

far—but that it has not gone far enough. And it points not to the failure of negotiations—but to the futility of violence and force. The alternative to a peaceful settlement never has been clearer; it is being played out before our very eyes.

For my part, I remain convinced of this simple truth: whenever you and your Arab neighbors seek to resolve your remaining differences—today or several years hence; before or after more heartbreak and bloodshed—the fundamental issues will be the same. You will face the same history, the same geography, the same demography, the same passions and hatreds and the same difficult decisions that are required for a comprehensive peace. Compromise is often difficult and always painful. But the people and leaders of the region must understand that to seek a peace without compromise is not to seek peace at all.

Ahead of you are difficult days and heart-wrenching nights. I do not envy the difficult decisions you will be called upon to make to reach a lasting peace—and you alone should

make them. All anyone can ask is that as you make them with a heavy heart, you do so as well with wide-open eyes that look to a better future for your children.

To you who have returned to an ancient homeland after 2,000 years, whose hopes and dreams almost vanished in the Holocaust, who have hardly had one day of peace and quiet since the state of Israel was created, allow me this parting thought: You are closer today than ever before to ending your 100 year long struggle for peace and normalcy. Don't give up on the pursuit of peace. Not now when it is almost within reach. For that day will surely come, and when it does, though I no longer will be President, I will be standing with you as strong and faithful a friend as I am today. And it will be Israel's finest hour yet.

Shalom al Yisrael.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Open Letter to the Palestinian People *January 19, 2001*

Open Letter to the Palestinian People:

On Saturday, January 20th at the stroke of noon, I will step down as President of the United States. As I look back upon my eight years in office, the experiences I have had and the lessons I have learned, one will stand out: my visit to Gaza, the first ever by a U.S. President. I will never forget what it taught me about your suffering, your history of dispossession and dispersal, but also about your resilience and courage. I said at the time that the Palestinian people should be able to determine their own future on their own land and I believe that as strongly now as I did then.

These past eight years have not been easy ones for you. You face daily humiliations; you must struggle simply to find a job; worst of all, you continue to see too many children grow up in poverty. Peace, it is true, has not yet born its fruits. And so I understand the disillusionment, the frustration, even the anger.

But do not lose sight of what you have achieved: The ability to govern yourselves, to elect your leaders, to build your institutions. As one who has seen you and Chairman Arafat work so hard to achieve your goals, allow me to say this: now is not the time to heed the voices of revenge and desperation, for they produce only bloodshed and death. Nothing you have accomplished has been accomplished through violence and nothing will be. It will only be accomplished through peace and negotiations. Now, more than ever, is the time for courageous leadership.

For courage is not only, or even mainly, measured in struggle. It is measured in the ability to seize historic opportunities. Today, it is that other form of courage that is being tested. Never have you been as close to achieving your goals—regaining your land, establishing a state, building a prosperous future for your children. There will always be those sitting comfortably on the outside urging you to hold out for the

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impossible more. But they are not the ones whose refugees will continue to languish in crowded camps. You are. They are not the ones whose children will grow up in poverty. You are. They are not the ones who will pay the price of missing a historic opportunity. You are. At Oslo, your leaders—and principally Chairman Arafat—demonstrated the courage needed to take the first historic step toward peace. By taking the final one, you will be able to fully realize your God-given potential and to pass on even brighter possibilities to your children.

For my part, I remain convinced that despite these difficult and often tragic days, both you and your Israeli partners will find a way to move from the logic of war and confrontation to the logic of peace and cooperation. And that, together, you will bring peace to this Holy land, sacred to Moslems, Jews, and Christians alike.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Lifting and Modifying Measures With Respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

January 19, 2001

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

Pursuant to section 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b) (IEEPA) and section 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1631, I hereby report that I have exercised my statutory authority to take additional actions with respect to the national emergency described and declared in Executive Order 13088 of June 9, 1998, and related to the actions and policies of the Governments of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (the “FRY (S&M)”) and the Republic of Serbia with respect to Kosovo. I have issued a new Executive Order to lift, with respect to future transactions, the economic sanctions imposed pursuant to Executive Order 13088 and expanded by Executive Order 13121 of April 30, 1999, except for those sanctions targeted against members and supporters of the former Milosevic regime. These actions are also taken in furtherance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 827 of May 25, 1993, and subsequent resolutions.

The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is authorized to issue regulations in exercise of my authorities under IEEPA and the United Nations Participation Act, 22 U.S.C. 287c, to implement measures lifting and modifying the economic sanctions imposed pursuant to Executive Order 13088. Property blocked pursuant to Executive Order 13088 before the effective date of the new Executive Order will continue to be blocked pending the

resolution of successor state and other issues. All Federal agencies are also directed to take actions within their statutory authority to carry out the provisions of the new Executive Order. In addition to the persons I have identified in the annex to the new Executive Order, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is to identify certain other persons whose property and interests in property will be blocked pursuant to the order and with respect to whose property interests certain transactions or dealings by U.S. persons will be prohibited. The Secretary of the Treasury, again in consultation with the Secretary of State, is also authorized to remove any person from the annex to the order. In order to ensure the fullest implementation of the Executive Order, the Secretary of State will take steps to identify for appropriate consideration by the Secretary of the Treasury persons potentially covered by the criteria set forth in the order, which includes individuals who may have sought or may be seeking, through repressive measures or otherwise, to exercise illegitimate control over FRY (S&M) political institutions or economic resources.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued. The order was effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern standard time on January 19, 2001.

I have authorized these measures in response to the recent positive developments in the FRY (S&M) and, notwithstanding those developments, the unusual and extraordinary threat that