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TELEVISION PROGRAM TO "CBS NEWS' FACE THE NATION."



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GUESTS: PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON

 PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

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TRANSCRIPT

BOB SCHIEFFER: Today on FACE THE NATION, as the dimensions of the Haitian disaster grow even wider and the death toll rises, former Presidents Clinton and Bush say it is time to put politics aside and help Haiti. We'll talk to both of them. And from our correspondents and U.S. officials on the scene, we'll get the latest on this tragedy.

ANNOUNCER: FACE THE NATION with CBS News chief Washington correspondent Bob Schieffer, and now from Washington, Bob Schieffer.

BOB SCHIEFFER: And good morning, again.

The pictures continue to shock, the statistics boggle the mind. The latest estimate of the death toll is at a minimum a hundred thousand, but it may eventually be twice that. At least two hundred and fifty thousand have been injured. At least three hundred thousand people now in the capital city are living in the streets. The rescue efforts go on. The city is relatively calm, but there are increasing incidents of violence and looting as the need for food and water grows.

Our Jeff Glor was in the first wave of correspondents to arrive. Jeff, what is going to be the main problem for officials today?

JEFF GLOR (National Correspondent): Bob, without question, the biggest problem here today remains not getting the food and supplies in but getting it out into the population. At this point only a small fraction of the food and supplies that have come in have gotten out. It couldn't have happened in a worse place--only one runway at the airport. The streets are littered with debris. The port is badly damaged here. There really was no infrastructure to begin with. So they need to get that out. The food is getting here but it's not getting to the people who desperately need it. Bob.

BOB SCHIEFFER: All right. Jeff Glor, thank you so much. Hang around. We want to talk to you some more. Be safe.

And here with us in the studio now Doctor Rajiv Shah who is the head of the U.S. Aid Program and in Haiti Lieutenant General P. K. Keen who is commanding U.S. military force there.

General, I want to start with you. Just by coincidence you were in Haiti when this earthquake happened and you had quite a-- quite a scare there. Tell us what happened.

GENERAL P. K. KEEN (SOUTHCOM): Well, Sir, I was staying at the ambassador residence, like you said we were there on a preplanned visit with about five of my fellow service members. My executive officer and I were in the ambassador residence when the earthquake struck. Three of my personnel were in the Hotel Montana that completely collapsed.

So I can tell you it was devastating and it-- it's like the Indiana Jones movie where the whole Earth shakes and we ran outside and his residence really was swaying back and forth. Fortunately, it didn't collapse.

BOB SCHIEFFER: And you had actually been planning to stay at the Hotel Montana but the ambassador asked you and another member of your party to stay with him at the residence, otherwise you would have been in the hotel yourself.

GENERAL P. K. KEEN: That's correct. And-- and fortunately two of my personnel that were seriously injured are back in the States being treated, and we are still searching for one.

BOB SCHIEFFER: How would you assess the situation right now, General? I would just ask you first, have you ever seen anything like this?

GENERAL P. K. KEEN: Well, I've been part of various disaster operations in my career, but I've never seen anything so devastating and far reaching. This is affecting over three million people here in the Port-au-Prince area. I've flown over the area. I've walked through the streets. I've drove-- drove through the streets every day. And you cannot go to any part of this city where it is not affected.

Obviously, there are some areas that are much more affected by than others, but we're going to need the entire world--the international community to respond. And we're seeing it happen-- every day it gets more. And we're very grateful for the support that we're getting from our nation and all those around the world.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Doctor Shah, what-- what is the biggest problem now that you see? Because I mean already we're hearing some people, although the response is-- some people are saying we-- we should have gotten in there faster.

RAJIV SHAH, M.D. (USAID Administrator): Well, thank you, Bob, and thank you for the opportunity to be here. Just building on what the general said, and, you know, this is an unprecedented situation and an unprecedented natural disaster. And to commensurate with that the President immediately after this happened had pulled together the whole of government and said that he wanted a swift and aggressive response that was well coordinated and done in partnership with the Haitian government. So, we-- I was in Haiti yesterday with the general, with President Preval of-- of Haiti. They welcomed and thanked the President-- President Obama for this partnership.

