

Statement on the 100th Birthday of George Burns

January 20, 1996

Hillary and I extend our warmest wishes for a wonderful birthday to one of the most talented entertainers of our time. George Burns' knowing smile and dry wit have touched the hearts and funny bones of three generations. His impeccable timing breathed life into the mundane, and his clever humor crystallized many ageless skits. His youthful attitude, now a century old, continues to inspire us today. We send him all our best on this happy occasion.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Foreign Minister Ehud Barak of Israel

January 22, 1996

State of the Union Address

Q. Is your State of the Union all ready, Mr. President?

The President. Just about ready.

Q. Some people are expecting a campaign-style speech.

The President. I don't think so. What I'm going to say tomorrow night is that the state of the Union is strong, but it can be stronger, that I am absolutely confident and optimistic about our ability to meet the challenges that our country faces, and I'm going to say what I think they are and what I believe we should all do about them.

Q. Are you going to reach out to the Republicans to try and get things done?

The President. Absolutely. I did last year, and I will again. I think, you know, we have differences, but we should attempt to resolve those differences. And we should attempt, where we can't resolve them, to set them aside and do what we can do. Remember, throughout our history, the system that the framers of the Constitution set up demands honorable, principled compromise.

Public Debt

Q. Did Dick Arme's comments concern you?

The President. Well, I don't think we should default on the debt. I think that would

be a terrible mistake. It's an unacceptable thing for a great nation to do, and we've never done it.

State of the Union Address

Q. Is this going to be longer than last year?

The President. Tune in. I suppose it depends on the applause, doesn't it? [Laughter]

[At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.]

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Mr. President, I'm a correspondent of the Israeli television. Do you hope to reach an agreement between Israel and Syria by the end of '96?

The President. Well, of course, that's up to Israel and Syria. All the United States has tried to do throughout this process is to try to do whatever we could to encourage the process of peace. And I think the timetable has to be driven by the progress that is made. That is entirely up to the parties.

Q. What are you doing in order to speed up such an agreement?

The President. We will do whatever we can, whatever we're asked to do, within limits to—within the limits of our ability, to try to make it possible for the parties to succeed. But the timetable is entirely up to the progress of the substance of the negotiations, and that is entirely up to the parties. The United States—I think we've had some success in the last 3 years because we have not tried to dictate terms or anything of that kind. We have only tried to be helpful and to try to support the parties as they search for peace. And if you look at the results of the last 3 years, that is the appropriate posture for the United States.

Q. Do you hope to initiate a meeting between President Asad and Prime Minister Peres of Israel? Is it one of your wishes for the months ahead?

The President. Well that, of course, will be up to them. If it is helpful in getting them to the point where they can make a peace, obviously, that would be a good thing. But that is a—like every other part of this process, ultimately that is up to them.

NOTE: The exchange began at 2:15 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks,

the President referred to President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria and Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Message to the Congress on Libya *January 22, 1996*

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby report to the Congress on the developments since my last report of July 12, 1995, concerning the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order No. 12543 of January 7, 1986. This report is submitted pursuant to section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); and section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c).

1. On January 3, 1996, I renewed for another year the national emergency with respect to Libya pursuant to IEEPA. This renewal extended the current comprehensive financial and trade embargo against Libya in effect since 1986. Under these sanctions, all trade with Libya is prohibited, and all assets owned or controlled by the Libyan government in the United States or in the possession or control of U.S. persons are blocked.

2. There has been one amendment to the Libyan Sanctions Regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 550 (the "Regulations"), administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (FAC) of the Department of the Treasury, since my last report on July 12, 1995. The amendment (60 *Fed. Reg.* 37940-37941, July 25, 1995) added three hotels in Malta to appendix A, Organizations Determined to Be Within the Term "Government of Libya" (Specially Designated Nationals (SDNs) of Libya). A copy of the amendment is attached to this report.

Pursuant to section 550.304(a) of the Regulations, FAC has determined that these entities designated as SDNs are owned or controlled by, or acting or purporting to act directly or indirectly on behalf of, the Government of Libya, or are agencies, instrumentalities, or entities of that government. By virtue of this determination, all property and inter-

ests in property of these entities that are in the United States or in the possession or control of U.S. persons are blocked. Further, U.S. persons are prohibited from engaging in transactions with these entities unless the transactions are licensed by FAC. The designations were made in consultation with the Department of State.

3. During the current 6-month period, FAC made numerous decisions with respect to applications for licenses to engage in transactions under the Regulations, issuing 54 licensing determinations—both approvals and denials. Consistent with FAC's ongoing scrutiny of banking transactions, the largest category of license approvals (20) concerned requests by Libyan and non-Libyan persons or entities to unblock transfers interdicted because of an apparent Government of Libya interest. A license was also issued to a local taxing authority to foreclose on a property owned by the Government of Libya for failure to pay property tax arrearages.

4. During the current 6-month period, FAC continued to emphasize to the international banking community in the United States the importance of identifying and blocking payments made on behalf of Libya. The Office worked closely with the banks to implement new interdiction software systems to identify such payments. As a result, during the reporting period, more than 107 transactions potentially involving Libya, totaling more than \$26.0 million, were interdicted. As of December 4, 23 of these transactions had been authorized for release, leaving a net amount of more than \$24.6 million blocked.

Since my last report, FAC collected 27 civil monetary penalties totaling more than \$119,500, for violations of the U.S. sanctions against Libya. Fourteen of the violations involved the failure of banks or credit unions to block funds transfers to Libyan-owned or -controlled banks. Two other penalties were received from corporations for export violations or violative payments to Libya for unlicensed trademark transactions. Eleven additional penalties were paid by U.S. citizens engaging in Libyan oilfield-related transactions while another 40 cases involving similar violations are in active penalty processing.

In November 1995, guilty verdicts were returned in two cases involving illegal export-