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Memorandum on Importation of RU–486

January 22, 1993

Memorandum for the Secretary of Health and Human Services

Subject: Importation of RU–486

In Import Alert 66–47, the Food and Drug Administration (''FDA'') excluded the drug Mifepristine—commonly known as RU–486—from the list of drugs that individuals can import into the United States for their ''personal use,'' although the drugs have not yet been approved for distribution by the FDA. (*See* FDA Regulatory Procedures Manual, Chapter 9–71.) Import Alert 66–47 effectively bans the importation into this Nation of a drug that is used in other nations as a nonsurgical means of abortion.

I am informed that in excluding RU–486 from the personal use importation exemption, the FDA appears to have based its decision on factors other than an assessment of the possible health and safety risks of the drug. Accordingly, I hereby direct that you promptly instruct the FDA to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant exclusion of RU–486 from the list of drugs that qualify for the personal use importation exemption. Furthermore, if the FDA concludes that RU–486 meets the criteria for the personal use importation exemption, I direct that you immediately take steps to rescind Import Alert 66–47.

In addition, I direct that you promptly assess initiatives by which the Department of Health and Human Services can promote the testing, licensing, and manufacturing in the United States of RU–486 or other antiprogestins.

You are hereby authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not including elsewhere in this issue.

January 20

Following the Inaugural luncheon at the Capitol, President Clinton and Hillary Clinton went by motorcade along the parade route to the White House, where they viewed the Inaugural parade from the viewing stand.

In the evening, President Clinton and Hillary Clinton attended several Inaugural balls.

January 21

In the morning, President Clinton and Hillary Clinton held an open house for the American people in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House.

In the afternoon, President Clinton met with senior staff members in the Roosevelt Room, after which he and Hillary Clinton hosted a reception in the State Dining Room for their family and friends from Arkansas.

January 22

In the morning, President Clinton met at the White House with Thomas F. McLarty, Chief of Staff to the President; Anthony Lake, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs; Samuel R. Berger, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs; and members of the CIA briefing staff.

Later in the morning, after the swearing-in ceremony for Cabinet members, President Clinton attended a reception for them and held a Cabinet meeting.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted January 20

Warren Christopher,
of California, to be Secretary of State.