And you know we're doing exactly that. We deployed immediately our disaster assistance response teams. We had-- the first people on the ground where our ur- urban search-and-rescue teams. These are teams with more seventy people each. We have five-- five in right now. And so we have a few hundred professionals well equipped with dogs out there saving people. And that's been a success. Our teams alone have saved dozens of people, mostly Haitian. They've also coordinated an effort with twenty-seven other countries, almost thirty other teams to help do that.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Mm-Hm. Let me go back to the general. General, what is the-- the main problem now? We were told by our correspondents there that it's a bottleneck at the airport. Apparently, it's a little better than it was but it's not so much getting the aid to the airport, it's getting it out into the countryside.

GENERAL P. K. KEEN: Well, we're doing better every day. Yesterday was a very good day. We-- the paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division, they delivered over seventy thousand bottles of water. They delivered over a hundred and thirty thousand rations. And that's just what we delivered. Of course, our partners here with the United Nations forces were doing the same thing and the international community and the various organizations. But we need to do more and we need to do it faster and we're building a capacity, as you noted earlier, to do that.

This is a challenging logistical problem. We have got one airport that only has one runway and one taxiway. We've got the best airmen in the world here who arrived within twenty-four hours to open this airport so it could run twenty-four hours a day.

BOB SCHIEFFER: It does appear to be relatively calm but there doe-- there do seem to be increasing incidents of violence. How is the law-and-order situation right now, General?

GENERAL P. K. KEEN: Well, as you note, there are isolated incidents of violence, but I can tell you our paratroopers were out yesterday delivering humanitarian assistance and everywhere they went they were warmly welcomed by the Haitian people. They stood in line and were very warmly receiving our paratroopers and very grateful for that aid.

At the same time, we had some isolated incidents. Security is a key component of a humanitarian assistance operation. We need to create a safe and secure environment to ensure we're able to do everything we can. Our United Nations troops that have been here on a mission of security and stability continue with that mission, but they also have transitioned into humanitarian assistance--

BOB SCHIEFFER (overlapping): All right.

GENERAL P. K. KEEN: --so the capacity to provide adequate security will be a challenge.

BOB SCHIEFFER: What is the-- Doctor Shah, what is the main problem at this end now?

RAJIV SHAH: Well, we-- we're working on-- on multiple issues simultaneously. One is securing commodity flow and getting that into Haiti. The military has been very successful at increasing the throughput by more effective management of the airport. That's been a great first step. We now need to expand alternate routes including port and sea access. And we're working in partnership with the Department of Defense to make that happen as-- absolutely as quickly as possible.

The second is, we're-- we're trying to dramatically expand the in-country distribution network. So, we're working with our partners around the world, as the General mentions, to identify as many major distribution points as we can, get those secure, improve transport to those points, and really dramatically accelerate commodity flow there.

BOB SCHIEFFER: All right. I'm sorry. We have to stop there.

RAJIV SHAH: Sure.

BOB SCHIEFFER: But thank you both very much. I'll let you both get back to work.

RAJIV SHAH: Thank you.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Yesterday, in the Rose Garden, President Obama announced he was appointing former Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush to head up a huge fund-raising effort for the people of Haiti. Afterwards, we sat down with the two of them in the White House Map Room.

(Begin VT)

BOB SCHIEFFER: I think some people will be surprised to see you two sitting here together. But a very good source of mine told me, as a matter of fact, that you all often talked while you were President, Mister Bush, and that you actually developed a very special relationship. Do you think of yourself now as friends?

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH: Yeah, I do.

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: Me, too.

BOB SCHIEFFER: And did you talk often?

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH: I don't know about often, but I did-- I called him. He didn't call me because he knows how busy a President is. I called him and we chatted on occasion.

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: I was always pleased when he called me. I tried-- I'd make it a practice never to bother the President. I don't call President Obama either. I don't think it's, you know, he got plenty to do. But I-- we have developed a very honest, good friendship. And we've made our disagreements respectful. And we've had a good time doing it.

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH: And my mother calls me my-- my fourth brother, calls him my fourth brother.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Okay, is that right?

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: The black sheep of the family.

BOB SCHIEFFER: (LAUGHING) Is this what we're seeing here today a culmination of the relationship that you developed during those years?

