

FOIA MARKER

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Folder Title:

President's Trip to Camp David, Maryland for the Camp David Summit on the Middle East Peace Process (July 11-19, 2000) [1]

Staff Office-Individual:

Press-Crowley, Philip J. (PJ)

Original OA/ID Number:

3666

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Press Schedule #1

TRIP OF THE PRESIDENT
to
Camp David, Maryland

July 11, 2000

NOT FOR RELEASE OR PUBLICATION—For news planning only

Weather/Thurmont: *Partly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms, Hi 82, low 67*

6:45 am EST *WH Intown Travel Pool Gathers at the James Brady Briefing Room.*

7:00 am EST *WH Intown Travel Pool boards press vans and departs the White House en route Pool Hold at Camp David.*

9:00 am EST *WH Intown Travel Pool press vans arrive Round Meadows Pool Hold.*

Notes about Camp David: *It is expected that the events of the summit will be private. All details of the schedule of the PRESIDENT, other than those in this schedule, are TBA.*

Press Schedules from the White House will pertain only to the schedule of the PRESIDENT. For information about schedules of other summit participants, please contact their press officers.

TRIP TO MD

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NOTES FOR THE WHITE HOUSE POOL:

The pool for the White House during the Summit will be the White House Intown Travel Pool, following the assignments prescribed on its daily rotation. The WH Intown Travel Pool will be transported

BRIEFINGS:

There will be daily briefings during the Summit and the briefing schedule is TBA. AUDIO of the daily briefing will be available at the Summit Media Center at the Thurmont Elementary School in Thurmont, Maryland, and on the PA of press rooms at the White House, State Department and Foreign Press Center in Washington, D.C.

At the Summit Media Center in Thurmont, audio will be available in English, Hebrew and Arabic. At the other locations listed above, audio on the PA will be in English only.

PRESS FACILITIES IN THURMONT:

*The Summit Media Center is located at the **Thurmont Elementary School, 805 East Main Street (Route 77 East), in Thurmont, Maryland.** For information and details on getting press credentials, workspaces or telephones at this Center, and whom to contact for those and other requests, please obtain the Media Advisory on the Summit issued by the U.S. State Department on July 7, 2000.*

THE WHITE HOUSE PROTECTIVE POOL:

TRIP TO MD

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On Tuesday, July 11, the White House Intown Travel Pool will depart from the White House in press vans to the Round Meadows Pool Hold area. For each additional calendar day the WH Intown Travel Pool will assemble in the Camp David area and go on protective standby in the Round Meadows Pool Hold in the Camp David area. All poolers are advised:

- 1) The White House Intown Travel Pool will form every day at the Round Meadows Pool Hold near Camp David. Directions to the Round Meadows Pool Hold are on page 5 in this schedule.*
- 2) All poolers are advised to have an overnight bag with them in case the decision to made to remain overnight at Camp David.*
- 3) Hotel rooms for Pool: Poolers have all been contacted by the White House and hotel rooms have been arranged by the White House only for the pool members who made financial arrangements with the White House Travel Office. All other press are responsible for making their own hotel arrangements in the Thurmont area.*
- 4) "Pool switches" during the day between the Summit Media Center in Thurmont and the Pool Hold at Round Meadows will occur as frequently as needed. Daily gathering points in Thurmont for the White House Pool other than Round Meadows Pool Hold, will be worked out directly with poolers once they are in Thurmont.*

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White House Intown Travel Pool

POOL FILING AND POOL HOLDS – CAMP DAVID

“Round Meadows Pool Hold” in the gymnasium at the day camp site in the Catoctin Mountain Park. Pool facilities: Seven shared charge-a-call phones, workspace with electric, cable TV, fax, and speakerphone if needed to hear audio of briefings.

“Summit Media Center” in Thurmont Elementary School: In the “Wires” work room four shared charge-a-calls and workspace with electric for the WH Pool when the pool holds in the Summit Media Center.

FOR OTHER PRESS:

SUMMIT MEDIA CENTER: *Media Center is operating 24 hours a day. Please acquire the Media Advisory of the U.S. State Department (issued 07-07-00) for information on the Center and to arrange yourself your own working space there.*

Press Offices located at the Summit Media Center at the Thurmont Elementary School:

*White House Press Office
U.S. State Department Press Office
U.S. State Dept. Foreign Press Center
Liaisons to the delegations of Israel and
the Palestinian Authority*

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

TRIP TO MD

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Directions to the Summit Media Center at the Thurmont

Elementary School: *Thurmont, Maryland, is alongside MD Route 15 about 15 miles north of Frederick, Maryland, and about 10 miles south of Gettysburg. There are several exits off Route 15 for Thurmont. Use the Exit for Route 77. To get to the school, take Route 77 EAST, for about a mile, through Thurmont. The brick one-story grammar school will be on your left, on Route 77, slightly set back. Please follow the signs telling you where you can park, and watch out for the children at the school for summer school.*

Directions to the "Round Meadows Pool Hold": *Take MD Route 15 to the Exit for Route 77 (at Thurmont). When you come down the exit ramp, take 77 WEST (away from the town of Thurmont) and toward the hills. Stay on Route 77 West for nearly five miles as it winds up the hills and through the woods. During the five miles you will go past Cunningham Falls Park, past the Catoctin National Park Visitors Center, and past Catoctin Hollow Road. When you come out of sheer forest into an area with private homes, start watching for your turn. Turn RIGHT off Route 77 onto Foxville-Deerfield Road (at this intersection, the street to the left is called "Stottlemeyer", but the sign to the right says: Foxville-Deerfield Road). After a quarter mile, this joins another road (Herman Hauver Road) and bears to the right – stay with it and bear to the right with it. There's another immediate bearing right onto "MANAHAN ROAD". After a half-mile, watch for a driveway on the left into the parking lot of "Round Meadows". The big white unmarked stucco building at the edge of the parking lot is the gym (Pool Hold)*

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

TRIP TO MD

NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR RELEASE

10:30 am EDT

THE PRESIDENT boards MARINE ONE
and departs the White House en route
Camp David, Maryland.
OPEN PRESS of departure.

11:00 am EDT

MARINE ONE arrives Camp David.
CLOSED PRESS of arrival.

NOTE: *The Schedule of the PRESIDENT for the remainder of July 11, 2000, is TBA. The White House Intown Travel Pool will remain on protective standby.*

IMPORTANT NOTE: *THE PRESIDENT will reside overnight at Camp David on Tuesday, July 11, 2000. After that, overnight for THE PRESIDENT is TBD. The following overnight information will apply to any and all of the nights that THE PRESIDENT remains at Camp David.*

Overnight for THE PRESIDENT:
Camp David, Maryland

Overnight for the Pool:
Super 8
300 Tipin Drive
Thurmont, Maryland
Ph: 301-271-7888
Fx:301-271-7888

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2000

The Schedule of the PRESIDENT for Wednesday is TBD.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Camp David, Maryland)

For Immediate Release

July 11, 2000

The Middle East Peace Summit At Camp David
Official Delegations

United States Delegation

The President

Secretary Madeleine Albright

John Podesta, Chief of Staff

Samuel Berger, Assistant to the President for National Security
Affairs

Joe Lockhart, Assistant to the President and Press Secretary

Maria Echaveste, Deputy Chief of Staff

Dennis Ross, Special Middle East Coordinator

Martin Indyk, U.S. Ambassador to Israel

John Herbst, U.S. Consul General, Jerusalem

Bruce Riedel, Special Assistant to the President and Senior
Director for Near East and South Asian Affairs, NSC

Aaron Miller, Deputy Special Middle East Coordinator, Department
of State

Rob Malley, Special Assistant to the President for Arab-Israeli
Affairs and Director for Near East and South Asian Affairs,
NSC

Jonathan Schwartz, Deputy Legal Adviser, Department of State

Toni Verstandig, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Near Eastern
Affairs, Department of State

Gemal Helal, Senior Advisor, Department of State

- more -

Israeli Delegation

Prime Minister Ehud Barak
Shlomo Ben Ami, Minister of Internal Security
Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Minister of Transportation and Tourism
Elyakim Rubinstein, Attorney General
Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Danny Yatom, Chief of Staff
Gilad Sher, Chairman of the Negotiating Team
Shlomo Yanai, Head of Security Team

Palestinian Delegation

Chairman Yasser Arafat
Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), Secretary General, PLO Executive Committee
Ahmed Qurei (Abu Ala), Speaker, Palestinian Legislative Council
Yasser Abed Rabbo, Minister of Information and Culture
Nabil Sha'ath, Palestinian Authority Minister of Planning and International Cooperation
Sa'eb Erekat, Palestinian Authority Minister of Local Government
Hassan Asfour, Palestinian Authority Minister of State and Head of PLO Negotiations Department
Akram Haniya, Advisor to the Chairman
Col. Mohamed Dahlan, Chief, Preventive Security, Gaza
Mohamed Rashid, Economic Advisor
Nabil Abu Rudineh, Chief of Staff
Yousef Abdallah, Assistant to the Chairman

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 5, 2000

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT
ON ANNOUNCEMENT OF CAMP DAVID SUMMIT
WITH PRIME MINISTER BARAK OF ISRAEL
AND CHAIRMAN ARAFAT OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

The James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

10:55 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Early next week, Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat will come to Camp David at my invitation. A few days before that, their negotiators will arrive to help pave the way for this summit. The objective is to reach an agreement on the core issues that have fueled a half-century of conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

After lengthy discussion with the two leaders, and after listening to Secretary Albright's report, I have concluded that this is the best way -- indeed, it is the only way -- to move forward.

To state the task is to suggest the magnitude of the challenge. Behind the Israeli-Palestinian conflict lie the most profound questions, about beliefs, political identity, collective fate. Etched in each side's mind are intense fears and emotions and a deep-seated commitment to defend their people's interests. There are no easy answers, and certainly no painless ones. And, therefore, there is clearly no guarantee of success.

Why this summit and why now? While Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have made real progress, crystallizing issues and defining gaps, the truth is they can take the talks no further at their level. Significant differences remain, and they involve the most complex and most sensitive of questions. The negotiators have reached an impasse. Movement now depends on historic decisions that only the two leaders can make.

I will be there with them and I intend to do all I can to help them in this endeavor. But to delay this gathering, to remain stalled, is simply no longer an option. For the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as all of us has seen, knows no status quo.

It can move forward toward real peace, or it can slide back into turmoil. It will not stand still. If the parties do not seize this moment, if they cannot make progress now, there will be more hostility and more bitterness, perhaps even more violence.

And to what end? Eventually, after more bloodshed and tears, they will have to come back to the negotiating table. They will have to return to face the same history, the same geography, the same demographic trends, the same passions and the same hatreds -- and I am sure, the exact same choices that confront them here and now.

Of course, action does have its perils. But so, too, does inaction. The decisions will not come easier with time. Fundamentally, that is what I have concluded. The leaders have to make the decisions that are still there to be made, and the longer we wait, the more difficult the decisions are likely to become. The Israeli and the Palestinian people have leaders now who are visionary enough, courageous enough, capable of building a fair, just and lasting peace.

In coming here and accepting this challenge, Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat have shown they are ready to take risks to pursue peace. The rest of the world -- and especially the rest of the region -- cannot afford to be bystanders. For all those who are truly committed to the cause of peace and to the well-being of the Israeli and Palestinian people, now is the time to lend their support to the peacemakers.

To the people of Israel and to the Palestinian people, I would like to say this: Peace under circumstances like these is never cost-free. Neither side can achieve 100 percent of its goals. For the optimal solution of each party is, by definition, one the other party cannot and will not accept. Negotiations, therefore, must create an outcome that is realistic, balanced and fair, and that meets the fundamental objectives of both sides; an outcome that strengthens the two parties rather than weakens one of them; an outcome that accommodates both sides' vital needs and dreams; an outcome that reconciles their competing grievances.

That is the only outcome that will permit Israelis and Palestinians to offer their children a future far different from the past, one with more opportunity and less fear, more hope and less despair. And that, of course, is the ultimate prize of peace.

The objective is often overshadowed, I might say, as all of you know, by the abject dreariness of the pursuit -- one that you will, no doubt, have occasion to comment on in the days ahead. The ups and downs of the process, the daily hassles and disputes, the open-ended nature of the negotiations -- all these, over time, have blurred the vision of what it is we are trying to achieve.

For Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat, the challenge next week will be to start drawing the contours of the long-awaited peace -- a peace that can fulfill the Israeli people's quest for security, for recognition, for genuine reconciliation with Palestinians and genuine acceptance in the region -- acceptance in deeds as well as words. A peace that can fulfill the Palestinian people's legitimate aspirations to determine their destiny on their own land, and to build a better future.

