May 25 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1993

morning. I said, you know, I keep reading this; I know that there is a feeling at least, based on what I’ve read, that someone in the White House may have done something that was inappropriate or that wasn’t quite handled right or something. Mack and I talked about it today. He said he would spend some real time on and look into it, try to ascertain exactly what happened, make a full report to me, which I think is the appropriate thing to do. I simply can’t tell you that I know something I don’t. I literally don’t know anything other than what I’ve told you. He’s looking into it now. He’s worked on it quite a bit today. And he’s going to make a report to me, and then we will take appropriate steps, including saying whatever’s appropriate to you.

Q. Do you think that the White House approached the FBI improperly in this case?

The President. I don’t have any reason to believe that. I mean, for example, there are lots of cases where, historically, as nearly as we can determine, the White House, if something happened within the White House, might ask the FBI to look into it. So I don’t know that. I don’t know that. And I don’t have an opinion yet. I have to wait. Mack agreed that he needed to really make sure that he had all the facts down; he needed to know exactly what had happened; he needed to report to me. I said, “Look, this is just a simple case. Let’s just follow the do-right rule here, make up your own mind, get the facts, see what you think happened, let me know, and we’ll tell the public.” I mean, there’s nothing funny going on here. We really were just trying to save money for everybody. That was the only thing I was ever asked about personally. And I don’t believe that anybody else had any other motives that I know about. And so I asked him to look into it. When we know more, we’ll be glad to say more.

Q. What about Dole saying it has a tinge of Watergate?

The President. There’s none of that because, you know, there’s nothing like that going on. There’s no—no.

Q. Don’t you think—

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. We’re on top of it. We’ll—

Q. Don’t you think a lot of people were hurt by the way it was handled?

The President. Well, the question is whether the people that were hurt did anything to merit it. We’ll just have to see. I mean, I want to get a report, and then I will be glad to tell you whatever I know. But let me find out—

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. All those decisions have been made by Mack. We talked yesterday. We talked again this morning. He said, “Look, I just want to get on top of this. I’ll tell you exactly what happened. I’ll tell you what I think.” So I’m waiting for a report. And I don’t think I should say anything else until I know more.

NOTE: The exchange began at 5:43 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Notice on Continuation of Emergency With Respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

May 25, 1993

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is to continue in effect beyond May 30, 1993, to the Federal Register for publication.

The circumstances that led to the declaration on May 30, 1992, of a national emergency have not been resolved. The Government of the Fed-
eral Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) continues to support groups seizing and attempting to seize territory in the Republics of Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina by force and violence. The actions and policies of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, vital foreign policy interests, and the economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the broad authorities necessary to apply economic pressure to the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to reduce its ability to support the continuing civil strife and bloodshed in the former Yugoslavia.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Message to the Congress Reporting on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

May 25, 1993

To the Congress of the United States:

On May 30, 1992, in Executive Order No. 12808, President Bush declared a national emergency to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States arising from actions and policies of the Governments of Serbia and Montenegro, acting under the name of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in their involvement in and support for groups attempting to seize territory in Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina by force and violence utilizing, in part, the forces of the so-called Yugoslav National Army (57 FR 23299, June 2, 1992). The present report is submitted pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) and 1703(c). It discusses Administration actions and expenses directly related to the exercise of powers and authorities conferred by the declaration of a national emergency in Executive Order No. 12808 and to expanded sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (the "FRY (S/M)") contained in Executive Order No. 12810 of June 5, 1992 (57 FR 24347, June 9, 1992), Executive Order No. 12831 of January 15, 1993 (58 FR 52233, January 21, 1993), and Executive Order No. 12846 of April 26, 1993 (58 FR 25771, April 27, 1993).

1. Executive Order No. 12808 blocked all property and interests in property of the Governments of Serbia and Montenegro, or held in the name of the former Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, then or thereafter located in the United States or within the possession or control of U.S. persons, including their overseas branches.

Subsequently, Executive Order No. 12810 expanded U.S. actions to implement in the United States the U.N. sanctions against the FRY (S/M) adopted in United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 757 of May 30, 1992. In addition to reaffirming the blocking of FRY (S/M) Government property, this order prohibits transactions with respect to the FRY (S/M) involving imports, exports, dealing in FRY-origin property, air and sea transportation, contract performance, funds transfers, activity promoting importation or exportation or dealings in property, and official sports, scientific, technical, or cultural representation of the FRY (S/M) in the United States.

Executive Order No. 12810 exempted from trade restrictions (1) transshipments through the FRY (S/M), and (2) activities related to the United Nations Protection Force ("UNPROFOR"), the Conference on Yugoslavia, or the European Community Monitor Mission.

On January 15, 1993, President Bush issued Executive Order No. 12831 to implement new sanctions contained in United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 787 of November 16, 1992. The order revokes the exemption for transshipments through the FRY (S/M) contained in Executive Order No. 12810; prohibits transactions within the United States or by a