

biologically rich submarine canyon.

—It is a refuge for migratory birds and a vital nursery for many of the marine animals that inhabit the beautiful waters of St. Croix.

—It will be planned and managed in full partnership with the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

It is indeed exciting to take this major step toward preserving the natural and cultural heritage of the Virgin Islands, a heritage that has meaning for all Americans. I want to thank all of those who played a part in fashioning this innovative partnership between the Federal Government and the Virgin Islands Government.

My action here today is but one example of my Administration's commitment to protect the environment and America's heritage. This is the sixth time I have signed legislation creating a new unit of the National Park System. In the past 3 years, we

have acquired 57,000 acres of environmentally sensitive and historically significant lands for the National Park System.

Finally, I note that H.R. 2927 authorizes new technical assistance for insular areas after major storms. To ensure that hazard mitigation measures truly reduce future loss of life and property, all projects must be cost-effective, cooperative ventures between the Federal Government and the insular areas. The Act will not change this policy, diminish any existing matching share requirements, or change procedures for Presidential disaster declarations.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,  
February 24, 1992.

*Note: H.R. 2927, approved February 24, was assigned Public Law No. 102-247.*

## Nomination of Edward Joseph Perkins To Be United States Representative to the United Nations

*February 24, 1992*

The President today announced his intention to nominate Edward Joseph Perkins, of the District of Columbia, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations. He would succeed Thomas R. Pickering.

Since 1989 Mr. Perkins has served as Director General of the Foreign Service and Director of Personnel at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC. Prior to this, Mr. Perkins served as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, 1986-1989; U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia,

1985-1986; and Director of the Office of West African Affairs in the Bureau of African Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, 1983-1985. From 1981 to 1983, Mr. Perkins served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia. In addition, he served as Counselor for Political Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Accra, Ghana, 1978-1981.

Mr. Perkins graduated from the University of Maryland (B.A., 1967) and the University of Southern California (M.P.A., 1972; D.P.A., 1978). He was born June 8, 1928, in Sterlington, LA. Mr. Perkins served in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps. He is married, has two children, and resides in Washington, DC.