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THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

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PRESS BRIEFING  
BY  
LARRY SPEAKES

November 7, 1985

The Briefing Room

1:17 P.M. EST

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1:40 P.M. EST

#1609-11/07

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PRESS BRIEFINGS  
BY  
LARRY SPEAKES

November 7, 1985

The Briefing Room

1:17 P.M. EST

MR. SPEAKES: The Geneva trip -- you asked for a schedule, and here's a broad outline.

On Saturday, the President will depart for Geneva, I think, at about 9:00 a.m. in the morning, after making departure remarks in the East Room. It will be very brief.

On arrival in Switzerland, which is late Saturday night, European time, there may be some brief arrival remarks. No formal arrival ceremony at that time. Handshakes with Swiss officials.

Sunday, the 17th, the President has a quiet day, meeting with his senior advisors, Shultz, McFarlane, Regan, others. No public events scheduled.

Monday, the President meets with senior advisors in the afternoon -- this would be mid-afternoon -- and will be formally welcomed by the Swiss President in an arrival ceremony at a private residence in the Geneva area. There are no remarks planned for the ceremony. This is -- will be covered. After that, a brief meeting with the Swiss President.

Tuesday, the President will host the first meeting with the General Secretary at the U.S. meeting site. After this meeting, the President will have a working lunch at his residence with senior advisors to review the morning and look to the afternoon. And he will host a second meeting at the U.S. site.

That evening, the President and Mrs. Reagan will be dinner guests at the Soviet Mission -- General Secretary and Mrs. Gorbachev hosts.

Wednesday, the meeting -- the President goes to the Soviet meeting site for the morning, and this time, after that, breaks for a working lunch at the U.S. residence. And then a fourth meeting is hosted by the Soviets at the Soviet site.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Reagan attend a reception, hosted by the Swiss, for U.S. and Soviet delegations. And then the Reagans host the dinner.

Thursday schedule has not been worked out in detail.

Now, we will distribute a briefing schedule, which you will see next week includes the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday briefings by Nitze, Shifter on Tuesday, by McFarlane on Wednesday, and by Shultz on Thursday.

Friday, we will have our normal briefing schedule, maybe do a 9:15 a.m. and get out.

In Geneva, I will be briefing everyday at late morning, and Secretary Shultz will be briefing on Tuesday and Wednesday in the late afternoon.

MORE

#1609-11/07

Q Who does he make his farewell remarks to? Cabinet?

MR. SPEAKES: It will be Cabinet and others, I'm sure.

Q What is the Soviet site?

MR. SPEAKES: Soviet site --

Q Is that Latvian property?

MR. SPEAKES: As I understand it, it's in the Soviet compound. Is Mark there to provide what that is?

Q There's been some controversy by Latvian groups who complain about --

MR. WEINBERG: The Soviets are going to have to announce their own meeting site. I can't speak for them.

Q Oh, you don't know where the President's going?

MR. WEINBERG: Yes, but they have to announce where they're hosting their meetings.

MR. SPEAKES: Okay. Another announcement --

Q That's your impression of Telly Savalas?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q On the same subject, we got this off-the-record, advance report, and I presume what you're putting on the record today we are free to use.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, it is.

Q What was the question, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: He says, is it on the record? Yes.

On Saturday, this Saturday, the President

will address a special 10-minute message to the Soviet people that will be broadcast over the Voice of America in Russian and other languages of the Soviet Union. The message will be broadcast -- available for broadcast simultaneously by American radio and television as a part of the President's Saturday address. The American people will also -- therefore, will be able to hear the President and what he is saying to the Soviet people. In addition, it will be beamed to audiences in Europe through the facilities of USIA's Worldnet Television System.

The Voice of America will broadcast the speech in 42 languages to an estimated audience of 120 million people. As far as jamming is concerned, the broadcast in Russian and other languages are normally jammed. English is not. We hope that the Soviets will take this occasion to halt their jamming. And this, we hope, would lead to a permanent halt to jamming U.S. broadcasts, so that the Soviet people can hear this message from the American President. The willingness to do so on the part of the Soviets would be an important step in improving the free flow of information between our two countries.

Q Are we going to get video on Saturday?

MR. SPEAKES: You will be there to get it.

Q In other words, we'll have video as well as audio for this Saturday's radio address because of its special nature, yes?

MR. SPEAKES: That's right.

