Nomination for Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade

June 15, 1993

The President announced today that he intends to nominate Jeff Garten to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade.

"As we seek to expand free and fair trade with all of our partners around the world, I am very pleased to be naming Jeff Garten to this important post," said the President. "His combination of hands-on business experience, sterling academic credentials, and previous Government service in three administrations amply equips him to tackle the challenges that lie ahead."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Nomination for Ambassador to Italy

June 15, 1993

The President today announced his intention to nominate Reginald Bartholomew, a senior Foreign Service officer with the rank of Career Minister, to the post of Ambassador to Italy.

"Reg Bartholomew has served our country ably in several ambassadorial positions and many other challenging assignments," said the President. "I have full confidence in his ability to maintain our strong relationship with Italy, an important ally whose friendship America highly values."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Sam Nujoma of Namibia

June 16, 1993

Economic Program

Q. Mr. President, there are indications that the Senate Finance Committee may not hit your $500 billion target. They may fall short because of this problem on the gasoline tax. Would you accept less than $500 billion, which is one of your main principles?

President Clinton. Well, let's see what they do. I think the—and I think ultimately the conference report will—I think the bill that the Congress ultimately votes on will hit the $500 billion.

Q. If they come out under $500 billion—usually in conference they cut things in half—it would mean that you would get less than $500 billion out of the final product.

President Clinton. I'm not—let's see what they do.

Space Station and Super Collider

Q. Are you going to have a space station decision today—super collider?

President Clinton. There is a deadline sometime in the next 3 days. I don't know exactly when it is, but there's a congressional deadline, and we're working on a statement right now.

Democracy in Namibia

Q. Do you think Namibia can be a model for South Africa, Mr. President?

President Clinton. I absolutely do. I think it's a model for all of Africa. The reason I asked President Nujoma to come here and be the first African leader at the White House is because of the remarkable success that he and his country have made in promoting democracy and market economies, and they've done it in a multiethnic society with great complications. But they've managed to do it. And I think they're a real shining example for emerging democracies in Africa and on other continents as well. I'm very excited to have him here today.

Somalia

Q. President Nujoma, are you concerned about the American role in Somalia, Mr. President?

President Nujoma. We are grateful. In fact, I have come to express our gratitude to President Clinton, although the original initial send-up of U.S. troops to Somalia was under the Bush administration—Americans—American President who did that—and when he won in the elections, continued supporting the U.N. action in Somalia, while we were sitting there, while thousands of

Somalis were dying every day. And I'm glad that U.S. Government and the President Bush saw the need to quickly move the U.S. troops there to stop the starvation of thousands of Somalis and—the distribution of food to the people who were in need. And that today the Somalis seem like anybody else. And we all see how to us, before the U.S. troops in Somalia, it was terrible. So we certainly hope that other situations, President Clinton and the people of the United States were not to be tired of not making the great efforts either directly or through the auspices of the United Nations to ensure that this—instability throughout the world.

Q. Do you think Aideed, the warlord, should be arrested?

President Nujoma. If he is, he has a hand in committing a crime to ambush and to kill the United Nations peacekeepers, certainly he should be punished for that.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:40 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Sam Nujoma of Namibia and an Exchange With Reporters

June 16, 1993

President Clinton. Good morning. Today I am delighted to welcome President Sam Nujoma of Namibia to the White House. Here in this city named after George Washington it is indeed an honor to welcome a person who is known as the George Washington of his country. Three years ago, the world rejoiced at the birth of a new democracy on the African continent. Millions of Americans of all ethnic backgrounds celebrated Namibia's independence as a moment of great joy and real progress. Since that moment, President Nujoma has led his country through one of the most successful political transitions in recent times. I'm particularly pleased to have the President here as the first African head of state received by my administration. It underscores my admiration for what Namibia has accomplished and my commitment to democracy in Africa and elsewhere. Namibia's President and her people clearly share that commitment. Their example inspires the cause of democracy and human rights throughout the continent.

Our meeting today coincides with UNICEF's annual Day of the African Child. A brighter future for those children is a goal we both share. In that regard, I commend the President for his concern for the future of Angola's people as well and particularly her children who have long suffered from that country's civil war. President Nujoma's efforts to bring an end to this conflict have made an important contribution to the cause of peace.

Our meeting today also comes at a time of great promise and challenge for another of Namibia's neighbors, South Africa. I know that I join President Nujoma in hoping that the transition to a nonracial democracy in South Africa can not only come soon but can be as peaceful and successful as the birth of Namibia's own democracy a short while ago. South Africa has seen far too much tragedy and despair for too long. The day is overdue when it would be a welcome time of renewal, of prosperity and hope and peace. With its exemplary experience in recent years, Namibia is truly in a unique position to further the entire region's efforts toward democratization, market economies, conflict resolution, and political stability. Namibia's successful transition to a stable, multiparty, multiracial, multiethnic democracy offers hope and optimism for other nations in the region, throughout the continent, and around the world.

I also want to say a special word of appreciation for the work that the President and Namibia have done in promoting their new system of government, promoting education among their people. He has just given me a gift of two games that a young Namibian citizen has developed for the children there, board games on the government and Constitution of Namibia and on the governments of the African continent. And I might point out that Namibia's Constitution also has in it a commitment to preserve the precious ecosystem of that country, a real groundbreaking statement of environmental commitment that I, again, believe will be hon-