Almost seven years ago now, we witnessed the historic handshake between the late Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman Arafat. It began a process that offered the Israeli and Palestinian people the chance to achieve what I then described as "the quiet miracle" of a normal life. That is still the vision that must inspire the efforts and call forth the commitment, courage and creativity of Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat next week.

Q Mr. President, do you think that this is the last opportunity for peace during your presidency? And how long will you give these negotiations? Are you talking days, weeks, what?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the answer to the first -- actually, the short answer to both questions is, I don't know. I'll tell you what I do know. I know that Prime Minister Barak strongly believes that the nature of this process is such that the final decisions cannot be made except by a meeting between the two leaders, and that he cannot go further than he has gone without that sort of meeting.

Chairman Arafat understands that the nature of the process is such that the final decisions will have to be made by the two leaders. And so they're willing to give it their best shot. And they understand, too, that as we have already seen, delay tends to make these things worse, not better.

One of the most important judgments any political leader has to make when dealing with a thorny problem is whether delay will make it better or worse. Occasionally, you actually get problems where the best thing to do right now is nothing, that delay will actually cause them to become less severe. These are not such problems. Delay only seems to me to make them more severe. So that's the answer to the first question.

The second question is, we all know what the deal is. We know what the issues are. We know at least within a range what the options are. I think if we work hard we can get it done in several days, but I will give it whatever time is required, as long as we're still moving forward.

Q Mr. President, could you describe the extent of your participation? Are you going to move up to Camp David, lock, stock and barrel, for as long as it takes? And are you

going to present a U.S., maybe a model plan, that might bring these two sides together?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think the less I say right now about what I'm going to do, the better. And I will spend as much time there as I need to spend. I may come back here from time to time, depending on what else is happening, what else we need to do. We've got a lot going on in Congress now, even though they'll be gone a lot -- some of the time, perhaps. But I think they'll be here most of the time we'll be here, and I may have to come back. So we'll just see. But I will be there a lot and I'll work as hard as I need to work.

Q What happens if this slips past the deadline in September, how important is that deadline?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's a deadline they set for themselves, and I think they all see it in terms that are -- both sides see it in terms that are different from the deadline they set for the framework agreement -- that is, they knew that there were problems inherent in making the framework agreement that if they could overcome, they could make the final agreement consistent with the framework agreement.

So that's one of the things, obviously, that has driven my decision here. I think that neither of them really want to see us go by September without a resolution of this, and I think they understands the stakes here.

Q Mr. President, can you talk about the symbolism of the location of Camp David, what impact at all it might have on the parties to help them bridge the difficult gaps between them?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it is a place where, obviously, a milestone in Middle East peace was reached, and I hope in that sense, I think it has to be a positive environment. But I think they also realize that from the very beginning, these were the hardest questions that go to the core of both sides' identity and sense of themselves -- far more difficult to resolve, with all respect, than any issues between Israel and the Egyptians or the Jordanians, or even the Syrians. Although we are not there yet with the Syrians, everybody knows pretty much what the deal is there, and that there are practical questions there that are not nearly so charged with emotion and identity, and almost national consciousness as these are.

So these are the difficult ones. And obviously I hope that the setting will help to inspire them and to inspire us. I hope we'll all be inspired by it. But it's also a great place for us to be, because it gives us a reasonable chance to work in quiet and without interruption, and to observe the necessary discretion that, without which, we won't be able to move forward.

Thank you.

Q Mr. President, something about Mexico, about the Mexican elections, please?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I called President Zedillo and congratulated him on what was clearly an open and fair and well-fought election. And I called President-elect Fox and congratulated him on his victory. We talked a little bit about the importance of our relationship and what lies ahead, and I told him that he would be welcome here at any time if he would like to come up.

Obviously, he has a lot of things to do, and he'll have to make that decision. But I'd be happy to meet with him if he would like to come up and sort of get our relationship started. Most of his term will unfold with the next president, but the relationship that we have with Mexico needs to go beyond individual personalities always, because we have too much in common and too much of a future to build together.

Thank you.

END

11:08 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 11, 2000

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
UPON LEAVING FOR CAMP DAVID
TO OPEN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE SUMMIT

South Portico

10:38 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. As all of you know, I am now leaving for Camp David to join Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat in their effort to reach agreement on the core issues the have divided Israelis and Palestinians for half a century now.

The two leaders face profound and wrenching questions, and there can be no success without principled compromise. The road to peace, as always, is a two-way street. Both leaders feel the weight of history, but both, I believe, recognize this is a moment in history which they can seize. We have an opportunity to bring about a just and enduring end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. That is the key to lasting peace in the entire Middle East. Of course, there is no guarantee of success, but not to try is to guarantee failure.

The path ahead builds on the journey already taken from the first Camp David Summit to Madrid to Oslo; to the first handshake on the lawn between Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman Arafat; to the peace between Israel and Jordan and the agreement at Wye River. The parties have proven that peace is possible when they are determined to make it.

In the process, they have passed the point of no return. The only way forward now is forward. Both sides must find a way to resolve competing claims, to give their children the gift of peace. It will take patience and creativity and courage. But Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat have those qualities, or they would not have come this far.

They will also have the unstinting and unequivocal support of the United States. I'll do everything I can over the coming days to see that this moment of promise is fulfilled. And

I hope that those leaders will have the thoughts and prayers and support of all Americans.

Thank you very much.

Q Mr. President, having barely survived the no confidence vote, does Prime Minister Barak come here with a handicap? Can he negotiate with the full weight of the Knesset and the Israeli people behind him?

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I'll say what I said yesterday -- the polls show, in Israel, that well over half the people support his coming here and believe he ought to work for peace. Secondly, he has promised to put whatever agreement is reached here, if an agreement is reached, to a vote of the people.

So they have nothing to lose. They'll have final say anyway. There ought to be 100 percent support for his coming here, because the people will be the ultimate deciders on the question. So I think that that is fine. And, yes, he had an eight-vote margin yesterday; I would remind you that on most of the days when Yitzhak Rabin came here, he had a one-vote margin in the Knesset.

So I think we're in as good a shape as we're ever going to get, and we might as well just go to work. Thank you very much.

END

10:43 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 11, 2000

PRESS BRIEFING BY
JOE LOCKHART

Thurmont Elementary School
Thurmont, Maryland

4:25 P.M. EDT

MR. LOCKHART: Welcome to our first session here in Thurmont. Let me just walk you through some of the logistics of what's already happened. And then I'll give you what little I know about what's going to happen the rest of the day, and I'll take your questions.

I think as most of you know, Chairman Arafat arrived about 1:00 a.m. to Camp David. He was greeted by the Secretary of State. Prime Minister Barak arrived about 6:00 a.m., again was greeted by Secretary of State. The President came in about 11:25-11:30 a.m., had about, I'd say, a 20-25 minute meeting with his team to get ready for today's events.

And then about noon the President and Chairman Arafat began their first bilateral of these discussions. The bilateral took place on the back porch of the President's cabin up here at Camp David, and it lasted a little bit more than a half an hour. After about a 10 or 15-minute session again with the President's team, Prime Minister Barak came to the same location. They sat in the same place, on the back balcony porch area of the President's cabin. That meeting lasted somewhere between, I'd say, 45 and 50 minutes.

Again, after another break, the President went out to the front area of the Aspen Cottage, his cottage, was joined there by Chairman Arafat. About 30 seconds later, Prime Minister Barak came from his cabin. They stood, talked for a few moments, and then started the walk over to the Laurel Cottage, where I think the pool saw -- I think the pictures have been transmitted around the world at this point.

On the way over, the President gave them a short history of Camp David, including its naming and how it started, talked a little bit about the great weather up here, how it's anywhere from 8 to 10 degrees cooler than in Washington, D.C.,

and extolled the great virtues of the sports facility, including the bowling alley.

The delegations went into the Laurel Cabin. After a brief tour that the President gave to Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Barak, the plenary session opened at about 2:30 p.m. It lasted about 30 minutes.

Let me stop there and give you a little bit on that session. I think as the pictures we will release will indicate, they sat at a long, rectangular table, with 21 delegates sitting at the table, another 13 in chairs behind -- that was the President plus eight; Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Barak plus five.

As far as where we are now, the meetings began today in a good atmosphere. The discussions have been serious. I think both sides, in their discussions with the President and in the plenary session, indicated that they fully understand the difficulties that face them over the next days, but also the opportunity that's before them. They all, in their discussions and in their statements in the session, indicated the importance of getting to work and getting to work quickly, because there are very difficult issues at hand.

The plenary session also discussed and reached an agreement that from the beginning of the session, the two sides and the United States side would impose a news blackout on the substance of the discussions from this point forward. I think both sides agreed that any substantive announcements would be made by a representative of the United States government and the United States government would, unless explicitly agreed by all sides, keep the discussions and the substance of the discussions in the Camp David meeting areas and not air them out in the public.

I think both sides agreed that this was in the best interest of reaching an agreement and in the best interest of avoiding spending and wasting a lot of time discussing various newspaper accounts each day of what's going on in the session.

We will make available to you, I think shortly after this briefing, the delegation list. We will also be making copies of a Camp David history, which gives you some background on Camp David. The one piece that I will point out is that the President obviously is staying in his cottage. The Prime Minister is staying in the Dogwood Cottage. And Chairman Arafat is staying in Birch, the Birch Cottage. And my understanding is that is a reverse of 1978, when Sadat stayed in Dogwood, Begin stayed in Birch.

Questions.

Q Joe, you began by saying that -- in the course of the description of what happened today, you talked about, they understood this, they understood this -- you listed about three or four things. You didn't make any mention as to whether they indicated they understood his appeal for compromise. Did they indicate that they understood that as well?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I think the President has made that quite clear. The President has made that quite clear in his public and his private statements, and they're both here. So it's certainly our view that both sides will need to compromise to reach an agreement.

Q I know your view; that's not the question. The President, especially today in a lengthy statement, in several ways and considerable eloquence, talked about the need for the two sides to compromise. And you said they understood how important the issues are, they understood this, they understood the weather is good, and everything. Did they express any response? Did they say, we understand; we should and will try to compromise our differences?

MR. LOCKHART: I'm not going to get into making judgments of what they think or believe, or get into any more detail than I did in what they said in the discussions.

Q Any progress at all to report this early?

MR. LOCKHART: Let me use that as a way of saying that I have no intention over the next few days to provide progress reports. The issues -- the delegations know each other well; they know the issues well. I think it's very clear the difficulty of these issues as they move forward. And I think the best thing to do is to allow the parties to try to work through these differences, narrow those differences, and not provide an update each and every time I come up here on where they are.

Q There was a little "you first; no, you first," going in the doorway. Are these guys just bending over backwards to help each other, or they can't quite cross the threshold --

MR. LOCKHART: I think that they obviously greeted each other a few moments before in a very friendly way. They had a very pleasant discussion as they walked through the woods down to the cabin. And those who have watched Chairman Arafat in particular will note that he always tries to allow those that he's with to enter a building before him, and that's what happened.

Q Was the conversation in English, this pleasant conversation?

MR. LOCKHART: Yes.

Q On that point, on the entrance, how long did this little Laurel and Hardy routine go on? Did it end pretty quickly and did they get down to the serious meat of it, or was there more kind of joking --

MR. LOCKHART: Without attempting the cinema allusion there, it lasted probably five to 10 seconds.

Q To what extent did they discuss the public reactions to calling the summit, in general, particularly the no confidence vote in Israel? Did they discuss the situation back home for Barak?

MR. LOCKHART: The plenary session was mostly an opportunity for the President to lay out what was at stake and how we would move forward. As far as the discussions in the bilateral, I'm not aware to what extent that was discussed.

Q Has Israel indicated to the U.S. an intention to suspend the Falcon deal?

MR. LOCKHART: I know that that has been an issue that's been of concern to the United States government. It's been raised at a number of levels, including between the President and the Prime Minister. They have discussed it often, but I'm not aware that the government of Israel has made a final decision.

Q What is the significance of reversing where each President is staying in each room from Camp David in 1978? Because you pointed this out, and there must be reason for doing that.

MR. LOCKHART: I think they're both good cabins and they wanted to make sure that everyone had a chance to appreciate all of the fine elements of each cabin.

Q -- bilateral meetings with Barak and Arafat?

MR. LOCKHART: I can't tell you, looking into the future, how this will unfold. As far as the rest of this evening, my understanding is that about 5:00 p.m. this evening, the President will have another bilateral with Prime Minister Barak, which will be followed by a bilateral with Chairman Arafat. From that point on, I'm not sure, and I think I've given you a fairly lengthy rundown with times, events.

I don't expect that that service will be continued, because I think how they meet, when they meet, who they meet with gets very much to the substance, and that's something that we won't be talking about.

