

CERTIFICATION REGARDING B-2 BOMBERS

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

CERTIFICATION THAT NO ADDITIONAL B-2 BOMBERS SHOULD BE
PROCURED DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR, PURSUANT TO PUBLIC
LAW 105-56 AND PUBLIC LAW 105-85, SECTION 131



MARCH 31, 1998.—Message and accompanying papers referred to the Committees on Appropriations and National Security, and ordered to be printed

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1998, Public Law 105-56 (1997), and section 131 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998, Public Law 105-85 (1997), I certify to the Congress that no additional B-2 bombers should be procured during this fiscal year.

After considering the recommendations of the Panel to Review Long-Range Air Power and the advice of the Secretary of Defense, I have decided that the \$331 million authorized and appropriated for B-2 bombers in Fiscal Year 1998 will be applied as follows: \$174 million will be applied toward completing the planned Fiscal Year 1998 baseline modification and repair program and \$157 million will be applied toward further upgrades to improve the deployability, survivability, and maintainability of the current B-2 fleet. Using the funds in this manner will ensure successful completion of the baseline modification and repair program and further enhance the operational combat readiness of the B-2 fleet.

The Panel to Review Long-Range Air Power also provided several far-reaching recommendations for fully exploiting the potential of the current B-1, B-2, and B-52 bomber force, and for upgrading and sustaining the bomber force for the longer term. These longer term recommendations warrant careful review as the Department of Defense prepares its Fiscal Year 2000-2006 Future Years Defense Program.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 31, 1998.*

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