

Mar. 4 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1999

Statement on the National Assessment of Education Progress March 4, 1999

Today's release of State-by-State National Assessment of Education Progress scores is evidence that our efforts to raise academic standards have begun to pay off. Many States have shown significant improvement in reading in the last 4 years, and some States that had scores well below the national average have made the greatest gains. But much remains to be done to ensure that every child in America is mastering the basics. That is why I urge the Senate

to vote this week to continue funding for 100,000 new, well-prepared teachers to reduce class size in the early grades. Parents and teachers across the country know that smaller classes lead to improved student performance in reading and other basic skills. We should grasp this opportunity to build on the gains we have made, so that every child in America is prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Statement on the Murder of Tourists in Uganda March 4, 1999

I was deeply saddened to learn of the brutal violence that erupted Monday morning in a nature preserve in southwestern Uganda. Hillary and I have extended our profound condolences to the families of the victims.

Eight innocent tourists from the United States, Great Britain, and New Zealand were killed. All of the victims were there because they loved Africa. It was a senseless and cowardly murder, apparently committed by those who perpetrated the Rwandan genocide in 1994. If this attack was intended as a warning to our Nation to stop supporting those in the region seeking reconciliation and justice, those who

committed it should understand that we will not be deterred in any way.

We will not forget these crimes, nor rest until those who committed them are brought to justice. Already, a team of FBI experts is on the ground, working with Ugandan authorities to gather the relevant evidence so indictments of the perpetrators can be made.

Let me also underscore our commitment to breaking the cycle of violence and impunity that has gripped the Great Lakes region, so that all who live in and visit the region can do so without fear.

Remarks at a Screening of "Dare To Compete: The Struggle of Women in Sports"

March 4, 1999

Thank you. I hate to risk spoiling the moment. I'd like to ask you all to join me in thanking Jeff and HBO for this magnificent gift to our country. *[Applause]* Thank you.

As I watched this film I had many thoughts. Hillary and I have been privileged to know some of the athletes that were featured. I missed Flo-Jo again. I knew I would never have a golf swing like Babe Zaharias. *[Laughter]* I knew I would never dunk the ball like you. *[Laughter]*

I remembered how desperately I wanted Billie Jean to win that tennis match—*[laughter]*—for the sake of my mother, my then-girlfriend.

I remembered all the times as a private citizen—when I'm upstairs at the White House now, I can indulge my obsession with sports by watching women athletes as well as men, across a whole range of endeavors—all the joy, all the elation, all because the pioneers in this room and on this film dared to compete. And