Q Will they be visiting anywhere locally?

MR. LOCKHART: If they decide that they want to go out and visit any of the local areas, we'll let you know.

Q Have the two sides been asked to turn over their cell phones?

MR. LOCKHART: I don't know that anyone's been asked to turn over his cell phone. I can tell you from my own experience they don't work in the areas where we are working. (Laughter.) So it's kind of a moot point.

Q -- negotiator?

MR. LOCKHART: There may be some discussions on non-core issues. I'll let you know when and if that gets put together.

Q Joe, if there's a breakthrough, is there any way that the President would consider not going on July 19th to Okinawa, Japan?

MR. LOCKHART: I think even in a news blackout, hypotheticals are best left alone.

Q -- recognize the protests of Jewish settlers here before the President, and did they comment on them?

MR. LOCKHART: I'm not sure that they were aware of those. I only became aware of them when I drove in the parking lot.

Q Is he planning to stay tonight up here?

MR. LOCKHART: The President will stay -- the President has indicated and indicated to the parties that he will stay, and devote as much time as is constructive to this process. He will be staying tonight. The only events that I know of that are fixed on his calendar that he needs to attend are on Thursday. He's got a longstanding speech at the NAACP in Baltimore, and then a Congressional Medal of Honor, I believe, event in the Capitol. But other than that, I expect that we'll be spending the majority of our time here.

Q In what way has Mrs. Albright been engaged?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, she obviously participated in the meetings with the President before he went into his bilaterals. During his bilaterals, she met with various members of each delegation in an informal way, and she'll continue it. I think the Secretary of State will be here from now until these discussions are finished; she's committed to staying here to see that through. As far as anything beyond that, I don't have anything at this point.

Q Will Arafat and Barak meet alone with each other, or will the President always be with them when they are together?

MR. LOCKHART: There are many possibilities for meetings. I'm not going to try to predict.

Q In those meetings, are there any proposals, papers -- are there any proposals from the American side?

MR. LOCKHART: If there were any proposals or papers or ideas, that would go to substance, and I wouldn't comment on it.

Q Do you think President Clinton will be able to apply pressure on both sides, knowing that the difficulties that Prime Minister Barak has been facing with the coalition of his government --

MR. LOCKHART: I think the President has made very clear in his public statements he understands the difficulties that face the two parties. As he said this morning, if this was easy, it would have been done a long time ago. But I think he also understands the unique opportunity that's before us, and we'll do whatever we can to make sure that we can reach an agreement.

Q Did you think that the two leaders are under pressure -- Barak with his Cabinet crisis, and Arafat with refugees, hundreds have taken to the streets on the West Bank -- do you feel that there is a sense of pressure on the two leaders?

MR. LOCKHART: I felt that they were both here in a serious attempt to make peace, and beyond that, I'm not going to comment.

Q -- below the presidential level, you said the Secretary has met, what, with the two principals, with members of the two delegations?

MR. LOCKHART: There were a lot of, I'd say, in the time that the President held his two bilaterals -- it's like an area in the woods that there are a number of cabins nearby, and there were a lot of, I guess in diplomatic circles you'd call pull-asides, conversations with people who were talking about how we're going to move forward this week. I don't know that any of them can be described as really formal. But certainly there were a number of discussions, both from Ambassador Ross, the National Security Advisor Berger, Secretary of State Albright, and others.

Q -- reports that Israel has decided to cancel the sale of the advanced warning system to China. Has there been any indication of that?

MR. LOCKHART: I got a question about that earlier, and I'll stick with that answer.

Q Will the President be here at all on Thursday, or is he going to spend the entire day doing other things?

MR. LOCKHART: What I do know about Thursday, he will give the speech, he will be on the Hill. I certainly wouldn't rule out the probability of the President spending some time on Thursday here.

Q Did the President call any congressional leaders before he came up here this morning, any sort of last touching base with --

MR. LOCKHART: The President had a series of telephone discussions with congressional leaders. I think this and some other issues were on the table this morning before he left.

Q Joe, has he spoken to President Carter in terms of getting any wisdom from him in terms of how --

MR. LOCKHART: I don't think he's spoken to him in the last few days. Let me make a couple of points on that. He's certainly had the opportunity and the privilege to talk to President Carter over the last seven or eight years both about the Camp David experience and the overall Middle East peace, as well as a number of other subjects around the world. The second is, the President has been well immersed in this process now for seven and a half years. I think he's spent a lot of time getting ready on the particular issues here that are unique to these discussions. And I wouldn't rule out that at some point in time he might want to touch base not only with people who have expertise here in the United States, but leaders around the world.

Q -- how he prepared -- was there anything in particular he read, or anyone that he spoke to that --

MR. LOCKHART: He had two long meetings with his team, one on Friday for about three hours, one on Sunday evening for about two hours. He had a large reading list that, based on some discussions we've had, he got all the way through. I know that there was one book in particular, I think by Bill Quandt, about the Camp David peace process. I'm not sure if he got through the whole thing, I think someone may have pulled some sections of that. But there were a number of articles, a number of academic pieces that he had a chance to get to, as well as having a chance to spend many hours with his team.

Q In Shepherdstown, there was an American working document. Is there any plan that there will be such a thing also at this summit?

MR. LOCKHART: I think I'll try to make clear -- clearer -- that anything that has to do with the substance of the discussion I'm not going to comment on.

Q Do you anticipate any more Middle East leaders showing up at Camp David, too, during the duration?

MR. LOCKHART: I'm not aware of any plans for that, but I certainly don't want to rule out the possibility. I think anything is possible.

Q You said that the President -- told both parties what was going to happen, he set the agenda. Would it be fair to say that the United States in general set the agenda for this meeting?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I don't want to overplay the significance of that. I think both parties and the United States understands what the issues are. The President talked --

Q But how to proceed, which one comes first --

MR. LOCKHART: I think that these are discussions that will take place as the days move on, starting later on this afternoon. But I certainly view the sequencing of issues to the extent that they deal with one first or one next, or whatever, is part of the substance. So I'm just not going to get into that.

Q Have you received any bill from either side with any price tag for reaching a deal?

MR. LOCKHART: Do I have to stand up here after Barry's left? (Laughter.)

Q Have you received any bill from either side with a price for reaching a deal? I mean, support, financial support.

MR. LOCKHART: I don't know that that sort of discussion is appropriate at this point. I certainly know that the U.S. in the past has sought to help in a number of ways. That is one of the ways, but I think we're getting ahead of ourselves.

Q During Shepherdstown, when the President was meeting with either of the two parties, the Secretary of State was meeting with either Barak or -- this time you mentioned that she was meeting members of the delegations.

MR. LOCKHART: Listen, I don't know her exact schedule. I certainly know that she will have the opportunity in this day and the next day to meet both with Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat. I wouldn't read much significant into the logistics there.

Q -- the bilats this afternoon, are there any plans for a group dinner at all tonight perhaps?

MR. LOCKHART: I think we're going to take this one step at a time. There are no firm plans beyond what I've told you. And I think, for all of your planning purposes, what I'll try to do is give you late tonight some idea that they've broken for the night. There may be more details; there may not. And I may hold until tomorrow morning, some sort of more formal readout of what happened this evening. For those of you who are going to hang around for nothing, that's fine. But those who have better things to do, you should go do them.

Q Joe, when will we see you again?

MR. LOCKHART: You will see me again here, hopefully, sometime tomorrow morning. I'll try to come by mid-morning. We'll get you a time, though.

Q Joe, do you have a list of the people who were in the plenary session?

MR. LOCKHART: We'll get you a delegation list, and I think almost everybody in the delegations were in the meeting. There were, I think, 34 or 35 people in the room.

Q -- Palestinian team?

MR. LOCKHART: The which one?

Q The second person. I mean, under Arafat, who is the second man --

MR. LOCKHART: I'll give you the delegation list. I'm not going to rank members. I certainly hope no one would rank who is most important in our delegation.

Q Is he at all flexible on Okinawa, or is that a deadline for this process?

MR. LOCKHART: I think the President intends to travel to Okinawa to do the G-8. It's something he's done for the last seven years, and that's what the schedule is.

Q How are the three men getting along? Have there been any harsh words? Has it all been cordial?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, they have spent now probably 30 or 40 minutes together. I think I described for you faithfully that they greeted each other in a very friendly way. They walked down through the woods, had a very pleasant conversation led by the President, mostly about the history of Camp David. And then they had the plenary and have now gone their separate ways. So I think the atmosphere is good and the mood is serious.

Q No harsh or -- words?

MR. LOCKHART: Let me take one more and then we'll go.

Q Does the President plan to propose his own ideas on how the two sides should proceed?

MR. LOCKHART: I think what the President does in the context of these discussions is something that will be done within the discussions, and I won't be commenting on them. Thank you.

END

4:45 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Camp David, Maryland)

For Immediate Release

July 12, 2000

PRESS BRIEFING BY
JOE LOCKHART

Thurmont Elementary School
Thurmont, Maryland

11:42 A.M. EDT

MR. LOCKHART: Good morning. I'll give you a little update of what's gone on since I saw you last, since we reported to you last, yesterday evening. I think we took you up through the two bilaterals that happened late in the afternoon. After that, the President, the two leaders, and their delegations -- roughly somewhere around 40 people -- had dinner together in the Laurel Cabin.

The President, Prime Minister Barak, Chairman Arafat sat at one table, with about 15 or so of their aides. Secretary of State Albright hosted another table. National Security Advisor Berger hosted the third table, filling out the room. They dined on tenderloin of beef with sun-dried tomatoes, fillet of salmon with Thai curry sauce, roast baby Yukon potatoes, steamed green beans with almonds, a mixed garden salad, fresh fruit, and assorted desserts.

After that meeting -- after the dinner, the President had a brief bilateral session with Chairman Arafat in his office at Laurel, and they retired for the evening. The President, for his part, went back and watched the end of the All-Star game with his daughter, Chelsea.

This morning the President got up and was out by about, I think, 8:45 a.m.-9:00 a.m., for a walk with his dog, Buddy, and stopped by the Laurel Cabin, and then started his day in earnest just before 10:00 a.m. with a meeting with his team. As I left, he was beginning a bilateral with Prime Minister Barak.

What I expect for the rest of the day is a series of meetings between the parties in a number of different formats and at a number of different levels. I expect the President will possibly meet later today with the negotiators from each side. I expect that members of our team will meet with the negotiators. I also expect the negotiators to meet with each other. I have no firm sense right now of exactly how that will all transpire, and

when we come back later today I'll give you as much as I can on that.

Let me just point out one thing that struck me as I walked around this morning. There is a certain informality on the Camp David site that I think is adding some value to these discussions. There's meetings going on, both formal and informal, all over the place. At breakfast, the delegations are sitting together in small groups and having discussions. You see people walking around, you see members of the delegations driving around together in golf carts, which is the mode of transportation out there. So there's a certain informality out there that's adding to the contact.

Now, having said that, and to not try to underplay the seriousness and the problems that they face here, as an overall statement about the discussions that they are having, as we've said all along, as the President said, these are very difficult issues -- these are very serious issues. So I don't want to create the impression, although it is what I still believe is a good atmosphere there, we have known all along that this was going to be a struggle, and it is. The discussions are serious, but the positions that both parties bring here represent what they see as vital interests to their people and have been difficult issues that we've worked on now for many, many years.

So, to the extent that we went into this knowing it would be a struggle, we have not been disappointed by that. This is a very difficult process in a short time frame, with very difficult issues, and they are working in a very serious way. But we certainly know that this effort, from the beginning, will be a struggle.

Q There were some reports that Chairman Arafat is convening a meeting tomorrow of his senior leadership. Would the United States be amenable to such a meeting on the Camp David summit site?

MR. LOCKHART: I have not seen that report. As I understand the situation, the delegations are remaining on Camp David, and only those -- there are only some members, like myself, who come back and forth, who will be leaving Camp David.

Q -- the substance of their previous negotiations in Israel -- have they gotten into any substance that you could talk about?

MR. LOCKHART: They certainly entered into discussions on the substance. We all know what the core issues are. All of them have been discussed at the highest level. And this is -- let me say that we have a difficult task ahead, and I think yesterday was a day where they got right to it.

Q What is the White House reaction to the Israeli announcement, the confirmation that they have canceled the -- sale to China?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, obviously, given our previous statements, we welcome the decision. This has been an important issue to us and a subject of continuing discussion at a variety of levels of the government, including between the President and the Prime Minister. And we are pleased to see that they've taken our security concerns into account in making this decision.

Q May I follow up?

MR. LOCKHART: Sure.

