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Folder Title:

Somalia Pullout, October 1993

Staff Office-Individual:

Defense Policy-Bell, Robert

Original OA/ID Number:

741

Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:	Stack:
31	3	10	2	V

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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001. memo	Les Aspin to the President, re: Forces Deployed to Somalia (1 page)	10/14/1993	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
Defense Policy and Arms Control (Bell, Robert)
OA/Box Number: 741

FOLDER TITLE:

Somalia Pullout, October 1993

2012-0659-F

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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

June 29, 1994

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

FROM: ROBERT BELL *RBB*

SUBJECT: Letter to Father of Army Ranger

On May 12, the President met in the Oval Office with the families of three U.S. Army Rangers killed in Mogadishu last October. One of the family members, Mr. Benjamin Pilla, mentioned both before and during the meeting that the Army had inexplicably failed during the six months following his son's death to deliver a gravestone for his son's grave. I immediately initiated a series of calls to the Army and the Veterans Administration that resulted in the expeditious delivery of the gravestone. Mr. Pilla has written (Tab B) to thank the President for this assistance.

Mr. Pilla also encloses a newspaper account and picture of a monument to his son his hometown (Vineland, N.J.) dedicated at a ceremony on Memorial Day. On June 1, the President wrote the Mayor of Vineland to thank him for taking the initiative to commission the monument.

Finally, the President and you should know there has been progress on the other issue Mr. Pilla raised at the meeting: the theft of his son's personal belongings as they were being returned to the Pillas from Fort Benning. With the concurrence of NSC and White House legal counsel, on May 24 the NSC, acting on behalf of the President, directed Justice to look into the case and to provide all appropriate assistance to state and local authorities. On June 24, the FBI Field Office in New Jersey contacted Mr. Pilla directly for additional information. Mr. Pilla has telephoned me to thank us for energizing this investigation.

The proposed letter from the President at Tab A thanks Mr. Pilla for the kind remarks he conveyed in his June 7 letter.

RECOMMENDATION

That you forward the memorandum at Tab I to the President.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to the President
Tab A Proposed Reply to Mr. Pilla
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE

SUBJECT: Letter to Father of Army Ranger

Purpose

To thank the father of one of the U.S. Army Rangers killed last October in Mogadishu for his recent letter thanking you for ensuring that his son's gravestone was finally delivered.

Background

On May 12, you met with the families of three Rangers killed in Somalia. One family member, Mr. Benjamin Pilla, mentioned that his son's gravestone had never been provided by the Army and that his son's personal belongings were stolen when they were being shipped from Fort Benning.

Following the meeting, Robert Bell worked with the Army and the Veterans Administration to get the gravestone delivered and, in coordination with NSC and White House counsel, asked Justice to look into the theft case and provide state and local authorities appropriate assistance.

On June 7, Mr. Pilla wrote to thank you for our assistance (Tab B -- we have provided a typed version of his handwritten note). Mr. Pilla enclosed a newspaper account of the dedication on Memorial Day of a monument to his son in the Pillas' hometown (Vineland, N.J.). You had written the Mayor of Vineland on June 1 to thank him for taking the initiative to commission and dedicate this memorial.

The reply at Tab A thanks Mr. Pilla for his kind letter.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter to Mr. Pilla at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to Mr. Pilla
Tab B Incoming Correspondence from Mr. Pilla

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Ben:

Thank you for your kind letter of June 7. I am very gratified that we have been able to be of assistance in expediting the delivery of your son's gravestone and in directing the involvement of the Department of Justice in the investigation into the theft of his personal belongings.

I also appreciate your sending the newspaper account of the solemn Memorial Day ceremony in Landis Park dedicating the monument to Dominick. As I wrote Major Romano several weeks ago, the monument to Dominick's bravery and dedication will be a permanent inspiration to all who see it.

Please give Diane my best regards and tell her how very proud I am of your son's service to his country.

Sincerely,

Mr. Benjamin Pilla
1774 N. West Avenue
Vineland, New Jersey 08360

6-7-94
9:00 p.m.

Dear President Clinton,

Before I write anything, I have to say that I am humbled and honored to be writing a letter to the President of this great country. I want to thank you for allowing Mr. Robert Bell to expedite the delivery of the gravestone to my son's grave. He did in about 5 days what normally takes a few months. He is a good man. And so are you. I realize that he could not have done anything without your approval. And considering all the "HEAT" that you took for what happened on Oct 3, 1993 in Somalia, it showed me that you have a "GOOD HEART". I have enclosed a newspaper article about the Memorial Day Service in my hometown of Vineland, N.J. The city dedicated a monument to my son, SGT Dominick Pilla. They honored him. But as his father, I felt honored. And as my son's "COMMANDER IN CHIEF" I want you to have this article. Well Mr. President, I thank you again.

