

## Message to the Senate Transmitting the United Nations Agreement on Conservation and Management of Fisheries *February 20, 1996*

*To the Senate of the United States:*

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, with Annexes (“the Agreement”), which was adopted at United Nations Headquarters in New York by consensus of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks on August 4, 1995, and signed by the United States on December 4, 1995. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Secretary of State with respect to the Agreement.

The Agreement represents a considerable achievement for the United States in promoting better stewardship of living marine resources. It strikes a sound balance between the interests of coastal States in protecting offshore fishery resources and those of States whose fishing vessels operate on the high seas. If widely ratified and properly implemented, the Agreement should significantly improve the prospects for sustainable fisheries worldwide.

The Agreement builds directly upon, and strengthens, the fishery provisions contained in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“the Convention”), which I

transmitted to the Senate for advice and consent on October 6, 1994. As such, the Agreement further reflects the central role of the Convention in governing the maritime relations of the international community.

Perhaps more than any other nation, the United States stands to benefit from widespread adherence to this Agreement. The Agreement will help to ensure that the harvesting of fish by vessels of other nations in waters beyond our exclusive economic zone does not undermine our domestic management of fisheries within U.S. jurisdiction. In addition, by promoting sound conservation practices generally, the Agreement can restore and maintain productive ocean fisheries for the benefit of American consumers and for U.S. fishing vessels wherever they operate.

With regard to disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Agreement, I intend to choose a special arbitral tribunal constituted in accordance with Annex VIII of the Convention, as recommended in the accompanying report of the Department of State.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Agreement and give its advice and consent to its ratification.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
February 20, 1996.

## Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the National Endowment for Democracy *February 20, 1996*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to the provisions of section 504(h) of Public Law 98–164, as amended (22 U.S.C. 4413(i)), I transmit herewith the 12th Annual Report of the National Endowment for Democracy, which covers fiscal year 1995.

As the report demonstrates, the National Endowment for Democracy remains at the forefront of our efforts to expand and consolidate democratic gains around the globe. The strong bipartisan support the Endowment continues to

receive reflects our Nation's steadfast commitment to the promotion of democracy.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,

February 20, 1996.

## Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine

February 21, 1996

### 1996 Election

*Q.* Pat Buchanan said today congressional Republicans shouldn't cut Medicare and veterans' benefits. Do you agree?

*President Clinton.* Good for him.

*Q.* What's your reaction to what happened last night? There seems to be a split in the Republican Party.

*President Clinton.* Well, first of all, I'm very gratified by what happened in the Democratic primary last night. I haven't seen the final numbers, but we may have made history there, even for an incumbent President without appreciable opposition, compared to anything that's happened in the last 50 years if the vote holds up. And we had a good turnout, too. And I think that's evidence that what the American people really want is someone who will take a positive approach to the future, bring us together, and come out with the continuing movement, continuing ideas that will bring us together and move us forward.

So I'm satisfied with the election, and I'm going to let the Republicans and the pundits deal with their business. You know, this country doesn't need another pundit, and I need to go on and be President.

*Q.* Are you surprised by the Republican outcome, Mr. President?

*President Clinton.* I had no—I didn't know what to expect. Since I didn't know what was going to happen, I couldn't be surprised.

*Q.* Do you regard Mr. Buchanan as too extreme to be a mainstream candidate?

*President Clinton.* I regard this whole process as one for the Republicans to work out. I'm going to be President and go out there and tell the people what I'm trying to do and what I would do if given a greater opportunity to do it. And I'm not going to get involved in

their business or yours. That's your business and theirs.

### Ukrainian Aircraft

*Q.* A question for Mr. Kuchma. Mr. Kuchma, are you commenting at all on the allegations that aircraft from state-owned factories in your country have gone to the Cali cartel for their use?

*President Kuchma.* First of all, it was owned not by the state but by a company. And I think that the aircraft not only of Ukraine but of all other countries are used on the same basis all over the world. They are used on the basis of leasing.

And I think that the Colombian side should take all the responsibility on that, and in fact, I have instructed so that to find all the reasons and all the deepest backgrounds of that issue, though I don't think there was any blame on our side.

I think that international mechanisms should be worked out so that we face less issues of this sort of misuse of aircraft and so on and so forth. So we are always asked this sort of question only after their usage, but we have to do everything possible to prevent this usage and so that to avoid this sort of asking. Though according to our information, our aircraft are not involved in this sort of affairs.

*President Clinton.* Thank you all. Have a nice day, you guys. You have a decent day outside. Why don't we have a national recess? [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.*]

*President Kuchma.* I would like to add one thing to that question, that our Secret Service has addressed yours so that you consider this issue together.