

## Statement on the Appointment of the Special Envoy for Burundi Peace Negotiations

June 17, 1996

I am pleased to announce the appointment of former U.S. Representative Dr. Howard Wolpe as Special Envoy of the President and Secretary of State for Burundi Peace Negotiations. He will work closely with Ambassador Richard Bogosian who continues to serve as the Rwanda/Burundi Special Coordinator working from Washington to coordinate implementation of overall policy toward these two countries.

Dr. Wolpe will lend U.S. influence and support to efforts aimed at bringing an end to the

crisis in Burundi, which has claimed more than 100,000 lives in the last 2½ years. Dr. Wolpe brings to this mission a wealth of experience gained during 14 years as a Member of Congress from Michigan, including 10 years as chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, and recently as a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution. Dr. Wolpe received his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in political science, focusing on Africa.

## Remarks to the American Nurses Association

June 18, 1996

Thank you so much. You've made me feel welcome today. You've got my day off to a great start. And you have been a wonderful, wonderful friend and supporter of this administration in all the things we've tried to do to improve the health and welfare of the American people.

I want to begin by saying a special word of thanks to your president, Ginna Trotter Betts, for her 4 wonderful years as president of the American Nurses Association. *[Applause]* Thank you. I'll never forget the first time we met and talked about this. Al Gore said, you know, the president of the American Nurses Association is from Tennessee. He's shameless about things like that. *[Laughter]* And then we met, and I thought it was especially wonderful because she did not speak with an accent. *[Laughter]*

I want every American today to join with me in saluting your leadership on this 100th anniversary celebration. Our country has the finest health care system in the world, and nurses are the heart of that system.

As Ginna said, because of my dear mother, I know the hard work and the sacrifice that goes into your work. I want to thank you again for honoring my mother in 1994 with a special award in her name and for everything that you do. I learned from her, and America learns from nurses every day, the basic values that make this a great country. We know that the mission

of our country should be to offer opportunity to every American, to demand in turn that every American take responsibility for making the most of that opportunity. That's the basic bargain of this democracy.

We know, too, that all of us have an obligation to see that we treat all responsible Americans with respect and with tolerance, to build a community out of all of our diversity. Today I ask for your prayers for the people who go to church in those churches that have been burned in the last year and a half and for your support for their right to worship and live.

I also want to thank you for the support you've given us in our attempt to change the course of affairs here in America and to deal with the real issues that affect the lives of real people. I sometimes wonder when people like you, who work and live every day all across America in the heartland and get up and try to make something good happen every day, when you come to Washington, it must be like visiting a foreign country from time to time. *[Laughter]* I think it would do more good if the people who work and write here in Washington had to go out and visit you more often. I think it would change their attitude about what really matters in life.

We've been at this business of trying to create opportunity and increase responsibility and