Q Is it --

Q And his -- will his regular radio address be longer

MR. SPEAKES: This is --

Q -- than the American version?

Q This is the radio address.

MR. SPEAKES: -- be 10 minutes, I said.

Q Regular time?

Q Same time, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: One radio address, 12:06 p.m., 10 minutes.

You --

Q But the usual speech -- I'm sorry -- isn't 10 minutes, is it?

MR. SPEAKES: It's five minutes. This one's 10 minutes.  
(Laughter.)

Q So, you're saying that the regular radio address will be 10 minutes?

MR. SPEAKES: That's right, yes.

Nelson?

Q Yes, but, Larry, is this going to be a simultaneous Russian translation as he makes it on the VOA?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know whether it'll be -- it will be simultaneous as far as the Soviet Union is concerned and the Russian languages. Other languages for time reasons are delayed -- or whatever, aren't they? Right, Phil?

MR. DJEREJIAN: They have to be translated --

MR. SPEAKES: Okay.

Q Are we going to get an advance on this one because it's special?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. We can see.

Q It'd certainly be helpful.

MR. SPEAKES: It wouldn't be done until Saturday morning anyway.

Q Is it live and is it here?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q Is it live and is it being done here or at VOA?

MR. SPEAKES: Live and being done at USIA.

Q Larry, can you tell me, what was that figure on the number of listeners? How many?

MR. SPEAKES: -- 42 million.

Q -- 42?

Q No, 42 languages.

Q -- 120; 42 languages and 120 --

Q -- 120 million --

MR. SPEAKES: -- 120 million and 42 languages, I'm sorry. Okay.

Q I mean, what is that -- a single network poll?

MR. SPEAKES: Let's go one at a time.

Q -- include the U.S.?

Q What is that number based on, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: The details will be worked out with the pool chairman.

Q Larry, is that 120 million in Europe or what?

MR. SPEAKES: Worldwide.

Q Does that include the U.S.?

Q Well, I mean, you got -- you got the United States

Q -- it's going worldwide.

Q It's three.

Q -- not counting the United States?

MR. SPEAKES: Not counting the United States.

Q Not counting the Soviet Union?

Q You're not counting --

MR. SPEAKES: Counting the Soviets, counting other -- this is a USIA broadcast.

Q What's your breakdown on the audience in the Soviet Union?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't have the numbers.

Yes?

Q Does anybody have any way --

Q -- those Democrats!

Q -- to characterize the -- the broadcasts that are jammed in Russian, are you able to characterize at all the extent to which we believe that gets through?

MR. SPEAKES: You mean this one broadcast?

Q Well, no, no -- that in general on --

MR. SPEAKES: In general?

Q -- you said that other --

MR. SPEAKES: Phil, you got a feel for how much of our stuff gets through to the Soviets?

MR. BROWN: It depends on the area, whether it's urban or rural, the time of day.

MR. SPEAKES: Area of the Soviet Union; I guess the time of the day; the content of the broadcast; those type things.

Q -- old Amos and Andy Show.

Q -- demand that they not jam this broadcast? Have they been informed --

MR. SPEAKES: We've informed the Soviets of it, but I don't know that we've formally made a request on that. So --

Let me go to the back. People --

Pat?

Q Is this our response to their failure to respond to our --

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q -- request for a television, --

MR. SPEAKES: Another method for the President to communicate with the Soviet people.

Q Is it not in some ways a bit provocative right before the summit to, in effect, force the President's message on the Soviet Union right before the summit?

MR. SPEAKES: We don't think an American President

speaking of his hopes for peace, his hopes for a successful summit could any way be provocative.

Owen.

Q Could you tell us when you informed the Soviets and if you got any response?

MR. SPEAKES: Don't know what the response was.

Q When did you notify them?

MR. SPEAKES: When's that taken place? Last day or so?

Johanna.

Q Last week, then?

Q Last day or so.

Q Thank you.

Q Was there any attempt -- pursue this a little bit -- was there any attempt by the White House to work out an agreement with the Soviets beforehand --

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q No? And, also, just to be clear, this is going live so that the Soviet time would be 10:00 p.m.?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, plus eight, if you're in the Moscow area, an hour or two on either side, as you move around.

Bob.

Q I believe the President had done a similar-type broadcast --

MR. SPEAKES: Fortieth anniversary of the VOA --

Q Did you inform the Soviets --

MR. SPEAKES: -- two years ago.

