

3-7-94

Talking Points on Compliance with Subpoenas

Q: Mr. President, what have you done to ensure compliance with the Grand Jury subpoena, calling for the production of documents, issued to the White House on Friday?

A: I am absolutely committed to ensuring complete and prompt compliance with the subpoena. To that end, we have assigned **four lawyers** from Counsel's Office to work **full time** on compliance; and **we are requiring all White House staff to sign a written certification** that they have complied with the subpoena.

Specifically, we have taken and are taking the following steps:

- First, on Friday night, promptly after the subpoena was received, Deputy White House Counsel Joel Klein sent a memo to all White House staff describing the documents called for in the subpoena, and directing them to retain all such documents and to retrieve any that might be in wastebaskets or "burn bags." (Burn bags are used for disposing of classified documents.)
- This morning, Chief of Staff Mack McLarty sent a detailed compliance memo from Joel to all White House staff setting forth the procedures staff must follow to comply with the subpoena. Mack's cover memo directs all White House staff to carefully review and follow the procedures set forth in Joel's memo.
- Joel's detailed memo designates a representative from every White House department who must ensure compliance from everyone on his or her own department and assigns a liaison in White House Counsel's office to deal with any questions staff might have.
- **By the end of the day today, all staff will be required to sign a certification of compliance** stating that they have undertaken a full search for documents (including wastebaskets, "burn bags", and electronic mail files) and will be required to provide all responsive documents to White House Counsel's office.
- Joel has also issued a separate memo to all staff directing them to preserve and maintain Whitewater related documents **not** responsive to the subpoena.
- Finally, let me remind you that, on March 3, Mack sent a memo to all White House staff prohibiting contact between White House staff and any Executive Branch or independent regulatory agency regarding Whitewater or related matters without prior authorization from Deputy White House Counsel.