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Statement on the Crash of Singapore Airlines Flight SQ–006 in Taiwan

November 1, 2000

I want to express my deepest condolences to the families who lost loved ones in the crash of Singapore Airlines Flight SQ–006 in Taiwan yesterday. It is too early to know the cause of the accident, but the United States is helping Taiwan authorities find the answers. A team from the National Transportation Safety Board is on its way to Taiwan now to assist with the investigation. We are also doing all we can to assist the victims and their families, both through the American Institute in Taiwan and the American Red Cross in Los Angeles.

Statement on the Israeli-Palestinian Announcement To Further Implement the Sharm al-Sheikh Agreement

November 1, 2000

I welcome this development and am hopeful that it will lead to implementation of the steps agreed to by both parties at Sharm al-Sheikh.

Statement on Signing the Technology Transfer Commercialization Act of 2000

November 1, 2000

Today I signed into law H.R. 209, the "Technology Transfer Commercialization Act of 2000."

In 1986, the Congress passed the Federal Technology Transfer Act (FTTA). That Act built upon the basic premise of the earlier Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act and the Bayh-Dole Act, namely, that Federal laboratories create technologies that businesses may desire to develop commercially as a source of competitive advantage. The FTTA established new partnering policies for Government laboratories in the earliest stages of research through mechanisms such as the Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADA). Since that time, American taxpayers have seen how Government-owned innovations can be brought into the marketplace to create consumer products, thereby improving our quality of life and enhancing our international competitiveness.

The Act will help ensure that the benefits of Federal research translate into new products and opportunities for the American public. It simplifies the process of licensing Government-owned inventions to the private sector by allowing the licensing of preexisting inventions that arise under CRADAs so that the private sector partner has access to the relevant technology. The Act also authorizes Federal agencies to acquire rights in related privately owned inventions, so as to create a more effective portfolio for licensing.

The Act will remove procedural obstacles to technology transfer and directs agencies to consider the increasingly international environment of innovation. It recognizes that, in many cases, the necessary period for notice by a Federal agency of its intent to grant exclusive licenses can be shortened using both traditional and electronic means for providing the notice. In making decisions about appropriate notice periods, Federal agencies must continue to balance the need for promptness against the fundamental statutory purpose of ensuring that these inventions are used in a way that benefits the public. I expect that individual agencies will use their discretion responsibly in setting the period for comment on proposed exclusive licenses and