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH: I don't think so. I think it really is two guys that want to help channel compassion in a proper direction and want-- want-- want-- want to help the American people deal with the tragedy they've seen on their television screens down there in Haiti.

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: You know, the President asked us to help. The Haitians need our help. Americans want to help. And I think we were asked, first, because people know if they send funds through us--and that's mostly what they need now and will for the next couple of weeks--we'll see that it's honestly and correctly spent and effectively spent.

And second, he wants us to stay at it over a longer period, as I did with the first President Bush in the tsunami, because this is going to be a long-term process.

BOB SCHIEFFER: There's been an overwhelming outpouring of support by the American people for this, but not in every quarter. Rush Limbaugh said, for example, that President Obama might try to use this for political means--to shore up support for himself in the black community. And he said we've already donated to Haiti, they call it the-- the U.S. income tax. What's your response to that?

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: Oh, I don't have any. You know, I-- I think we should-- it's not fruitful to get involved in that. The-- the Haitian people are working, they-- they're in desperate shape. And before they were in desperate shape they were on the way to building a modern

society and I was honored to try to help them. I love the country. But I think every American has been heartbroken by what's happened. And I just think it doesn't do us any good to waste any time in what is, in my opinion, a fruitless and pointless conversation.

BOB SCHIEFFER: What would you say to that, Mister President?

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH: I'd say now's not the time to focus on politics, it's time to focus on helping people. I mean, look, you've got people who are-- children who've lost their parents. People wondering where they're going to be able to drink water. And there's a great sense of desperation. And so, my attention is on trying to help people deal with the desperation.

BOB SCHIEFFER: What do you--

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON (overlapping): But I think the-- the-- let's take a serious point that Mister Limbaugh was making is that the Americans pay for the government and the military's down there doing their part. But in a disaster of this magnitude there is no way that the government, which has other responsibilities as well, national security and other responsibilities, you just can't deal with this just with government money.

I mean, there are people that-- they have no place to sleep. They have nothing to eat. They have no clean water. They have no access to medical supplies no matter how bad-- hurt they are, unless someone brings it in and stands it up. That's what the-- that's what all these faith-based groups are doing down there. That's what all these other non-governmental groups are doing. And we think Americans know that and want to help. And what we want to do is to try to increase the help and also ensure that it goes to the right places.

BOB SCHIEFFER: How do you make sure that it gets there? What-- what lessons do you take away from Katrina that you can apply here, Mister President?

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH (overlapping): Well, first of all, it's great compassion. People are going to want to help. You've just got to make sure that help is channeled in the right direction. The immediate crisis is not going to be solved by the fund that we're setting up. The immediate crisis is going to be solved by the United States government along with other governments effectively dealing with the food shortage, the information shortage, the water shortage, the-- you know, the security situation. We want to be around to help on the rebuilding aspects of this.

And-- and the-- the lesson I've learned on all the crisis or catastrophes during my presidency was people want to help. And that's why when the President asked me to join with Bill to create a mechanism where they could help, I was happy to do so. And by the way it happens to be at clintonbushhaitifund.org.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Ha-- is there a structure in place, I would ask both of you, to-- to ensure that this money gets to the people? I mean, how can people be certain that this money is going to go to the people in need?

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON (overlapping): Well, right-- right now, it's interesting you say, you know, because when the-- when the U.N. system broke down after, you know, because our headquarters was destroyed there and I was working for U.N., I set up-- up-- up an emergency fund on my website just to-- to stand for them. Right now we know who's down there and who's good. And we just-- anybody who gives us money now we're going to flow it right through there.

We know about Doctor Paul Farmer's group. They've got medical people down there. You want it go to medical help, you can give it to them. CARE is on the ground. They're good. The UNICEF supplies are being delivered. They're reliable. So we don't have any real problems now. What we need now is quick pass-through in the most effective ways.

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH: Yeah, one of my concerns, Bob, is that during these crises all of a sudden all these kind of fake organizations pop up and-- and well-meaning people are misled. And I know President Obama is concerned about that as well. So, you know, we're a safe haven. And the other thing we're going to do is rely upon people who know what they're doing down in Haiti. They'll be Haiti-specific expertise that'll be helping advise how to spend this money.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Can we afford this? Because, as you both say, it's going to take more than charity. It's going to--

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON (overlapping): Yeah, but--

BOB SCHIEFFER: --take the U.S. government--

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON (overlapping): Yes.

