have agreement on way more than enough budget savings to balance this budget and to give a modest tax cut. It is wrong for us to defer this because of disagreements that are not necessary to resolve in order to have a balanced budget or a modest tax cut.

I am committed to finishing this job. I am committed to working to resolve the remaining problems with the Congress. I did have a constructive 40-minute telephone conversation yesterday. And to the Republicans in Congress, let me say again: My door is open. It is open. It will stay open. I have spent 50 hours on this working with them, and I am committed to continuing to work with them until we get the job done.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:37 a.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the Emergency With Respect to Terrorists Who Threaten To Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process
January 18, 1996

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond January 23, 1996, to the Federal Register for publication.

The crisis with respect to the grave acts of violence committed by foreign terrorists that disrupt the Middle East peace process is to continue in effect beyond January 23, 1995, of a national emergency has not been resolved. Terrorist groups continue to engage in activities with the purpose or effect of threatening the Middle East peace process, and that are hostile to U.S. interests in the region. Such actions threaten vital interests of the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the broad authorities necessary to deny any financial support from the United States for foreign terrorists that threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 19. The notice of January 18 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Statement on Signing the Memorandum on Missing Persons and Missing Children
January 19, 1996

Every parent knows that their children are the most important thing in their lives. We cherish them, we invest our hopes in them, and when they fall victim to harm, it can be the most wrenching experience of all. For every parent, one of the most horrible things imaginable is the disappearance of a child. We must do
whatever we can to help parents in these situations find their children.

Every year, approximately 300 children are abducted by strangers. Just yesterday, we heard
news of a terrible tragedy in Texas, where a young girl was found murdered, after she had
been missing for 5 days. We must do everything we can to stop this from happening again. Time
is the enemy in abduction cases—and the most important tool we have against it is making sure
information gets out to the public.

The Federal Government, through the FBI
and other law enforcement agencies, is doing
its part to help State and local law enforcement
investigate these cases and disseminate informa-
tion as quickly as possible. But it is critical that
the FBI be notified within 48 hours of the ab-
duction. In 6 out of 10 recent cases, the FBI
learned of the abduction from TV reports.
We've got to do better. And we will.

Nearly all 16,000 police departments around
the country have the capacity, through a state-
of-the-art computer system, to report missing
persons to the FBI. I have asked the Attorney
General to make it the highest priority to make
sure this system works as quickly as possible.

The Federal Government already works with
States to establish clearinghouses for information
on missing children. The National Center for
Missing and Exploited Children, funded by the
Justice Department, has helped establish clear-
inghouses in 47 States plus the District of Co-
lumbia. The Center also funds Project Alert,
which uses the expertise of volunteer retired
police officers to help search for missing chil-
dren.

Now it is time to do more to help families
beat the race against time in searching for their
missing children. Federal offices come into con-
tact with thousands of citizens and workers every
day. That gives the Federal Government a
unique role to play in the search for missing
children.

Today I will sign an executive memorandum
directing all agency heads to take the necessary
actions to allow the posting of photos of missing
children in Federal buildings. This Presidential
action also directs agencies to appoint an action
officer to maintain the space for these notices.

This memorandum is just one step, but it's
a step in the right direction. There is more
we can do—and we will.

The Federal Government is doing its part.
But we know that the key to finding missing
children is within their own communities. When
these terrifying abductions occur, we have seen
communities band together to distribute flyers,
interview potential witnesses, and support the
families. Unfortunately, sometimes a terrible
tragedy brings out the very best in our commu-
nities and our country.

If we love our children, then we must do
everything we can to help when they are in
harm’s way. Every one of us must take responsi-

bility to do what they can to help find our
missing children. Please look twice at the photos
of missing children you see in the mail, on your
milk cartons, and now, in Federal buildings
across the country. Everyone can make a dif-
fERENCE, and everyone has an obligation to try.

Memorandum on Missing Persons and Missing Children
January 19, 1996

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive
Departments and Agencies

Subject: Missing Persons or Children Notices
in Federal Facilities

By the authority vested in me as President
by the Constitution and the laws of the United
States of America, and in order to provide for
the posting of missing persons or children no-
tices in buildings owned or controlled by the
Federal Government, I hereby direct as follows:

Section 1. Posting of Missing Persons or Chil-
dren Notices in Federal Facilities. Executive de-
partments and agencies possessing custody or
control over buildings or facilities occupied by
Federal employees shall take such actions as
are reasonable, necessary, and appropriate to
provide for the posting of missing persons or
children notices in public and other appropriate
areas of such domestic buildings or facilities,
as determined by the Federal official having pri-