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THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

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PRESS BRIEFING  
BY  
LARRY SPEAKES

February 3, 1986

The Briefing Room

9:29 A.M. EST

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MR. SPEAKES: Today, the President at 11:00 a.m. greets 250 Presidential appointees. Don Regan and Jim Miller will have spoken to them prior to the President coming in. It will be on the State of the Union and the budget.

At 12:00 noon, we will have the regular lunch -- Monday lunch with the President, which will make our regular briefing at 1:00 p.m.

And at 2:30 p.m., the Boy Scouts' annual report will be presented to the President.

And at 2:45 p.m., Linda Chavez will have a photo made with the President as she leaves the White House staff to go on to other pursuits, these being in Maryland.

At --

Q Is she announcing her resignation today? Is that --

MR. SPEAKES: 3:00 p.m. -- yes. This is her last day.

At 3:00 p.m., the President will have a briefing for CEOs, one of a series on the budget and the State of the Union. We'll make that list available.

Q What's open?

MR. SPEAKES: Nothing right at the moment.

At 1:00 p.m., the regular briefing today.

No briefings tomorrow, due to the fact that there is a State of the Union scheduled.

Let me run over the briefing schedule for the week. I think we have done it, but we'll do it again.

Tuesday is State of the Union day, and at 6:45 p.m. -- I think we should scoot it up a little bit -- we will have a background briefing on the State of the Union here in this Briefing Room. The briefers will be Don Regan, Jack Svahn and John Poindexter.

The State of the Union is at 8:00 p.m. At that time, we'll have an advanced text of the State of the Union at 6:45 p.m.

Then Wednesday is budget and management report day. These are two reports -- this is the budget that will go to Congress and a report on management.

At 10:45 a.m., the President will, in the Oval Office, make the formal presentation of the budget to the Congressional

leadership.

And at 11:00 a.m., still at GPO, there will be the budget briefing by Jim Miller, Beryl Sprinkel and Secretary Baker.

And in the afternoon on Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., I believe, the President goes to the Treasury Department and to the Health and Human Services Department.

MR. BRASHEAR: That's 1:00 p.m., Larry, unless it's changed.

MR. SPEAKES: 1:00 p.m., maybe.

Then on Thursday is the day for the legislative message and the economic report.

And at 9:30 a.m. in this Briefing Room, you will have Beryl Sprinkel talking about the economic report.

And at 10:00 a.m., you will have Don Regan --

MR. BRASHEAR: And Svahn.

MR. SPEAKES: -- Jack Svahn and perhaps others talking on the legislative message.

Q It's at 10:00 a.m.?

MR. SPEAKES: And at 11:00 a.m. --

Q Is that on the record, or is that --

MR. SPEAKES: On background.

At 11:00 a.m. in the Oval Office, the President will sign the legislative message and the economic report and will make them -- and will have brief remarks.

On Friday, the President will go to Thomas Jefferson High School in Annandale. \*

And that takes care of the week.

Q Larry -- executive forum --

MR. SPEAKES: High school times.

MR. BRASHEAR: 11:00 a.m. I believe.

MR. SPEAKES: 11:00 a.m., but double check it.

Q -- Executive Forum on Thursday?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q What time is that?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q What time is that?

MR. SPEAKES: I think around noon -- a little bit before noon. I don't have my schedule.

A few stories in the papers this morning, none of which we have substantial comment on. The West German story of yesterday afternoon and The Times story this morning, talking about an exchange with the Soviets -- we will have no comment period -- top to bottom, no comment.

The Soviets have linked the Shuttle tragedy to SDI and said that we should abandon SDI. I'd like to point out to the Soviets, as we've said many times, that SDI is a research program and to link the tragedy of last week is a very callous approach to a very tragic event in space exploration. Shuttle investigations -- as you know, NASA released late Saturday some photographs of the Shuttle and some film. At that time they issued a statement which said that they would release data as it became available as, what they described, in the public interest to do so. But they will not speculate or interpret and that will be our policy here. We will not speculate or interpret.

