Proclamation 6746 of October 18, 1994

National Mammography Day, 1994

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

The threat of breast cancer touches everyone. All women are at risk for breast cancer, including those with no family history of the disease. This year alone, 182,000 women are expected to be diagnosed with breast cancer; 46,000 will die. The risk of death is reduced significantly if the cancer can be found in the earlier, more treatable stages. With appropriate breast cancer screening and state-of-the-art care, experts expect to see a 30 percent drop in the death rate. Together, we must work to make sure that every woman is informed about breast cancer and about the importance of regular examinations, including high-quality screening mammography. And we must ensure that all women have access to this invaluable preventive care.

Today, mammography is considered the most effective method for detecting early stage breast cancer. Many cancers can be seen on a mammogram as soon as 2 years before they could be detected by a woman or her physician. But only half of all women ages 50 and older have had a mammogram in the past 2 years, and as few as 30 percent have mammograms routinely. African American women experience a higher death rate from breast cancer than white women, and recently we learned that this is primarily because they are diagnosed at more advanced stages of the disease. Researchers have concluded that if we are to improve the survival rate of African American women, we must develop strategies aimed at increasing their use of and access to early detection techniques such as mammography.

We can all be encouraged by the progress in improving and monitoring mammography. As of October 2, 1994, provisions of the Mammography Quality Standards Act of 1992, requiring national, uniform quality and safety standards, went into effect. Mammography facilities must now meet stringent requirements and be certified to ensure they are providing high-quality service. In addition, scientists currently are working to apply American know-how to improve mammography and to develop high-technology imaging methods to detect breast tumors. Digital mammography, for example, may enhance the quality of mammographic images and even magnify the view of specific areas of the breast. Scientists also are exploring such technologies as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and ultrasound imaging for this purpose.

In recognition of the crucial role mammography plays in the battle against breast cancer, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 220, has designated October 19, 1994, as "National Mammography Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 19, 1994, as National Mammography Day. I invite the Governors of the 50 States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, and the appropriate officials of all other areas under the American flag to issue similar proclamations. I ask health care professionals, private industry, advocacy groups, community associations, insurance compa-
nies, and all other interested organizations and individual citizens, for the sake of American women and for their loved ones, to unite in publicly reaffirming our Nation’s continuing commitment to the provision of breast cancer screening.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 6747 of October 20, 1994

United Nations Day, 1994

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

In this era of extraordinary change, it is increasingly important that we honor the uplifting principles of the United Nations Charter by working tirelessly to bring them closer to reality. Such commitment is especially appropriate as we mark the 49th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and look forward to beginning its second half-century of service.

Throughout the past year, the United Nations has not wavered in its efforts to safeguard international peace and security. The U.N. Special Commission in Iraq has made progress toward finding and destroying weapons of mass destruction and working to establish a long-term monitoring mechanism. The U.N. has mobilized one of the largest refugee assistance programs in history in response to the humanitarian disaster in Rwanda and is working to bring to justice those guilty of atrocities. United Nations humanitarian relief efforts in Bosnia have continued despite the most trying of circumstances. The U.N. demobilization and repatriation program in Mozambique has helped to end that nation’s long and bitter conflict.

While much of humanity advances together toward a bright future of political and economic pluralism, some parts of the world remain mired in failed ideologies or racked by cultural, religious, and ethnic divisions. As these regions endanger international security by their refugee flows and other trans-border impacts, multilateral cooperation has become more important than ever before.

That cooperation is particularly vital in Africa. After years of U.N. support, the people of South Africa finally have eradicated the apartheid system and installed a democratic and nonracial government of national unity. The growing number of conflicts elsewhere in Africa is in stark contrast to that success. In the end, the disputing parties must solve their own differences, but the U.N. continues to promote reconciliation and peace in Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Angola, Liberia, Sudan, and Mozambique.

One of the most vital roles of the U.N. is in humanitarian affairs. During the past year, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights has played an important part in calling attention to violations of inter-