

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Bridgetown, Barbados)

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

The Barbados Hilton ---
The Fort Grill Room

4:30 P.M. AST

MR. SPEAKES: Now, we'll have to stop there, because we have more to come.

Q What is the next thing about --

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q What are they, what is the next thing about?

MR. SPEAKES: The announcement by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation affecting Barbados.

Q Is it the civil aviation thing?

MR. SPEAKES: No, he'll tell you. You'll know in two minutes.

Q How about for yourself; can you tell us whether the President has heard from Haig?

MR. SPEAKES: The President has not talked directly to Secretary Haig. We've been communicating through the diplomatic channels. Secretary Haig arrived in London, and as far as I know, he went directly into a series of meetings with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary. And those meetings, I presume, are continuing now or will conclude shortly. Secretary Haig's travel plans are not firm until the conclusion of the meeting, but he will probably go to Buenos Aires Friday or Saturday, and return to Washington after a round of meetings in Buenos Aires.

Q Is there any chance he might come here, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: There's still no thought of it.

Q The President indicated that Haig was involved in negotiations; does that now mean that we are, in fact, mediating?

MR. SPEAKES: No --

Q Can we hear the question, please?

MR. SPEAKES: The President indicated Secretary Haig was involved in negotiations; does that mean that we're now involved in negotiations? I would not indicate that. I think the President was referring to negotiations in less than the generic sense. (Laughter.)

Q Is the reception --

Q He misspoke, in other words. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: I think he was referring to it as discussions that he's having in both countries, but --

Q Is the reception, tonight at the Prime Minister's house, now the end of the official part of this trip?

MR. SPEAKES: The reception, yes, I would characterize it as that with the exception of the radio speech on Saturday and the attendance at church on Sunday, which could or could not be official.

Q Larry, the Argentine --

Q And so the rest is free time?

Q Larry, the Argentine Foreign Minister was quoted as saying that the prospect of war appears less likely after his talks in Washington. Are you aware of why?

MORE

MR. SPEAKES: No, I think --

Q We didn't hear the question.

MR. SPEAKES: Are we aware of why the Argentine Prime Minister was --

Q Foreign Minister.

MR. SPEAKES: -- was, pardon?

Q Foreign Minister.

MR. SPEAKES: -- Foreign Minister seemed optimistic after his talks in Washington, saying less chance of war. I couldn't pass judgement on what his thoughts were, with the exception that he has spoken rather optimistically since his meeting with Secretary Haig in Washington --

Q Has he talked with --

MR. SPEAKES: -- two days ago.

Q Has he talked with other than Mr. Haig? Has he talked to Mr. Reagan about it?

MR. SPEAKES: I, he has not talked to the President, no.

Q Do you have any reaction to the British threat to sink Argentine warships on Monday?

MR. SPEAKES: No. With Secretary Haig present in London, I'm sure he's discussing the full range of matters, but, being such a delicate situation, it's not appropriate, or would serve no purpose for us to comment.

Q Does the President wish that Britain had not declared a war zone around the Falklands?

MR. SPEAKES: The President has not expressed a wish on it either way.

Q Has the President issued a gag order? (Laughter.)

Q Larry, is the President, or anyone in the administration, concerned about Mrs. Kirkpatrick's dinner at the Argentinian Embassy in Washington last Friday, after the invasion?

MR. SPEAKES: No, not exceptionally. I'm sure she was accepting a long-standing invitation, and I don't think her presence there implied one thing either way.

Q When you say not exceptionally, do you mean that there is some concern, and you are not exceptionally concerned?

MR. SPEAKES: There's no concern.

Q Do you think it would have been preferable had she declined to attend considering the status of the situation on Friday?

MR. SPEAKES: That's a speculative question.

Q Well, it's not a speculative question in that would you have preferred that she not have gone?

Q Who is she; we can't hear.

MR. SPEAKES: Jean Kirkpatrick had dinner with the Argentines the other night. We simply don't read it either way.

Q You don't think it compromises the American position?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Why did she go?

MR. SPEAKES: Because she was --

Q You've got to EAT SOMEPLACE. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: Maybe they've got good cooks like Ms. Colbert's got. (Laughter.)

Q Did the President bring a cook along?

MR. SPEAKES: He brought his usual contingent of assistants that help with his meals, but no cook. (Laughter.) Deaver, Baker and me are serving the President.

Q Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Okay.

Q Does the President still plan to leave on Sunday?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, he plans to leave on --

Q Who else --

MR. SPEAKES: I think Clark, Stoessil, Deaver, that's it, Baker, Fuller, me will remain.

Q Are they going any place in particular?

Q "Are you going to continue to negotiate the budget from here --

MR. SPEAKES: Washington, Andrews Air Force Base,

What?

MORE

#304-4/8

MR. SPEAKES: Washington. Andrews Air Force Base. What?

Q Are you going to continue to negotiate the budget from here --

MR. SPEAKES: From here? Sure.

Q Clark and Stoessel are leaving, you say? And Deaver?

MR. SPEAKES: Stoessel, Clark, Deaver are returning to Washington as originally planned.

Q Are you going to make a budget announcement here tomorrow?

MR. SPEAKES: Don't look for a budget announcement here. I think we're required to send something up to the Hill on -- tomorrow, which we will.

Q Will you brief us tomorrow?

MR. SPEAKES: I will be here at 11:00 a.m. to brief.

Q Larry, the British -- I think it's the Defense Minister in an interview on one of the morning programs expressed some concern that the United States was trying to play down the middle in this dispute with Argentina, when, in fact, it was pretty clear cut as far as he was concerned.

The United States have any plans to come out in favor of its most trusted ally a little bit more strongly?

MR. SPEAKES: I would think that we would talk to London and Buenos Aires before we did anything. Our desire is to -- for a peaceful solution.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

4:36 P.M. AST