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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

February 3, 1986
The Briefing Room

1:28 P.M. EST

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1:34 P.M. EST
#1679-02/03

THE WHITE HOUSE
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PRESS BRIEFING
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LARRY SPEAKES

February 3, 1986

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MR. SPEAKES: David Alan Heslop will be appointed to the National Council on Educational Research; David Goldberg, Director of Securities Investor Protection Corporation; Richard Thomas McCormack to be a Member of the Board of Directors of Inter-American Foundation.

This afternoon the President at 2:00 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room will announce the appointment of a Presidential board to investigate the causes of the Challenger accident. Those present will be the Chairman, which the President will announce at the time, and the Vice Chairman.

And afterwards, I will brief here to give you the particulars on the board. And the Chairman and Vice Chairman will be here to take your questions.

Q On-camera?

Q -- briefing be, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: All on camera.

Pardon?

Q What time will your briefing be?

MR. SPEAKES: Soon as he gets through in the Oval Office -- in the Roosevelt -- 2:10 p.m. maybe.

Q Could we get a picture in the Oval, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: You'll be in there; writing pool and photo coverage.

Yes?

Q Oh, I'm sorry.

MR. SPEAKES: The President will have a statement in the Roosevelt Room, writing pool and photo coverage. And with him will be the Chairman and the Vice Chairman. And then, we, with the exception of the President, will come here to tell you how the board is constructed and what its mission and objectives are, followed by the questions and answers for the Chairman, and so forth.

Q -- Graham --

Q -- question, Larry. Is this parallel to, does it supplant the existing board?

MR. SPEAKES: We will be specific on that at 2:00 p.m.

Q And NASA --

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Q Is it Graham of NASA who'll be on this board? Is he one of the --

MR. SPEAKES: Bill Graham will be here at 2:00 p.m., but he's not a member of the board.

At 2:30 p.m., the Boy Scouts Annual Report.

And 2:45 p.m., Linda Chavez, meeting with the President before departure.

And 3:00 p.m., budget briefing for CEO's.

Questions?

Q -- going to get a picture with Linda Chavez?

MR. SPEAKES: You won't. Some will.

Q Do you mean the White House photographer?

MR. SPEAKES: No, no. Some press will, some won't.

Q Is Graham --

Q You mean, other news organizations will?

MR. SPEAKES: What? Yes.

Q Well, ABC would like to have a picture.

Q Who's going to succeed her?

MR. SPEAKES: We appreciate it. If you can use it, if you'll guarantee you'll use it on the air, I'll get it to you.

Q Well, freedom of the press --

Q Who's going to succeed her, Larry?

Q -- doesn't say we have to guarantee to use things. You know that.

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: First Amendment of the Constitution doesn't say that if we let one press person in we have to let them all in.

Q You're right. For the next three years, you can run it any way you want.

MR. SPEAKES: Sure will.

Q Larry --

Q And after that --

MR. SPEAKES: Sarah?

Q Who will succeed her?

MR. SPEAKES: Who will succeed her? I don't think I have a successor at this time, Sarah.

Q Is Graham going to --

MR. SPEAKES: Walter?

Q Larry, was the decision to give NASA an increase in its budget or propose an increase made before or after the shuttle

accident?

MR. SPEAKES: Won't confirm that there's been any change in the NASA budget, but all budget decisions were made prior to last Tuesday.

Q There've been reports --

Q All budget decisions?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q That means there won't be a new orbiter in the --

Q That's correct.

MR. SPEAKES: That's right, unless it's asked for -- unless it was previously asked for in there.

Q Larry, there've been reports down at the Cape that Beggs might resign and -- or would resign perhaps in the next day or so to permit the President to name a new head of NASA.

MR. SPEAKES: I haven't heard that, Mike. That's the first I've heard of it, so I can't really say anything about --

Q What was the question, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Beggs might resign to give the President an opportunity to name someone in a -- as Administrator. But I haven't heard that at all.

Q Is Graham going to be meeting with the President at some point this afternoon?

MR. SPEAKES: Graham does not have a meeting scheduled with the President.

I know there have been rumors from the Cape that there is additional photographs that are being brought up, and there may be. We have not received any notice of it.

Graham will meet with John Poindexter this afternoon while he is here. He will be here for the 2:00 p.m. announcement. But whether he's bringing any new evidence, we don't know. There's no meeting with the President unless there's -- you know, a brief, private session to just walk into the Roosevelt Room. There's no briefing planned to the President today.

Q But why Poindexter?

MR. SPEAKES: Poindexter is the head of the NSC. NSC conducts the liaison in addition to the Cabinet Secretary with --

Q I mean, is Poindexter the main contact with NASA more than --

MR. SPEAKES: Al Kingon perhaps more than Poindexter, but Al and -- you know, NASA has two functions. The national security function operates with it as well as a domestic function, and it's been that way all along. There has been a NASA liaison on NSC always.

Anything else?

Q All of the members of the panel will be announced today?

MR. SPEAKES: No. Maybe not all of them, but a substantial number. There may be some added in the days to come.

One more --

Q Yes, two questions, Larry. One is, do you have anything on Senator Durenberger's suggestion to send a peacekeeping force to Haiti?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q And do you have anything on the elections in Costa Rica?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. Elections in Costa Rica underscore the strength of Costa Rican democratic process. It has once again been demonstrated by the elections in that country.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

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