GOD BLESS YOU,

Ben Pilla

1774 N. West Avenue
Vineland, N.J. 08360
(609) 692-1680

6-7-94

9:00 PM

Dear President Clinton,

Before I write anything, I have to say that I am humbled + Honored to be writing a letter to The President of This Great Country. I want to thank you for allowing Mr. Robert Bell to expedite the delivery of the grave stone to my Sons Grave. He did in about 5 days, what normally takes a few months. He is a good Man. And so are you. I realize that he could not have done anything without your approval. And considering all the "HEAT" that you took for what happened on OCT 3, 1993 in Somalia, it shows me that you have a "GOOD HEART". I have enclosed a newspaper article about the Memorial Day Service in my hometown of Vineland N.J. The city dedicated a monument to my son SGT DOMINICK PILLA. They Honored him. But as his Father, I felt Honored. And as my Son "COMMANDER IN CHIEF"

(COVER) F

I want you to have this article. Well Mr.
President, I thank you again.

GOD BLESS YOU

Ben Pilla.

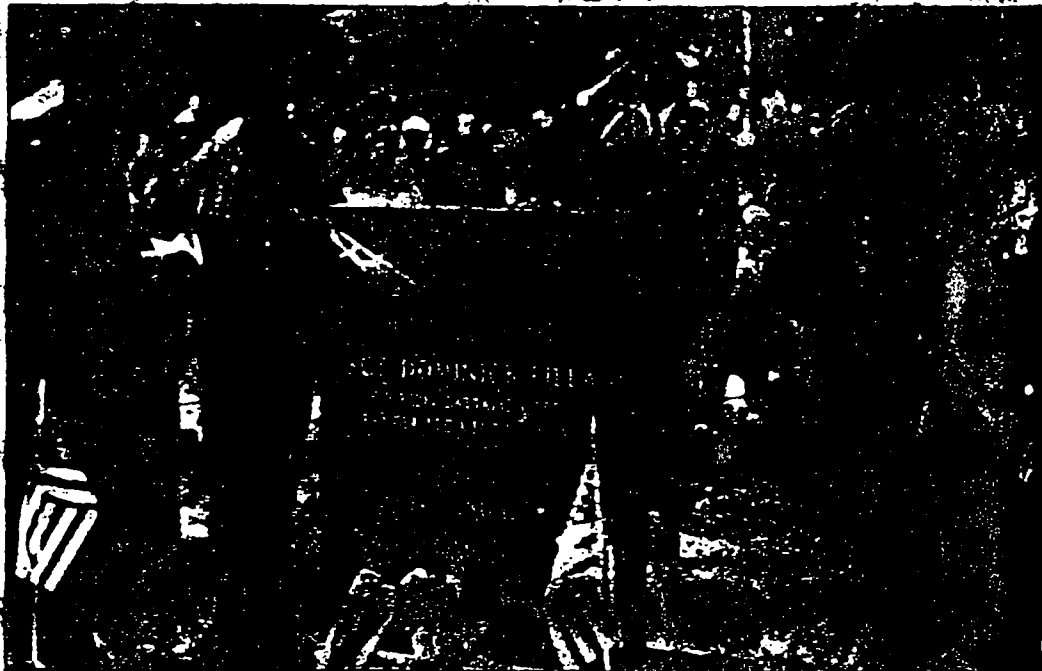
1774 N. WEST AVE

VINELAND N.J.

08360

609-692-1680

HONORING THE FALLEN



Members of the Rangers 3rd Battalion, 75th Regiment, present military honors at the site of the newly uncovered monument in Vineland for Sgt. Dominick Pilla, who was killed in action in Somalia. Other Memorial Day events, A3, D1.

City gives 'ultimate honor' to Pilla

By DEBORAH M. MARKO
Staff Writer

VINELAND — Ben Pilla called the memorial to his son, Sgt. Dominick Pilla, the "ultimate honor the city can bestow on a soldier."

Visibly overwhelmed, Ben Pilla told the crowd his family had received countless notes of sympathy and condolences following his son's death in Somalia.

"He has been eulogized and honored many times," he said. "There's been letters from the United Nations, President of the United States, U.S. Senate and individual senators, the House of Representatives and individual congressmen."

Ben Pilla listed his son's medals that include — the Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star with Valor and Combat Infantry Badge.

"And if he's looking down from heaven today at this ceremony, and I'm sure he is, he has to feel



Diane and Ben Pilla solemnly watch as the monument for their son, the late Sgt. Dominick Pilla, is unveiled during Memorial Day services in Landis Park Monday. The cause the community he born in, grew up in, went to school in, and worked in thought about of their fallen hero to dedicate this beautiful monument to him.

Contributions, collected during a fund-raising drive led by Mayor Joe Romano, paid for the

Noting the highest award the government can award someone in military is the Medal of Honor, Pilla called the

Memorial

From A1

black granite tribute to his son
"the civilian equivalent of the
Congressional Medal of
Honor."

Col. James Jackson, com-
manding officer of the 75th
Ranger Regiment in which
Pilla served, spoke of the
Rangers who went to Somalia.

"Even when many Am-
ericans question our use of
military force, the men and
women of America's military
always perform their duties
with unwavering loyalty and
commitment," he said. "Just
consider the uncommon valor
shown by American soldiers in
the streets in Mogadishu last
October."

Six Rangers were killed Oct.

3, 1993.

"On this first Memorial Day
since that night, it is only right
that we remember the names
of (Spc. James) Smith, (Sgt.
James) Joyce, (Cpl. James)
Cavaco, (Sgt. Lorenzo) Rula,
(Pfc. Richard) Kowalewski and
Pilla," Jackson listed the bat-
tle's casualties.

