

June 26 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1996

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Aeronautics and Space June 26, 1996

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit this report on the Nation's achievements in aeronautics and space during fiscal year 1995, as required under section 206 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2476). Aeronautics and space activities involved 14 contributing departments and agencies of the Federal Government, and the results of their ongoing research and development affect the Nation in many ways.

A wide variety of aeronautics and space developments took place during fiscal year 1995. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully completed seven Space Shuttle flights. A Shuttle program highlight was the docking of the Shuttle *Atlantis* with the Russian space station *Mir*.

NASA launched three Expendable Launch Vehicles (ELV), while the Department of Defense (DOD) successfully conducted five ELV launches. These launches included satellites to study space physics, track Earth's weather patterns, and support military communications. In addition, there were 12 commercial launches carried out from Government facilities that the Office of Commercial Space Transportation (OCST), within the Department of Transportation (DOT), licensed and monitored.

NASA continued the search for a more affordable space launch system for the coming years with its Reusable Launch Vehicle program. NASA hopes to develop new kinds of launch technologies that will enable a private launch industry to become financially feasible.

In aeronautics, activities included development of technologies to improve performance, increase safety, reduce engine noise, and assist

U.S. industry to be more competitive in the world market. Air traffic control activities focused on various automation systems to increase flight safety and enhance the efficient use of airspace.

Scientists made some dramatic new discoveries in various space-related fields. Astronomers gained new insights into the size and age of our universe in addition to studying our solar system. Earth scientists continued to study the complex interactions of physical forces that influence our weather and environment and reached new conclusions about ozone depletion. Agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as well as the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior, used remote-sensing technologies to better understand terrestrial changes. Microgravity researchers conducted studies to prepare for the long-duration stays of humans that are planned for the upcoming International Space Station.

International cooperation, particularly with Russia, occurred in a variety of aerospace areas. In addition to the Shuttle-*Mir* docking mission and the Russian partnership on the International Space Station, U.S. and Russian personnel also continued close cooperation on various aeronautics projects.

Thus, fiscal year 1995 was a very successful one for U.S. aeronautics and space programs. Efforts in these areas have contributed significantly to the Nation's scientific and technical knowledge, international cooperation, a healthier environment, and a more competitive economy.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
June 26, 1996.

Remarks to the Citizens of Perouges, France June 27, 1996

Mayor de la Chapelle; Mayor Bussy; Prefect Ritter; to Mr. Mavreaux, the president of the local veterans association; to Henri Girousse; to all the World War II veterans who are here;

to members of Parliament; especially to the children and the teachers of Perouges and Meximieux; to my fellow Americans: Let me begin by saying that Hillary and I and our party

are very, very pleased to be here in Perouges today, to be so warmly welcomed by you, and especially to be here with all the schoolchildren. Thank you very much. I would like to say a special word of thanks to the very large number of members of Parliament who are here and to the military band for providing such excellent music today.

Mayor de la Chapelle, I know that your ancestor Pierre fought in our Revolutionary War and even advised our first President, George Washington. So, Mr. Mayor, I'm glad to be here with you today, and I would be happy to have any advice you might have for me today. [*Applause*] Thank you.

Americans have been at home here since our soldiers trained together during World War I and our people fought together in the final days of World War II. I am glad to be here to renew our friendship with the people of Perouges, as we stand on the brink of a new century and an age of great possibility for the children who are here.

As we drove from Lyons, Perouges rose in the distance, its great ramparts crowned by your beautiful church tower and tile roofs. Then we discovered the cobblestone streets, the narrow lanes, the hand-painted signs, the sundials, the drinking wells. The sense of timelessness is so strong in this beautiful place it is easy to forget that the story of Perouges is also the story of change. Weavers, craftsmen, and farmers once made this town a great medieval trading center. A century ago, the railroad passed you by and people began to leave. But then artists, historians, and ordinary citizens worked with government to establish your community as a historic monument. And ever since, the history you have preserved here has brought people like me from all around the world and allowed this wonderful community to thrive.