BOB SCHIEFFER: --and that's going to cost some money.

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON (overlapping): But it's not--

BOB SCHIEFFER: Can we afford it?

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: It's not just us, Bob. I mean, you've got people all over the world that are contributing to this and there'll be governments all over the world. And I've already talked to a lot of these donor nations. And keep in mind they pledged a lot of money before this happened. We in the United States, as we always do, have given a higher percentage of what we pledged. So a lot of these countries have money set aside they can put in here. I think we can afford it and I don't think we can afford not to do it.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Mister President, Mister President, thank you very much.

(End VT)

BOB SCHIEFFER: And we'll be back in one minute with more from our CBS News team in Haiti.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

BOB SCHIEFFER: We've got together our three correspondents who have been covering this: Byron Pitts, Doctor Jennifer Ashton, Jeff Glor. And, Byron, I want to talk to first, because you've been to a lot of bad thud stuff.

BYRON PITTS (Chief National Correspondent): Yeah.

BOB SCHIEFFER: You've been to Iraq, you were at Katrina. Have you ever seen anything quite like this one?

BYRON PITTS: Bob, not at all, in part because the death and destruction are so concentrated. Port-au-Prince is a city built for four hundred thousand people but more than two million people live there. And it's not just Port-au-Prince--we were in a town about fifteen miles outside of Port-au-Prince, closer to the epicenter. A hundred thousand people lived there. Eighty-five percent of the buildings were destroyed. There's a five-hundred-year-old Catholic Church, gone. The coffin maker there was told to stop making coffins--there are too many bodies--just wrap them up in towels and blankets and put them in a hole.

BOB SCHIEFFER: It's almost like Ka-- Katrina without the high ground to go to. There's absolutely no place to go.

Jennifer, you flew in, what, on Friday, I guess. You brought your own nurse with you. You came in with a group of doctors mainly to just do doctor work and do some reporting on the side. This-- this is extraordinary what's happening down there.

JENNIFER ASHTON, M.D. (Medical Correspondent): It really is, Bob. And on day five of this disaster what we're seeing medically is the dehydration and the crush injuries really heading forth a scene of full-blown infection. We're seeing a lot of gangrene in limbs that have been crushed, necessitating almost hourly amputations. They don't even have enough bodies for the limbs that the doctors need to amputate to save these people's lives. So it is-- and they're still pulling people out of rubble. Every once in a while there'll be a good story, but, for the most part, patients in really critical condition.

BOB SCHIEFFER: And, Jeff, this is really your first big story for CBS News, is it not?

JEFF GLOR (NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT): Well, it was in Iraq. But this is certainly much worse than Iraq at the time when I was there. And-- and, Bob, there's a-- there's really a story almost every couple hours when you're out in the streets. We talked to a woman yesterday who, when she heard the earthquake happen, she realized her daughter was in a school. She went there. Her daughter was pulled out. This woman held her daughter for five hours before her daughter died in her arms. This woman now, as we spoke to her, is lying on a bed. She is not physically in pain, but she is so wracked with mental anguish that she cannot move. It is-- it is unforgettable to see some of the stories like this. And, as I say, they are all over the place.

BOB SCHIEFFER: I want to go back to Jennifer. What is it like to try to give medical help to people under conditions like this? You're used to working in a hospital. You're used to antiseptics and-- and all of the things that we come to associate with medicine. This is a whole different kind of deal.

JENNIFER ASHTON: Right, Bob. And on the one hand it's-- it's gratifying because every single person we touch we're really making a big difference for them. But as soon as we step away we realize that we might have put a clean dressing on an open fracture and-- and a severe wound, but they're not going to be able to get that dressing changed. And they're not going to be able to get the surgical care that they really need, that we-- that we really take for granted when you work in a hospital.

So only the doctors and nurses who have had extensive combat medicine experience are-- are ready for this. Otherwise, we're just trying to do the best we can. And it's-- it's very difficult.

