

Dec. 14 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 2000

Warwick. As the world becomes more interdependent, pursuing our interests involves more than great power politics.

It's like in the Middle East. Now, I think pursuing our interests involves having a good relationship with the Saudis and, insofar as we can, the other oil producers, except for Iraq, where I just don't think—I think they're still unreconstructed.

But it also involves caring about the Palestinians. Life is more than money and power. And ideas are power, and emotions are power. I have tried to reconcile the legitimate desires of both the Israelis and the Palestinians. We didn't succeed yet, but we—I think that in the end, if we want Israel to be fully secure and at peace in the Middle East, the Palestinian question has to be resolved in a way that enables them, actually, not only to live but to actually start, you

know, having a successful economy and a functioning society.

I've got to go. It's been interesting.

I can't really say I had a favorite trip because all of them, you know, I can remember too many things about them all.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:55 p.m. e.s.t aboard Air Force One en route from the United Kingdom to Andrews Air Force Base, MD. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair and former Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom; First Minister David Trimble of Northern Ireland; musicians Van Morrison and Phil Coulter; former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel; and Niall O'Dowd, publisher, *The Irish Voice*.

Statement on the Release of Edmond Pope

December 14, 2000

I welcome today's release of Edmond Pope after 8 months of detention in Russia and appreciate President Putin's decision to pardon Mr. Pope.

Mr. Pope's ordeal was unjustified. It is fortunate that humanitarian considerations prevailed in the end.

I admire the impressive support Mr. Pope received from his wife and family and from Congressman John Peterson of Pennsylvania and other Members of Congress. I commend their tireless efforts on his behalf.

Statement on the 2000 Monitoring the Future Survey

December 14, 2000

Today's 2000 Monitoring the Future Survey confirms that we are making real progress in our fight against youth drug and tobacco use. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) study released by Secretary Donna Shalala and Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Barry McCaffrey shows teen cigarette use falling sharply across all grades surveyed. The percentage of teenagers reporting cigarette use in the past month dropped by nearly 10 percent among high school seniors, and over 15 percent among eighth graders. The study also shows that efforts to change student

attitudes on tobacco are having a positive impact: More teens now believe that smoking carries risks, while fewer report that cigarettes are readily available. This year also marks the fourth in a row that overall teenage use of illicit drugs has remained stable or declined. In particular, the data shows a significant drop in cocaine use among high school seniors and heroin use among eighth graders in 2000. In combination with the National Household and PRIDE surveys this year, these results demonstrate a continuing downward trend in overall youth drug use.