

**The President.** We may have something to say on that later today. But let me say I'm concerned about the people who are there, and I'm also concerned about the UNPROFOR troops, the Dutch, who are there. And we may have something later today to say about that.

#### **Vietnam**

**Q.** [*Inaudible*]*—*the decision on Vietnam, how much more difficult is it for you personally and politically, given your failure to serve in Vietnam?

**The President.** None.

**Q.** Does it enter into your decision at all?

**The President.** No.

#### **Base Closings**

**Q.** Are you going to do base closings—

**The President.** I don't know yet. We're working very hard on that, worked on it yesterday and last night. We have some more work to do, and I'm waiting for some more information to come back this morning. We spent quite a bit of time on it. It won't be long, but I can't say for sure.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:30 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With the Congressional Black Caucus**

*July 11, 1995*

**Q.** Mr. President, do you have reaction to the air strikes in Bosnia?

#### **Affirmative Action**

**Q.** Mr. President, are you prepared to deliver your affirmative action review next Wednesday, as has been speculated?

**The President.** What date is that?

**Q.** The 19th. [*Laughter*]

**The President.** I believe that's the day we're going to do it.

**Q.** Have you already reached a conclusion? Are you going to brief these Members today on what your thoughts are dealing with affirmative action?

**The President.** I'm going to deal with their agenda today. I'm here and I'm listening to them and they're going to go through an agenda and I'm going to respond to it.

#### **President Boris Yeltsin of Russia**

**Q.** Any further word on Boris Yeltsin and how that might impact on U.S.-Russian relations?

**The President.** No. I got another report after this morning's meeting with congressional leadership, and our latest report is that he seems to be resting well and feeling pretty good and making some decisions from the hospital. That's the latest report I got—about 30 minutes ago.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:44 a.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

### **Remarks Announcing the Normalization of Diplomatic Relations With Vietnam**

*July 11, 1995*

Thank you very much. I welcome you all here, those who have been introduced and distinguished Members of Congress and military leaders, veterans, others who are in the audience.

Today I am announcing the normalization of diplomatic relationships with Vietnam.

From the beginning of this administration, any improvement in relationships between America and Vietnam has depended upon making progress on the issue of Americans who were missing in action or held as prisoners of war. Last year, I lifted the trade embargo on Vietnam in response to their cooperation and to enhance our efforts to secure the remains of lost Americans and to determine the fate of those whose remains have not been found.

It has worked. In 17 months, Hanoi has taken important steps to help us resolve many cases. Twenty-nine families have received the remains of their loved ones and at last have been able to give them a proper burial. Hanoi has delivered to us hundreds of pages of documents shedding light on what happened to Americans in Vietnam.