"This six men confirmed
that nothing in life is free -
anything worthwhile requires
sacrifice and hard work," he
said. "Sgt. Dominick Pilla's
sacrifice was his life."

"Sgt. Pilla's sacrifice is not
lost on his fellow Rangers or
any of us in uniform," Jackson
said. "I hope and pray that
sacrifice remains important to
every American."

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9307894
RECEIVED: 13 OCT 93 10

CHRON FILE

TO: MCLARTY, T

FROM: LAKE

DOC DATE: 15 OCT 93
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: DEFENSE POLICY
ARMY

SOMALIA
MEDIA

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: NEWS ARTICLE ADDRESSING COMPLAINTS OF ARMY WIVES AT FORT DRUM

ACTION: LAKE SGD MEMO

DUE DATE: 15 OCT 93 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: HAHN

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

FEAVER
NSC CHRON

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSJDA

CLOSED BY: NSJEB

DOC 3 OF 3

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9307894

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 HAHN
002 LAKE
003

Z 93101311 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
Z 93101414 FOR SIGNATURE
X 93101509 LAKE SGD MEMO

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE DISPATCH FOR ACTION

DISPATCH FOR INFO

003 931015 MCLARTY, T

UNCLASSIFIED

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 15, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE ✓

SUBJECT: News Article Addressing Complaints of Army Wives
at Fort Drum

The National Security Council staff has investigated the concerns addressed in the October 8 Washington Post article and is assured that responsible officials in the Army and on the ground in Somalia are vigorously working the problem.

Tab A contains letters from Rudy de Leon to George Stephanopoulos and from LTGEN Dominy to Rudy de Leon detailing recent initiatives to address these concerns. Following on the heels of the Post article, a high-level delegation headed by Congressman Jack Murtha and Army Chief of Staff General Gordon Sullivan visited Fort Drum to talk with spouses and gauge the morale of the families left behind. They were able to reassure the wives on a number of points and report that morale is holding steady.

The chain of command in Somalia has paid special attention to the welfare of the troops serving in an admittedly harsh environment. Recently, steps were taken to provide more hot meals, to set up an e-mail link with the homefront and to ensure that the troops are receiving all necessary toiletries.

My staff will continue to monitor this situation.

Attachment

Tab A DoD Memoranda Describing Response to Post Article



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT

October 13, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS

From: Rudy de Leon *R*

Re: Fort Drum Wives Concern About G.I.'s In Somalia

A recent Washington Post story (GI Wives, October 8) raised concerns about morale among American military families at Ft. Drum, New York.

In response, General Gordon Sullivan and Representative Jack Murtha traveled to Ft. Drum and met with some of the families that had been mentioned in the story. The attached report from the Army reviews the issues that were discussed. Senior Army officials believe that the meeting was a success and that the families now feel much better.

Additionally, the Army has an active plan to work the "quality of life" of U.S. soldiers stationed in the austere conditions of Somalia. They are moving to serve as many hot meals as possible (as an alternative to field rations and MRE's - meals ready to eat), and all possible toiletries are being made available.

The Army has an active plan to carefully monitor morale -- both in Somalia and at Ft. Drum, and wants to assure you that they are vigorously working the problem.

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OFDEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0200

DACS-ZD

13 October 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Visit to Fort Drum

1. The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on recent visit (11 Oct 93) to Fort Drum, New York, by Chairman John Murtha, Congressman John McHugh and General Gordon R. Sullivan, Army Chief of Staff. Fort Drum is the home of the 10th Mountain Division, U.S. Army, which has had elements deployed to Somalia since December 1992 and is currently deploying additional units to bolster overall security. Over 7,000 Fort Drum soldiers have had duty in Somalia since the initial deployment.

2. Recent publicity and the intensity of military operations have increased the level of apprehension of wives at Fort Drum and a Washington Post article (8 Oct 1993) highlighted these concerns. Chairman Murtha conducted meetings with over 100 wives whose husbands were from all ranks - officers and enlisted. The format was question and answer - summarized as follows:

- o Should we still be in Somalia? (Discussion of humanitarian role - progress made)
- o Are forces under U.S. Command? (Focus on U.N. role - U.S. Support)
- o Do we have adequate forces to protect ourselves? (Highlighted additional forces being deployed)
- o What is rotation schedule? Will those who thought they would come home in December still come? (Reassessing based on situation and March 31, 1994 target)
- o Can we bring soldiers back and guarantee 1 year before another deployment? (For some, this is a second Somalia deployment, some just finished a deployment to Honduras. One wife indicated she had been married 5 years - but had been together only 2 years)

DACS-2D

13 October 1993

SUBJECT: Visit to Fort Drum

- o Will we send soldiers to Moscow? (No)
- o Will soldiers who deployed get tax exempt status? (This proposal is being staffed at OSD)
- o Will eligible soldiers receive the Combat Infantryman's Badge? (Yes - recent decision grants authority - very positively received)
- o Can the rules of engagement (ROE) be changed so our soldiers can shoot back? (Clarified ROE in place)
- o What can be done to prevent pictures of dead soldiers being transmitted on TV? (Families indicated difficulty with young children coping with visual impact of these scenes - tough issue)

3. The overall assessment of family support systems in place at Fort Drum is very positive. A well organized "chain of concern" is in place and working. Army Community Service, Army Emergency Relief and professional help are engaged. The Post Exchange extended deferred payment to help soldiers. An effective E-mail system to Somalia with 24-hour turn around drew special praise. Timely mail delivery is a challenge with delivery taking 7-10 days at present.