BOB SCHIEFFER: How difficult, Byron Pitts, is it to report this story--to get your story out of there? I mean you've been in some-- some bad places--

BYRON PITTS (overlapping): Yeah.

BOB SCHIEFFER: --as-- as we just said. But just the logistics of this are extraordinary.

BYRON PITTS: Oh, yeah, Bob. It's-- it's been far more difficult than-- than the tsunami in Indonesia, any story I've been. For instance, when we first got here, there were no phone lines. The first night we reported here it was difficult to do live television. You don't have access to your computer. I did a big piece that will be on 60 MINUTES tonight, a twelve-minute piece. And we had to dictate the script over the phone because you don't have the technology that you normally have, to use computers. So this is a place-- I mean Haiti was a place that didn't have much before the earthquake. What little they had was taken away.

BOB SCHIEFFER: What-- I mean, these-- these poor people, as you say, you're starting at ground zero, below ground zero--

BYRON PITTS (overlapping): Yeah.

BOB SCHIEFFER: --on this. The city, although there have been incidents of violence and some looting, it's been remarkably quiet when you consider the fix that these people are in.

BYRON PITTS: Oh, yeah. The people here, Bob, have a resilient spirit. I was at the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince the other night. It's the biggest hospital in this country. And the doctors there were using rusty hacksaws to amputate limbs. You could hear women and children moaning in the darkness. But at one point-- it was close to midnight, at one point a woman started humming and then singing the Haitian national anthem. And then eventually you heard about three hundred people, all wounded, singing their national anthem, which talks about pride and struggle. So if anyone in the world could manage this kind of disaster emotionally, perhaps no one could do it better than the people of Haiti.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Let me ask Jennifer and Jeff. Jennifer, what is the one moment since you've been there that you will always remember?

JENNIFER ASHTON: I think, Bob, it had to be when a fifteen-year-old was pulled out of a building on the evening that we got here. So it was three days in. And she actually had to have her arm amputated to be pulled out from under a dead body. And about four doctors, three nurses took care of her. And we literally-- we had to give her our clothing because she had nothing. And those rescuers saved her life. And she's actually going to make it. That probably will stay with me the most.

BOB SCHIEFFER: And Jeff, how about you?

JEFF GLOR: Well, I-- I would say a couple days ago I spoke to a woman who had three young children--three daughters between the ages of four and nine. Her leg was badly damaged in the quake. She was in her house when this happened. She was cooking a meal for her kids when this happened. She now can't move. She is responsible for three children--three young girls. When I spoke to them two days after the quake happened they still had not eaten or drunk anything. She said to me that she was convinced at that point that her children would die. Can you imagine what she's going through right now? I asked her when this ends. She said, it ends when God arrives. It's tragic.

BOB SCHIEFFER: Well, I want to thank all of you for the-- for the good work that you're doing. Be safe and keep up the good work. We'll be back with some final thoughts.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

BOB SCHIEFFER: Finally today, in a reporter's life there are stories--some interesting, some not; and then there are moments to remember. This weekend was one of those. When George Bush and Bill Clinton sat down together and said helping those in Haiti overrode politics, it symbolized that this was one of those times when the country came together. That seems to happen less often nowadays. In this day of mean and polarized politics we find no shortage of one-upmanship, pettiness, and those seeking partisan advantage. The politicians love it and have somehow come to believe it helps them when, in fact, it is has just the opposite effect.

My evidence of that, well, there was a time when people wanted their children to go up to be President. How often have you heard anyone express that wish lately? Or even that their child would grow up to have anything to do with politics.

But here is the good news. When Americans have to come together, when we have to put those things aside, we always do, as we did after 9/11. The reaction to Haiti may have been more remarkable than our response to 9/11 because 9/11, after all, was about us. This past week was about the suffering of others. Yet, with the exception of a few loonies and professionals partisans, Americans opened their hearts and their billfolds and they did so even though America itself is in the midst of an economic crisis.

So it was good to see Bill Clinton and George Bush sitting together, good to know that in times past they drew strength and counsel from each other. That's how Americans want their leaders to act. Too often, they just don't.

Back in a minute.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

BOB SCHIEFFER: And we'll see you right here next week.