Q But haven't they -- two questions. One is existentialist --let's do existentialism first. One of your rationales for promoting and sort of prodding Israel into making concessions and coming to terms with the Palestinians and with other Arabs is that it will enhance Israel's status in the world, that it will enhance its diplomatic contacts, its business contacts, it will be accepted by the international community. And here you have the cancellation of a quarter billion-dollar sale that would do a lot for Israel's economy, for its relationship with a country that you're locked in an embrace with -- China.

So let me put the two questions together. Did it turn out you didn't believe Israel when it said that it would do nothing that would hurt American security concerns, and doesn't this run counter to your objective of opening the window on the world for Israel?

MR. LOCKHART: I don't believe so on either a philosophical or a practical sense. Israel has made a decision here, they took into account our security concerns. We appreciate that, and welcome their decision. As far as what the government of Israel, what Chairman Arafat gets out of this, we believe and it's the reason we're here, that it is in the best interest for both parties and for the region as a whole to engineer a peace.

Q Did the United States promise Israel to compensate over the cancellation of the deal?

MR. LOCKHART: I'm not aware of any such promise.

Q Do you see it having any effect at all on the summit?

MR. LOCKHART: I view the issues that face the summit as complicated enough and difficult enough to not have to bring other issues into it.

Q When did the Prime Minister tell the President?

MR. LOCKHART: I know they've been talking about this for a few days. I know this was part of their discussion yesterday, so I have to assume that this was done yesterday.

Q We know that Barak talked to Senator Lott yesterday. How important was cancelling this deal to ultimately getting congressional approval for any aid package?

MR. LOCKHART: That's a question you would have to ask Congress.

Q Joe, knowing that the President will be leaving for Japan, I think at the end of the week, do you think that the next few days until he leaves for that trip, do you think it will be enough to come up with some positive progress from this conference?

MR. LOCKHART: I don't think we'd be here if we didn't think we could achieve a positive outcome. There's a lot of work to be done, but I think all sides have come here in a serious mode in order to try to get that work done.

Q Joe, are there any extracurricular outings planned while the summit's going on? When you were in Shepherdstown, I don't know that it was the President, but somebody took the principles to some --

MR. LOCKHART: I would expect -- there's nothing planned at this point, and I actually would not anticipate there being too much of that. I think whether there would be any outside trips, outside of Camp David, I think given the fact that we have an enormous task in front of us, and that time is not unlimited, that they'll stay concentrated on the issues at hand.

Q The cancellation of -- during these talks until now -- can we suppose that the cancellation was the potential issue of the talks between Clinton and Barak during the first day of the talk?

MR. LOCKHART: That would be an incorrect assumption if you assume that. The main focus, both in effort and time, were the core issues that are in front of us in order to reach a final agreement.

Q Had Israel made the decision when Mr. Barak talked to the President last night, or did their conversation help produce the decision? In other words, did the President encourage him further, or was it a decision already taken?

MR. LOCKHART: I do not know the precise answer to that question. I think it would be best put to their people.

Q -- but is there is a sense in the Camp that progress is being made within these --

MR. LOCKHART: I think, as I indicated yesterday, I'm not going to try to get into a -- go down the slippery slope of progress or no progress. I think at the beginning here I tried to indicate how difficult this is, and I think I'll leave it there.

Q We've been told that the President is going to be leaving after the Barak meeting, about 6:00 p.m. He's got the NAACP speech tomorrow and then we've got the Sabbath. That doesn't leave a lot of time for him to be here. And one of the things that people have said about the 1978 Camp David Accords was Carter ever presence was very helpful in getting that agreement.

MR. LOCKHART: Well, listen, let me make a couple points here. A is I would warn against trying to draw too many comparisons to 1978; this is not 1978. Secondly, I'd warn against what you've been told by people who are not at Camp David, because that information you were told is inaccurate. We don't know whether he's leaving tonight. He's certainly not going anyplace at 6:00 p.m. tonight. He would either leave very late this evening or very early in the morning.

We have sufficient time to get this done. The issues are well-known to the parties. They've been working at this for seven and a half years now; the question is will there be -- can we create something that will allow the leaders to take the courageous steps to peace.

Q You told us about one plenary session yesterday and half a dozen or more bilaterals. What's the schedule going to be for additional meetings -- three-way meetings, or do you know that yet?

MR. LOCKHART: I think I indicated at the top here that there will be a number of different sessions this afternoon. They're being put together as we speak. And what I will try to do is give you some sense later in the day if I can of the format of some of these things. But I'm not going to try to preview them before they've happened.

Q Do you expect more members to join the Israeli official delegation at Camp David --

MR. LOCKHART: Not that I know of.

Q What was the reaction at Camp David when the leaders saw the picture this morning of Prime Minister Barak pushing Arafat inside? What was the reaction?

MR. LOCKHART: It was the subject of a lot of laughing around the breakfast table.

Q Can I ask a different question on a domestic topic? Does the White House have any reaction to Senator Roth's

move this morning to propose a government-administered program for drug benefits for Medicare --

MR. LOCKHART: I think that the move in the Senate to have a prescription drug program within Medicare should provide momentum for what the President's been proposing. It is a sharp repudiation of what the House Republicans proposed, and it's a program that everyone knows won't work, because the insurance companies that would administer it have said they don't want to participate in it. It was a program to provide political cover and not coverage.

Now, having said that, there are a number of problems we have with that plan as far as how it would work, the kind of resources that are being applied to it. But I think overall, it's certainly our hope that the Senate, now weighing in on the side of the President on prescription drugs, should give this issue momentum.

Q May I ask a question about the atmospherics? Are they all eating breakfast together in one large room? What cabin is it in and how do they sit --

MR. LOCKHART: Meals are served in the Laurel Cabin. In that room, there are I think three large round tables set up throughout the day with probably 12 chairs or so around them. The meals are served buffet-style, and it's really first come, first serve. When you -- so anytime you walk in there during the day, you will generally find a small number of people and a cross-section of various delegations, sitting together having a meal.

Q Did they have breakfast together --

MR. LOCKHART: There were certainly across from me about three members of the Palestinian delegation and two members of the Israel delegation having breakfast together, and that's fairly typical.

Q -- President's personal relationships? I mean, any anecdotal thing about his interactions with these guys?

MR. LOCKHART: I think the President has a very good relationship with both Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Barak. He's now worked with them extensively. I think just watching the interaction, you can see that they believe that they can engage in discussions and that there is a certain level of trust. I think that is something that's essential to this process here, and essential to the U.S. role, that both parties come here in a position where they trust the President and understand the role he's trying to play.

Q You said that they discussed all of the issues. Can you give us some sense of how long they spent on each issue?

Is the President initiating discussion of an issue? Are they hopscotching around --

MR. LOCKHART: I'm not going to try to dissect the meetings down to percentages, but suffice it to say that the core issues are well-known and they're all being thoroughly discussed.

Q What about the level of trust between Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Barak? How are they interacting together?

MR. LOCKHART: They interacted yesterday, both at the dinner and in the walk with the President and the plenary session. I think, obviously, as I said in the beginning here, these issues are difficult and getting there is a struggle, and that's just something that I think will continue from now until we pick up and leave here.

Q I was just wondering, is Palestine receiving an equal representation in talks, especially since cancellation of the -- talks by Barak give even a closer relationship between the U.S. and Israel?

MR. LOCKHART: I think that the reason that the President and the United States government can act as an honest broker here is that because they are an honest broker and both sides understand that.

Q Considering the China deal, is it your understanding that the deal has been cancelled once and for all, or suspended? The Israeli announcement is a little bit vague on that.

MR. LOCKHART: My understanding from the announcement was that they have taken fully into consideration our security concerns and the concerns we have raised about security in the region. From our point of view, those security concerns and our overall concern for that system in the region will not change.

Q Joe, did you think the President and Arafat and Barak -- (inaudible) --

MR. LOCKHART: Not that I'm aware of. I think all shapes, forms, possibilities, combinations are in the realm of possibility and in the realm of probability.

Q -- timetable for meetings over the next few days, or will they be --

MR. LOCKHART: I think they took some time both last night and this morning to look at what today will look like, and I hopefully will give you a bit more of a sense of that later in the day.

Q Are you including interim issues or --

MR. LOCKHART: No, I think the issues that are central here are the core final status issues.

Q Can you say at this point that the President is completely understanding of where both sides are and is now trying to forge a compromise between the two, or are you still trying to get a handle on where they're --

MR. LOCKHART: I think it's impossible to separate those two things, they're both part of the process.

Q -- schedule, when you expect to be back here --

MR. LOCKHART: I will try to come back here between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. I can't tell you that I'll have any more than I have right now, but if you'll have me, I'll be here.

Q -- develops, anything else this morning -- is that different from all their meetings --

MR. LOCKHART: Let me say this without getting into too many other meetings. I think Camp David is uniquely engineered to provide sort of an informal atmosphere, given the closeness of all of the different living facilities, given the propensity for people to walk between places or take golf carts, and given the common facilities for things like eating and recreation.

Q Can you imagine any circumstances where Clinton would not go to Japan because his presence would be so necessary at a crucial juncture at this summit?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, there's a reason that I don't try to get up here and talk about my imagination, and that question is one of them.

Q -- if it's not too early, when he is away this week, on Thursday, does the Secretary of State sort of step in and --

MR. LOCKHART: Yes, the Secretary of State will be here the whole time and it will be her function to direct our group in the absence of the President.

Q -- if Chelsea has gone to the dinners, or has she interacted with the other --

MR. LOCKHART: She had a chance to meet both leaders yesterday as they came for the first bilat. She was there with the President; the President introduced her to both. What she's been doing during the meetings I'm not really sure. I know she had a chance to spend some time with her father last night to watch the end of the baseball game. I think she's both getting a chance to witness an important event and also enjoy something she's grown to enjoy, the atmosphere of Camp David.

Q Any recreation by anybody, any bowling, any jogging?

MR. LOCKHART: I understand from my people here that bowling has become a preoccupation with many of you, and I checked this morning, and no one entered the bowling alley yesterday.

Q Why? (Laughter.)

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I don't know, but I certainly have personal plans to change that today. (Laughter.)

Q You know it's the Nixon bowling alley? Do these people know that?

MR. LOCKHART: I didn't know that. That could be the answer to Anne's question. (Laughter.)

Yes, we'll take a couple more.

Q You said, Joe, earlier that they were laughing together at breakfast. Have they been communicating to one another directly or with interpretation?

MR. LOCKHART: Most -- the vast majority of the conversations are direct, as I think most of the people here have excellent linguistic skills in several languages. But I think the structure of Camp David and the closeness of everything has given everyone a chance to talk not only in the formal sessions that they enter in, but also informally.

Q Joe, what kind of a message does he want to take to the NAACP tomorrow?

MR. LOCKHART: I think the President will talk about what this administration has done over the last seven and a half years for African Americans in this country as far as bringing opportunity to that community, what we've got done and what we still need to do.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

12:05 P.M. EDT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesman
(Thurmont, Maryland)

For Immediate Release
2000/793

July 12, 2000

PRESS BRIEFING BY
SPOKESMAN RICHARD BOUCHER

Thurmont Elementary School

MR. BOUCHER: All right. Let's see. First thing, I'm not in a position to deal with any Middle Eastern issues, anything involving the talks -

Q Known as the non-MEPP issues, right?

MR. BOUCHER: Not by me.

So anybody who boarded the wrong airplane, this is your chance to deplane. This plane ain't going to the Middle East.

All right. We're as ready as we are. I'm just going to mention Phil is putting out a statement on the Pakistan sea turtle conservation and shrimp import quota. I can read you every word slowly if you'd like.

Q Does this have anything to do with Sheehan's testimony this morning in Congress?

Q Are they recruiting turtles now to free Kashmir?

MR. BOUCHER: If you want me to read every word on it

--

Q No, please don't.

Q Is there a ban on shrimp?

Q Richard, how about Peru?

MR. BOUCHER: How about Peru.

Q Senator Coverdale has introduced legislation to affect foreign aid to Peru based on their lack of movement towards democracy. You've got wire reports from Mr. Schweid today --

Q You can't believe wire reports --

Q -- he is not moving forward very quickly toward his promises of democracy.

Q Did he promise?

Q He promises to take steps.

Q Promised to consider them.

Q Anyway, more of the focus on the Coverdale legislation.

MR. BOUCHER: I don't have a position for you on the Coverdale legislation, per se. I do want to say that the Peruvian Government did agree to a dialogue and our position continues to be one of urging all the parties in Peru in the political process to work cooperatively on a dialogue about reform. We are pleased to note there has been the appointment of a Dominican Foreign Minister, Eduardo Latorre on July 11, as the permanent secretary to the OAS mission in Peru. And he is going to oversee the process of dialogue and reform. He is a distinguished expert on international affairs. We look forward to his contributions.

Q So are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the case?

