

stability in the region. This mission was initially composed of a Nordic battalion, which deployed in early 1993. In July 1993, I directed that a U.S. Army contingent be deployed to FYROM in order to augment the UNPROFOR Macedonia mission, a deployment welcomed by the U.N. Security Council in its Resolution 842. In April of this year, the United Nations requested that we increase the U.S. contingent in order to replace elements of the Nordic battalion, which was being redeployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina. In response to this request, we augmented the U.S. contingent with the deployment of an additional U.S. Army reinforced company.

Through observation and monitoring operations along the FYROM border with Serbia, UNPROFOR Macedonia continues to be effective in preventing a spillover of the conflict. This mission has been carried out safely with no hostilities encountered and no U.S. casualties since the operation began. The mission has the support of both the FYROM Government and its people. Our forces will remain fully prepared not only to fulfill their peacekeeping mission,

but to defend themselves if necessary. The units currently comprising the U.S. contingent will soon be replaced by approximately 500 soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Kirchhons, Germany.

The U.S. contribution to the UNPROFOR Macedonia peacekeeping effort is part of our larger continuing commitment toward resolving the extremely difficult situation in the former Yugoslavia. I have continued the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces for these purposes pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct foreign relations and as Commander in Chief.

I remain grateful for the continuing support the Congress has provided, and I look forward to continued cooperation with you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 23.

Statement on the Observance of Kwanzaa

December 23, 1994

Warm greetings to everyone who is observing the festival of Kwanzaa.

A vibrant and energizing celebration, Kwanzaa offers millions an opportunity to embrace the rich cultural traditions of the African heritage. The seven principles of Kwanzaa, unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith, serve as vital tools in building hope and opportunity in our communities and throughout our country, and I am pleased that so many

of my fellow Americans are celebrating this year. All of you can be proud of your efforts to infuse the holiday season with diversity and new purpose.

Hillary joins me in wishing all of you a wonderful celebration and a Happy New Year.

NOTE: An identical message on the observance of Kwanzaa, December 26–January 1, was also made available by the White House.

Statement on Disaster Assistance for Florida and Georgia

December 23, 1994

I am designating Federal emergency assistance today to help those communities in Florida and Georgia damaged by the recent severe

weather. The people of both Franklin County, Florida, and Macon, Georgia, have worked hard to help those directly affected by the storm.

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As you continue with the cleanup, I hope this Federal assistance will aid in the economic recovery of both communities.

NOTE: This statement was included in a statement by the Press Secretary announcing emergency funding to help Florida and Georgia recover from damage caused by Tropical Storm Alberto.

Appointment for the National Bankruptcy Review Commission *December 23, 1994*

The President today announced his intention to appoint Representative Michael Synar as Chair, and Jay Alix and Babette A. Ceccotti to be members of the National Bankruptcy Review Commission.

“I am pleased to name Mike Synar to the Bankruptcy Review Commission. Over the years, we have worked closely together, and I have

a great deal of respect and admiration for him and the work he has accomplished during his 15 years in the Congress. As he has shown us in the past, he will serve the American people with efficiency and integrity,” said the President.

NOTE: Biographies of the appointees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

The President’s Radio Address *December 24, 1994*

Good morning; Merry Christmas; Season’s Greetings. All across our country, families are gathering to share this joyous time and to give thanks for the good things in our lives.

This holiday season, one of the greatest blessings of all is that our Nation is at peace, freedom is on the march, and the world is a safer place than it was a year ago. I’m proud of our efforts to turn conflict into cooperation, to transform fear into security, to replace hatred with hope. In a world that is ever more bound together, those efforts have been good for millions of people around the globe, and very good for America.

Perhaps most important of all, for the first time since the dawn of the nuclear age, for the first time in nearly half a century, parents can put their children to bed at this Christmas season knowing that nuclear weapons from the former Soviet Union are no longer pointed at those children. Just this month, we signed the START I agreement with Russia that guarantees the elimination of thousands of missiles from the former Soviet arsenal and clears the way for further reduction. And Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine, three republics of the former So-

viet Union, are now fulfilling their commitments to give up every one of the weapons they inherited after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Finally, in North Korea, our firm diplomacy secured an agreement that requires that country first to freeze and then to dismantle its nuclear program, all under international inspections.

On a separate note, let me say that our thoughts, Hillary’s and mine, and I know all of America’s, are with the family of Chief Warrant Officer Hilemon, who was killed last week in a tragic incident in North Korea. We are pleased that his remains have been returned to his family, and we are hopeful that his crewmate, Chief Warrant Officer Hall, will soon be back with his family.

Our steady diplomacy has helped to achieve real progress on many fronts. But when necessary, our troops have also proved themselves ready to defend our national interests, to back up our commitments, and to promote peace and security. For 3 years, a brutal military regime terrorized the Haitian people and caused instability in our hemisphere. It wasn’t until the regime knew our troops were on their way that finally they agreed to step down peacefully and