4. The needs of the individual soldier in Somalia are being met. It is a harsh, austere, difficult environment. The issue of special items like tennis shoes mentioned in the Washington Post article did not come up in any meetings with wives or a recent trip by the 10th Mountain Division Commander to Somalia to visit his troops. The chain of command is focused on taking care of the soldiers on the ground in Somalia and families at home station. The anxiety of loved ones is a fact of life and receiving considerable attention from those in a position to help.

U/R


CHARLES E. DOMINY
Lieutenant General, US
Director of the Army Staff

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

October 13, 1993

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

THROUGH: ROBERT BELL *RGB*

FROM: PETER FEAVER *PDF*

SUBJECT: News Article Addressing Complaints of Army Wives
at Fort Drum

Natl Sec Advisor
has seen

SIGNED

Tab II is tasking from Thomas McLarty concerning the October 8 Washington Post article which aired complaints of some spouses of Army Fort Drum troops currently serving in Somalia. The Chief of Staff wrote that the President was interested in finding out "what we can do to address these complaints..."

The Post article reports that wives of Army soldiers are charging "military cutbacks have forced families to dip into personal savings to supply soldiers with such basics as aspirin, antifungal cream and even sneakers."

Tab A of Tab I contains letters from Rudy de Leon to George Stephanopoulos and from LTGEN Dominy to Rudy de Leon detailing recent initiatives to address these concerns. Following on the heels of the Post article, a high-level delegation headed by Congressman Jack Murtha and Army Chief of Staff General Gordon Sullivan visited Fort Drum to talk with spouses and gauge the morale of the families left behind. They were able to reassure the wives on a number of points and report that morale is holding steady.

The chain of command in Somalia has paid special attention to the welfare of the troops serving in an admittedly harsh environment. Recently, steps were taken to provide more hot meals, to set up an e-mail link with the homefront and to ensure that the troops are receiving all necessary toiletries.

The National Security Council staff believes that the Department of Defense, the Army and the local commanders are fully engaged in monitoring morale and that they are vigorously addressing the problems identified in the Post article.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to Thomas McLarty at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to Thomas McLarty
Tab A DoD Memoranda Describing Response to Post Article
Tab II Incoming Correspondence

Date: 10-12-93 Response needed by: 10-15-93 7894
COS Office Contact: Bill Burton, Policy & Staff Director

	Action	FYI		Action	FYI
Joan Baggett			Bernie Nussbaum		
Lee Brown			Leon Panetta		
Bill Daley			Howard Paster		
Rahm Emanuel			John Podesta		
Mark Gearan			Jack Quinn		
Kristine Gebbie			Carol Rasco		
David Gergen			Bob Rubin		
Jack Gibbons			Eli Segal		
Marcia Hale			Ricki Seidman		
Alexis Herman			George Stephanopoulos		
Nancy Hernreich			Christine Varney	X	
Tony Lake	X		David Watkins		
Bruce Lindsey			Maggie Williams		
Ira Magaziner					
Katie McGinty					
Dee Dee Myers					
Roy Neel					

Remarks: Tony, Christine - The President is interested in finding out what we can do to address these complaints of Army wives at Fort Drum. Please prepare a response for me ASAP.

Frank.

MACK

Response:

GI Wives At Speak Out In Anger

Activist Women On Army Base

By Tamara Jones
Washington Post Staff Writer

FORT DRUM, N.Y., Oct. 7—Maria DeGrace dissolves in tears when she glimpses the crayon drawing taped to the living room wall. It is her 6-year-old daughter's crude picture of two Somalis dancing over daddy's body.

But daddy is not dead, and DeGrace, 27, constantly reassures her four children that their soldier father is just fine, that Operation Restore Hope will end soon, that he will return home and that everyone can be happy again.

But as American losses mount in Somalia, DeGrace has become one of the uncounted casualties of the faraway conflict.

"We restored their hope," he said angrily today. "Now who's going to restore ours?"

Drawn together by fear, frustration and pure, raw age, DeGrace and several other military wives at this army post near the Canadian border no longer are willing to play the role of the good soldier's wife.

Terri Galloway, 24, of Iannsville, N.Y., whose husband, Andy, went to Somalia July 28, expressed disgust with "bowling parties and cake sales," traditional activities of military families.

Instead, the women are lobbying Washington, distributed FORT DRUM, A18, Col. 1

FORT DRUM, From A1

uting bracelets at malls and taking a very public stance against the U.S. role in Somalia.

"Women are more willing to speak out now than during Vietnam because the role of the wife, whether civilian or military wife, is a lot different now," Galloway said.

Sophisticated technology and telecommunications also mean that the military wife has become far more informed about her husband's mission and political issues surrounding it. Besides watching C-SPAN to follow legislative debates on Somalia, the wives can use electronic mail to stay in more immediate touch with their husbands.

