

Aug. 31 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1999

Radio Remarks on Earthquake Relief for Turkey *August 28, 1999*

The recent earthquake in Turkey is one of the worst natural disasters of the century. Tens of thousands of people are either confirmed dead or still missing.

On behalf of all Americans, Hillary and I offer our deepest condolences to the loved ones of those who have lost their lives. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by this tragedy.

Turkey is our longtime ally. The Turkish people are our friends. Today they urgently need assistance. Many are severely injured. Hundreds of thousands are camping outdoors. There is a serious risk of disease spreading. We must help the victims rebuild their lives.

Working with Turkey's Government and others, American military and civilian personnel, including teams from Fairfax County, Virginia, and Dade County, Florida, helped with the rescue efforts. Now we're helping provide shelter,

water, sanitation, and medical services. I'm grateful to all those participating.

Here at home, Americans are helping, too, including religious leaders of many faiths, who've united to call for prayer and humanitarian action. I encourage my fellow citizens to give generously to charitable organizations supporting the relief efforts. For information, you can call our toll-free number in the U.S., that's 1-800-USAID-RELIEF—1-800-USAID-RELIEF—or look on the Internet at www.whitehouse.gov.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at approximately 10:45 a.m. at Edgartown Elementary School in Martha's Vineyard, MA, for later broadcast. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 31. These remarks were also made available on the White House Press Office Radio Actuality Line.

Statement on Announcement of the Bosnia-Herzegovina National Day *September 1, 1999*

Today the Joint Presidents of Bosnia-Herzegovina announced that the national day of their country will henceforth be celebrated on November 21, the anniversary of the Dayton peace accords of 1995. In so doing, the leaders of every ethnic community in Bosnia-Herzegovina have made clear that Dayton

marked not merely the end of a war but the beginning of a new country and a blueprint for its future. I am pleased that the date November 21 will be honored as a symbol of multi-ethnic democracy and solidarity between the people of the United States and the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Statement on the Congo Conflict Cease-Fire Agreement *September 1, 1999*

I welcome the signing of a cease-fire agreement by founding members of the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD) yesterday in Lusaka. Their signature brings into force the Lusaka accord, signed by six African heads of state on July 10th and aimed at ending the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In a region that has seen terrible violence, there

is now a chance for a genuine and just peace. I urge all parties to implement and adhere to the agreement and to act in good faith to enable the citizens of the Congo and neighboring states to pursue their lives in peace, prosperity, and democracy.

I especially congratulate the leaders of the Southern African Development Community