Q Is the President going to see Gramm today?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know, he may.

Q Has he received any preliminary reports?

MR. SPEAKES: The President received the same information that the press received on Saturday night. He received that same information -- we saw the photos on Air Force One coming back Friday afternoon.

Q Can we expect to get the announcement of some kind of commission or board or panel today?

MR. SPEAKES: Don't know -- I'll have something -- I'll let you know one way or the other at noon today.

Q What is that?

MR. SPEAKES: Whether we would have anything on a board or commission -- at 1:00 p.m. is when I'll be talking --

Anything else brewing?

Q Would you let us know if he does see the acting --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, I will.

Q Larry, how is the President planning on spending his birthday? This Executive Forum that you talked about --

MR. SPEAKES: Executive Forum -- the President will speak and I'm sure that those people that are there will in some way honor him on his birthday. In addition, there's a private event in the White House on Friday evening that a number of the friends of the

President are throwing in his honor. It will be his 75th birthday.

Other than that, I don't have anything else.

Q What about the budget document -- the whole document being given to The Post?

MR. SPEAKES: Given to The Post? If it was, it was.

Q Is that 40 percent rise in --

Q You're not upset about it at all?

MR. SPEAKES: They had it before. (Laughter.)

Q But is that 40 percent rise in Defense spending accurate?

MR. SPEAKES: I have not commented on the budget or any leaks thereof for the last two months and I don't want to break my policy here two days before. I haven't done the calculations, so I don't know.

Dave?

Q Larry, would you steer us off the story?

MR. SPEAKES: I haven't done the calculations, so I don't know the percentages.

Andrea?

Q I know you're no-commenting on the various stories, but is there any way, given the fact that The Times is quoting it -- administration officials are -- is there any way that you can deal with The Times story?

MR. SPEAKES: Not really. No, I don't -- it just --

Q -- regarding this. Is this a case where it is premature and where you --

MR. SPEAKES: It's just, you know, just something that we would not comment on. It wouldn't be helpful.

Q Did the President -- refresh my memory -- did the President raise Scharansky personally with Gorbachev, or did he just speak in general?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. We would have to check and see if he mentioned anything specific.

Q Ask Don Regan. He was there all the time.

Q Yes, that was while he was standing in the middle.

Q Do you have any reaction to the report of discontent of African nations to Reagan's welcoming Savimbi?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q What -- I have another question about this. What about any reaction of the White House to the threats made by Savimbi that his forces will attack Chevron in Angola?

MR. SPEAKES: Chevron? In Angola?

Q Yes, the installations of Chevron.

MR. SPEAKES: I haven't seen those, so I guess I'd better not say anything until I see exactly what he said. I don't know.

Q Are U.S. ships returning to -- off the Libyan coast?

MR. SPEAKES: Don't comment on fleet movements. There have been exercises in the region -- in the Central Mediterranean over a period of weeks, and if they continue I'm sure the Defense Department would announce that.

Q Well, you did announce the last one, though.

MR. SPEAKES: I didn't. They did.

Q So you are saying any announcement would not come from you but that it would be announced in the same way as the last one?

MR. SPEAKES: I would assume that they would, but they may not.

Q What coverage do we have today for the events?

MR. SPEAKES: None.

Q Why not?

MR. SPEAKES: Just don't. Give you another story.

Q What? You will give us another story?

MR. SPEAKES: We are going to take the wire photos in.

Q I mean, why can't we cover any of these?

MR. SPEAKES: What do you want to cover?

Q We want to cover everything.

Q A picture Linda Chavez --

MR. SPEAKES: If you'll put it on the air, I will.

Q That's not the deal.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, it is.

Q The hell it is.

MR. SPEAKES: How are you going to get in there then? You don't see yourself going in there either, do you?

Q We'll write a story about it. Now can we cover it?

