

might as well deal with it, because if you delay it, it will just get worse.

We have this momentous opportunity. Machiavelli was right, there is nothing so difficult as to change the established order of things. But remember this, if it hadn't happened over and over and over again since he wrote that, there would be no civilized society, and America would not be the oldest democracy on the face of the Earth. We can do this, and with your help, we will.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:14 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Jesse C. Haggerty III, M.D., chairman and program director of a family medicine residency program, Topeka, KS; Marva Wade, R.N., president-elect, New York State Nurses Association, New York, NY; Sister Bernice Coreil, D.C., senior vice president, system integration, Daughters of Charity National Health System, St. Louis, MO.

## Statement Announcing a Meeting With Native American Leaders

*March 23, 1994*

I look forward to this historic meeting and to affirming our commitment to strengthening the nation-to-nation relationship we have with tribal governments.

NOTE: This statement was included in a White House statement announcing a meeting with American Indian and Alaska Native tribal leaders at the White House on April 29.

## Statement on the Air Collision at Pope Air Force Base

*March 23, 1994*

I am deeply saddened to learn of the tragic air collision at Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina and the resultant loss of life and injuries. Hillary and I join all Americans in expressing our condolences to the families and friends of those killed and wish a speedy recovery to

those injured. This tragedy is a reminder that all those who serve in the military at home and abroad put their lives at risk in the service of their Nation and deserve the thanks of all Americans for doing so.

## Statement on Denying Executive Clemency to Jonathan Pollard

*March 23, 1994*

After personally reviewing the Jonathan Pollard matter, I have decided to deny his application for executive clemency. I make this decision taking into account the recommendation of the Attorney General and the unanimous views of the law enforcement and national security agencies. My decision is based upon the grave nature of his offense and the considerable damage that his actions caused our Nation.

Mr. Pollard's crime is one of the most serious crimes against our country, placing national se-

curity secrets of the United States in the hands of another country. I have considered Mr. Pollard's argument that he is deserving of a shorter prison sentence because he spied for a friendly nation. I nevertheless believe that the enormity of Mr. Pollard's crime, the harm his actions caused to our country, and the need to deter every person who might even consider such actions, warrant his continued incarceration.