Q -- then that that broadcast would be made?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know whether we did or not. I don't recall.

Q Was it jammed, Larry, that --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, it was to some extent, yes.

Gerald.

Q Yes, you say that it's going to be his hopes for peace and hopes for a successful summit. Anything else about the speech?

MR. SPEAKES: Can't really -- shouldn't characterize any further, I don't think.

Ira.

Q Two things. One is is there any prospect of Gorbachev or anybody from their side speaking to our people?

MR. SPEAKES: We don't control our networks and VOA, there's been no request, no prospects for that, that I know of, that



hasn't come to us --

Q The other thing -- as a request from somebody who normally covers the speech -- an advance would be helpful, since --

MR. SPEAKES: I understand.

Q -- there's a travel pool involved.

MR. SPEAKES: I understand.

Q Charlie Wick still has gotten no response --

MR. SPEAKES: That's right.

Q -- to the TV speech? And the report -- I think there's a report today in The Times that the President was planning to use several Russian words. He's practicing some Russian words.

MR. SPEAKES: I didn't see it in anything.

Q Well, is that accurate? I mean, is he planning to use --

MR. SPEAKES: I didn't see it in the text --

Q -- some Russian words --

Q Futz.

MR. SPEAKES: -- which I just scanned. Futz.

Q Futz?

Q Anything --

Q Futz?

MR. SPEAKES: Futz. (Laughter.)

Q Futz.

Q The President said in the Oval Office there'd be a statement on Bowen.

MR. SPEAKES: You've got it.

Q Was that -- It was strictly --

MR. SPEAKES: The President's intention to nominate.

Q -- the biography?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Why was the announcement of a Cabinet officer done in such a way?

MR. SPEAKES: -- way?

Q Yes.

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know of any place more -- grander and more important than the Oval Office.

Q He didn't even announce it, though. We had to pull it out of him.

MR. SPEAKES: Well, it was obvious, and he announced it with a written piece of paper. I don't read anything in to it. I

think it was quite a grand stage.

Q Is there any reason why it was done with no fanfare, none of -- the Indiana delegation or --

MR. SPEAKES: No. I think it was done in quite a grand fashion. I think the President considers this an outstanding appointment. He reviewed many names before he did it and this was his choice?

Q Was it a promotion?

Q Hostages?

Q Do you have handy the date of that 40th anniversary

--  
MR. SPEAKES: The date of the -- of the -- September 24th, 1983. We've got copies of it, if you want it to --

Q What is that?

Q What is that?

MR. SPEAKES: The date of the VOA address, September 24th, '83. We have copies of it.

Q What was the occasion?

Q Was that address to the Russian people or the Soviet

--  
MR. SPEAKES: Fortieth anniversary of the VOA.

Q You can have one network camera in --

Q Was it addressed --

MR. SPEAKES: It was a worldwide address, carried on almost all of the VOA's language services.

Q Is that going to be open coverage or pool coverage or --

MR. SPEAKES: No, it'll be pool coverage.

Q Larry, do you know if he'll get repeats on this? I realize this is going out live. Will the VOA --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. VOA -- I think the plan is to -- the Soviet language will be instant. Others will be in the proper time frame. If it hits at 2:00 a.m., VOA may delay it and put it on at 8:00 a.m. in Southwest Africa or somewhere like that.

Q Will there be a repeat for the Soviet Union?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q Would there be a repeat for the Soviets?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know whether there would be any repeat there. I guess there would be. Chances are they'll put it on at 10:00 p.m.

Q Just to clarify, maybe I could ask Fulsom --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q -- in English?

Q He's going to USIA to make a speech over the VOA which USIA will televise?

MR. SPEAKES: -- will televise.

Q Is there a substantial difference here between USIA and VOA other than one has radio --

MR. SPEAKES: No. One's the boss and one's a section of it.

Q Hostages? Do you have anything?

MR. SPEAKES: Hostages? No, nothing new on that. We have -- it's exactly where we were this morning.

So, yes.

Q Larry, was this decision influenced by the interest that the Moskovites show for the interview of President Reagan?

MR. SPEAKES: No, this is something we'd planned before we got reaction to that.

Charles?

Q What changed the President's mind on the Ukrainian sailor? The issue had been described as closed and now he says he wants to --

MR. SPEAKES: No, he didn't say that. He said -- he was referring to the investigation that has been ongoing at Justice, which is still ongoing, on the INS handling.

