Statement on the Death of Corporal Nahshon Waxman

October 14, 1994

I wish to express my profound shock and abhorrence at the death of Corporal Nahshon Waxman as the result of his kidnaping by Hamas terrorists.

On behalf of the American people, Hillary and I would like to convey our deepest sympathy to the Waxman family and to the people of Israel at this dark moment. Nahshon Waxman was a son of Israel, but he was also a son of America.

Terrorists must know that these acts will not defeat the process that is bringing peace to Israel and her Arab enemies. In the face of such cowardly and evil actions, I know that it is hard to go forward. But we owe it to all those who have paid such a heavy price to persist and finally prevail in our pursuit of peace.

The President’s Radio Address

October 15, 1994

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Terrorists must know that these acts will not defeat the process that is bringing peace to Israel and her Arab neighbors. In the face of such cowardly and evil actions, I know it’s hard to go forward. But we owe it to all those who have paid such a heavy price to persist and finally prevail in the pursuit of peace in the Middle East.

Our efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East are part of an overall strategy to enhance American security and broaden American opportunities in the post-cold-war world by promoting democracy, increasing trade, and reducing the threat of terror, chaos, and weapons of mass destruction.

We’re making progress on all fronts. The United States and Russian missiles are no longer targeted at each other. We’re expanding trade through NAFTA, the GATT world trade agreement, a new agreement with Japan. This means more jobs for Americans and less tensions with other countries. And we have to be encouraged by the recent successes of democracy or peace efforts in the Middle East, in Northern Ireland, and of course in South Africa.

Today I want to talk with you about Haiti and Iraq. In Haiti this week, we’ve helped to restore the democratic government of President Aristide after 3 years of brutal military rule. In the Persian Gulf, our resolve in the face of Iraq’s provocative actions is preserving security in that vital region.

Even as I speak with you this morning, Haiti’s first democratically elected President is flying home to resume his rightful place at the helm of his country. President Aristide’s return marks the end of one leg of a long and difficult journey and the start of a new era of hope for the Haitian people.

They’ve come a long way since a military coup toppled the democratic government in 1991. For 3 years, the international community, led by the United States, tried diplomacy and economic sanctions to force the brutal military regime from power. They were unwilling to yield. Four weeks ago, faced with an imminent United States-led invasion authorized by the United Nations, the military regime finally agreed to peacefully give up power. Since then our troops, together with those of our coalition partners, have done a remarkable job in moving Haiti from fear to freedom.

President Aristide returns today to a more stable, less violent nation. The Parliament is once again open for business. And in the best sign that democracy is taking hold, thousands