

*July 17 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 2000*

## Statement on the Community Reinvestment Act

*July 17, 2000*

The Community Reinvestment Act is helping to increase homeownership, create new jobs and businesses, and rebuild our country's inner cities and rural areas. Today's Federal Reserve Bank study of banks' and thrifts' CRA lending confirms that these loans are profitable and bring other benefits to banks as well. In part due to CRA, many banks and thrifts have shown commitment and innovation in putting capital into the hands of individuals and into the communities that need it most. I am deeply committed to keeping CRA strong and effective to help do more to meet the needs of those not fully participating in our Nation's prosperity.

## Statement on the Agreement by the Government of Germany To Compensate Victims of Nazi Slave and Forced Labor

*July 17, 2000*

In Berlin today the German Government and German companies signed an agreement that will lead to payments to victims of Nazi slave and forced labor. This important and generous act will bring comfort and some measure of justice to surviving victims of the Nazi era. It is a fitting capstone to the 20th century and a cornerstone for a 21st century of peace and tolerance. I welcome the signing of this historic agreement and commend the German Government and companies for their responsibility and courage. I also applaud Chancellor Schroeder, Deputy Treasury Secretary Eizenstat, and German negotiator Lambsdorff for their leadership and perseverance in bringing us to this point.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Iraq's Compliance With United Nations Security Council Resolutions

*July 17, 2000*

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

Consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102-1 as amended by Public Law 106-113) and as part of my effort to keep the Congress fully informed, I am reporting on the status of efforts to obtain Iraq's compliance with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council. I shall continue to keep the Congress informed about this important issue.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Strom Thurmond, President pro tempore of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 18.

## Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to the Taliban

*July 17, 2000*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the

Taliban (Afghanistan) that was declared in Executive Order 13129 of July 4, 1999.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
July 17, 2000.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 18.

## Statement on Proposed Marriage Penalty Tax Relief Legislation

*July 18, 2000*

While I strongly support targeted marriage penalty relief, the marriage penalty bill put forth by the majority in Congress is one part of a fiscally irresponsible, poorly targeted, and regressive tax plan. If this strategy succeeds, more benefits will go to the top one percent of taxpayers than to the bottom 80 percent of all Americans, while ignoring tax cuts I have proposed for college tuition, long-term care, savings, and child care. By itself, I would veto this bill. In the spirit of bipartisanship, however,

I am willing to accept marriage penalty relief on this scale if Congress passes a plan that preserves the Medicare surplus to pay down the debt and passes a plan that gives real, voluntary Medicare prescription drug coverage that is available and affordable for all seniors. This is the best way to break the partisan logjam and help the tens of millions of older Americans across this country who face rising prescription drug costs.

## Statement on the Japan-United States Agreement on Interconnection Rates

*July 18, 2000*

This important agreement on interconnection rates will help further reduce regulatory barriers to trade between the United States and Japan. It will level the playing field for America's cutting edge technologies and increase the number of Japanese consumers connected to the

Internet. It's a win-win for the United States and Japan and represents an important step as we prepare to discuss the impact of information technology on the global economy at the G-7/G-8 summit.