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EMIGRATION LAWS AND POLICIES OF ALBANIA

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

AN UPDATED REPORT CONCERNING THE EMIGRATION LAWS AND
POLICIES OF ALBANIA, PURSUANT TO 19 U.S.C. 2432(b)



FEBRUARY 5, 1998.—Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and
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THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington, January 21, 1998.

The Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am submitting an updated report to the Congress concerning the emigration laws and policies of Albania. The report indicates continued Albanian compliance with U.S. and international standards in the area of emigration. In fact, Albania has imposed no emigration restrictions, including exit visa requirements, on its population since 1991.

On December 5, 1997, I determined and reported to the Congress that Albania was in full compliance with the freedom of emigration criteria of sections 402 and 409 of the Trade Act of 1974. That action allowed for the continuation of most-favored-nation (MFN) status for Albania and certain other activities without the requirement of an annual waiver. This semiannual report is submitted as required by law pursuant to the determination of December 5, 1997.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON.

REPORT TO CONGRESS CONCERNING EMIGRATION LAWS AND
POLICIES OF ALBANIA

This report is submitted pursuant to sections 402 and 409 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended ("the Act"), following Presidential Determination Number 98-7 of December 5, 1997 and the accompanying report to Congress, that Albania is not in violation of paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of sections 402(a) and 409(a) of the Act.

All current information indicates that the emigration laws and practices of the Republic of Albania continue to satisfy the criteria set forth in sections 402(a) and 409(a) of the Act in respect of all matters covered in those subsections.

The right to emigrate is enshrined in Albanian law and has been reaffirmed in numerous European human rights conventions to which Albania is a signatory. Albania has had no emigration restrictions, including exit visa requirements, since 1991. Albanians have exercised this right in great numbers (several hundred thousand emigrants) since the collapse of the communist regime in 1991. We know of no reports of Albanians being denied the right to emigrate.

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