

Statement on the Observance of World Food Day *October 16, 2000*

Today, as we observe World Food Day and resolve to continue our work to combat hunger worldwide, I urge Congress to enact my budget proposal to help those here at home by ensuring that legal immigrants have access to critical nutrition and health assistance. Vice President Gore and I believe that legal immigrants should have the same economic opportunity and bear the same responsibility as other members of society. Upon signing the welfare reform law, I made a commitment to reverse unnecessary cuts in benefits to legal immigrants that had nothing to do with the law's goal of moving people from welfare to work.

In 1997 and 1998, I joined Congress in taking steps to restore eligibility for many vulnerable immigrants. Now it is time to restore benefits to other legal immigrants who are working hard and playing by the rules but are in need of assistance. This action would be an important step toward making sure this country does its part to reduce hunger. Congress must also act now to restore State options to extend Medicaid and SCHIP coverage to vulnerable legal immigrant women and children. I look forward to working with Members of Congress in these final days of the budget negotiations to increase access to nutrition assistance and health benefits for legal immigrants.

Joint Remarks With President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt at the Conclusion of the Middle East Summit in Sharm al-Sheikh *October 17, 2000*

President Mubarak. In the name of God Almighty; to His Excellency, Bill Clinton; His Highness, King Abdullah, son of Hussein; His Excellency, Prime Minister Barak; Mr. Chairman Arafat; U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan; Mr. Javier Solana, High Representative of the European Union: We spent the past 2 days since we started our summit in constructive discussions and extensive dialog about all the aspects of the escalating situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, discussions aimed at restoring the situation back to normal, through withdrawing the occupying forces, lifting the blockade, putting an end to violent acts, taking measures aiming at restoring trust and confidence to the two Palestinian and Israeli sides, with a view to resuming the peace efforts after the situation is stabilized in the region.

Before I give the floor to His Excellency, President Bill Clinton, the President of the United States of America, in his capacity as the key sponsor of the peace process, to present his report on the outcome of our relentless efforts over the 2 days, I would like to stress a number of key points that we should take into account in the stage to come.

First, the outcome we have reached in this summit may not meet the expectations of all peoples. However, they constitute at the same time a basis on which we can build on if we have good intentions and if the real desire to achieve peace is there.

Secondly, the most important thing in the vision of all peoples in the days to come is the extent to which the two parties are committed to implement what has been agreed upon precisely and how far they are willing to push the peace process forward. Hence, the following days will witness redeployment of the Israeli forces, lift the blockade imposed on 3 million Palestinian people, reopening airports, ports, crossing points in order to pacify the Palestinian streets and bring matters back to normal.

Number three, our ultimate objective must and will be reaching a just and comprehensive peace. We do appreciate the leading role assumed by the United States of America, the key sponsor of the peace process, and the sponsorship of Mr. Bill Clinton. And we highly commend the role he assumed including his strenuous efforts he exerted during this summit, which were crowned in reaching an agreement.

It's my fervent hope that the peace process will go on as planned and that we avoid having recourse to provocative acts, confrontations. Rather, we have to establish a constructive dialog in order to settle all the unresolved problems, to arrive at a peace agreement in a context of full respect of religious sanctities and the right of peoples to live in peace and stability.

And now I give the floor to His Excellency, President Bill Clinton, the President of the United States of America.

President Clinton. First of all, I want to thank President Mubarak and his able team for making it possible for us to have this meeting that we have held in this magnificent and beautiful place. I especially want to thank President Mubarak for Egypt's consistent and pivotal partnership in the peace process and for playing a critical role in our efforts here. I also want to thank His Majesty King Abdullah for his steadfast leadership for peace, which again was in evidence.

I would like to thank the E.U. high commissioner, Javier Solana, my longtime friend, who worked with me to bring an end to violence in the Balkans and now is working in the Middle East. And especially I want to thank Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who has been here now in the region for more than a week and who has worked tirelessly to bring an end to violence and to make this meeting possible.

But of course, the greatest credit for the progress we have made today belongs to Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat, who have had to overcome the difficulties of these last several days, and we all recognize that theirs was the primary decision to make.

Our meeting has not been easy because the last 2 weeks have been so hard, a tragic and terrible confrontation costing many lives and injuries, threatening everything that we have worked to achieve between Israelis and Palestinians and throughout the region over the past 7 years now. Even as we meet, the situation in the territories remains tense. Yesterday again was violent.

