

We got what we wanted, which is joint implementation, emissions trading, a market-oriented approach. I wish it were a little stronger on developing nations' participation. But we opened the way, the only way we can get there, through joint implementation of projects in those countries.

This is a very good agreement. It is going to be possible for us to do this and grow our economy. It is environmentally sound. It's a huge first step. And I did not dream when we started that we could get this far. We should be very, very proud of this.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 p.m. at John F. Kennedy International Airport prior to his departure for Miami, FL. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan. The Kyoto Protocol to the Framework Convention on Climate Change was agreed upon at the Third Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Kyoto, Japan, December 1-10.

Statement on the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change *December 10, 1997*

I am very pleased that the United States has reached an historic agreement with other nations of the world to take unprecedented action to address global warming. This agreement is environmentally strong and economically sound. It reflects a commitment by our generation to act in the interests of future generations.

No nation is more committed to this effort than the United States. In Kyoto, our mission was to persuade other nations to find common ground so we could make realistic and achievable commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. That mission was accomplished. The United States delegation, at the direction of Vice President Gore and with the skilled leadership of Under Secretary Stuart Eizenstat, showed the way. The momentum generated by Vice Presi-

dent Gore's visit helped move the negotiation to a successful conclusion, and I thank him.

I am particularly pleased the agreement strongly reflects the commitment of the United States to use the tools of the free market to tackle this difficult problem.

There are still hard challenges ahead, particularly in the area of involvement by developing nations. It is essential that these nations participate in a meaningful way if we are to truly tackle this global environmental challenge. But the industrialized nations have come together, taken a strong step, and that is real progress.

Finally, let me thank Prime Minister Hashimoto and the people of Japan for their spirit and dedication to the task.

Presidential Citizens Medal Citation for Elinor Guggenheimer *December 10, 1997*

For the past 50 years, Elinor Guggenheimer has been a tenacious and effective champion on behalf of America's children. She began her crusade by persuading New York City to assume funding of Federal day care centers following World War II. Later, as founding President of the Child Care Action Campaign, she helped to elevate day care to a national concern. Throughout a lifetime of service, she has ex-

panded the focus of her advocacy and generously lent her talents to issues that confront seniors, women, and consumers. Elinor Guggenheimer's indomitable spirit and extraordinary efforts to improve the lives of her fellow citizens have helped to illuminate our common path to a better America.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: The First Lady presented the Presidential Citizens Medal to Elinor Guggenheimer in New York City on behalf of the President. An original was not available for verification of this citation.

Remarks to the Coast Guard in Miami, Florida December 11, 1997

Thank you very much, Lieutenant Britton, for your service and for that very thorough account of your activities. I hope that none of the Coast Guard will ever have to engage in ice-breaking in this area. [Laughter]

Admiral Kramek, Admiral Saunders, Admiral Rufe, the men and women of the Coast Guard; Secretary Slater, thank you for your remarks and your work. General McCaffrey, thank you for the extraordinary job you have done in such a short time in focusing our Nation's attention on the drug problem and, even more importantly, coming up with a strategy with which to approach it, a strategy that is beginning to show significant results.

Acting Customs Commissioner Banks, SOUTHCOM Commander General Wilhelm—I noticed that a lot of people laughed, General, when General McCaffrey said that you had a higher intellect than your two predecessors. One of them was General McCaffrey—I can understand him putting himself down—[laughter]—I don't know what General Clark thinks about it. [Laughter]

Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart, and my good friend Lieutenant Governor MacKay, thank you all for being here and for the support that you give to the United States in the work we have to do here to deal with the drug problem. Thank all of you for coming. I see a lot of my friends out in the audience, including State Senator Daryl Jones—I'm glad to see you. And of all the men and women of the Coast Guard here, I can't help noticing that my immediate past Coast Guard military aide is now a deputy group commander in St. Petersburg, Lieutenant Commander June Ryan, and I'm glad to see her over there with General Wilhelm, earning an honest living for a change after escaping the political life of Washington. [Laughter]

Before I get into my remarks about what you're doing here, Lieutenant Britton mentioned the fact that the Coast Guard is not involved

in ice-breaking, but with El Niño, who knows. [Laughter] Now, we all laughed about that, but the truth is, as many of you know better than most of our fellow country men and women, there is an enormous body of evidence that the climate of the Earth is warming at a more rapid rate than at any time in the last 10,000 years. Many, many scientists believe in the next 100 years the climate will go—the average temperature will go up someplace between 2 and 6 degrees. To give you some idea of what the consequences of that kind of change were in the last Ice Age, 10,000 years ago, the average climate—average—climate temperature was only about 9 degrees lower than it is now.

If it were to happen that we had a significant increase in temperature within a brief period, huge lowland areas in the United States, including big portions of south Florida, and island nations in the Pacific could be completely flooded. That is why the nations of the world have been meeting in Japan to try to find a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to reduce global warming in a way that permits us to continue to grow our economies and work together in a responsible way.

Yesterday, at the eleventh hour, the nations reached an agreement. I think it's of great relevance, especially to south Florida. It is environmentally strong, and it's economically sound. There's still a lot of challenges ahead. I believe we have to get the developing countries more involved because this is a global problem, not an American problem or a rich country problem. But this is a huge first step.

And I would urge all of you—I see already the papers are full of people saying, "The sky is falling; the sky is falling. It's a terrible thing." Every time we've tried to improve the American environment in the last 25 or 30 years, somebody has predicted that it would wreck the economy. And the air is cleaner, the water is cleaner, the food supply is safer, there are fewer toxic waste dumps, and the last time I checked,