Day, and the week beginning April 8, 1984, as Pan American Week. I urge
the Governors of the fifty States, and the Governor of the Commonwealth
of Puerto Rico, and officials of the other areas under the flag of the United
States of America to honor these observances with appropriate activities
and ceremonies.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 2nd day of
April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-four, and of the
Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5172 of April 3, 1984

National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 1984

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Abuse of children occurs in all segments of our society, in rural, suburban,
and urban areas and among all racial, ethnic, and income groups. The time
has come for Americans to unite in an all-out effort to eradicate child
abuse, both physical and sexual, from the Nation.

Child abuse is a national concern, but it is a community and family prob­
lem first, and the answers must be found at the community level. Most
physical and emotional violence takes place within the family. All Ameri­
cans aware of the problem of child abuse must work for an end of this trag­
edy.

There is a place for everyone in this effort. By being a good neighbor to the
family next door who may be under stress, Americans can be an enormous
help. Our schools have an important role to play by educating children
about parental roles and responsibilities, values, and appropriate behavior
in the family setting. We must do what we can to reverse the trend of
abused children becoming abusive parents. In addition, voluntary communi­
ity self-help groups such as Parents Anonymous are taking positive steps to
break this cycle.

In recognition of the need to find ways to prevent the agony of child abuse
from continuing in future generations, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolu­
tion 161, has designated the month of April 1984 as "National Child Abuse
Prevention Month" and has authorized and requested the President to issue
a proclamation in observance of this period.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States
of America, do hereby proclaim the month of April 1984, as National Child
Abuse Prevention Month. We must find a way to leave our future genera­tions a priceless legacy—the confidence and trust resulting from a secure
childhood.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of
April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-four, and of the
Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

RONALD REAGAN