Q No, I had the impression he wanted to look into it to see if there wasn't some way to delay his departure.

MR. SPEAKES: No. You got the wrong impression.

Q Well, no --

Q That was the question and --

Q That's what he said --

Q -- and that's what Weyrich is indicating as well.

Q Weyrich said that.

MR. SPEAKES: No, no. The President -- there's only one investigation -- that's the one Justice is doing on INS and the INS initial handling of it. That's it.

Q So there's no thought of trying to gain access to Medvid again?

MR. SPEAKES: Our policy has not changed. We consider the case closed.

Q We're you in --

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q -- the meeting with the SDI people --

MR. SPEAKES: No, I was not.

Ira.

Q We're told Weyrich has seemed to characterize Reagan's view on the ABM Treaty as saying he repeated his interpretation of it, but when the time comes for deployment -- won't let that stand in the way. If you weren't there, maybe you can't answer, but is that, in fact, a representation of what Reagan said to them?

MR. SPEAKES: No. I mean, deployment is not within the President's term of office.

Andrea.

Q Well, it would be his view -- what I'm asking is, would it be his viewpoint that that --

MR. SPEAKES: No, we haven't changed our view of abiding by the ABM Treaty, no.

Q Weyrich indicated that he had said we were going to proceed --

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know -- the President has not changed his view.

Q And were you present at the luncheon?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Could you give us some sense of the kinds of issues that were discussed or what --

MR. SPEAKES: The kinds of issues were the Soviet experts' view of the Soviet Union, current status there, some recommendations on how the President can present his views, what the expected response are, what the Soviet mentality is in dealing with U.S.-Soviet relations, et cetera.

Q Well, can I follow on that? Did they offer any incite into what Shultz called Gorbachev's lack of knowledge about the U.S. or what --

MR. SPEAKES: They discussed -- not in that frame of reference, but certainly, those type things --

Q Well, the prejudices or stereotypes.

MR. SPEAKES: -- were discussed, yes.

approach?

Q And what kind of recommendations in terms of

that.

MR. SPEAKES: I just don't think I'll go any further than

Sheilah?

luncheon?

Q Did you ever put out a list of the people at the

MR. SPEAKES: I think we did. If not, we can.

Q On Medvid, is it true that the U.S. government has a tape that indicates that he was drugged by the Soviets on the ship?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know if he was, but as you know, he spent nearly 24 hours in U.S. custody and spent the night in a U.S. hospital

and was interviewed at 11:00 in the morning when he made his final determination. And doctors were present in every case. And they've stated that he did not appear -- there was no affect of drugs -- certainly at the last instance.

Q Also, do you have any comment on the steps, both Jesse Helms and the Washington Legal Foundation efforts to legally block his leaving?

MR. SPEAKES: No. What the Senate does, is what the Senate does.

Eleanor?

Q Did Yurchenko or any of the other defections, come up at the luncheon especially as they relate to the summit?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Let me go to the back. Frank?

Q Back on Bowen for just a second. Do you anticipate that any of this DMSO, or Marinol, or any of that sort of thing is going to present any kind of impediment to his confirmation hearings? And is the President aware of --

MR. SPEAKES: He's aware of his entire background and I wouldn't anticipate it would be any trouble. It's been discussed and thoroughly hashed around. So, you'll have to wait and see what the Senate does.

Anybody else hurting here? Yes?

Q What's the administration's feeling on his use of it?

MR. SPEAKES: On what?

Q On his -- on Governor Bowen's use of DMSO?

MR. SPEAKES: It's an old issue that's been discussed many times and that's about it.

Bob?

Q On Jack Svahn, is there anything going on within the White House in terms of looking into the allegations of --

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Fielding's not looking into anything?

MR. SPEAKES: I think Fielding's familiar with it, but he's not looking into anything.

Q Has he already looked into it, or is there --

MR. SPEAKES: He certainly -- he's familiar with it --

Q Is there a Fielding report?

MR. SPEAKES: -- but I wouldn't call it looking into it.

Miles?

Q Can you describe, Larry, the briefing schedule the President will have next week?

MR. SPEAKES: It's just a continuation of various discussions with individuals, like this group or other groups like

anything like that.

Dale?

