

Elian Gonzalez. Is that something you would even consider?

The President. I believe that they followed the law and the procedures. This is a volatile and difficult case. And those who want to challenge it will have to follow the law and the procedures. I think that's the only way to do this. We need to keep this out of the political process as much as possible, within the established legal channels.

Israel-Syria Peace Talks

Q. Are you satisfied with the cooperation that you've been getting from the Israeli and Syrian negotiators in Shepherdstown?

The President. Yes. This is difficult stuff. This is very hard. But let me say, they're working hard, and they're trying to find ways to resolve their differences. And they're trying to imagine the end of the road here. It's a difficult, difficult set of negotiations, but we're working in a steady way, and I'm satisfied that everybody is working in good faith.

Q. How long do you expect this to take?

The President. I don't know—until we finish.

Q. Mr. President, how do you see your role in Shepherdstown to get these talks moving?

The President. Oh, I don't want to characterize that. I just try to get people together and identify what they have in common and identify what their differences are, try to get people to keep in mind the big picture at the end, what we want the—in this case, what we hope and pray the Middle East will look like in 5 years or 10 years from now. And then try to work these things through to the end. But we're just trying to be helpful, and I hope we are, and we're working at it.

I hope you'll wish us well, and I've got to get up there.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:28 a.m. in the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to James Madison University President Linwood Rose; National Coordinator for Security, Infrastructure Protection, and Counterterrorism Richard A. Clarke, National Security Council; and Cuban youth Elian Gonzalez, rescued off the coast of Florida on November 25, 1999, whose custody the Immigration and Natu-

ralization Service decided in favor of his Cuban father.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

January 1

In the morning, the President had a brief telephone conversation with Acting President Vladimir Putin of Russia

January 3

In the morning, the President traveled to Shepherdstown, WV.

In the afternoon, the President met separately with Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel and Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara of Syria in the Sun Room at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Center.

In the evening, the President met with Foreign Minister al-Shara of Syria in the Sebastian Room at the Clarion Hotel. Later, the President returned to Washington, DC.

January 4

In the morning, the President traveled to Shepherdstown, WV, where he met with Prime Minister Barak of Israel and Foreign Minister al-Shara of Syria.

In the evening, the President attended an informal reception for the Israeli and Syrian delegation at the Clarion Hotel.

Later, the President returned to Washington, DC, arriving after midnight, where he placed telephone calls to Sugar Bowl participants in New Orleans, LA.

The White House announced that the President transmitted the 1999 National Security Strategy Report to Congress.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nicholas P. Godici to be Assistant Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks at the Department of Commerce.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alan Greenspan to be Chairman

of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

The President announced his intention to appoint Cruz M. Bustamante as a member of the U.S. Census Monitoring Board.

January 5

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Chappaqua, NY.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Brooklyn, NY, and Manhattan, NY, on January 13.

January 6

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton returned to Washington, DC. Later, the President traveled to Shepherdstown, WV, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to appoint Joe Velasquez to the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

January 7

In the morning, the President traveled to Shepherdstown, WV, where he met with Prime Minister Barak of Israel and Foreign Minister al-Shara of Syria.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released January 3

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Transcripts of readouts to the traveling press pool by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart on the Israel-Syria peace talks

Released January 4

Announcement: 1999 National Security Strategy Report

Released January 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Released January 6

Transcript of a readout to the traveling press pool by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart and State Department Spokesman James Rubin on the Israel-Syria peace talks

Released January 7

Transcripts of telephone remarks to the traveling press pool by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart on the Israel-Syria peace talks

Transcript of a press briefing by Chief of Staff John Podesta, Secretary of Commerce Bill Daley, James Madison University President Linwood H. Rose, and NSC National Coordinator for Security, Infrastructure Protection and Counter-terrorism Richard A. Clarke on the National Plan for Information System Protection

Statement by the Press Secretary on the working document that the President presented to the delegations at the Israel-Syria peace talks

Fact sheet: Institute for Information Infrastructure Protection

Fact sheet: Federal Cyber Services Training and Education Initiative

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.