Questions these women ask go far beyond, "When can my husband come home?"

Today, they demanded to know who is funding Somali warlords, why Defense Secretary Les Aspin refused a general's request for more armored support there and why President Clinton, in DeGrace's view, "cared more about his health plan than about his soldiers in Somalia."

"The thing that bothers me is that we cut the military budget, and now we're paying 'with soldiers' lives," said Eileen Lynch, 31, whose husband just returned from Mogadishu. "There's no excuse for these men to be pinned down 16 hours. Where was our armor?"

The wives also charged that military cutbacks have forced families to dip into personal savings to supply soldiers with such basics as aspirin, antifungal cream and even sneakers.

"They go through tennis shoes like crazy over there," said DeGrace, who said she has had to fend off bill collectors because of expenses incurred supplying her husband.

Lynch recalled a long shopping list that her husband's unit distributed before its deployment last December. "I spent over \$200 on supplies the Army was supposed to supply," she said. The Army will not reimburse them, she said.

"If President Clinton is going to keep them there, then, by God, he should give them everything they need—from Q-tips to ammunition," Lynch said.

After taxes, according to DeGrace, her husband's combat pay amounted to "\$7-a-month extra. To the military, it's like, 'You got your \$7. Now shut up.'"

The seeming futility of Operation Restore Hope has persuaded Lynch's husband, a career soldier, to quit after 10 happy years in the service, she said. Although the family is returning to civilian life in her native Emmetsburg, Iowa, in December, Lynch said she would continue protesting U.S. involvement in Somalia.

"I may be leaving here," she said, "but I'm taking a yellow ribbon with me and dipping the ends in red for the blood of soldiers who have been killed there. When we pull out, we should destroy every building we've built for these people. We should destroy every water hole we dug for them. Leave them nothing. Let them go back to starving."

Tonight, about 70 Fort Drum wives gathered at a base chapel for a briefing about the Somalia mission. R.D. Murphy, the base's civilian public affairs director, ordered a reporter to leave the family support meeting, saying:

"These females" had come, in part, "to vent

their anger." He said the commanding general did not want the media to hear those concerns.

Today, in the DeGrace's tidy living room, the women seemed surprised at their anger. They told proud stories of relatives who died in Vietnam, an uncle still listed as missing in action there, a father-in-law who survived the Battle of the Bulge.

They expressed concern that their new activism might tarnish their husbands' careers. But, DeGrace said, "We're doing this for because we love them, we're proud of them and we want them home."

DeGrace has drafted an open letter seeking public support, and the wives plan to distribute copies in parking lots, grocery stores and malls in nearby Watertown.

"Why should we feel pity for these people when they rejoice over our dead?" the leaflet asks.

"The mission they went there to do is humanitarian," Galloway said, "not to go over and set up a government and patrol the streets as police, like in Vietnam."

When DeGrace wore a T-shirt on base with a slogan comparing Somalia to Vietnam, she said, a man scolded her for endangering morale. Undaunted, she plans to paint signs and plant them in front yards with the simple message: "Bring our soldiers home."

Galloway said she will be there too with the 5-month-old daughter who she fears may never know her father. She considers herself a patriot but she finds that being tested. "If anything happens to my husband in Somalia," she said, "I'll tell you what: I'd be the first to burn the American flag."

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 14, 1993

PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT

The Briefing Room

10:21 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I'm sorry I am a little late, but I just finally got through to Ambassador Oakley, and I wanted to have a chance to speak with him directly for a couple of minutes before I came out here.

I also spoke with Mrs. Durant this morning to congratulate her and to wish her well. Obviously, she is very happy. She has now had an extended conversation with her husband. And he is, as you know, in a U.N. field hospital in Mogadishu. But he will be going to Germany as soon as the doctors say that he can travel. And then, as soon as possible, he'll be back home with his family and his friends.

I welcome his release, and I want to express my deepest thanks to the African leaders who pressed hard for it and to Bob Oakley, the International Red Cross, and to the United Nations, to all who have worked on this for the last several days.

Over the past week, since the United States announced its intention to strengthen our forces in Somalia, as well as to revitalize the diplomatic initiative and send Bob Oakley back, we have seen some hopeful actions -- the release of Michael Durant and the Nigerian peacekeeper, the cessation of attacks on the United States and U.N. peacekeepers. That demonstrates that we are moving in the right direction and that we are making progress.

Our firm position on holding Durant's captors responsible for his well-being and demanding his release, I think, send a strong message that was obviously heard. Now, we have to maintain our commitment to finishing the job we started. It's not our job to rebuild Somalia's society or its political structure. The Somalis have to do that for themselves. And I welcome the help of the African leaders who have expressed their commitment to working with us and with them.

But we have to give them enough time to have a chance to do that, to have a chance not to see the situation revert to the way it was before the United States and the United Nations intervened to prevent the tragedy late last year.

I want to also emphasize that we made no deals to secure the release of Chief Warrant Officer Durant. We had strong resolve, we showed that we were willing to support the resumption of the peace process, and we showed that we were determined to protect our soldiers and to react when appropriate by strengthening our position there. I think the policy was plainly right. But there was no deal.

