

Feb. 27 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994

## Statement on the Church Bombing in Lebanon February 27, 1994

The killing of people at prayer is an outrage against faith and humanity. On behalf of the American people, I condemn in the strongest possible terms this latest incident in which innocent Lebanese at communion on Sunday morning were killed by bombs planted in a church. I extend my deepest sympathy to the bereaved.

Just as Friday's massacre in a Hebron mosque was aimed at the peace process, this bomb at-

tack seems clearly aimed at Lebanon's reconciliation process. The extremists have a common purpose, to promote division, strife, and war. They must and will not be allowed to succeed.

I call on men and women of all faiths to unite in opposition to the forces of dark hatred. The people of the Middle East deserve a peaceful future. They deserve the right to pray in peace, as we join them in praying for it.

## Exchange With Reporters on Bosnia February 28, 1994

*Q.* Can you give us any sense of what is going on in Bosnia and what has happened—

*The President.* Well, you know the essential facts, that last evening after midnight our time, United States aircraft, flying under NATO authority, warned some fixed-wing Serbian aircraft, Bosnian Serbian aircraft, to land, and when they didn't, they were shot down. There were two warnings. Every attempt was made, to the best of our information, to avoid this encounter.

We have had responsibility for enforcing the no-fly zone since last April. It has been since last fall that there were any fixed-wing aircraft that we knew of violating the no-fly zone, and we're attempting to get more facts now. We're also trying to brief everyone involved in this effort to bring peace to Bosnia about the facts, and if we find out any more information, of course, we'll be glad to give it to you. But it seems to—

*Q.* Why now? Why now? Is this a new get-tough policy?

*The President.* No, no. The violations—the principal violations of the no-fly zone have been by helicopters, which could easily land. We've not had a fixed-wing violation reported of any kind, much less one we were in a position to do something about, to the best of my information, since last fall, since September. Those are much more serious because of the capacity they have to engage in military conduct from the air. Our mandate under the United Nations was to enforce the no-fly zone to eliminate the prospect that the war could be carried into the air.

*Q.* How were you informed, President Clinton? How did you learn of this, sir?

*The President.* Early, early this morning I was notified.

NOTE: The exchange began at 8:05 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, prior to the President's departure for Chicago, IL.

## Remarks in a Roundtable Discussion on Violence and Crime at Wilbur Wright College in Chicago, Illinois February 28, 1994

*The President.* I'm glad to see all of you. I'm glad to also be back at Wright Community College where I first came in December of

1992, although, Congressmen and mayors, you will remember, it was in a different facility. This