

FDCH Political Transcripts  
October 10, 2002

NEWS BRIEFING  
ARI FLEISCHER, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

Excerpt:

QUESTION: The Europeans have offered a deal on International Criminal Court that would exempt U.S. military personnel and diplomats. Why is that not enough?

FLEISCHER: The United States continues to feel very strongly that the International Criminal Court is not in the interests of the United States. That as we learned in the aftermath of the Serbian attacks into Kosovo, into Bosnia, that there are existing mechanisms that can be set up to make certain that people who engage in criminal wrongdoing can be brought to justice.

But under the ICC's charter, people can be brought before a court, even if they do not subscribe to the International Criminal Court treaty. And the president thinks that it is a way that Americans will ultimately be targeted, often for political reasons. And we will not and do not support that.

QUESTION: But the president's objections were that soldiers or diplomats could be dragged before this court. If they are covered, who else -- what other Americans do you want covered under this -- exempted, rather.

FLEISCHER: There should be no American who would be subject to an arbitrary court that could act for capricious reasons.

QUESTION: No Americans whatsoever?

FLEISCHER: That's correct.

For the full text of the press briefing, visit:  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/cgi-bin/washfile/display.pl?p=/products/washfile/latest&f=02101001.tlt&t=/products/washfile/newsitem.shtml>