This is a reminder of the urgency of breaking the cycle of violence. I believe we have made real progress today. Repairing the damage will take time and great effort by all of us.

When we leave here today, we will have to work hard to consolidate what we have agreed. Let me summarize what has been agreed so there will be no misunderstanding.

Our primary objective has been to end the current violence so we can begin again to resume our efforts toward peace. The leaders have agreed on three basic objectives and steps to realize them.

First, both sides have agreed to issue public statements unequivocally calling for an end of violence. They also agreed to take immediate, concrete measures to end the current confrontation, eliminate points of friction, ensure an end to violence and incitement, maintain calm, and prevent recurrence of recent events.

To accomplish this, both sides will act immediately to return the situation to that which existed prior to the current crisis, in areas such as restoring law and order, redeployment of forces, eliminating points of friction, enhancing security cooperation, and ending the closure and opening the Gaza airport. The United States will facilitate security cooperation between the parties as needed.

Second, the United States will develop, with the Israelis and Palestinians as well as in consultation with the United Nations Secretary-General, a committee of factfinding on the events of the past several weeks and how to prevent their recurrence. The committee's report will be shared by the U.S. President with the U.N. Secretary-General and the parties prior to publication. A final report shall be submitted under the auspices of the U.S. President for publication.

Third, if we are to address the underlying roots of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, there must be a pathway back to negotiations and a resumption of efforts to reach a permanent status agreement based on the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and subsequent understandings. Toward this end, the leaders have agreed that the United States would consult with the parties within the next 2 weeks about how to move forward.

We have made important commitments here today against the backdrop of tragedy and crisis. We should have no illusions about the difficulties ahead.

If we are going to rebuild confidence and trust, we must all do our part, avoiding recrimination and moving forward. I'm counting on each of us to do everything we possibly can in the critical period ahead.

I am sure it will be a disappointment to some of you, but one of the things that all the leaders agreed was that our statement should stand on

its own and we should begin by promoting reconciliation and avoiding conflict by forgoing questions today.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: President Mubarak spoke at 1:43 p.m. at the Jolie Ville Golf Resort. In their remarks, the two Presidents referred to King Abdullah II of

Jordan; Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan; and European Union Council Secretary General Javier Solana, High Representative for the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy. President Mubarak spoke in Arabic, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on the Death of Governor Mel Carnahan

October 17, 2000

Hillary and I were very saddened to learn of the tragic death of my friend Governor Mel Carnahan, his son Randy, and his aide Chris Sifford. Mel devoted his life to his family, his State, and our Nation. Whether in the Air Force or the State legislature, as Lieutenant Governor or Governor, he always put the highest priority on serving others.

In his last campaign, Mel Carnahan, as always, gave everything he had for what he believed in. He loved politics and public service, and

his extraordinary record proved they can be noble endeavors. For many years now, I have been proud to call Mel Carnahan my partner, and prouder still to call him my friend.

Hillary and I send our deepest condolences to his wonderful wife, Jean, to Russ, Robin, Tom, and the rest of his family, to the other families whose loved ones perished, and to the people of Missouri, whom he loved so much and served so well.

Statement on Signing the Children's Health Act of 2000

October 17, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law the Children's Health Act of 2000. This bipartisan legislation builds on my administration's longstanding commitment to improve the health and well-being of our Nation's children. I am particularly pleased that this legislation provides new authority to expand research for the treatment of chronic and acute diseases affecting children, improve the safety of child care centers, and ensure safe and quality mental health treatment services. This important legislation also addresses the critical need for substance abuse and mental health services, especially for our Nation's youth, through the reauthorization of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), supporting State and community efforts to reduce youth drug use, and improving research and treatment services. In addition, the legislation will allow us to strengthen our efforts to curtail the emerging

use of the drugs methamphetamine and Ecstasy, which imperil the health and safety of our nation's young people.

I want to pay special tribute to my administration's number one advocate for children, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. Hillary has called the Nation's attention to the special health needs of children through her work on children's health insurance coverage, asthma, pediatric labeling, juvenile diabetes, and so much more. She has led the administration's effort to improve access to health care for children, has fought hard for improving the quality and safety of child care, and has done more than anyone to improve the lives of millions of our Nation's children.

NOTE: H.R. 4365, approved October 17, was assigned Public Law No. 106-310.