We should all learn from this lesson. Today the world we live in is changing faster than ever. While more and more people prosper in this new global economy, others struggle without the proper education and training. While new technologies and rapid movements of information and money and people across national borders bring all of us closer together, they also make all of us more open to common dangers: crime, drug trafficking, and terrorism, as we saw in Saudi Arabia, where 19 Americans were killed and many more were wounded. And I thank

you, Mr. Mayor, for that moment of silence in their memory.

To meet these challenges, we must show strength and steadiness and judgment and flexibility. We must meet our challenges and protect our values, just as you have here. That is what this G-7 meeting is all about, because I know that if we all work together, we can keep the world economy growing so that more and more of our people have the opportunity to make the most of their own lives. And if we all work together, we can face these terrible new threats to our security successfully.

Terrorism is on our minds today because of the cowardly bombing in Saudi Arabia. So let me repeat what I said yesterday to the American people: We will not rest in our efforts to discover who is responsible, to track them down, and to bring them to justice. My friends, we must rally the forces of tolerance and freedom everywhere to work against terrorism, just as we are working together for peace in Bosnia today with the strong leadership of France and President Chirac.

Last year the United States launched an international initiative to fight terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking, and nuclear smuggling. Here in Lyons, I expect the G-7 nations to adopt 40 very specific recommendations to combat crime and terror, to increase our efforts to prevent terrorists from committing their crimes and our ability to track, catch, and punish them when they do. The future of the children here depends upon our success in this effort.

Fifty-two years ago the French Resistance worked here in common cause with American GIs to win your freedom back. Now we must join together to face down the new threats to our freedom. Your unshakable devotion to freedom is literally rooted here in the heart of your town in this mighty linden tree, which was planted just over 200 years ago during the French Revolution. You call it the Tree of Liberty. Today's threats to the liberty your tree symbolizes are very different from those of 200 years ago, different from the threats of World War II or the cold war, but they are real, and we must face them. We must face them so that the children here today will enter the 21st century free and secure, with the greatest opportunity to live out their dreams of any generation in human history. That is my dream. It is one I hope we all share.

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Thank you very much. God bless America, and *vive la France*.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:30 p.m. at Liberty Place. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor

Guy Passarat de la Chapelle of Perouges, France; Mayor Christian Bussy of Meximieux, France; and Philippe Ritter, Prefect of the Ain.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Jacques Chirac of France in Lyons

June 27, 1996

Terrorist Attack in Saudi Arabia

Q. Mr. President, is there any way the tragedy in Saudi Arabia could have been avoided, given the history of terrorism in the Middle East, especially in the aftermath of the agency bombing in Beirut? Why weren't those airmen protected?

President Clinton. Well, as you know, they were behind a fence that gave them a 35-yard cushion, and the bomb was just bigger than anyone calculated could be gotten in that close to the building.

So I think the casualties were far smaller than they would have been had not the security precautions been taken. But you may be sure that the Defense Department and the others who are in charge of this are reviewing the security operations to see what else should be done, to see if we can even do better in the future.

Q. Is there any indication yet who is responsible for that?

President Clinton. We're working on it, but I don't want to announce a conclusion until I know what the facts are. We're working very hard, and so are the Saudis. And I want to thank, I might say if I could, I'd like to thank President Chirac for his expression of condolences and support for the United States. And he said to me—and I hope that you will have some statement coming out later today.

President Chirac. I just want to say to the American press how deeply horrified the French people were at this barbaric act that has been perpetrated in Saudi Arabia. And I can assure you that you have the heartfelt condolences of France to the families of the victims and those who have been wounded and to the American people.

NOTE: The exchange began at 3 p.m. at the Prefecture. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom in Lyons, France

June 27, 1996

Terrorist Attack in Saudi Arabia

Q. Mr. President, what do you do if you discover that there was a state sponsorship behind the Saudi Arabian incident? What happens?

President Clinton. Well, I will take whatever action I believe is appropriate based on what the facts are. But let's wait until we see what the facts are.

Q. [*Inaudible*—has said that there was intellectually a very strong case for the bombers. What is your reaction to that?

Prime Minister Major. I haven't seen the context of what he said, but I can see no case, intellectual or any other sort of case, for the sort of activity in Dhahran. It is indefensible by any tenet.

Q. Do you think there are further measures which you can agree here jointly with the other leaders to combat both the sort of terrorism