

treatment of ethnic Russians in Latvia and Estonia, while noting that international observers had found no evidence of human rights violations in those countries. The President expressed the hope that practical solutions could be achieved on this difficult issue. In this regard, the United States welcomes the constructive role played by the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and the Council of Europe (COE) in helping to promote a resolution of all outstanding differences between Russia and the Baltic countries.

Designation of a Vice Chair and Appointment of Staff Director for the Commission on Civil Rights

September 27, 1993

The President today announced he will designate Commission on Civil Rights member, Cruz Reynoso, as Vice Chair of the Commission and will appoint attorney Stuart J. Ishimaru as Commission Staff Director.

“With their combined experience in civil rights law, Cruz Reynoso and Stuart Ishimaru will bring strength and leadership to the cause of equality in America through their new roles on the U.S. Civil Rights Commission,” the President said.

NOTE: Biographies were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

September 28, 1993

Somalia

Q. Mr. President, have you decided to change your strategy in Somalia, perhaps not go after General Aideed out of concern, perhaps because of congressional criticisms of the mission?

The President. No. The United Nations strategy on the ground has not changed. But I have emphasized to them that every nation involved in that, from the beginning, was in it with the understanding that our first goal was to restore the conditions of normal life there, to stop the killing, to stop the disease,

to stop the famine. And that has been done with broad support among the Somali people, with the exception of that small portion in Mogadishu where General Aideed and his supporters are.

So the enforcement strategy did not change, but what I wanted to emphasize at the U.N. yesterday was that there has to be a political strategy that puts the affairs of Somalia back into the hands of Somalia, that gives every country, not just the United States, every country that comes into that operation the sense that they are rotating in and out, that there is a fixed date for their ultimate disengagement in Somalia, because there’s so many other peacekeeping operations in the world that have to be considered and that we owe that to all the nations we ask to participate in peacekeeping over the long run.

So there’s been no change in the enforcement strategy, but I have tried to raise the visibility or the urgency of getting the political track back on pace, because in the end every peacekeeping mission or every humanitarian mission has to have a date certain when it’s over, and you have to in the end turn the affairs of the country back over to the people who live there. We were not asked to go to Somalia to establish a protectorate or a trust relationship or to run the country. That’s not what we went for.

Bosnia

Q. But do you have broader concerns about Bosnia? I mean, there’s a similar problem there with no date certain, no exit strategy.

The President. I think there, in that case, the United States is in a much better position to establish, I think, the standards and have some discipline now on the front end. To be fair, I think that everyone involved in Bosnia is perhaps more sensitive than was the case in the beginning of this Somali operation about the—[inaudible]—of it, the dangers of it, and the need to have a strict set of limitations and conditions before the involvement occurs.