

Army ground forces, a major step in the evolution of the Air Force.

Chief Army officers such as Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower witnessed firsthand the vital role played by air power in World War II, and foresaw the increasing importance of air power in future conflicts. Military leaders recognized that the growing strategic significance of aircraft made necessary the creation of an additional military branch, alongside the Army, Navy, and Marines, and in 1947 the National Security Act made the Air Force an autonomous military power.

Over the course of its illustrious history, the Air Force has taken on additional responsibilities, extending its reach beyond the atmosphere into space. In 1956, it was put in charge of all land-based ballistic missile systems. The first missile under the control of the Air Force—the Atlas ballistic missile—was made operational in September 1959. By 1965, the Air Force was responsible for the development of satellites, boosters, space probes, and other systems used by NASA. According to former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman, America is safer in a dangerous world because of what the Air Force brings to our nation's defense: "long range lethal combat power . . . strategic mobility . . . global awareness that comes from space assets, and . . . theater air dominance." This has been made possible through a combination of highly trained service members and highly sophisticated technology.

Thanks to the Air Force, the lives of American servicemen and women in all military branches are safer than ever before during times of conflict. Military aircraft are now able to achieve many military objectives that once required ground troops, and American casualties are greatly reduced as a result. The amazing performance of the Air Force in the Persian Gulf War, which by all accounts dramatically reduced the number of American lives lost in that conflict, shows just how much we all owe our brave airmen.

In addition to its critical defense role, the Air Force has been highly active in humanitarian and relief efforts over the years. One of the most famous of these undertakings was the Berlin airlift between June 1948 and June 1949. The largest airlift/evacuation in American history occurred in 1991 when the Air Force moved 52,000 military personnel and dependents from the Philippines to the U.S. following the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. An airlift in February of 1992 provided food and medicine to Russia in Operation Provide Hope. Operation Provide Promise, a relief effort into Sarajevo in 1992, was the longest sustained humanitarian airlift in history. The Air Force has also been involved in hundreds and hundreds of other relief missions all over the world in response to earthquakes, hurricanes, and other natural disasters.

I would like to take this opportunity to note the contributions made by Minnesotans and those men and women serving at Minnesota's Air Force bases. These airmen have made a vital contribution to the success of the Air Force over the past 53 years. I would like to thank in particular those serving at Minnesota's Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard facilities, specifically the airmen of the 934th Airlift Wing and 133rd Airlift Wing in Minneapolis and the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth who keep our C-130s and F-16s flying. These men and women deserve our thanks for making sure that we will always be prepared to face with confidence any future threats to our nation's security.

On behalf of all Minnesotans, I thank the members of the Air Force for their selfless devotion to our nation's defense. Throughout the history of the Air Force, its members have made countless sacrifices for their country, from the financial struggles all too often faced by service members and their families, to the high price paid by those who have been wounded, taken prisoner, or killed in battle. A grateful nation will always be in their debt.

I'm sure my colleagues will join me in recognizing the rich heritage and dedicated service of the United States Air Force on its anniversary. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS PAYMENTS MADE TO CUBA PURSUANT TO TREASURY DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC LICENSES—MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 128

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, Public Law 104-114, 110 Stat. 785, I transmit herewith a semiannual report

detailing payments made to Cuba as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 19, 2000.
PRESIDENT'S PERIODIC REPORT ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS PAYMENTS MADE TO CUBA PURSUANT TO TREASURY DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC LICENSES

This report is submitted pursuant to section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6) (the "CDA"), as amended by Section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, Public Law 104-114, 110 Stat. 785, 22 U.S.C. 6021-91 (March 12, 1996) (the "LIBERTAD Act"), which requires that I "submit to the Congress on a semiannual basis a report detailing payments made to Cuba by any United States person as a result of the provision of telecommunications services authorized by this subsection.

The CDA, which provides that telecommunications services are permitted between the United States and Cuba, specifically authorizes the President to provide for these payments by license. The CDA states that licenses may be issued for full or partial payment of amounts due as a result of provision of telecommunications services authorized by this subsection, but shall not require any withdrawal from a blocked account. Following enactment of the CDA on October 23, 1992, a number of U.S. telecommunications companies successfully negotiated agreements to provide telecommunications services between the United States and Cuba consistent with policy guidelines developed by the Department of State and the Federal Communications Commission.

Subsequent to enactment of the CDA, the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC") amended the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 515 (the "CACR"), to provide for specific licensing on a case-by-case basis for certain transactions incident to the receipt or transmission of telecommunications between the United States and Cuba, 31 C.F.R. 515.542(c), including settlement of charges under traffic agreements.

OFAC has issued eight (8) licenses authorizing transactions incident to the receipt of transmission of telecommunications between the United States and Cuba since the enactment of the CDA. None of these licenses permits payments from a blocked account. The licenses are AT&T Corporation (formerly, American Telephone and Telegraph Company), AT&T de Puerto Rico, IDB WorldCom Services, Inc. (formerly, IDB Communications, Inc.), MCI International, Inc. (formerly, MCI Communications Corporation), Telefonica Larga Distancia de Puerto Rico, Inc., WilTel, Inc. (Formerly, WilTel Undersea Cable, Inc.), WorldCom, Inc. (formerly, LDDS Communications, Inc.), and Sprint Communications Company, L.P. (formerly, Global One, and prior to that, Sprint Incorporated).

During the period January 1 through June 30, 2000, the licensees transferred funds to the Cuban telecommunications company Empresa de Telecomunicaciones de Cuba, S.A. ("ETECSA") to settle current charges for its portion of jointly provided international telecommunications services. In addition, many of the licensees transferred funds earned by ETECSA in prior periods but not transferred in those prior periods due to pending litigation (*Alejandro v. the Republic of Cuba et al.*). Pursuant to changes in corporate accounting practices, payments on