

pressive efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency toward non-proliferation enforcement.

The United Nations was created not only "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" but also "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom." The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which are an integral part of the U.N. family of organizations, are playing an instrumental role in efforts to raise standards of living through development, investment, and the adoption of market-oriented economic and financial policies. Other specialized agencies of the United Nations are working to promote better standards of life by promoting development, helping children, fighting the spread of AIDS and other devastating diseases, coordinating efforts to stop drug trafficking, and encouraging international cooperation on the environment. Recently the United States was proud to become the first industrialized nation to ratify the United Nations Framework Convention on Global Climate Change, which was signed in Rio de Janeiro in June.

As we continue to seek the goals set forth in the U.N. Charter, we must keep in mind that member nations are the United Nations. Our continued cooperation is vital, because as members of this body affirmed when they adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, "recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and unalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 24, 1992, as United Nations Day. I invite all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6499 of October 29, 1992

Refugee Day, 1992

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The United States has long welcomed to its shores refugees from oppression and persecution—generations of whom have built new lives for themselves in this country and, in so doing, contributed to its cultural and economic development. Early immigrants to America sought sanctuary from tyranny and persecution, and our first President, George Washington, exhorted that the United States should ever be "an asylum to the oppressed and needy of the earth." The origins of this great land as a place of refuge and our rich heritage as a nation of immigrants give Americans a special understanding of, and sympathy for, the plight of some 17 million refugees worldwide today.

In addition to opening its doors to tens of thousands of refugees each year, the United States is working to overcome the conditions that force large numbers of people to flee their homelands. Through a wide range of public and private organizations, we have been promoting education, disease prevention, and sustainable economic development in countries beset by illiteracy and poverty. Because millions of refugees have been driven from their homes by the scourge of political repression and war, we have placed a high priority on working to promote freedom and democracy, which are the only sure foundation for lasting peace and progress.

With the collapse of imperial communism and with the emergence of democratic nations around the globe, more of our fellow human beings are living in freedom than at any other time in history. This trend has had a positive impact on a number of serious, long-standing refugee situations throughout the world, such as those in Central America, Cambodia, and Afghanistan.

However, while these developments are encouraging, we know that in some regions of the world, the plight of refugees continues to demand our urgent attention. Nowhere are conditions more deplorable today than in the Horn of Africa and the former Yugoslavia.

The United States serves as an international leader in efforts to meet the challenges of current refugee crises. We will continue to fulfill our fundamental responsibilities to help refugees, and we will continue to urge our allies and all governments to remain firmly committed to protecting refugees and to contributing toward international relief efforts. The United States remains steadfast in its support of the efforts of the United Nations to develop effective worldwide programs to alleviate human suffering. Because the suffering of refugees is most often the result of systematic government repression and violent unrest in some regions of the world, we will also continue to champion respect for human rights, the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and the principles of national sovereignty and liberty under law.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 30, 1992, as Refugee Day. I urge all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities, including efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and to promote freedom and peace among all peoples.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

GEORGE BUSH