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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(New York, New York)

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

October 23, 1985

Louis XVI Room
Waldorf-Astoria Hotel
New York, New York

6:17 P.M. EDT

MR. SPEAKES: Question? Bob, you had a question?

Q Yes. I don't have all the details on it, but you probably know it. Senator Lugar said today that there was going to be a suspension of the Jordan arms sale legislation.

MR. SPEAKES: Senator Lugar said there's going to be a suspension of the arms sale legislation. I'm not familiar with a statement of that type. We continue to work with Congress as they begin to consider it there, but we don't have any specifics to talk about.

Q There's apparently a resolution for a delay. And what is the White House view on that?

MR. SPEAKES: Resolution for delay: We continue to work with Congress on the matter of Jordan arms sales. I don't have anything specific. We'll do our talking with them.

Q You mean, you had --

Q What time will you --

Q -- not been working at all on the compromise?

MR. SPEAKES: Had not been working at all? As I said, we don't have anything specific to say. We'll do our talking to Congress.

Pat?

Q What time will you do the readout on the reception?

MR. SPEAKES: What time we do the readout on the reception? I will do it to the pool before the reception concludes. There'll be no briefing in here tonight. Take the rest of the night off.

Q The pool will --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Larry, do you anticipate being in a position to tell us or to tell the pool both about a possible meeting with Ortega as well as the Shevardnadze tete-a-tete?

MR. SPEAKES: Question is: a possible Ortega meeting?
That's --

Q In the receiving line?

MORE

#1590-10/23

MR. SPEAKES: I don't anticipate being able to tell you anything about a possible Ortega meeting, I'll tell you that.

Q I mean, that's on the receiving line is what I'm talking about.

MR. SPEAKES: I will try and tell you what was said in the receiving line if it's anything quotable.

Q And of Shevardnadze also?

MR. SPEAKES: Shevardnadze -- I'll try to follow that, too --

Q What if it isn't quotable?

MR. SPEAKES: -- and brief you on the pool.

Pardon?

Q What if it isn't quotable?

MR. SPEAKES: What if it is -- isn't quotable? I will tell you.

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: This side's been neglected. Anything way back there?

Q No.

Q This side has been neglected.

Q Larry, is there any further information on any other meeting with Shevardnadze and the President?

MR. SPEAKES: Any further information on any other meeting with Shevardnadze and the President? No, not at this time.

Q What's he doing tomorrow afternoon --

MR. SPEAKES: Gerald Boyd, where is he?

Q I don't have a question now.

MR. SPEAKES: I heard him, but I can't see him. Where is he? Okay. He doesn't have a question. All right.

Q What's he doing tomorrow afternoon?

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, there he is. He's seated behind this fellow.

Q Larry -- Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: What?

Q What's he doing tomorrow afternoon?

MR. SPEAKES: What's he doing tomorrow afternoon? If he's got anything specific to announce he's doing, we'll be glad to tell you.

Q Larry -- Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Okay --

Q One more try on Jordan: Apparently this deal involves the --

MR. SPEAKES: Would you yell at your colleagues outside, whoever's in the back back there?

Q Quiet!

MR. SPEAKES: No, they can't hear you. (Laughter.)

Okay, David? One more try --

Q -- we can't hear the briefing.

Q Does the President oppose the resolution on the Jordan planes that would permit the sale to go forward if there was progress by March 30th, which is apparently the --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, I'm familiar with that proposal that's being discussed in the Congress, a proposal not to allow the sale to go until March 1st unless there's progress.

Q And what's your comment on that?

MR. SPEAKES: The comment on it -- that we're continuing to work with the Congress on that matter and don't have anything specific to say publicly.

Niles?

Q Do you know what the President was discussing with the leader of the Dominican Republic at lunch when the leader was wagging his finger at the President?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't.

Q I thought it was an animated conversation.

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't know what the animated discussion with the Dominican was. No, I really don't.

Q Are you leaving the Shevardnadze -- possibility of another meeting open?

MR. SPEAKES: I've simply --

Q You have said, "at the present" --

MR. SPEAKES: Exactly.

Q -- you have said, "at this time."

MR. SPEAKES: Exactly. What --

Q What does that mean? Does it mean there is a possibility?

MR. SPEAKES: -- what it means? That there is nothing on the President's schedule in regard to a meeting with Shevardnadze aside of a meeting that will possibly take place at the reception within the --

Q Well, are you ruling out any further meeting?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't take rule-out questions.

Q Are you planning --

Q Well, come on. Now, you are saying at this time --

MR. SPEAKES: I am telling you, there is nothing on the President's schedule at this time.

Q Would you like for there to be something? Are you trying to work something out?

MR. SPEAKES: I'm not trying to work anything out. I'm just -- if something is arranged, if there is a meeting, we will march right in here and tell you or give you a piece of paper that says it. So, I just don't have anything on it at this time.

Q What about Mrs. Klinghoffer?

MR. SPEAKES: We have -- what?

Q What about Mrs. Klinghoffer?

MR. SPEAKES: Mrs. Klinghoffer: nothing for you on that either at this time.

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Okay. About enough?

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: What's the Bud status, Ed?

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Relief.

Q Larry --

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Go. Yes? Owen?

Q Does the President intend to avoid meeting Ortega tonight --

MR. SPEAKES: Does the President intend -- no, the President will be in the receiving line, and those who come through will see the President.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

6:20 P.M. EDT

#1590-10/23