MR. BOUCHER: We are continuing to press for a dialogue and we think this is the chance to have it.

Q Richard, do you have anything on the talks breaking down in Malaysia --

MR. BOUCHER: Breaking down is not a word we use.

Q Stalled?

Q They've demanded a billion dollars. Unless you guys are prepared to give it, I would call that a breakdown.

Q Blackmail.

MR. BOUCHER: You know, when we're not on camera, everybody gets a lot looser, don't they?

Q Oh, yeah, Matt's always been so up tight.

MR. BOUCHER: He's always been so careful --

Q Matt provides all my sound bites.

MR. BOUCHER: And nattily dressed, as well.

Q Would you characterize it as ballistic blackmail?

Q Focused?

MR. BOUCHER: No, I would - I think it's important to make very clear that we think the North Koreans should not be compensated for agreeing to stop conducting activities that they shouldn't be conducting in the first place. Our longstanding policy that stems from the Agreed Framework of 1994 as well as the Perry Report, has been that we are prepared to pursue a step by step improvement in our relations with North Korea towards full economic and political normalization. Naturally, in that process, there would be some tangible benefits for North Korea. But we are prepared to discuss this kind of normalization only in the context of North Korea addressing issues that are of concern to the United States.

One of the issues of critical concern to the United States is North Korea's missile activities. So as North Korea addresses these concerns and deals with the missile question, we're prepared to continue along the path of normalization. And, as I said, that will in the process involve benefits to North Korea. But we are not in a position, we are not prepared to take compensation to get them to stop doing something that they shouldn't be doing in the first place.

Q How about the other related issue now that they are also talking about compensation for the Quito slowdown. Anything on that?

MR. BOUCHER: No.

Q What does this do the prospects for the Secretary meeting --

MR. BOUCHER: Sorry. On Quito, we remain committed to making that work.

Q What does this do to the prospects of a meeting between the Secretary and the Foreign Minister of ASEAN?

MR. BOUCHER: To quote the Secretary, stay tuned.

Q Stay tuned? It won't be a jovial meeting, will it?

Q Richard, can you give us what was earlier given on background on Bashar's election, the referendum? Can you give it on the record.

Q It's a hell of a vote for a 34-year-old.

Q Well, you know, he got less than his dad, so I think it's a slip.

Q Does the US see the two percentage point slip from 99 percent to 97 percent as an indication that the Assad family legacy is weakening? (Laughter.)

Q Almost a coup.

Q Go ahead. (Laughter.)

Q Isn't it refreshing? (Laughter.)

Q Tell us about free and fair elections.

MR. BOUCHER: They have completed the referendum. They overwhelmingly ratified the candidacy of Bashar Assad. As we all know, the parliament had earlier unanimously approved his nomination.

These are the procedures spelled out in the Syrian constitution. And we expect he will take the oath of office shortly.

As for our relationships, it's what the Secretary said when she was in Damascus. She was impressed with his commitment to the peace process and she observed that he seems poised and

ready to assume his duties, is what she said. So we look forward to discussing the peace process once he has been inaugurated as president.

Q Apparently there is a rumor percolating that the US and Vietnam have agreed in principle to normalize trade ties. Do you know anything about this?

MR. BOUCHER: No, that's not something I have anything on. USTR. You might check with USTR on that.

Q Do you have anything on the Bahraini princess? I understand that you do.

MR. BOUCHER: Merely to tell you that it's a matter in the hands of the Immigration Service. It concerns a pending hearing before a judge and the case is in the purview of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Q Have there been any talks between the State Department and the Bahrain Government?

MR. BOUCHER: The only thing I can do is refer you to immigration on this. I don't have anything to add.

Q But, Richard, back to Bashar for a second, has the Secretary or has any official from the State Department called to say anything?

MR. BOUCHER: Not that I'm aware of.

Q Can we go to another individual case? The -

MR. BOUCHER: Let me check. I know the Secretary hasn't but let me check if there is anything in Washington.

Q Anything about our grandmother in Kabul who was released by the Taliban?

MR. BOUCHER: The Taliban has made an announcement and our Embassy in Islamabad has been able to confirm it. American citizen, Mary MacMakin and her employees have been released by Taliban authorities. Ms. MacMakin has been ordered to leave Afghanistan within 24 hours. We expect she will arrive in Peshawar, Pakistan tomorrow. She has been accused of spying and making anti-state propaganda.

First of all, we welcome her release. We believe the Taliban's charges against her are ridiculous and that she should be allowed to continue her important work in Afghanistan if she wants to. She has been very active for years in assisting the Afghan people, affiliated with a prominent non-government organization called PARSA, which is the Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Support for Afghanistan.

Our Embassy in Islamabad and State Department officials are continuing to follow the case closely. Secretary Albright is personally concerned with this matter and she is staying closely informed. And our Embassy in Islamabad or consulate in Peshawar will take appropriate action to assist her when she gets there.

Q Was there any readout of the meeting to the State Department of UN officials and the Taliban in Kabul? They were supposed to brief the State Department after the meeting.

MR. BOUCHER: That's not something I can comment on.

Q The Holum visit, the Chinese say they want real assurances that the United States National Missile Defense is not going to affect their strategic deterrent.

MR. BOUCHER: I hadn't seen the statement. I think Under Secretary Holum - Senior Advisor Holum, he talked about it when he left. Now, Secretary Cohen is in Beijing, too.

Q Right, that was from the Cohen visit.

MR. BOUCHER: I am sure he will be addressing those issues.

Q That was what the Chinese have continued to say, they want a real assurance -

MR. BOUCHER: If there is any more detail on what they mean, I would expect they will give it. They might talk about it with Secretary Cohen. But at this stage, we've made quite clear the missile defense program is not directed against China or Russia and it's we don't think an issue that should affect the strategic stability that we have existing now.

Q Do you have any reaction yet from Beijing about the PHALCON decision?

MR. BOUCHER: Three hours ago? Not that I've heard.

Q Can you - on PHALCON --

MR. BOUCHER: No.

Q Is that one of the off-limit - is this a summit issue?

MR. BOUCHER: It was addressed this morning by Joe Lockhart.

Q But we still don't have an answer on whether it's a permanent agreement to not - or whether it's a suspension.

MR. BOUCHER: That's a question he said we should ask the Israelis.

Q I assume he will also get to it for the later briefing? He said he would try to get more clarification on that.

MR. BOUCHER: I think the only thing he said he might look into is exactly when we were told, if I remember correctly.

Q Can you describe sort of as specifically as you can what it is that the US was concerned about in terms of the capability that China would get --

MR. BOUCHER: I really don't want to go beyond what Joe said this morning.

Q How about this one which you may not also be - Iran's refusal to recognize the judgment yesterday - was it yesterday - the 320 something --

MR. BOUCHER: I haven't seen the Iranian statement. But I think I can make clear that we were very sympathetic to the families of Mr. Eisenfeld and Ms. Ducker and any others who have suffered so cruelly at the hands of the state, of state-sponsored terrorism. We have demonstrated, I think, to the world our unwavering commitment to combat international terrorism. We are trying everything we can consistent with the foreign policy interests of our country to help these victims, to satisfy the judgments that they've obtained. We're working also with members of Congress that will satisfy the demands of

justice without setting precedent that could endanger vital American interests.

Q Does that mean that - is there anything in what the Secretary announced in terms of the revisions and the policy that would affect plans to compensate people who have been awarded these - this kind of judgment?

MR. BOUCHER: Funny you should - you would probably find some parallel to the language I just used. In her speech on March 17th, the Secretary said, "We are working with Congress to find a solution that will satisfy the demands of justice without setting a precedent that could endanger US interests in the treatment of diplomatic and other property or that would destroy prospects for a successful dialogue with Iran."

So we don't see those as incompatible. She mentioned that in the same speech where she announced the easing of some of the embargoes.

Q Can you give a readout on the missile talks with North Korea?

MR. BOUCHER: It really just parallels exactly what Einhorn said. He did a detailed readout. But I'll give you the basics. Do we have a transcript of Einhorn?

MR. ERELI: We'll get one.

MR. BOUCHER: We can get you that if you want to go through it in more detail.

Q I thought I already asked this question. Did I not?

Q Yes.

MR. BOUCHER: You asked about the billion dollars. On the actual discussion -

Q The actual discussion did break down?

Q Is this banter in the transcript?

MR. BOUCHER: Yeah, I think this is banter.

Q Crosstalk?

Q Oh, crosstalk. Excuse me.

MR. BOUCHER: I've got a rundown on the talks somewhere here. Here we are.

We believe the talks were very useful. Remember, these talks come after a 16-month hiatus and really no one was expecting major breakthroughs. The three days in Kuala Lumpur gave us an opportunity to exchange detailed views on our respective positions, to discuss proposals that the US has put on the table regarding North Korea's missile exports and its indigenous capabilities and to begin laying the groundwork for hopefully making significant progress in the period ahead. So we believe the discussions were very worthwhile.

Q Did the North Koreans say anything that you know about, Mr. Boucher, with regard to not stemming their exports of missiles as long as the United States was developing its National Missile Defense? Did that come out of there, or do you know?

MR. BOUCHER: I don't want to try to characterize the North Korean position, except to say that they did want to discuss export issues and export issues are very important. As I mentioned, we discussed those as well as very important issues that we have regarding North Korea's indigenous missile capabilities and the threat that those capabilities pose to North Korea's neighbors. So we talked about both missile exports and also about the indigenous missile capability.

Q And testing?

MR. BOUCHER: That falls into the indigenous missile capabilities. They reconfirmed their moratorium on testing.

Q Anything on the OAU summit ending with this kind of call for a United States of Africa? I guess not.

How about on the release of the hostages in Fiji or of the nine hostages? It won't break my heart if you don't have anything.

MR. BOUCHER: Condemning Matt to sit writing little, bitty stories -

Q You've already given me about five.

Q Matt hasn't even gone to the parliamentary elections in Cambodia in the third parliamentary district of Northern Cambodia.

Q It was a bi-election.

Q The first runoff election. (Laughter.)

MR. BOUCHER: What did you just ask about?

Q Fiji. Release of the hostages.

MR. BOUCHER: Release of the hostages. Well, we understand nine hostages have been released from the parliamentary compound. There are still 18 hostages still being held captive. So we continue to call for immediate and unconditional release of all the hostages.

There was also the Turtle Island resort issues and all 15 Americans have safely departed the Turtle Island and are now on Viti Levu Island and they are being assisted by the American Embassy. These 15 Americans are expected to depart Fiji on Thursday or Friday.

Q What about the Americans that burned in the balloon? In Kenya?

MR. BOUCHER: I'm sorry to hear about it but I don't know anything about it.

Q Do you have anything on the US apparently joining the call for more restrictions on the diamond trade out of Sierra Leone?

MR. BOUCHER: We have been working with the United Nations on the resolution. I'm not exactly sure where it stands.

Q I think - (inaudible) - is now getting behind it but that doesn't mean you'd have anything.

Q Holbrooke testified today --

MR. BOUCHER: Holbrooke testified this morning. We're working on a number of resolutions on Sierra Leone and I can't remember if that's the one that passed or if that's still --

Q Are you sponsoring it?

MR. BOUCHER: We can get something for you on that. We've been working on it. And I think you know that our position has been that the UN forces need to be capable of disrupting rebel operations in the diamond fields and that will require a larger force size and a new mandate for the UN mission and so we're going to seek recommendations on force size and mandate necessary to accomplish the task and that's something we're also discussing with UN Security Council members.

Q Is the US sponsoring that resolution?

MR. BOUCHER: The diamond one? I'll double check on that.

Q It's British.

MR. BOUCHER: I don't know if we're co-sponsoring it as well. I think we may have been part of it.

Q Thank you. Briefing tomorrow?

MR. BOUCHER: Well, tomorrow we'll do it a little differently, I think. Tomorrow, I'll be doing the Middle East briefing. Tomorrow's Thursday, right?

Q Oh, that's right, Joe goes off --

MR. BOUCHER: Joe's said everything he has to say, so he's going to split.

Q Can you say at least background on the Middle East?

MR. BOUCHER: No. Joe will be here in an hour or two.

Q An hour or two?

MR. BOUCHER: Yeah. He was talking 4 o'clock.

Q So you're going to do something in the morning?

MR. BOUCHER: I'm going to try to do the same thing tomorrow, something in the morning, something in the afternoon.

And then at one of those occasions, we'll just slip back here and talk about other issues.

Q Can we just ask you today about her schedule? Is her schedule going to be blocked out through next week or how is that --

MR. BOUCHER: She's full time.

Q Through next week?

MR. BOUCHER: Through the summit.

Q Thank you.

Q Have you gleaned anything osmosis about when Clinton's leaving in terms of tonight or tomorrow?

