Mr. Santeliz. About 5 or 6 blocks—what they call blocks, which are actually more like hectares.

President Clinton. Ten acres? So the average family had 10 acres?

President Aleman. Per family, that’s what each family had.

President Clinton. And then this block, you say, with the 50 families, they have an average of 25 hectares?

President Aleman. It’s like, 100 acres per family—this particular group.

President Clinton. So they could actually sell it out?

President Aleman. And what they’re doing is, they’re renting out the land that they’re not farming themselves.

President Clinton. So it’s your proposal for the Government to buy this land on behalf of the other people, if they will accept them?

President Aleman. That would be the ideal situation. The problem is that the co-op with those 50 people—and it’s very, very good land; they know that land, very fertile land. This co-op got it back in the Sandinista days. So I don’t think they’re going to want to give it up. They’re not going to give it to anyone or sell it. They prefer it, as he was saying, to rent it, to lease it, because it’s better business for them. We’ll see what measures can be taken. And the discussions we’re trying to hold—we’ll see how we can change this. Because the other problem we have, Mr. President, is there’s land, but not in this area, not on the Pacific side.

President Clinton. Too far away?

President Aleman. This has been traditionally farm land. But we’ll see what solution we find.

Faith in God.

Juan Pablo, you have to go and study now. Do you promise you’re going to study?

Juan Pablo. Yes.

President Aleman. Are you going to study? You promise?

Juan Pablo. Yes.

President Clinton. You can learn a lot and pray to God to take care of your mother and father. And they will know and be very proud of you.

NOTE: The discussion began at 3:45 p.m. in the auditorium at the Cotton Research Center. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this discussion.

Statement on the Death of Joe DiMaggio

March 8, 1999

Today America lost one of the century’s most beloved heroes, Joe DiMaggio. This son of Italian immigrants gave every American something to believe in. He became the very symbol of American grace, power, and skill. A brilliant individual performer, he led his magnificent Yankees to the World Series 10 out of his 13 years. His electrifying 56-game hitting streak, unequaled to this day, is one of the most remarkable achievements by any athlete in any sport.

He stood tall off the field as well. In 1943 he volunteered for the Army and swapped his Yankee paycheck for $50-a-month private’s salary. He and the foundation he started gave mightily to help poor children benefit from the world’s best medical care. And he was an incredibly devoted father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

I have no doubt that when future generations look back at the best of America in the 20th century, they will think of the “Yankee Clipper” and all that he achieved. Hillary and I extend our thoughts and prayers to his family.