MR. SPEAKES: No, just go ahead and write the story about it.

Q -- settle for anything.

Q She'll guarantee it'll get on the wires. Come on.

MR. SPEAKES: I know that. Charles always makes a guarantee that it'll get on.

Q I've got a lot of air time. (Laughter.)

Q But what is the problem here that we can't cover any of these events?

MR. SPEAKES: Joe?

Q You have no reason at all?

MR. SPEAKES: No. I don't have a choice quote for you today to put on the wire.

Does anybody -- what kind of pick-up do you get on those stories?

Q Lots.

MR. SPEAKES: Do you?

Q You'd be surprised, brother.

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, I bet you don't. (Laughter.) I don't get any mail on it for sure. It's not producing any mail.

Q Is the President still going to that prayer breakfast on Thursday morning?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q And what is the coverage?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. Grab Mark and see what the coverage is on the prayer breakfast. I think it's -- I can't remember. Prayer breakfast -- National Prayer Breakfast at the Hilton, I think.

Q The religious broadcasters are in town, too. Is he --

MR. SPEAKES: He taped a message for them over the weekend -- or the end of last week -- but he is not going to it.

Q But we're going to -- we're not going to see it here? They are just going to show it over there tomorrow?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know.

Q We can't hear what you're talking about up there.

MR. SPEAKES: Religious broadcasters -- is he going? No, he is not going. Taped a message, yes.

When will it be shown? Don't know. Won't be shown here.

Andrea.

Q Thank you.

Q How about text?

Q Do you have anything --

Q Text. Evil empire. I want to see the text.

MS. BRISLEY: Still negotiating.

MR. SPEAKES: We're still working with them. They have closed that in the past, I think. And we got into an argument one time over whether there should be one camera in there or something. No lighting or something. I don't know.

Q Do you have anything on --

Q Like the Oval Office.

MR. SPEAKES: They all begin to run together.

Q Do you have anything on weekend events in Haiti -- reports by doctors there of a large number of people dead, news crews detained --

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't. We don't. I can make a crack here, but I won't.

Q Do you have any further indication of where -- of how the misinformation that got to you on Friday afternoon --

MR. SPEAKES: I know exactly how it got to me and the President.

Q Do you wish to share it with us?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't think it serves any purpose. The State Department indicated where the fault lie -- lay, lied. (Laughter.) What?

Q Is that aide still an aide?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know if that aide's still there or not.

Susan, did you have something you were waiting --

Q You answered it.

MR. SPEAKES: Okay. Anybody else got anything else? Helen, I think we've run dry here on Monday morning.

Q Have you addressed the reinstallation of the smoke eater?

MR. SPEAKES: No -- is that a reinstallation?

Q Well, I'm told by people who were here before that it was in this room before the remodeling.

MR. SPEAKES: Does it work?

Q I don't know.

MR. SPEAKES: Anybody tried it?

Q You've got to smoke right under it.

MR. SPEAKES: Ira wanted to know how much it cost, Helen, but I don't know.

Q It's mostly for his smoke. (Laughter.)

Q How much does it cost?

MR. SPEAKES: It's not very attractive, is it?

Q Not really.

MR. SPEAKES: Is there one in the back, back there?

Q No.

MR. SPEAKES: Why did they put it in here?

Q What ever happened to the "No Smoking" signs that were requested?

MR. SPEAKES: We haven't had any problems. We don't need any signs. We request that you don't smoke in the briefing room --

Bob?

Q Have Regan, Meese and Brock finished their business on affirmative action?

MR. SPEAKES: Ongoing discussions.

Q When is that likely to come to fruition?

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

Q A report of American jets making bombing runs in the Negev Desert, practice runs --

MR. SPEAKES: Where is the Negev Desert?

Q Israel?

Q Israel.

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, Israel. All I know is the Bekaa Valley -- didn't know they've got a desert there. I don't know anything about that. Don't have anything on that.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

9:45 A.M. EST

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