If you have any questions, I'll be glad to try to answer them.

Q Mr. President, there's still a \$25,000 bounty on Mr. Aideed. Would you still like to see Mr. Aideed arrested? Do you

MORE

think that's appropriate? And do you think that the United Nations now should release Mr. Aideed's forces that it's captured recently?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let me answer the first question. The United States position is that we have a U.N. resolution which says that there must be some resolution of the unconscionable incident which started this whole thing, which was the murder of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers who were not there in battle, but were simply there, doing the job that we all went there to do -- the humanitarian mission. I think that it's very important to remember that.

It is further our position that we cannot afford to have any police work that we were asked to do as part of the U.N. mission be transformed into a military endeavor that, in effect, made many people believe that there was no longer a diplomatic initiative going on in Somalia. So there still has to be some resolution of that. We have a U.N. resolution, and we ought to pursue it. Now, there may be other ways to do it, and I am open to that.

As far as the release of any people concerned, that will obviously be up to the United Nations. But they have to consider what our obligations are with regard to the murder of the Pakistani peacekeepers. That's what started this whole thing.

Q Mr. President, isn't it pretty clear, though, that he must have -- Aideed must have been given some immunity from arrest, because he talked to reporters? He seems to be pretty available. You don't seem to be laying a glove on him. Have you called off the dogs?

THE PRESIDENT: There was no deal made, I can tell you that. We have taken account of the behavior of others on the ground there, and we will continue to do that. But for the next few days, we have to work through what the resolution will be of the U.N. requirement that got us all into the position we were in last week, which is that we have to have some means of resolving what happened to the Pakistanis, who were clearly not in anybody's combat, were just doing their jobs. And we have to do it.

Q Well, do you hold him responsible?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we have to -- he offered, if you remember, an independent commission to look into that. The United Nations asked the United States to attempt to arrest him and to go out of our way not to hurt him while arresting him because he was suspected of being responsible. So if he's willing to have somebody that we can all trust look into that, then that's something I think that Mr. Oakley is certainly willing to entertain over there.

Q Mr. President, despite your success today, there's been a lot of criticism that U.S. foreign policy has been run in naive and somewhat disorganized way. What's your response to that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I can tell you first of all, I've had people who were involved in the two previous administrations say that our national security decision-making process was at least as good as the two in the previous ones, perhaps better. Secondly, I think on the things that really -- the biggest issues affecting the future and the security of the United States, we have a good record.

We have done very well with Russia, the most important issue. We have set up a system that did not exist before we came to office to deal with the other republics of the former Soviet Union and to work on nuclear issues and other issues. I think we have done quite well with the Middle East peace process and with its aftermath. I think we have done well to establish the groundwork of a new basis of a relationship with Japan and with Asia generally. We have certainly put nonproliferation on a higher plane than it was there

before. I think we did very well. We had the most successful -- the United States had the most successful meeting of the G-7 in over a decade. That was clear. The first time in 10 years we were complimented instead of criticized, making real progress there.

So I think that the people who say that because of what happened in Somalia last week have a pretty weak reed to stand on. And in terms of Haiti -- and maybe we can get to that -- there was -- when I took office, what we had was everybody in Haiti thinking about whether they could leave and come to the United States because they thought there was no way that anybody would ever stick up for the democratic process in Haiti; and the fact that two-thirds of the people voted for somebody to lead their country that was then ousted by the old regime. At least we have made an effort to try to change that. And I assure you that my determination there is as strong as ever.

So I think that -- it's easy to second-guess. When you get into something like Somalia, I think anybody who really thought about it at the time the decision was made, I supported it. I think it was the right thing to do. I think we went there for the right motives. But you had to know when we went there that there was -- that, a, that there was no way America was going to get out in January and because there was no political process in place there that could have given the Somalis a chance to survive; and, b, that there was every chance that someone, for their own reasons, at some point during this mission, might kill some peacekeepers, which would complicate the mission.

We are living in a new world. It's easy for people who don't have these responsibilities to use words like "naive" or this or that or the other thing. The truth is, we're living in a new and different world, and we've got to try to chart a course that is the right course for the United States to lead, while avoiding things that we cannot do, or things that impose cost in human and financial terms that are unacceptable for us. But I think that in this new world, we've made a pretty good beginning, and clearly on the things that affect us most.

Q Mr. President, you were very clear last week in saying that you did not want your reaction to events in Somalia to be the wrong signal to the world's thugs and bullies. I wonder, sir, if it occurs to you that the events of Haiti may indicate that that signal was sent anyway?

THE PRESIDENT: No. The problem we had in Haiti with the boat was that we sent 200 Seabees over there who were commissioned specifically to train military officers to do more work to rebuild the country. They were lightly armed, they were not in any way -- they were not peacekeepers or peacemakers.

I would remind you that the Governors Island agreement basically was an agreement among all the major parties in Haiti which clearly set forth the fact that they did not want other countries' forces or a U.N. force coming in there to provide law and order. They wanted French-speaking forces to come in and retrain the police force. They wanted French-speaking Canadians and the United States to come in and retrain the Army to rebuild the country.

