPEAKES: That's --

Q February 1 is only two days away.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. The first answer's yes. It is operative. The second is -- Mike asked the same question this morning -- I do not have that type of -- a comprehensive report on that. Large numbers of Americans have left Libya. We do not have a specific count. It would be merely an estimate. We don't have those figures.

Q Do you even have a kind of a proportion -- whether it's more than 50 percent, less than 50 percent?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't.

Ira?

Q Do you mean to say when you have no evidence that The Post story is wrong or could that be the first evidence?

MR. SPEAKES: No. We have no evidence that U.S. oil companies are shifting assets or operations to third countries or foreign subsidiaries.

Q What you seem to be saying is you don't have evidence they've done, but if they do do it, they're in trouble or they could be in trouble after these new regs are --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Now, what about the possibility that if The Post story is correct that the horse is out of the barn?

MR. SPEAKES: We'll just have to deal with that in whatever ways are available to us.

Q Larry, on another subject --

MR. SPEAKES: Let me see if there's anything else here. Any more Libya? Yes?

Q Yes. Is there any consideration at this point to having the President call corporate chairmen --

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q -- of selected companies?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q -- selling stock?

Q Are you -- is the President expecting the U.S. companies to comply with the letter as well as the spirit of these sanctions?

Q Yes.

MR. SPEAKES: Sure.

Q Yes. What was the President's impression of Mr. Savimbi? How did he size up the man?

MR. SPEAKES: I haven't really talked to the President since his meeting with Dr. Savimbi. But the President has been impressed with Dr. Savimbi's activities through the years. He's impressed with his dedication to the goals of democracy. And I'm sure that impression was enhanced.

Q How long has he known -- followed him?

MR. SPEAKES: Ever since he's been attempting to institute democratic reforms in Angola.

Q Did he remember him when he was a part of the Marxist Party?

MR. SPEAKES: Probably remembered him when he shifted. (Laughter.)

Q What's the administration's --

MR. SPEAKES: That's when he first noted him. (Laughter.)

Q What's the administration's position on the Intelligence Committee's telling the administration that covert aid won't fly for Savimbi -- Durenberger's statement?

MR. SPEAKES: We have committed in the case of Angola to supporting and being helpful, as the President said this morning, to Savimbi. We'll be working with the committees to work out the appropriate way to do this. That's where we stand.

Q Larry, what about foreign aid and the request for \$1 billion more for 1987? Do you have any comments on that?

MR. SPEAKES: Not specifically. I saw all the stories this morning after the Hill meetings yesterday. And I guess we'll just have to stay in the position of not commenting specifically until our budget comes out.

Q I mean, is there a new budget -- was that an earlier draft that had been amended or could we assume that that's what it's --

MR. SPEAKES: You can assume.

Q -- that's what's going to be --

MR. SPEAKES: You can assume. I haven't seen the figures, Robin, to know, but you can assume that what you heard out of that meeting is true.

Susan?

Q Would it be fair for us to link the comments of the backgrounder this morning on the Philippines, that the U.S. would seek additional aid if they had free and fair elections, with the aid figures that were reported this morning in that foreign aid bill where --

MR. SPEAKES: Once again, I haven't seen the numbers on that. And I just don't know, to tell you the truth. Those are the '87 numbers.

Helen --

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

12:44 P.M. EST

#1677-01/30