

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction Programs

August 24, 1999

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 585(c) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1999, as contained in the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1999 (Public Law 105-277) (the "Act"), I hereby transmit a report concerning Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs.

The report is comprised of three sections that provide the information required by section 585(c) of the Act, to the extent that such information is available: assessment of Iraq's nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction programs and its efforts to move toward procurement of nuclear weapons and the means to deliver weap-

ons of mass destruction; assessment of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) action team reports, and other IAEA efforts to monitor the extent and nature of Iraq's nuclear program; and an opinion on the value of maintaining the ongoing inspection regime rather than replacing it with a passive monitoring system.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 25.

Statement on Counterdrug Operations at Miami International Airport

August 25, 1999

I want to congratulate law enforcement officials for the successful counterdrug operations that resulted today in numerous indictments for violations of our Federal drug laws. This joint initiative required the hard work of the DEA, U.S. Customs Service, ATF, and local law enforcement agencies. It is a product of our shared determination to shield American borders from the drug threat. The efforts of this team show

that by working together, we can reduce the flow of drugs into our Nation and fight drug-related crime and violence. From the recent decline in youth drug use, to the law enforcement success of today's investigations, our balanced and comprehensive national antidrug strategy is producing real results for the American people.

The President's Radio Address

August 28, 1999

Good morning. This week students all over the country are getting ready for the first day of school. Like every year, parents will send their children off to school with new backpacks and fresh hopes that they'll get the world-class education they need and deserve. Today I want to talk about our continuing efforts to strengthen and renew our Nation's public schools by en-

couraging more choice, competition, and creativity.

For more than 6½ years now, Secretary Riley and I and our whole administration have worked hard to raise standards, raise expectations, and raise accountability in every public school in America. I have advanced a comprehensive plan to strengthen and renew our Nation's schools and education agenda for the 21st century—

from reducing class size to improving teacher quality, from modernizing and rebuilding thousands of schools to finishing the job of connecting every library and classroom to the Internet, from putting an end to social promotion to expanding after-school and summer school programs.

We've also worked hard to promote the creativity, competition, and accountability that can turn around failing schools and make our good schools even better. That's the big reason I've encouraged States to pass charter school laws and urge communities all across our country to give charter schools a chance.

Charter schools are innovative public schools started by educators, parents, and communities, open to students of every background or ability. But they're freer of redtape and top-down management than most of our schools are, and in return for greater flexibility, charter schools must set and meet the highest standards, and stay open only as long as they do.

Also, charter schools don't divert taxpayer dollars from our public school system; instead, they use those dollars to promote excellence and competition within the system. And in so doing, they spur all our public schools to improve.

I am proud of the progress we've made so far. When I was first elected President, there was only one charter school in the entire country. This year there will be more than 1,700 of them. We're well on our way to meeting my goal of establishing 3,000 charter schools nationwide in the first year of the new century.

For an increasing number of families, charter schools are the right choice. In fact, there are now waiting lists at 7 out of 10 existing charter schools, as more parents realize that more innovation and creativity can produce good results for their children.

Let me give you just one example. When Bowling Green Elementary School in Sacramento ranked third from the bottom in its

district, parents and teachers decided they had to do something to take control and turn the situation around. So they set up a charter school there. Since becoming a charter school, Bowling Green has seen student performance soar, with greater gains in test scores than any other school in the school district.

The charter school movement is a real grass-roots revolution in education. We must do everything we can to support it. Today I am pleased to announce nearly \$100 million in funding for charter schools all around America. These funds will help teachers and parents open new charter schools in 32 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

They will help existing charter schools hire more well-trained teachers; buy more books, computers, and educational software; and ensure that classrooms are safe and accessible for all students. Finally, these funds will help charter schools develop accountability systems to measure whether they are meeting or exceeding State standards.

Charter schools are living proof of what parents and teachers can do to reinvigorate public education. Investing in them means investing in accountability and excellence and a much better future for our children.

But just as our children are returning to class, the Republican leadership's risky tax cut plan would undermine these investments by forcing deep and irresponsible cuts in education and other important national priorities. So, as Congress comes back to Washington, let's remind them what the creators and the students of America's charter schools already know: We're all accountable for our children's future, and an investment in it is our best investment in all our future.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. from the Edgartown School in Martha's Vineyard, MA.

Remarks at a Victory 2000 Dinner in East Hampton, New York August 28, 1999

Thank you. Let me thank all of you for the wonderful welcome you have given to Hillary and to me, and to the cause that we come

here to advance tonight for the Democratic