So those people were simply not able or ever authorized to pursue any mission other than that. I was not about to put 200 American Seabees into a potentially dangerous situation for which they were neither trained nor armed to deal with at that moment. And I did not want to leave the boat in the harbor so that that became the symbol of the debate. I pulled the boat out of the harbor to emphasize that the Haitian parties themselves who were still there in Haiti are responsible for violating the Governors Island Agreement. We moved immediately to reimpose sanctions to include oil. We are

going to do some more things unilaterally in the next day or two. And I think that we still have a chance to get this done. Because the people who were there who don't want to give up power agreed to the Governors Island Agreement, and we're going to do our best to hold them to it.

Q You don't think that those thugs on the dock there in Haiti were encouraged by the events in Somalia, to try what they tried?

THE PRESIDENT: They may or may not have been, but they're going to be sadly disappointed. I think those people on the docks in Haiti were probably the hired hands of the elites that don't want democracy to come to Haiti. So I don't they had drawn any sophisticated interpretation from world events. But if they did, they ought to look at what else has happened in Somalia. Look at the way we have bolstered our forces. Look at the reports in the newspaper today.

What we've done in Somalia -- let me go back to that -- is consistent with our original mission. We did not go there to prove we could win military battles. No one seriously questions the fact that we could clean out that whole section of Mogadishu at minimum loss to ourselves if that's what we wanted to do.

The reports today say that 300 Somalis were killed and 700 more were wounded in the firefight that cost our people their lives last week. That is not our mission. We did not go there to do that. We cannot let a charge we got under a U.N. resolution to do some police work, which is essentially what it is, to arrest suspects turn into a military mission. But the people in Haiti would be sadly misguided if they think the United States has weakened its resolve to see that democracy -- the expressed will of two-thirds of the people of Haiti.

I noticed Congressman Kennedy on the television this morning saying that President Aristide won an election victory with a higher percentage of the vote than any leader in the Western Hemisphere. And he can't even get into office. We're going to try to change that.

Let me just make one other comment about Haiti. This is very important to me. In addition to President Aristide, there is a government that has been struggling mightily to function in Haiti, headed by Prime Minister Malval, a businessperson, a person who basically did not ask for the responsibilities that he has undertaken. I want to send a clear signal today, too, that the United States is very concerned about his ability to function and his personal safety and the safety of his government. That is very important to us. Malval is key to making this whole thing work. He is recognized as a stabilizing figure, as a person who will work with all sides, as a person who will be fair to everybody. And it would be again a grave error to underestimate the extent to which this country regards him as an important part of the ultimate solution.

Q Mr. President, I'd like to go back to what you said about Aideed, because it appears that you've opened the door to leave him a way out this morning, when you said that we have to take into account what others did on the ground there. Do you think there's a possibility that Aideed was not directly responsible for the attack on the Pakistani U.N. forces? And do you believe there's also a possibility that Aideed could now become part of the political process and indeed may someday become president?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let me answer the questions somewhat separately. First of all, to take the second question. What happened over the last several weeks -- and let me back up and say -- I understood why the United States was thought to have the

only capacity to pursue the police function, once the Pakistanis were killed. But keep in mind what that function was. That function was to arrest people suspected of being involved in that, not to be judge and jury, not to say we know exactly what happened, not to find people guilty in advance.

So our young soldiers, at significant risk to themselves, went out of their way to capture people without killing them. As a consequence, however, because of the circumstances, as we all know, several of them lost their lives and hundreds of Somalis who were fighting them, either with weapons or by getting in their way, lost their lives.

Now, that never should have been allowed to supplant -- as I said at the United Nations, before this incident occurred -- that never should have been allowed to supplant the political process that was ongoing when we were in effective control up through last May.

So we had to start the political process again. We have no interest in keeping any clan or subclan or group of Somalis out of the political process affecting the future of their people. The clan structure seems to be the dominant structure in the country. It is not for the United States or for the United Nations to eliminate whole groups of people from having a role in Somalia's future. The Somalis must decide that with the help and guidance, I believe primarily, of the African states and leadership around them, first of all.

Secondly, with regard to the specific incident, what I want to do is to see the U.N. resolution honored. That is, we want to know that there is some effort, honest, unencumbered effort, to investigate what happened to those Pakistanis and to have some resolution of that, consistent with international law. We cannot expect the United Nations to go around the world, whether it's in Cambodia or Somalia, or any of the many other places we're involved in peacekeeping, and have people killed and have no resolution of it.

Aideed, himself, as you know, offered in a letter to President Carter to have a genuinely unbiased commission look into this and have evidence presented to it. The United Nations may choose to take a different course in this, but we should honor the resolution. That is, you asked me a question about Aideed, personally. I can't answer that. I can say that I believe in the strongest terms that the United States should continue to say, if you want us to be involved in peacekeeping, if peacekeepers get murdered doing their job, the way the Pakistanis did, and others, there has to be an effort to look into who did it and to hold those accountable.

If there is another way to do that, that's fine. What I said at the U.N., I will reiterate: The United States, being a police officer in Somalia, was turned into the waging of conflict and a highly personalized battle which undermined the political process. That is what was wrong, and that is what we have attempted to correct in the last few days.