MR. BOUCHER: No, I've heard it both ways, frankly. So Joe will have that pinned down by the time he gets back --

Q Is the weekend picture getting any clearer yet?

MR. BOUCHER: You mean like what we do Saturday?

Q Like next weekend, Saturday off? (Laughter.)

MR. BOUCHER: Well, I mean, the President is still - you know, the President is here through the 18th. So we'll see if we can try and get things wrapped up and worked out by then.

Q You will be doing other issues here?

MR. BOUCHER: Yeah, we do other issues back here. Okay?

Q Thank you.

(The briefing concluded at 3:40 p.m.)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Camp David, Maryland)

For Immediate Release

July 12, 2000

PRESS BRIEFING BY
JOE LOCKHART

Thurmont Elementary School
Thurmont, Maryland

6:00 P.M. EDT

MR. LOCKHART: Good evening, everybody. Let me bring you up to date and start by saying I don't have all that much different from the earlier session. But as far as the President's time, he, as I said earlier, met with Prime Minister Barak, met with his team, took a break, met with the team again. And as I was leaving, he was beginning a bilateral discussion with Chairman Arafat. They were planning to do this while taking a walk around the Camp David grounds.

As far as the rest of the evening, I think all sides agreed that the dinner last night was useful, to bring the delegations together and all dine together. So I expect them to do the same again this evening.

I think from the pictures we've released you will deduce that the Secretary of State and Ambassador Ross met with the delegations this afternoon. Other than that, there have been a series of both informal in formal sessions among different people, but I'm not going to get into the details. But suffice it to say that it's been a busy day between all the parties, and there's been real engagement today dealing with the substantive issues that define what the parties need to agree on in order to reach an overall agreement.

As far as the President's plans this evening, I talked to him just as I was walking out -- he indicated that he wanted to wait until a little later tonight to see how the evening went before he made a decision about returning tonight or going tomorrow, going early tomorrow morning. So we'll let you know when we know.

Q You said today, earlier, that on the Falcon decision that Israel had taken into consideration U.S. security concerns in the decision. I'm just curious, is the White House

satisfied that the sale has been suspended indefinitely, or had you hoped that it would be cancelled altogether?

MR. LOCKHART: I think we're satisfied with the clear statement that Israel takes into account our security concerns, both for U.S. security and security in the region. And as I said earlier today, I don't expect those security concerns to change.

Q Was there any disappointment, though, that it wasn't cancelled altogether?

MR. LOCKHART: I think the White House, as I said earlier today, is quite pleased with the decision.

Q -- talks going on in Emmitsburg?

MR. LOCKHART: No, there are no discussions going on. There may be talks at some point during the week on non-core issues in Emmitsburg; we'll let you know if those begin.

Q Did you hear about any plans of Yasir Arafat meeting with other Palestinians -- did he ask for permission? Do you know anything about that now?

MR. LOCKHART: I have checked that because I've heard from a variety of reporters that question. No request has been made. I haven't heard anything, nor has anyone on our delegation heard a request for a meeting between Chairman Arafat and some of his leaders who are not here at Camp David.

Q Is it still the U.S. position, though, that no one other than the negotiators that are there now should be coming and going, with the exception of people like you --

MR. LOCKHART: That's still our position.

Q -- receives such a request which would require additional people from any side to come in and then leave, you would be opposed to it?

MR. LOCKHART: That's a hypothetical question, since there has been no such request, except for the questions from people like you.

Q Is there limit --

MR. LOCKHART: I don't know what the limit is, but we agreed in advance on the size of the parties, and those people are at Camp David now. And I expect those people to stay there through the talks.

Q Because there's some notion that, for instance, Dan Merigot would be joining the Israeli delegation. Can he replace someone or --

MR. LOCKHART: From a logistical point of view, anyone who would want to come and join the talks would have to get on the list of people coming and going through the security, and no request has been made. And we can speculate --

Q Would you oppose it?

MR. LOCKHART: I'm not going to stand here and speculate on things that haven't happened.

Q Joe, how would you respond if Mr. Arafat would like to go out and meet some Palestinians outside Camp David?

MR. LOCKHART: Again, we can run around on something that hasn't happened, and decide the deeper meaning of what-ifs all night long, but I don't find that a useful use of my time or yours.

Q -- when you -- you were asked about progress, and you don't claim progress -- do you consider such a statement a matter of substance? In other words, are you free to say whether there's progress or not, or does that go to the blackout on substantive discussion?

MR. LOCKHART: I believe that any qualitative statement about how the talks are going goes to the substance, and we have made the judgment, which I'm sure you all debate, that that is something we will not engage in.

Q Joe, when you don't say there's progress, you would prefer not be read -- when you don't make such a statement, it isn't that there's a lack of progress, is there? (Laughter.) When everybody looks for that key word, and if it doesn't --

MR. LOCKHART: Where's Mr. Boucher? Does he get that at the State Department every day? (Laughter.)

Q If it doesn't fall from your lips, I wonder what's to be concluded.

MR. LOCKHART: Let me say that nothing should be read one way and the other, but I'm not sure I have a lot of confidence that nothing will be read one way or the other.

Q A Cabinet minister was quoted as saying that there is a land swap on the table. Would you elaborate?

MR. LOCKHART: Listen, I'm certain that there will be a lot of reports over the next few days. Without respect to that one, some of them may turn out to be true, many of them will turn out to be false. But that goes to the substance of the discussions that are going on, and I won't have any comment on that.

Q I just want to clarify. You were saying that they were -- there's been real engagement today on the serious issues that define where we are. Do you mean that we've been talking about sort of definitional terms of the outlines of our positions, and haven't yet gotten to negotiating actual back-and-forth of do you agree to this and do I agree to that? Or do you mean --

MR. LOCKHART: I think what I meant to say was the work we expected to get done up here, the actual negotiating to try to reach a peace agreement, has certainly begun, and it's been a very busy day on that front.

Q This may be a wrong impression, but it seems like the amount of actual time Clinton is spending with these leaders outside of dinner is relatively short, given the entire length of stay. I wonder if you could comment on that. And is Clinton's role that of carrying to Barak something that Arafat has said, or is it not that sort of thing --

MR. LOCKHART: The President's role is trying to serve as an honest broker here and to do whatever he believes is constructive towards reaching an agreement. As far as the amount of time he's spent with them, the last two days I think he spent a large amount of time with the two leaders. Yesterday he shuttled back and forth quite a bit. In addition to having two sessions where both leaders were there, I expect that by the end of today, while it may not measure up in minute to minute, they will certainly have spent a good bit of time together.

Q -- dinner last night was useful. I mean, what led them to believe that that's a useful thing?

MR. LOCKHART: It's like if you go to a restaurant and you like it and you think you want to go back again, and you go back -- it serves some function -- that was more of a -- what did you call it before -- an existential statement. (Laughter.)

I think the atmosphere was -- and as I was getting at this morning -- the informal atmosphere of people being able to meet both in formal and informal settings, the sides believe is a useful thing. The dinner is something that I believe the delegations wanted to repeat tonight for that reason.

Q Does the U.S. believe that anything has been accomplished so far in these two days?

MR. LOCKHART: I think that the fact that we've spent two days working at the hard issues means something to us, but I'm not going to get into a description of what that means.

Q Any chance that Vice President Gore will join the talks?

MR. LOCKHART: No.

Q Other than the meal time, have President Arafat and the Prime Minister met with each other?

MR. LOCKHART: Have they met directly? Not that I'm aware of -- unless it was an informal, chance meeting.

Q Have the discussions concentrated on the whole issues together, or one by one -- Jerusalem, refugees, et cetera?

MR. LOCKHART: I'd say it's a combination.

Q Assuming reaching progress and having promises made from both sides, how do you know, how does the U.S. know that both sides are going to work on their promises back in their own lands?

MR. LOCKHART: I think both sides have come here in good faith, and if they reach an agreement that is in the best interest of both sides, which is the only basis on which an agreement can be reached, it's certainly our view that they will work to implement it.

Q But commitments were not enough before, they were not enough to go on with achieving the deal.

MR. LOCKHART: Well, we certainly believe that both sides are here in good faith, and that's how we're operating.

Q Joe, what are the mechanisms of tomorrow's discussions in the absence of President Clinton when he goes to Washington?

MR. LOCKHART: The U.S. team will be led by the Secretary of State. And I think it's worth noting that there have been a number of discussions that have gone on today that do not involve the President. I think the President serves a very important role in bringing the leaders together, and when he talks beyond the leaders, to the negotiators.

But the team -- Ambassador Ross, Mr. Berger, Secretary of State Albright -- are very involved, both with the President in some meetings, but spend most of their days engaged in diplomatic discussions with other members of the Palestinian-Israeli delegation.

Q Will Secretary Albright play the same role as the President in terms of being an honest broker, or will --

MR. LOCKHART: I think you can expect that whether it's the President there or the Secretary of State, they will play the same --

Q -- will she have the same intimate role as the President would?

MR. LOCKHART: Being unable to predict what's going to happen for the rest of today, I don't want to really try to do tomorrow.

Q Joe, has the President presented any sort of bridging proposal and said, here's what we think should be done, or is he just trying to facilitate an epiphany of sorts?

MR. LOCKHART: I think any discussion of anything that's going on in the talks would go to substance, so I'll leave that alone.

Q Joe, has any senior White House aide spoken with congressional leaders about a package or working with Congress? I know you've said that you would in time, but in the last couple of days --

MR. LOCKHART: The President talked to senior congressional leaders Tuesday morning before we took off. So our consultation with Congress has been quite steady throughout this whole process. And to the extent that U.S. support will be provided in conjunction with the peace agreement, we'll continue to consult with Congress.

Q -- another Palestinian leader, politician would be more effective for agreement, for stronger agreement -- if an agreement would be reached, would it be not more effective to have it confirmed by more Palestinian leaders?

MR. LOCKHART: I'm certain that it would, but if this is a back-door way to get me to comment on the rumor that's been going around here all afternoon, I'm not going to do it.

Q You said earlier that both two sides have talked about issues that means something to you. Could you explain those issues --

MR. LOCKHART: No, because I think the answer indicated that I wasn't going to explain it, I was just going to leave it there.

Q The President said he can draw the map of the Left Bank in his dreams. Can you tell us the border of that map? (Laughter.)

MR. LOCKHART: I think I can say with no sense that you will not fully believe me, that I do not have access to the President's dreams.

Q The supplemental appropriations bill, has it been signed, anything to say --

MR. LOCKHART: I expect the President to sign that bill tomorrow while he's in Washington.

Q -- the operations bill that's going through the House right now, is the President inclined to sign it --

MR. LOCKHART: I think we probably have a statement of administration policy on that which I do not have in front of me, but I'll be glad to make available to you.

Q -- work for the next few days, or are you playing it by ear?

MR. LOCKHART: I think we have a sense of what we want to do over the next few days, with a degree of flexibility that will allow us to accommodate any changes that happen.

Q -- Prime Minister Barak talked to supporters today in Tel Aviv. First, did he ask the other principals if it would be in the rules of the news blackout, and secondly, will President Arafat be allowed to do the same?

MR. LOCKHART: I'm not aware of -- it's the first I know of this, so I don't know. I don't think there's -- my understanding of the ground rules, I don't know if that would violate anything that the leaders discussed. And it's certainly my guess that if Chairman Arafat wanted to do that, he would be able to do that.

Q -- input and pressure, besides being an honest broker?

MR. LOCKHART: No.

Q -- with no Americans present?

MR. LOCKHART: There have been discussions between negotiators on the Israeli and Palestinian team that did not involve any of the Americans, and those will continue over the next few days.

Q Are those formal discussions, or do they happen to be discussions --

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I think they're not formal in the sense that there's a schedule and there's a meeting, but they're certainly part of the process.

Q If you decline the honest broker label, Mr. Djerijian was quoted on the television as saying that the United

States is -- the facilitator. Can you put a term on the role of the Americans now?

MR. LOCKHART: I think that's quite an apt term to use, as facilitator, as I think when there are two parties who are trying to reach an agreement on very difficult issues, issues that have separated them for 50 years, it is useful to have someone that both sides trust to facilitate the process, to try to act as a broker both in process and substance, to reach an agreement.

Q -- facilitate, but no pressure --

MR. LOCKHART: I like facilitator, I like broker. I don't like pressure.

Q You said earlier, you used the word shuttle back and forth. But your descriptions have been very much a meeting with one, a meeting with the other, and then a three-way. And that's been a pattern both days. Are you saying that there's been sort of rapid-fire back and forth going on?

