

who went down when his plane was hit, when we see a sign that says, "I love my TR sailor" or "I miss my Daddy," we remember that all political and military decisions ultimately have a human component that is highly individualized.

Think how you would feel if you were part of the half million people who lived peaceably in a place, just wanted to be let alone to practice your religion and educate your children and do your work, if people came to your house and your village and said, "Pack up your belongings and go. We're going to burn your property records; we're going to burn your identity records. And if your husband or your son is of military service age, we might take them out behind the barn and shoot them dead"—just because you have a different religion, just because you have a different ethnic background. Is that really what we want the 21st century to be about for our children?

Now, that is what is at stake here. We cannot do everything in the world, but we must do what we can. We can never forget the Holocaust, the genocide, the carnage of the 20th century. We don't want the new century to bring us the same nightmares in a different guise.

We also want to say again how proud the United States is that each of NATO's 19 members is supporting the mission in Kosovo in some way—France and Germany, Turkey and Greece, Poland and Hungary, the Czech Republic, Britain, Canada, all the others. And this is also important.

Let me finally say—I'd like to read you something. Near the end of the Second World War, President Roosevelt prepared a speech to give at a holiday honoring Virginia's famous son Thomas Jefferson. He never got to give the speech. But it still speaks to us, his last words. And to those of you who wear the uniform of our Nation and to those of you who are

part of the families of our Uniformed Service members. I ask you to heed these words.

After the long war was almost drawing to a close, these were Franklin Roosevelt's last words that he never got to deliver: "We as Americans do not choose to deny our responsibilities. Nor do we intend to abandon our determination that within the lives of our children and our children's children, there will not be a third world war. We seek peace, enduring peace. More than an end to war, we want an end to the beginnings of all wars."

That is what we are trying to achieve in Kosovo. That is what many of you in this room, perhaps, and your colleagues, did achieve in Bosnia. We want to end a war that has begun in Europe and prevent a larger war. And we want to alleviate the burdens and the killing of defenseless people. Let us heed President Roosevelt's last words.

Let me say again, for those of you who serve and for those of you who serve as family members and who sacrifice as wives and husbands and children: I thank you for your service and your sacrifice, and America thanks you.

God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:17 p.m. in Hangar SP2. In his remarks, he referred to Adm. Harold W. Gehman, Jr., USN, Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic; Adm. J. Paul Reason, USN, Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; Lt. Gen. Peter Pace, USMC, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Europe; Lt. Gen. Thomas Keck, USAF, Vice Commander, Air Combat Command; Mayor Meyera E. Oberndorf of Virginia Beach; President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); and Staff Sgt. Andrew A. Ramirez, USA, Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Stone, USA, and Specialist Steven M. Gonzales, USA, infantrymen in custody in Serbia.

## Statement on the 2000 Census

*April 1, 1999*

Exactly one year from today, America will commence the first census of the 21st century. The responsibility to conduct the census is near-

ly as old as our Nation. Beginning in 1790, and every 10 years since, America has counted

*Apr. 1 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1999*

its people, charted its growth, and by doing so, prepared for its future.

The census is a vital statistical snapshot that tells us who we are and where we are going as a nation. And though it is taken only once a decade, it is important to our everyday lives. The census helps communities determine where to build everything from schools to supermarkets and from homes to hospitals. It helps the Government decide how to distribute funds and assistance to States and localities. It is used to draw the lines of legislative districts and reapportion the seats each State holds in Congress.

The Census Bureau estimates it will count about 275 million people next year across our Nation. But America must be accurate—and more so than we have been in the past. The previous census, in 1990, missed 8.4 million people and counted more than 4 million twice. Children, minorities, and low income Americans have been often overlooked. We must do better. Every person in America counts—so every American must be counted.

I am committed to ensuring that Census 2000 is as accurate, complete, and fair as possible. That will be an enormous undertaking—demanding the largest peacetime mobilization in our Nation's history, involving hundreds of thousands of local census takers and community volunteers. I have, therefore, asked every executive department and agency of the Federal Government to develop an action plan that helps recruit census workers and promotes full participation in Census 2000. The Census Bureau has put forth a comprehensive and complete plan that includes a full enumeration and modern scientific methods. The Bureau will also build unprecedented partnerships with business, community groups, schools, and State, local, and tribal governments and use, for the first time, radio, television, and billboard advertisements to encourage everyone to participate in Census 2000.

Working together, we can ensure that Census 2000 truly reflects who we are as a people and that each American can make the best of the opportunities of the 21st century.

## Statement on Results From a Florida Youth Antismoking Program

*April 1, 1999*

Today the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is publishing promising new results from the youth antismoking program launched by the late Florida Governor Lawton Chiles. The study shows that in just one year, smoking has declined by 19 percent among middle school students and by 8 percent among high schoolers. These results show why every State should have a comprehensive program to reduce youth smoking and why I oppose any legislation waiving the Federal Government's claim to to-

bacco settlement funds without making a commitment from the States to fund such efforts. Without such a commitment, States won't have to spend a single penny of the \$246 billion settlement to reduce youth smoking. We must act now: Every day 3,000 children become regular smokers, and 1,000 will have their lives cut short as a result.

NOTE: This statement was embargoed for release until 4 p.m.

## Remarks on the National Economy and Kosovar Refugees and an Exchange With Reporters

*April 2, 1999*

*The President.* Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to make some fairly brief comments today about the situation in Kosovo and the humanitarian issue, and also about the good news today

we received on the domestic economy. Let me make the economic remarks first, and then I will talk about Kosovo and refer to the folks