Q Mr. President, your statement reassuring Prime Minister Malval of Haiti about his personal security raises the question, of course: Is there a threat to his personal security, and what happens if something happens to Prime Minister Malval?

THE PRESIDENT: If something happens to him, it would be a very difficult situation for the Haitians. It would make President Aristide's job more difficult, and it would further isolate the military and police authorities there, and the people who are sponsoring them from the international community. I hope that he is not in danger. I do not have any information that he is in imminent danger. He's continuing to function, but if you know how he works

down there, I mean, he has very limited security, he does a lot of work out of his home, he has not constructed a military apparatus around himself. He really is a good citizen serving his country, and he is a necessary part of the glue that would permit President Aristide to go back down there.

Keep in mind, Aristide gave these people amnesty. The truth is, a lot of them never thought he'd do it. I know -- there are people who have criticized Aristide, who say that, you know, maybe he's not really a political person, can't do this. All I know is that in our dealings with him, he has done what he said he would do. And I think they were disoriented by the fact that he issued the amnesty order when they didn't think he would. And I am genuinely concerned that the forces in Haiti -- let me back up and say -- they signed off on the Governors Island agreement because they realized that the sanctions were having a crushing blow on them. And in the end, they and the people who were funding a lot of their activities understood that it was going to cost them more to stay with the present course than to permit this transition to democracy.

And what we're trying to do now -- our policy clearly is to remind them of why they signed off in the first place in the most forceful terms and to make it absolutely clear that no one in the international community is going to walk away from our previous policy toward Haiti if they don't honor their commitments under that agreement.

Q Mr. President, would your experiences this month in Somalia and Haiti make you more cautious about sending American peacekeepers to Bosnia?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, my experiences in Somalia would make me more cautious about having any Americans in a peacekeeping role where there was any ambiguity at all about what the range of decisions were which could be made by a command other than an American command with direct accountability to the United States here.

Now, to be fair, our troops in Somalia were under an American commander. And even though General Bir was the overall commander, it was clear always that General Hoar, here in the United States, was the commanding officer of General Montgomery. But because we got a general charge from the U.N. to try to arrest people suspected of being involved in the killing of the Pakistani soldiers, not every tactical decision had to be cleared here through General Hoar.

What I've made clear all along, the reason I've said that I thought that any Bosnian operation would have to be operated through NATO -- the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe is an American general that talks every day to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that works in very clear cooperation with the other NATO forces. They have drilled together. They have trained together. They have trained together. They have worked together. It is a much more coherent military operation. And I would have a far higher level of confidence about not only the safety of our troops, but our ability to deal with that as a NATO operation. It's a whole different issue, Bosnia, but I would have much higher level of confidence there.

With the U.N. -- let me just say, to go back to the U.N. -- I still believe that U.N. peacekeeping is important. And I still believe that America can play a role in that. But when you're talking about resolving longstanding political disputes, the United States as the world's only superpower is no more able to do that for other people than we were 30 years ago, or 20 years ago.

That's why if you go back and look at Somalia, what's going to happen here, and compare it to what the U.N. did in Cambodia, where the U.N. went into Cambodia first of all with this

theory about what they had to do to or with the Khmer Rouge, and then they moved away from any kind of military approach and sent a lot of very brave peacekeepers, none of whom were Americans and some of whom lost their lives -- Japanese and others -- they worked through the politics of Cambodia by, in effect, creating a process in which the local people had to take responsibility for their own future. If we are going to do that kind of work, we ought to take the Cambodian model in Somalia and everywhere else.

Where we have to do peacekeeping, if we're going to do that in a unified command, even if the Americans are always under American forces, we have got to make the kind of changes in the United Nations that I advocated in my speech to the U.N. We have got to have that international peacekeeping apparatus far better organized than it is now. And if you go back to the U.N. speech, it receives little notice because of the momentary and important crises in Somalia and elsewhere. But the reorganization of the peacekeeping apparatus of the U.N. is an urgent mission because keep in mind, the U.N. peacekeepers with no American soldiers there are involved all over the world now, and they have done an awful lot of good work. But we plainly have to reorganize that and strengthen that. Got to go. Thank you.

Q Would you support the blockade in Haiti, President Clinton? Would you support a blockade?

THE PRESIDENT: I support strongly enforcing the sanctions and -- I want to answer that. I support strongly enforcing these sanctions -- strongly. And over the next few days we will be announcing the form in which the sanctions enforcement will take place.

Thank you.

Q Is that a yes or a no?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the word "blockade" is a term of art in international law, which is associated with a declaration of war, so I have to --

Q How about patrols?

THE PRESIDENT: I have to be careful in using that word, but I think that we have to enforce the sanctions.

END

10:44 A.M. EDT

TO: PRESIDENT

FILE: SOMALIA
PULLOUT

FROM: ASPIN, L

DOC DATE: 14 OCT 93
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: SOMALIA
CM

DEFENSE POLICY

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: FORCES DEPLOYED TO SOMALIA

ACTION: ANY ACTION NECESSARY

DUE DATE: 18 OCT 93 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: CLARKE

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

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White House Guidelines,

September 11, 2006

By VDE NARA, Date 12/08/16

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