ments and peoples of all other signatory states to renew their commit­
ment to comply with the principles established and consecrated in the
Helsinki Final Act.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day
of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independ­
ence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 7333 of August 24, 2000

Minority Enterprise Development Week, 2000

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Today, America is enjoying the longest economic expansion in our his­
tory, with 22 million new jobs created since my Administration took
office in 1993 and the lowest unemployment and inflation rates in
more than 30 years. The American people are looking to the future
with renewed hope and optimism, eager to embrace the exciting oppor­
tunities and meet the new challenges of a dynamic and evolving global
marketplace.

If we are to extend this remarkable period of growth and sustain our
leadership of the world economy, we must use this time of extraor­
dinary prosperity to ensure that every citizen of our Nation plays a role
in our economic growth and benefits from its rewards. One of the sur­
est means of achieving that goal is to promote the full inclusion of mi­
nority enterprises in the mainstream of our economy.

My Administration has encouraged the growth and success of minority
businesses by ensuring their participation in Government procurement;
introducing the New Markets Initiative to bring jobs and capital to
America’s underserved communities; and strengthening the Commu­
nity Reinvestment Act. Over the last 8 years, the Small Business Ad­
ministration has guaranteed $18 billion in loans to more than 80,000
minority-owned firms. And the Department of Commerce’s Minority
Business Development Agency (MBDA) has assisted more than 430,000
minority-owned businesses with start-up and expansion financing. At
Minority Business Development Centers across the country, the MBDA
also assists minority clients by providing a variety of business services,
including the preparation of business plans, market research and devel­
opment, financial counseling, and bid preparation.

All Americans stand to benefit from the success of our minority entre­
preneurs. With energy and determination, these hardworking men and
women create jobs, attract investment, bolster pride, and generate reve­
uue in communities across our Nation. People of different races, peo­
ple of diverse ethnic backgrounds, people with disabilities—all have
skills, new ideas, and fresh perspectives to bring to the marketplace.
Minority entrepreneurs have unique contributions to make to our econ­
omy and the talent and imagination to produce goods and services that
meet the needs of their fellow Americans and of consumers around the
world.
The unprecedented strength of America's free enterprise system demonstrates that when people have access to the tools and opportunities they need, there is no limit to what they can achieve. During Minority Enterprise Development Week, let us reaffirm our national commitment to equality in the economic as well as the civic life of our Nation by providing minority entrepreneurs around the country with an equal opportunity to use their abilities, creativity, and motivation to move our Nation forward. By doing so, we will help preserve America's leadership in the global economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 24 through September 30, 2000, as Minority Enterprise Development Week. I call on all Americans to join together with minority entrepreneurs across the country in appropriate observances.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 7334 of August 26, 2000

Women’s Equality Day, 2000

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

In March of 1776, 4 months before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Abigail Adams sent a letter to her husband John in Philadelphia, where he was participating in the Second Continental Congress. "...[I]n the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make," she wrote, "I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors." Almost a century and a half would pass before her desire was realized with the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing women's suffrage.

The road to civic, economic, and social equality for women in our Nation has been long and arduous, marked by frustrations and setbacks, yet inspired by the courageous actions of many heroic Americans, women and men alike. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Lucretia Mott, Frederick Douglass, Lucy Stone—these and so many others refused to remain silent in the face of injustice. Speaking out at rallies, circulating pamphlets and petitions, lobbying State legislatures, risking public humiliation and even incarceration, suffragists slowly changed the minds of their fellow Americans and the laws of our Nation.

Thanks to their efforts, by the mid-19th century some States recognized the right of women to own property and to sign contracts independent of their spouses. In 1890, Wyoming became the first State to recognize a woman's right to vote. Thirty years later, the 19th Amendment made women's suffrage the law of the land. But it would take another 40