Q On the Wohlstetters who received the Medal of Freedom this morning, it sounded as though the President was saying that they had done some of the pioneering work on the concepts that led to SDI. Is that correct?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know, Dale. I'm sorry, I haven't even looked at what he said over there. I guess you'd have to rely on their biography. I don't know.

Q Pictures from lunch?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, we'll have a picture from lunch, I believe. Right.

Yes.

Q In terms of Svahn, did Fielding know about these allegations?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q What was that?

Q Larry, was there any discussion with Governor Bowen about who would recommend replacements for all the unfilled positions at HHS?

MR. SPEAKES: I would judge that the Cabinet Secretary will certainly pick his own staff.

Frank?

Q When you were responding to Dr. Bowen and the use of DMSO, I think it was narrowly that -- DMSO -- on the subject of the active ingredient in Marijuana -- Marinol. Is that also, as far as you're concerned, an old story and does that present you with no problems?

MR. SPEAKES: I'm not familiar with that, Frank. The man will be testifying before the Senate and the Senate can certainly go into these -- and it's our position that he can certainly answer them adequately.

Bob?

Q Marinol -- excuse me, if I may follow-up. Marinol was approved by the FDA, as I understand it, in the spring of this year. He used Marinol by his own admission prior to that.

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know anything about it.

Bob?

Q On Gramm-Rudman, is it true, in fact, that Don Regan has raised questions about --

MR. SPEAKES: I answered that this morning -- basically that this is the fourth rendition of Gramm-Rudman, it's changed some while we support the thrust of it, our initial support was for

Gramm-Rudman as it passed the Senate. We're looking at it, working with the Senate. We'll work with the Conference to be sure it suits our taste.

Q Are you at all looking -- pull the --

MR. SPEAKES: We support it -- we want it passed. We don't intend to back off.

Ira?

Q Well, this is along the same lines. I was trying to clarify where this Gramm-Rudman thing is going from the White House viewpoint. You said this morning you're willing to accept something other than the original one, but I guess the question is how much -- or how much less?

MR. SPEAKES: We'll continue to work with the leadership. As you know, it's a complex bill, there are many complex formulas, there are many ideas. We have had a team on the Hill almost around-the-clock dealing with this and will continue to deal with it. They report to the President and if it suits the President, he goes for it. We want something --

Q But if it doesn't suit the President, does he pull it or does he veto? You know --

MR. SPEAKES: We intend to get a bill that suits us. We can do it by working with the leadership, by working with the Conference. It can be done; we expect it to be done.

Q Would he --

Q -- further refinement?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q Will the President accept any version of Gramm-Rudman that does not live up to the 0-3-3 defense compromise?

MR. SPEAKES: David, I don't want to cross that bridge because there's so many versions of what 0-3-3 is and so many formulas that you arrive at. It think we'll just wait and see the product before we say. But the President is firm that there was a commitment made for 0-3-3 --

Q If he felt the commitment wasn't being kept, he might be less inclined to support it.

MR. SPEAKES: I think we'll just wait and see.

Okay -- Hunt, you need anything?

Q That was it.

Q Okay.

MR. SPEAKES: Okay.

Q Where do you want -- what is the direction the President wants for HHS over the next three years, Larry? What initiatives does he want --

MR. SPEAKES: That's a little broad and I don't have it in my hip pocket.

Candy?



Q Something liberal.

Q Can I just clarify Medvid? The investigation that the President's talking about has to do with how Immigration handled it, correct?

MR. SPEAKES: That's right. Yes.

Q And there was no thought being given to trying to get at Medvid again? That's -- you consider that --

MR. SPEAKES: We consider that closed. There -- certainly, we've had --

Q Well -- what are they investigating --

MR. SPEAKES: -- discussions of the current aspects of -- the handling by INS initially.

Q So, if it comes out that they blew it, would you not then want to --

MR. SPEAKES: There were subsequent interviews of Medvid in which he reiterated many times to our satisfaction that he was -- in a non-coersive atmosphere -- that he wanted to return.

Q Okay. So, this is just an internal thing and Medvid can sail on, as far as you're --

MR. SPEAKES: There's no change in our policy.

Q -- sails. (Laughter.)

Q Sail on.

MR. SPEAKES: Let me go to the back.

Yes?

Q Have you heard from the Irish regarding Mrs. Heckler?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know the status of agreement. I don't know.

Anything else? Hunt, Helen, somebody.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

1:40 P.M. EST