MR. LOCKHART: No. My description was to describe what they've done, and I think when you -- you can argue over the meaning of the word shuttle, but when you go back and forth and meet with people two and three times a day --

Q You're willing to say facilitator; you're willing to say honest broker. But something about presenting bridging proposals brings you up short, as if that gets to substance. Nobody asked what the bridging proposals are. Are they -- is the President, if you can't say whether he's done it -- I mean, the U.S. has said all along that on occasion it will, if it finds it useful, make the bridging proposals. Can't you say that about this summit?

MR. LOCKHART: On this summit, during this time, I believe that anything that goes to the negotiating, on how it's being done -- that kind of question goes to the substance, and I'm just not going to get drawn into that.

Q -- Palestinian State in September, one of the items being discussed?

MR. LOCKHART: I think all of the core issues that are before us that are well-known are being discussed.

Q Is that --

MR. LOCKHART: That's certainly the status. It certainly -- the issues, as they're divided, certainly take account of all the issues that still remain as core issues or final status issues. As far as any discussion of other declarations, I just don't know.

Q Has the President made any contact with any other leaders in the Middle East in order to further facilitate the process? As in Wye River, for instance, he called on King Hussein to come over -- can he seek the help through telephone calls or something?

MR. LOCKHART: I certainly don't want to preclude as an option that's available to the President, but I'm not aware that he's done anything in the last 36 hours on that front.

Q Could we describe this as a top-down conference, or a bottom-up -- meet with both sides, and trilaterals, for example, and so on and so forth? How do we describe --

MR. LOCKHART: I'm not quite sure what it means, but probably the best answer is both, since Dennis had met with both sides today; the President has met with both sides on the leader basis on a bilateral basis, and we'll have to see where we go from there.

Q Do they meet with -- trilateral at the lower level?

MR. LOCKHART: I think, as I indicated, the Secretary of State and Ambassador Ross met in a room with the Palestinian delegation and the Israeli delegation.

Q Can you give us a sense and maybe some substance of what the President's non-summit presidential activities have been today?

MR. LOCKHART: I know we had a discussion this morning about the developments in the Senate on prescription drugs between the President and I and the Deputy Chief of Staff, Maria Echaveste. We spent probably 10 to 15 minutes this morning on some other items before we got started on the issues not relating to the discussions here. And at some point, either later this evening or early tomorrow morning, we'll have a session on the speech he plans to give to the NAACP.

Q Joe, can you say if Chelsea is still up here?

MR. LOCKHART: She is.

Q -- and how long she might stay and what she might be doing?

MR. LOCKHART: I don't have much more than I had yesterday on that subject. I expect if the President goes back tonight, she'll accompany him back, or tomorrow morning. I don't know the answer whether she'll come back when the President comes back.

Q What happens Saturday when the Israelis -- will everybody stay up here, would you be giving information --

MR. LOCKHART: We'll probably stay about the same level. There will certainly be people here. I expect the delegations will all remain, and as necessary, we'll come down to report anything or report that we have nothing to report.

Q In any of the conversations with Prime Minister Barak, has the President talked about Syria?

MR. LOCKHART: I don't want to preclude that, but certainly no one's made me aware of that.

Q Are there issues such as the Israeli territory deployment from the West Bank being discussed at the presidential level?

MR. LOCKHART: My understanding is, the discussions, to date, have been focused on the core issues that have been identified in advance, so I just don't have any information beyond that.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

6:20 P.M. EDT

http://abcnews.go.com/sections/world/DailyNews/mideast000714_reporters.html#sideba

A Quiet Day : No News at Mideast Summit, But Media Keeps Active

Reporter's Notebook

By Rebecca Cooper

T H U R M O N T, Md., July 14 - Reporters who have gathered from around the world to cover the Camp David peace talks are chafing under the no-news policy agreed upon by the all the negotiating parties.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher poked fun at reporters still eagerly gathered at the Camp David press filing center for the daily White House news briefing by welcoming them to "the daily news blackout."

Compounding the difficulty for reporters desperate for any tidbit from the Camp David site, most cellular phones do not work at the remote presidential compound, so even if negotiators wanted to plant leaks with reporters, their phones don't work well enough for them to do so. Both Arafat and Barak have hard-line phones in their cabins, but judging from the lack of news coming out of Camp David, it appears that the two leaders are trying to abide by the news blackout.

What About Buddy?

Given the intense interest in the Middle East for news from the negotiating site, reporters from overseas are trying their best to get any information they can from the historic negotiations. One tireless Palestinian reporter even resorted to quizzing Boucher about the comings and goings of Buddy, the White House dog, who has been camping out at Camp David with Clinton this week. Prefacing his question by saying he hoped his query would not be subject to the news blackout, the Palestinian Authority reporter, keeping a straight face, asked Boucher "to talk about the chemistry between Buddy and the leaders, Arafat and Barak." Laughing reporters eagerly awaited the spokesman's response, but Boucher ducked making any news on the First Dog, jokingly noting, "I'm afraid that's a White House question. I'm just not trained to deal with questions like that."

Spinning the 'No Spin' Rule

White House and State Department press officers also continue to try and enforce the "no spin" ban at the Thurmont elementary school, often to little avail. When Israeli Knesset member Limor Livnat, a Likud party member, appeared at the school to oppose any compromise in the peace talks, the news-starved press surrounded her with cameras and tape recorders, as a State Department press officer tried unsuccessfully to break up the media gaggle.

Afterward, the American press aide plaintively tried to reinforce to reporters the notion that "no news is good news" if the negotiations are to succeed. Only a handful of journalists even remained to listen to his plea and then ran back to their news desks to join their colleagues, already eagerly filing the Israeli opposition spin."

The White House Gets 'Barry'ed'

He's covered the State Department longer than any other reporter on the beat, and he makes sure spokesmen know it. Associated Press senior diplomatic correspondent Barry Schweid is legendary for the brow-beatings he likes to give anyone behind a podium. Accorded the first question at every briefing and press conference because of his seniority, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright likes to say that Schweid not only gets the first word every day on foreign policy but also often gets the last word, in his daily stories. At the Camp David press filing center, where both the White House and State Department conduct daily briefings, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart was on the receiving end of more than one Schweid interrogatory.

In one amusing exchange, Schweid insisted the spokesman explain why he refused to use the word "progress" to describe the talks. After attempting to avoid answering the question directly, only to continue to be berated by Schweid for sidestepping the issue, Lockhart eventually gave up and plaintively asked, "Where's Mr. Boucher?

Does he get that at the State Department every day?" As reporters laughed knowingly, State Department press officers nodded sympathetically. Accustomed to getting buried by reporters' questions at the White House, Lockhart is now learning what it feels like to "get Barry'ed" by Schweid.

Reporting on the Reporters

THURMONT, Md., July 14 - There may be a news blackout at the Camp David peace talks, but that hasn't stopped 13-year-old Brandon Coblentz and 14-year-old Erin Firor from gathering news. They've trained their notebooks on the journalists used to asking the questions, not answering them. And what have the two Catocin High School students learned from the media horde in Maryland? "They taught us it's just 'hurry up and wait,'" Brandon reports. "Some days they work real hard but some days they take it easy because there's nothing for them to do." Erin says she realized there wasn't much news for reporters to cover "when I saw the White House press people playing solitaire and watching The Jerry Springer Show." When asked if they've met anyone famous during their five days of covering the Thurmont Elementary School media camp, where network, radio and print reporters have come from around the world, Brandon excitedly noted, "Yeah! I've met Dave Berman from CNN!"

Berman, the CNN cameraman covering the accords, impressed young Brandon by letting him hold his camera. But the Maryland native says he had one other brush with fame, "I met Gary, the driver for the prime minister. I got to make a delivery to him in the school parking lot." **Erin says she got to meet someone "really famous." "I met Joe Lockhart," Erin recounted, breathlessly retelling her encounter with the White**

House spokesman in the way that most girls her age discuss 'N Sync or the Backstreet Boys. "I thought he was really cool. He was really polite, which kind of surprised me. I got a picture with him and his autograph. It's hanging on my fridge at home." Asked what the most interesting event is that they've observed this week, Brandon enthusiastically noted, "I got to see one reporter try to make the guy who was doing the briefing look like a liar. That was pretty interesting. The other interesting thing that I've learned this week is that some of the

reporters eat a lot." "Yeah," Erin concurred. "They eat a lot. And they don't eat very healthy either."

The students now have the lingo down, even knowing that "Wacca" is what reporters and government officials call the White House Communications Agency (WHCA), the team responsible for putting in phone and fax lines for every White House event. And they think their summer days have been well spent during their week with reporters from around the globe. Brandon tells ABCNEWS, "I find it fun. It's given me something to so with my summer. And I heard this is something really big, so I wanted to be a part of it." Reporters in Thurmont hope Brandon is right. Meanwhile, the blackout continues, and now reporters are interviewing the young students interviewing the reporters. It's come full circle here at the Camp David black news hole in Thurmont, Md.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Camp David, Maryland)

For Immediate Release

July 14, 2000

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
JOE LOCKHART

Thurmont Elementary School
Thurmont, Maryland

12:05 P.M. EDT

MR. LOCKHART: Good afternoon, everyone. Let me say to start that it's obvious and I'm gratified to see that the upstanding performances over the last few days have dwindled the crowd to a hardened, but committed, few. Let me go into last night, a little bit on today and then I'll take your questions.

Just before the dinner last night the President had a brief meeting with Shlomo Ben Ami, one of the Israeli negotiators. They had a session on the back porch of the President's cabin, and then walked down to dinner.

The dinner started at about 8:30 p.m. last night, went for about an hour and a half. After the dinner, the President spent a little bit of time, about an hour or so, with his team, and then proceeded to have bilateral discussions first with Prime Minister Barak and then with Chairman Arafat. His evening ended sometime after 1:00 a.m.

This morning, as far as the President's schedule, I'd say about 10:30 a.m. or so he had a meeting with his team. I left that meeting while it was still going on. I expect that during the day he'll continue his previous efforts of meeting both with delegations and with the other leaders. We'll let you know later in the day, to the extent we have more information.

As far as other things, I think the negotiators today will be primarily meeting with each other. They have divided up into smaller groups and will be dealing directly on the core issues that we have talked about.

Finally, as I think some of you know already, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is meeting now, as we speak, with a Palestinian delegation that's here in Emmitsburg. She will meet with them. This comes out of a discussion that we'd been having over the last day or so. This group had come here; there was some discussion about meeting with Chairman Arafat. Given the spirit of the ground rules we put down, we indicated that we would prefer that that meeting not happen up at Camp David. Secretary of State Albright offered to meet with the group in Emmitsburg. The Palestinian Delegation accepted that offer. The meeting is happening.

One piece of logistics: I will brief again later on this afternoon. But I do not expect to brief tomorrow. So after the briefing at 5:00 or so today, you will not see me up here until probably early Sunday morning.

Q Joe, minor clarifications. The dinner -- were Arafat and Barak there?

MR. LOCKHART: Yes. The dinner was similar to dinner the previous evening. It is in the Laurel Cabin. Last night's dinner probably had 30 or so attendees. Chairman Arafat, Prime Minister Barak and President Clinton sat at a table together, but each -- separated by two or three people at least, so their conversations were primarily with others in the Delegation.

On the way in to dinner, as a measure of how things are working here, the President arrived first, spent a moment or two with Chairman Arafat when he arrived. And as the President walked away, Prime Minister Barak walked in, they spent a few moments talking and then proceeded into what's being used as a dining room.

Q And you described the seating. Was there still an opportunity for the President to talk to the two leaders, both, in this dinner?

MR. LOCKHART: Once they sat down for the formal eating part of it, the President was engaged in conversation with others, as were the other leaders. Their conversations directly happened in the session in the sort of mingling outside the room before they walked in.

Q The groups meeting -- that's the word you used -- are they grouped by issue or by expertise, or is it looser than that?

MR. LOCKHART: My understanding is, they're grouped by issue, but that -- I think that's the extent to which I want to describe them.

Q Joe, can you tell us more about the Albright meeting with the Palestinians? Is that instead of any Arafat meeting with the Palestinian -- or a prelude to perhaps an Arafat --

MR. LOCKHART: My understanding is -- at this point, I would use the "instead of" formulation, but I wouldn't completely rule out the possibility that at some point he might want to go see them. I think at this point, we want to keep the focus on the negotiating that's going on at Camp David, but I think we also recognize, the President recognizes the importance of both being able to articulate the importance of this, to keep a positive atmosphere around this for those who are interested, so I think it's a positive use of the Secretary of State's time to go down and talk to these people.

Q Regarding, again, the seating arrangement, you described how Arafat and Barak are separated from President Clinton by three seats. What about the seating arrangement as far as Arafat and the rest of the delegation? I think he's seated next to some Israeli delegation?

