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Statement on the Death of John Lindsay

December 20, 2000

Hillary and I were deeply saddened to learn of the death of John Lindsay. As a Member of Congress, and later as mayor, John Lindsay built a remarkable rapport with the people of New York City—people of every race, in every neighborhood, in every walk of life. In times of great change, John Lindsay was a progressive yet pragmatic force for the public interest. New Yorkers and all Americans will miss not only his confident style but his commitment to social progress for all.

Statement on Action by India and Pakistan To Reduce Tensions in Kashmir

December 20, 2000

I welcome today's announcements by both India and Pakistan aimed at reducing tensions in Kashmir. The decision by Prime Minister Vajpayee that India will continue the ceasefire it initiated last month in Kashmir is an important step forward. In the meetings we held earlier this year, the Prime Minister told me of his determination to pursue a course of peace in Kashmir. I applaud today's announcement as a sign of his continuing commitment to that course. This initiative, along with Pakistan's announcement today that it will withdraw part of its forces deployed along the Line of Control and its earlier decision to exercise maximum restraint there, raises the hopes of the world community that peace is possible in Kashmir. To achieve that end, I continue to believe that all parties should reject violence and work for a peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialog.

Statement on Signing the Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance, and Protection Act

December 20, 2000

I am today signing into law H.R. 3514, the "Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance, and Protection Act." This Act is a valuable affirmation of the Federal Government's responsibility and moral obligation to provide an orderly system to ensure a secure retirement for surplus Federal research chimpanzees and to meet their lifetime needs for shelter and care. However, I sign this measure with reservations concerning flaws in the bill that the next Administration and the Congress should correct to ensure the viability and effectiveness of the proposed sanctuary system.

The Act requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish a sanctuary system of lifetime care for chimpanzees that have been used by Federal Government entities for research and that are determined to be no longer needed for research. The sanctuary system is to be operated by a nonprofit private entity with appropriate expertise under contract with the Secretary, under standards established by the Secretary and meeting the criteria established in the Act. Chimpanzees accepted into the sanctuary system may be used for further research only if stringent conditions are met, including a determination by the sanctuary operator's board that the research design minimizes harm to the chimpanzee. At the Secretary's discretion, and upon payment of such fees as the Secretary may establish, chimpanzees that are not "surplus chimpanzees" from Federal research programs may be accepted into the system.