Message to the Congress on Satellite Exports to China
February 6, 1996

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 902(b)(2) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (Public Law 101-246), and as President of the United States, I hereby report to the Congress that it is in the national interest of the United States to waive the restrictions contained in that Act on the export to the People’s Republic of China of U.S.-origin satellites insofar as such restrictions pertain to the COSAT project.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
February 6, 1996.

Remarks to the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
February 7, 1996

Thank you very much. I assure you, when I was attempting to help Anne’s institution get that foundation grant, I had not imagined that one day I would reap this benefit of that fine introduction. [Laughter]

Let me congratulate Mike Adams on his successful term as chairman and for his kind remarks and for recognizing the brilliant work of our Education Secretary, Dick Riley. I know of no person who has had that job who has done as much in so many areas to have a positive impact on the education of the American people. And we are all in his debt, most of all the President, but all of us are in his debt for the fine job he has done.

And I do want to thank Anne Die again for that wonderful introduction and for the kind remarks she had about Hillary and about me and what we did together. I must say, as I said in the State of the Union Address, after 3 years the central lesson that I have learned as President is that in meeting our challenges we have to do what we did instinctively at home; we have to work together more. And the role of Government should be seen in the context of an instrument of helping us work together to meet our common challenges. I enjoyed doing that then, and when it’s possible, I like doing it here. [Laughter]

I’m also delighted to see David Warren again. We first met, as he may have said publicly before, in 1970, about 26 years ago, when we both worked on the Senate campaign of Joseph Duffey in Connecticut. And neither one of us had any gray hair then. [Laughter] Now Joe Duffey is doing a fabulous job for the United States as head of the USIA, and he has less gray hair than either one of us. [Laughter] Our only consolation is he also has less hair than either one of us. [Laughter] Anyway, it’s been a busy 26 years for both of us, and I’m proud of the work that he does for you.

For 20 years this association has given voice to the concerns of higher education. You have demonstrated something that America knows about itself but sometimes forgets, and that is that there is strength in diversity. You come from every corner of our Nation. You represent every field, from the sciences to the liberal arts to businesses and all kinds of institutions, from church-related schools to historically black colleges to women’s colleges. You have shown enormous strength and perseverance in our common efforts to keep the doors of college education open to all Americans.

Your Alliance to Save Student Aid is doing wonderful work, and I may be preaching to the choir, but every now and then even the choir needs to hear that. It is doing wonderful work. I know how hard you have fought to save the right to choose the direct lending program. And I tell you what I have told the Members of Congress: This is no time, for whatever reason, under whatever circumstances, to cut back on any kind of student aid. We need more of it, not less of it.