

Sept. 3 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1997

will not be nearly as good as the students' or the staff's, but I'll give it my best shot.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:53 a.m. in the library. In his remarks, he referred to Dr. Kriner

Cash, superintendent, Martha's Vineyard Schools; and Laury Binney, principal, Oak Bluffs School. The President also referred to the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS).

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the Partnership For Peace Initiative *September 3, 1997*

Dear _____:

In accordance with section 514(a) of Public Law 103-236 (22 U.S.C. 1928(a)), I am submitting to you this report on implementation of the Partnership for Peace (PFP) initiative.

The recent NATO Summit in Madrid highlighted the tremendous success of the Partnership for Peace and the important role PFP plays as a permanent security structure for the undivided Europe of the 21st century. On the second day of the Summit, 27 Partner Heads of State and Government met with their NATO counterparts under the auspices of the new Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. This meeting, the first of its kind, underscored the strength of the cooperative relationship NATO has built with the Partners in the 3-1/2 years since the creation of PFP.

The Partnership for Peace has been instrumental in helping countries prepare for NATO membership. At the same time, it has also been a critical tool in helping all the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, regardless of their

desire to join NATO, to build stronger ties with the Alliance and develop closer cooperative relationships with all their neighbors. As you will see from the attached report, NATO and its Partners have made impressive progress in broadening and deepening the Partnership over the past year. With the creation of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and the implementation of enhancements to the PFP program, Allies and Partners together will help bring about our shared goal of a Euro-Atlantic community that is safe, secure, and united by common values and common understanding.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; and Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, and Lee H. Hamilton, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters With Documentation *September 3, 1997*

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters ("the Convention"), adopted at the twenty-second regular session of the Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly meeting in Nas-

sau, The Bahamas, on May 23, 1992, and the Optional Protocol Related to the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters ("the Protocol"), adopted at the twenty-third regular session of the OAS General Assembly meeting in Managua, Nicaragua, on June 11, 1993. Both of these instruments were signed

on behalf of the United States at the OAS headquarters in Washington on January 10, 1995. In addition, for the information of the Senate, I transmit the report of the Department of State with respect to the Convention and the Protocol.

When ratified, the Convention and the Protocol will constitute the first multilateral convention between the United States and other members of the OAS in the field of international judicial cooperation in criminal matters. The provisions of the Convention and Protocol are explained in the report of the Department of State that accompanies this message.

The Convention and Protocol will establish a treaty-based system of judicial assistance in criminal matters analogous to that which exists bilaterally between the United States and a number of countries. These instruments should prove to be effective tools to assist in the prosecution of a wide variety of modern criminals, including members of drug cartels, "white-collar" criminals, and terrorists. The Convention and Protocol are self-executing, and will not require implementing legislation.

The Convention provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Mutual assistance available under the Convention includes: (1) taking testimony or statements of persons; (2) providing documents, records, and articles of evidence; (3) serving documents; (4) locating or identifying persons or items; (5) transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; (6) executing requests for searches and seizures; (7) assisting in forfeiture

proceedings; and (8) rendering any other form of assistance not prohibited by the laws of the Requested State.

The Protocol was negotiated and adopted at the insistence of the United States Government, and will permit a greater measure of cooperation in connection with tax offenses. I believe that the Convention should not be ratified by the United States without the Protocol. If the Convention and Protocol are ratified, the instruments of ratification would be deposited simultaneously.

One significant advantage of this Convention and Protocol is that they provide uniform procedures and rules for cooperation in criminal matters by all the states that become Party. In addition, the Convention and Protocol would obviate the expenditure of resources that would be required for the United States to negotiate and bring into force bilateral mutual assistance treaties with certain OAS member states.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Convention and the Protocol, and that it give its advice and consent to ratification, subject to the understandings described in the accompanying report of the Department of State.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
September 3, 1997.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 4.

Message to the Senate Transmitting Eastern Caribbean States-United States Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties With Documentation *September 3, 1997*

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaties Between the Government of the United States of America and the governments of four countries comprising the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. The Treaties are with: Antigua and Barbuda, signed at St. John's on October 31, 1996; Dominica, signed at Roseau on October 10, 1996; Grenada, signed at St. George's on May 30, 1996; St. Lucia,

signed at Castries on April 18, 1996. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaties.

The Treaties are part of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to counter criminal activity more effectively. They should be an effective tool to assist in the prosecution of a wide variety of crimes, including "white-collar"