

we can go into the schools of America and teach our children. We did this in a rural county in Kentucky, and within a year the average child had increased their reading level by 3 years—3 years. We can do this.

So I ask you, will you help me put a million people out there so that every 8-year-old can say, “This is a book, and I can read it all by myself”? Will you help me? Will you help us to hook up every classroom and library and every school in the United States—free access to the Internet, to the World Wide Web, so that every child in America can be part of this new technology age? [Applause] And to grownups here who aren’t as expert in computers as a lot of the kids are, let me tell you what that means. That means—if we can say that every 12-year-old in America can log on to the Internet, let me tell you what that means in practical terms. It means for the first time in the entire history of the United States, for the very first time, we can say that every child in America—rich, poor, or middle class—in every community in America, now has access to the same learning at the same level of quality at the same time. It will revolutionize education in America. Will you help me do it? [Applause]

And finally, we must open the doors of college education to all Americans of any age who need further education. I want to give every family the ability to save for an IRA but withdraw tax-free if the money’s used to pay for college or health care or buying a first home. I want to make 2 years of education after high school just as universal as a high school diploma is today. And we can do it in only 4 years if we’ll simply say we’re going to let you deduct from your tax bill, dollar for dollar, the cost of a typical community college tuition. Will you

help me do that? [Applause] And we should make any college cost, any college tuition tax deductible up to \$10,000 a year for any Americans of any age, including older people who need to go back and get school. Will you help us do that? [Applause]

Now, this election is 19 days away. And they always tell you when you’re 19 days away, just come in like this, give a whoop-dee-doo speech, talk 3 minutes, leave—no more issues. But I’m telling you, the big question is 19 days is, who’s going to show up. Are you going to show up? Are you going to show up? [Applause]

And example, after example, after example—some of which I was able to cite last night—the people of the State of California can say, “There is a direct consequences between the vote I cast, the person who is in charge in Washington, and the decisions made here on the streets of Santa Ana and every other city in this State that affect my life.”

So I ask you—I talk a lot about our responsibilities—it is your responsibility to go vote, your responsibility as a citizen, your responsibility to be there, your responsibility to build that bridge to the 21st century. In 19 days let’s do it.

Thank you, and God bless you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:26 a.m. at the Old Orange County Courthouse. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Miguel Pulido of Santa Ana; Sally Alexander, Tina Louise Laine, Dan Farrell, and Loretta Sanchez, candidates for California’s 45th, 47th, 48th, and 46th Congressional Districts, respectively; actor Stephen Weber; Lou Correa, State Assembly candidate; and Roger Johnson, former Administrator of General Services.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Amendment of the Generalized System of Preferences

October 17, 1996

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

The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program offers duty-free treatment to specified products that are imported from designated developing countries. The program is authorized by title V of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended.

Pursuant to title V, I have determined that Malaysia should be graduated from the GSP program because it is sufficiently advanced in economic development and improved in trade competitiveness. I have also determined that certain products from Pakistan should be sus-

pended from duty-free treatment under the GSP program because it is not making sufficient progress in protecting basic labor rights. In addition, I have determined that Botswana and Western Samoa should be deleted from the list of least-developed beneficiary developing countries and Angola, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Zaire, and Zambia should be added to that list. Finally, I have determined that Cyprus, Aruba, Macau, the Netherlands Antilles, Greenland, and the Cayman Islands meet the definition of “high income” country as defined by the statistics of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and are subject to mandatory graduation.

The action regarding Malaysia and designation of least-developed beneficiary developing coun-

tries is effective January 1, 1997. The action against Pakistan is retroactive to July 1, 1996. The mandatory graduation of high income countries is effective January 1, 1998.

This notice is submitted in accordance with the requirements of title V of the Trade Act of 1974.

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. The related proclamation of October 17 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri of Lebanon and an Exchange With Reporters

October 18, 1996

The President. Let me say first that I’m delighted to have the Prime Minister here today. The United States is strongly committed to the independence, the sovereignty, the territorial integrity of Lebanon. We look forward to supporting a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East that preserves that integrity, and a Lebanon that is free of foreign forces. We’re also committed to supporting the reconstruction efforts that are so important in Lebanon after the difficulties of the last year. And I look forward to this conversation.

I should also say in front of the American press that the United States is very blessed by the contributions of large numbers of Lebanese-Americans, including members of our administration: Donna Shalala, the Secretary of Health and Human Services; former Senator George Mitchell, who is now back in Northern Ireland or on his way back; and General George Joulwan, who is the commander of our forces in Europe. So we have a lot of ties with Lebanon, and we’re looking forward to this meeting.

Campaign Financing

Q. Mr. President, speaking of contributions, what is your reaction today to Senator Dole’s charge that when it comes to some of these

foreign political cash contributions made to the DNC, that you personally haven’t learned the lesson of that national nightmare called Watergate?

The President. Well, let me say two things. One—first is, Mr. Panetta and I have asked the DNC to review all the contributions, as we should have, as we’ve said, to make sure they were appropriate. And we’ll have other opportunities to discuss this. This is not the appropriate forum for that.

U.S. Military Aid to Lebanon

Q. Mr. President, the Lebanese Government has asked the United States for various pieces of military equipment, including tanks—excuse me—helicopters or personnel carriers’ aircraft. Do you view their request sympathetically, and if so, what would you expect to give them?

The President. Well, the Prime Minister and I haven’t had our meeting yet, and the Secretary of State and he have discussed this. We’ll review these things and see what is appropriate and make the appropriate decision. But we have been and continue to be very supportive of Lebanon and of the work that the Prime Minister is doing to strengthen his country and to give it a brighter future.