Proclamation 6711 of August 1, 1994

Helsinki Human Rights Day, 1994

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

For over 20 years, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe has been an important forum in leading humanity's ongoing struggle to define and defend human rights. The Helsinki Final Act of 1975 committed the United States, Canada, and 33 European states to respect "freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion." It stands as a fundamental declaration of freedom—a beacon and a warning to all those who would turn away from democracy's welcoming light.

When the West called upon the states in the Eastern bloc to uphold their CSCE human rights commitments during the Cold War, CSCE members' support of these ideals played a pivotal role. In recent years, the end of the Cold War and the dramatic political changes sweeping Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union have allowed the CSCE to expand and reinforce its mandate even further. The 1990 Charter of Paris added to existing CSCE principles, embracing new commitments to political pluralism, economic liberty, and the rule of law. The 1992 Helsinki Summit emphasized that "the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the strengthening of democratic institutions continue to be a vital basis" for comprehensive security. Today, the shared determination of CSCE members to uphold these essential values remains the keystone of European security.

As CSCE member states strive to put the Helsinki principles into practice, violent conflicts around the globe remind us that many societies emerging from totalitarian rule still have far to travel toward international standards of humanitarian democracy. Ethnic tensions, civil unrest, and human rights abuses are all too prevalent in several of the recently admitted CSCE nations. The United States stands steadfast in our commitment to full implementation of the human rights and humanitarian provisions of the Helsinki Accords, and I call upon all of the signatory states to uphold their pledge to protect human rights, to seek peaceful resolutions of conflicts, and to fully abide by their obligations under the Helsinki Accords.

International security depends as never before upon respect for the rights of individuals and for the democratic principles of government. As we recognize the magnitude of the Helsinki Accords in the history of nations, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing its timeless wisdom. The vigilant protection of these basic freedoms is the world's best hope for a Europe of growing cooperation and lasting peace.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, 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 August 1, 1994, as Helsinki Human Rights Day and reaffirm the American commitment to upholding human dignity and freedom—principles that are enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act. As we Americans observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, let us remember our courageous citizens who have made sacrifices to secure the free-

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

doms we enjoy. Let us work together to encourage respect for human rights and democratic values around the world.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 6712 of August 2, 1994

National Neighborhood Crime Watch Day, 1994

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Crime, in one way or another, affects every individual in every community in America. The loss of one parent touches all of our families. The death of one child breaks all of our hearts. But by reaching out to each other in a gesture of courage and cooperation, law enforcement officers and the citizens they serve forge a shield of safety—our greatest weapon in the fight against crime.

Robert Kennedy once said that each time one of us "stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope." Tonight, millions of Americans across the country will join their neighbors in turning on lights from 9:00 to 10:00 o'clock p.m. in front of their homes. "National Night Out" provides communities the opportunity to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, to encourage participation in anti-crime programs, and to strengthen the relationship between local police and private citizens. Already, we have seen how important these simple steps can be in avoiding tragedy. In big cities and small towns throughout our Nation, police rely on the active involvement of community members to help identify potential problems before they explode into violence. As we resolve tonight to end the violence, the message of this event is clear: Crime in America will not be tolerated.

One of the primary duties of any government is to work to keep its citizens safe from harm. I welcome this responsibility, and I am determined to fulfill it. But no government program will be truly successful without the help of each American. I hope that the lights coming on across America this evening will serve as a signal of both warning and hope. With shared responsibility and a willingness to change, we can turn the tide on the wave of crime in America. Working together, we can build a brighter, more secure future for all of our people.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 374, has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation observing August 2, 1994, as "National Neighborhood Crime Watch Day."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim August 2, 1994, as National Neighborhood Crime Watch Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.