MR. LOCKHART: Yes. Generally, each of the leaders will have someone from one delegation to their left, someone from the other delegation to their right. And as is the case in many of these dinners, the conversation will vary between turning to your left and talking to someone, turning to your right and talking to someone and having a conversation between the three of them.

I think the one thing, just as something that I noticed from last night is, just because the President had come back and had done the event on Vietnam, there was a lot of discussion around the table about the thawing of relations and the moving forward in a commercial way between the U.S. and Vietnam. There were several times that were small groups of conversations going on that included the leaders and the delegates around the table.

Q -- I was under the impression, from your words as well as Richard's words over the past few days, that there had never been a request for the Palestinians to come to see Arafat or for him to go see them. And now you're telling us that there have, in fact, been discussions over the past couple of days about this which have resulted in Albright going to Emmitsburg. What gives, what's the deal?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I would listen very carefully to the words I use. I said over the last day. And the last time I was up here and I asked, there was no request for a meeting. I'm not sure that a formal request ever came in. There was some discussions that I'm aware of yesterday that --

Q -- using the wrong words --

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I'm using the words I'm using, so you can parse them any way you like.

Q You said you preferred for this meeting not to happen between Arafat and this delegation. Now what we understand, that

Chairman Arafat has phoned these people; he even asked them, why are you late. He apparently has the wish to -- with these people. You have already let -- expert to join the team. Why do you say you prefer for this meeting, can you explain to us why you --

MR. LOCKHART: Because I don't think we view this -- and I'm not sure the delegation views this as a team of experts coming in. This is a group of political leaders and I think Chairman Arafat certainly can meet with them, if he wants, but the ground rules and the spirit that we set up here is that we'd be bringing people in -- we would not be bringing people in that weren't involved in the formal negotiations.

Q Can you say what the Secretary's purpose is in the meeting? Is she attempting to appease these people? Is there a concern that they --

MR. LOCKHART: No. I think what I expect the message she'll bring is, she will talk in general terms about the peace process. But I don't expect her to get into any of the substantive points that are going on at Camp David now. But I think she'll also take a message of how important it is to keep a positive atmosphere surrounding these discussions. Because as we all know, I think one of the reasons we are going through this process that we're going through -- where I stand up here every day, or Richard stands up here every day and give you very little information is the atmosphere is important. The people who are involved here pick up the paper every day, they read it and we're trying to create an environment where they can concentrate solely on how they can positively and constructively move forward.

Q What do you think about consensus? Is it really important for Chairman Arafat to have consensus within his own faction?

MR. LOCKHART: I think it's important that there is public support for what Chairman Arafat is doing. I think it's just as important for Prime Minister Barak to have public support.

Q -- last night that the American side had submitted some bridging ideas to the two sides. Could you comment on that?

MR. LOCKHART: I would repeat what I've said before, which is I view that as getting to the substance of the discussions in the negotiations, and I'd be very careful about who knows what they know and who doesn't know what they know.

Q -- the summit is going to end when the President leaves next week. Is there any news on that?

MR. LOCKHART: I have no further news. The President's schedule is unchanged.

Q Joe, is the atmosphere still positive in Camp David?

MR. LOCKHART: I think these -- I would certainly continue to describe it as informal, because of the setting. It is a beautiful place that people -- that you can't describe any other way, beside that, and informal. But these are intractable issues. These are issues that go to the vital interests of both of the parties, so this is very serious. At times, discussions are tense, but that should be no surprise to anyone.

Q Why President Arafat was not given the same equal chance that Prime Minister Barak got when he talked to his supporters in a demonstration in Tel Aviv over the phone, why he wasn't been able to talk to -- leader in the same general -- that Secretary Albright is going to talk to them?

MR. LOCKHART: Listen, no one is being denied anything here, except for living up to what we see as the ground rules on Camp. If anyone from the delegation would like to go and meet with this group or another group, they are free to do so.

Q How hard is the President willing to push for an aid package that would be significant enough to really address the needs that would come out of any kind of agreement? Is he willing to go to Congress and really fight for a sizeable aid package?

MR. LOCKHART: I think as in the past, America can play a positive role. I think the leaders can be assured that we will do what it takes to go to Congress to play our role. I don't think, however, that Congress is predisposed to not work with the President; quite the opposite. I think Congress will work with the President to do what we can.

Q When you spoke about -- this is also a follow up -- on what you said about Vietnam, you said -- the conversation, quite a bit of it -- because he made a pitch there, he used that as an example. Did he get the impression, does the U.S. have the impression that that notion is taking hold -- I mean, do you think he was making headway on it?

MR. LOCKHART: I think answering that question directly would get to drawing some conclusion or assessment about where we are on the talks. I certainly think it was an interesting talking point for many of the people there, to look at a former adversary and the process of reconciliation that's been going on. But beyond that, I don't --

Q -- you spoke of the conversation. Were they speaking of it in sort of a detached way, or did they see some relevance?

MR. LOCKHART: I think some of it was in a detached, historical way, but some of it was certainly done in the context of the discussions they are having.

Q On the financial issues, has the U.S. already committed itself to taking the majority of the burden of whatever financial needs would come out of a peace package? And is this something that the U.S. will bring up to other international leaders at Okinawa, perhaps also appealing to them --

MR. LOCKHART: Well, we certainly would look at this as an international effort. I think the U.S. appropriately would look to take the lead on this. But the E.U. has been very involved as an important player here, and we would look to other nations to provide assistance as appropriate.

Q But no idea yet what any kind of general numbers, any --

MR. LOCKHART: No.

Q Should we assume the President will be here through the weekend?

MR. LOCKHART: I think you can assume he'll be here indefinitely. I think everyone knows the outer parameters of his schedule. If, for some reason, that changes, we'll let you know.

Q I would like to ask, too, would you suppose that there will come a breakthrough on Monday before the President will leave to Okinawa, or do you suppose that it will come a breakthrough only after that?

MR. LOCKHART: I'm certain that I don't know the answer to that; but if I did, I wouldn't say.

Q Joe, you said that the negotiators were meeting with themselves today; how are the leaders spending the day?

MR. LOCKHART: As I told you, the President was still with the team when I left in order to come over here. I believe the other leaders were with their own teams, and they were going off a little bit later to have these smaller groups that I discussed. I'll try to get some sense when I come back, but I don't know at this moment.

Q Joe, other than the informal conversations at dinner, we've been told there's been one three-way leaders meeting and one Arafat-Barak two-way meeting. Has that been the extent of the formal contact between the Israeli and Palestinian leaders?

MR. LOCKHART: That's the extent as far as I know. The others, as described, have been mostly bilateral.

Q Joe, is there going to be any scaling down of the talks during the Sabbath?

MR. LOCKHART: I would expect over that 24-hour period, there could be some informal discussions. But nothing really beyond that.

Q -- any of the -- you know, we've got a lot of news here, but still -- little color, and there's less of that, generally is the case. Do you want to tell us about golf parks or bowling alleys or anything you can -- you know, they've been here, what, this is the fourth day?

MR. LOCKHART: Yes.

Q Any use of the facilities?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, unfortunately, the bowling alleys have been used, but at this point, only by the staff. And I think at this point -- only by the American staff. As you walk around, there is a constant stream of negotiators whizzing by in golf carts. Suffice it to say that not everyone has equal capability in negotiating a golf cart as they do diplomatic efforts. There's been at least one fender bender that's been reported to me, but -- (laughter.)

Q Are they grappling with the go carts? (Laughter.)

MR. LOCKHART: Grappling with the go carts. (Laughter.) And also, there are people who prefer to walk, there are people who prefer bicycling. But other than that, I think the main focus has been either meeting between the teams, within the teams, and preparing for the leaders' meetings.

Q Who was the accident with?

MR. LOCKHART: That might go to substance. (Laughter.) This was reported to me and I did not see it with my own eyes, so I think I'll just say "two negotiators." (Laughter.)

Q Two on the same side?

MR. LOCKHART: Two on the same side. That's all I'm going to say. Otherwise, I would have had probably more to report.

Q What kind of plans are being made for prayers and services and things like that? What will be done at Camp David throughout --

MR. LOCKHART: As I understand it, there will be a shabbat dinner this evening. I'll try to get some more details about that when I come back. As far as religious service, I'll try --

Q Joe, to follow on that, will that shabbat dinner be attended by all three delegations, or only by the Israelis?

MR. LOCKHART: I'll let you know. I don't know the answer to that.

Q The fact that tomorrow you are not going to brief us, does this mean that during the shabbat you are not going to have any discussion with Palestine at the same time?

MR. LOCKHART: No. I think as I indicated, tomorrow will be a day of informal discussions, and I will basically report what I can on Sunday. But I think, given the fact that we've all been at this for four or five days with very little information, all of us taking a day off would be a positive thing.

Q -- for the first time actually, we hear that now the negotiators are grouped on certain different issues. It's the first time we heard this. Can we read into this that now they are coming more into grappling -- with the real issues, and also separately. I mean, instead of -- from yesterday we had an impression that it was a bit chaotic -- that everyone is discussing every issue.

MR. LOCKHART: You could --

Q And now we are hearing -- they have been grouped on certain issues. What can we read into this?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, you could read that into that, but I wouldn't be your source. (Laughter.)

Q Some local residents are upset about the removal of U.S. flags from the classrooms and the house by the Arab and Israeli press corps. Is there any plan to replace them?

MR. LOCKHART: I am not aware of that. I'll look into that.

Q Joe, have the talks in Emmitsburg on the generic issues begun, or are there plans for them to start Saturday night?

MR. LOCKHART: They have not begun, as far as I've been informed. We'll let you know when that happens.

Q An Israeli parliamentarian was tossed off the premises this morning, and at the same time Gadi Baltiansky has been down here a couple of times to speak to the press. Does this mean that you're cracking down a little bit more on both people talking here?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, we have -- at the outset of these discussions, we set some ground rules. These particular parts of it I understand make your life more difficult, but we think they are constructive, as far as the overall talks. One of them was that the U.S. was designated as the spokesperson here at the Press Center. Now, I know there's a lot of other ways around

other people who want to speak, but we set the rules and we're trying to enforce them as equally and fairly as we can.

Q -- breeches, what about these breaches? What are you doing about them?

MR. LOCKHART: I don't think we want to bring in a heavy police presence here to thwart it. We're going to deal with it as we can.

Q Yes, but let's break it down. There are people that were in the delegation -- presumably, who -- and there are people who aren't in the delegation.

MR. LOCKHART: That's right.

Q What's wrong with people who aren't in the delegation talking to reporters --

MR. LOCKHART: There's nothing wrong with people in the delegation talking to the reporters; we prefer they just not do it here.

Q Here?

MR. LOCKHART: Here in this building. There are plenty of other places.

Q Why?

MR. LOCKHART: Because those are the rules that I sat down and agreed with, with my counterparts, and I want to at least look like I'm trying to keep my word.

Q -- the Palestinians are talking with Mrs. Albright?

MR. LOCKHART: No, because they're not part of the delegation. I expect they'll probably be very available for comment, and will provide you with an interesting lead for the evening.

Q -- at least yesterday -- granting them interviews without any intervention --

MR. LOCKHART: We are intervening as quickly and as fairly as we can.

Q Do you know that it will be a problem in the Knesset in Israel -- and maybe Mr. Barak or another -- have to return to Israel?

MR. LOCKHART: I'm not aware of any change in travel plans for the Prime Minister or anyone in his delegation at this point. If they make us aware of that, I'll pass that on to you.

Q -- will go to Okinawa, they will go to vote in Jerusalem and come back.

MR. LOCKHART: Make note of that. (Laughter.)

Q Two brief questions.

MR. LOCKHART: Yes.

Q Is this summit, ongoing conference, is it modeled on -- that's the first question --

MR. LOCKHART: No.

Q And the second -- and I don't think this is seriously getting into substance, so we have to be very careful. If you are discussing the core issues, can we assume that they're discussing the implementation?

MR. LOCKHART: Of the core issues? I think you can assume that everything that both sides came here with a need to discuss is and will be discussed here.

Q Can I talk about the implementation? The timetables, deadlines. -- or if they agree on the core issues, like the -- there's a very strict timetable for implementation. Is this part of the discussions, as well?

MR. LOCKHART: Let me, without violating my substance rules, say that all issues that need to be discussed will be discussed here.

Yes. I'll take one more.

Q How did the White House do the -- for the Vietnam trade bill in Congress?

MR. LOCKHART: I think there's broad, bipartisan support, as evidenced by the attendance at yesterday's event. I think it will pass. I'm not certain that the House and the Senate will have the opportunity to bring this up this year, but I certainly expect, whether it's this year or next year, that this will pass with strong bipartisan support.

Thank you.

END

12:28 P.M. EDT