AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

Now, more than 200 years later, you represent in your uniforms the oldest democracy in human history. Thanks to you and those who came before you, your skill and professionalism, not only does the oldest fighting ship in the fleet inspire the same respect as we have for our early patriots but thanks to you and the people who came before you, we are still here.

As you keep it that way, on freedom's flagship, remember that 221 years of people like you have made America what it is today and make possible this remarkable partnership we celebrate with the Japanese and make possible the guarantee of freedom for your children and your grandchildren and people throughout the world. I thank you for that.

I also want to say a special word of thanks to the families of the 7th Fleet for their support. Our military families bear such a heavy burden of America's leadership, especially those stationed at Yokosuka and other bases so far from home; those who have to cope with the extra strain of long periods when ships are at sea, when one parent has to carry the full load to run a household and raise the children. We ask so much of our families, but again and again they deliver. Our Nation is grateful to you as well, for our security depends upon you as well.

To the men and women of the 7th Fleet, you must know that you represent the very best of America. Over and over again, you have proved your excellence. Thanks to you, the world knows now that the United States will stand firm in Asia. Thanks to you, we can make this new Security Declaration with Japan, and everybody knows that we mean it and that we can mean it. We can stand firm for peace and security, for democracy and freedom, for a good and decent future for the children of this region and the children of the United States, thanks to you.

Our Nation is in your debt now and forever. God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:35 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Rear Adm. James Ellis, USN, Commander, Carrier Group 5; Lt. Gen. Richard Myers, USAF, Commander, U.S. Forces Japan; Vice Adm. Archie Clemins, USN, Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet; Maj. Gen. Waldo Freeman, USA, Commanding General, U.S. Army Japan; Rear Adm. Byron Tobin, USN, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Japan; Capt. David Polatty, Commanding Officer, and MMCM Ashley Dwiggins, Command Master Chief, U.S.S. *Independence*; and Joan Mondale, wife of Ambassador Walter Mondale.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the National Endowment for the Humanities

April 17, 1996

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to present to you the 1995 Annual Report of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). For 30 years, this Federal agency has given Americans great opportunities to explore and share with each other our country's vibrant and diverse cultural heritage. Its work supports an impressive array of humanities projects.

These projects have mined every corner of our tradition, unearthing all the distinct and different voices, emotions, and ideas that together make up what is a uniquely American culture. In 1995, they ranged from an award-winning television documentary on President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the radio production *Wade in the Water*, to preservation projects that will rescue 750,000 important books from obscurity and archive small community newspapers from every State in the Union. *Pandora's Box*, a traveling museum exhibit of women and myth in classical Greece, drew thousands of people.

The humanities have long helped Americans bridge differences, learn to appreciate one another, shore up the foundations of our democracy, and build strong and vital institutions across our country. At a time when our society faces new and profound challenges, when so many Americans feel insecure in the face of change, the presence and accessibility of the humanities in all our lives can be a powerful

source of our renewal and our unity as we move forward into the 21st century.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
April 17, 1996.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Alaska's Mineral Resources
April 17, 1996

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the 1995 Annual Report on Alaska's Mineral Resources, as required by section 1011 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (Public Law 96–487; 16 U.S.C. 3151). This report contains pertinent public information relating to minerals in Alaska gathered by the U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Bureau of Mines, and other Federal agencies.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
April 17, 1996.

Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by Emperor Akihito in Tokyo, Japan
April 17, 1996

Your Imperial Majesties, Prime Minister and Mrs. Hashimoto, distinguished guests. I want to thank you for your extraordinary hospitality to Hillary and to me and to all of our delegation.

Your Majesties, when we met 2 years ago, you visited our Nation and charmed all of America. As you crossed the United States you reminded all Americans of the character and dignity that distinguished the Japanese people and their rich culture. Tonight you have honored us again with your hospitality, much as you honored our Nation with your presence. You have received us with the exceptional grace and elegance for which Japan is renowned throughout the world.

More than 1,200 years ago, one of your great poets, Ootomo No Yakamochi, wrote of an "imperial setting wonderful, in its spaciousness so superb, so vast. Seeing it, I know why the rulers have dwelt here since the age of the gods." We, too, have been greeted in a setting that is so superb and that speaks of a tradition of graciousness toward friends that reaches back to antiquity.

Let me also thank the Japanese people. The welcome we have received in Tokyo, for the second time in my Presidency, speaks eloquently about the friendship between our peoples. You have made us all feel very much at home.

In a relationship as vast and complex as ours, one that has been analyzed by so many in so many different ways, no number or statistic can begin to capture the value of this friendship to both our nations. History is filled with changing alliances between states. But history offers very few examples of two peoples who have forged such a powerful relationship in the short period of half a century. We have indeed traveled far together. We have been able to cover such distance because we are joined by universal values and seek the same ends: freedom for all our citizens, the blessings of peace and prosperity that enables Japanese and Americans to make the most of their own lives.

Working side by side, we have created in modern times a great democratic tradition, one of unity and cooperation in the service of our people's highest aspirations. In only these five decades, we have reaped enormous benefits, building the two largest economies in the world and creating a tremendous force for security and stability during an era of constant change and frequent upheaval. Today we carried forward that tradition. We revitalized the alliance