

harsh conditions under which our citizens continue to suffer can be alleviated.

The Republic of Croatia continues to care for the largest number of refugees and displaced persons, relative to population, in the world. It is our hope that these agreements, coupled with the commitment of the international community, will create the conditions necessary for lasting peace and the return to normal and productive life for all our citizens.

The Republic of Croatia wishes full integration into regional European economic and security systems, as well as comprehensive cooperation with other international institutions, all of which will contribute to the success of our endeavors. Croatia strives as well to be a major factor of stability for the new international order in this part of Europe.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that the Republic of Croatia has always looked to the United States of America as the backbone of democracy and the pillar of the free and stable world and deeply appreciates its effort in this important step taken today.

Thank you.

President Clinton. Mr. Zubak.

Mr. Kresimir Zubak. Mr. President, ladies and gentleman. Croatian people in Bosnia-Herzegovina are of the opinion that this senseless war in Bosnia-Herzegovina must cease. Croatian people want to organize Bosnia-Herzegovina as a free democratic modern state community where equal people live. Our people have accepted the peace initiative, which with a contribution from European Union was started by United States of America.

Signing these documents today, we accept the responsibility to that which was negotiated during the negotiations—to implement that which was negotiated. And we will work towards organizing the federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina as soon as possible. And we will also strive to organize the confederation with the Republic of Croatia as soon as possible.

I thank you, Mr. President, all your colleagues, for the help that you have extended to us so far. And I express hope that you will help us to organize the state community and the whole territory, and also that you will help us to stop the war in the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and that you will also

help us in reconstructing the war and life in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Thank you once again.

President Clinton. Ladies and gentlemen, today we have witnessed an act of great statesmanship. Now we must hope that the courage embodied by these agreements will inspire further acts of reason, reconstruction and progress to implement them, to make them real in the lives of the people whose leaders are represented here today.

We also must hope, I will say again, that the Serbs will join in this effort for a wider peace. We invite them and urge them to do so.

Over 150 years ago, the Balkan poet, Ivan Jukic, wrote the following line, “Only those are heroes who know how to live with their brothers.” Let us hope we are beginning to learn that lesson in this troubled land.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9 a.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Kresimir Zubak, representative of the Bosnian Croats; Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes, and German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, representing European Union Troika; Lord David Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, Cochairmen, International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia; Cyrus Vance, former Cochairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia; and Ambassador Charles Redman, U.S. Special Envoy for the Former Yugoslavia. Foreign Minister Papoulias spoke in Greek, President Izetbegovic spoke in Bosniac, and Mr. Zubak spoke in Croatian, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on Earthquake Assistance to California

March 18, 1994

The people of southern California are responding courageously to the challenge of restoring their lives and their communities in the wake of the earthquake. From the first day, our administration has been working extremely hard to fulfill the Federal Government's obligation to help make that possible.

This new assistance reflects new costs that have come to our attention in recent weeks. My administration is continuing to monitor

the situation, and we will continue to provide the necessary assistance as additional needs become evident.

NOTE: This statement was part of a White House press release on the release of emergency funds for California earthquake recovery and other recent disasters.

**Proclamation 6657—National
Agriculture Day, 1994**
March 18, 1994

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

The early days of spring mark the time when nature quickens its pace from winter to begin another season of vigorous growth. A green carpet of emerging leaves and sprouting crops unfolds from the shores of the Gulf of Mexico across the rest of this great land, as the advancing springtime Sun gently warms the Earth. We Americans owe much to this annual season of renewal, and citizens around the world join with us in eager anticipation of our land's rich harvest.

Our Nation's 20 million farmers, farmworkers, harvesters, processors, shippers, marketers, retailers, and equipment providers help to sustain our country's reputation as the breadbasket of the Earth. In 1992, American agriculture accounted for 18.5 percent of international agricultural trade, reflecting the quality and productivity that has made our produce the finest in the world. Hard-working Americans have long helped to place food on the tables of the hungry. Last year alone, the United States donated over \$2 billion worth of food aid to those in need around the globe.

In addition to meeting the demands of the planet's vast population, our prodigious agricultural team contributes much to our national life, creating jobs and shaping the daily experiences of millions of Americans. Our Nation was built by farmers' steady hands, and we are forever indebted to these dedicated pioneers for their diligence and persistence.

National Agriculture Day is a celebration of the ongoing partnership between human-

ity and nature. Each day, we embrace new innovations in agricultural products and tools that widen consumer choice, create jobs, strengthen rural areas, and help to make the United States more competitive in the global economy. We express our deep appreciation to the agriculture community and, together, we hope for another bountiful season.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 163, has designated March 20, 1994, as "National Agriculture 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 March 20, 1994, as National Agriculture Day. I call on the people of the United States to recognize the members of our national food and fiber team, whose hard work has helped our Nation to grow and prosper. I encourage all Americans to show their appreciation for our plentiful and dependable food supplies through appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of March, 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 eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:08 p.m., March 21, 1994]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 23.

**Statement by Director of
Communications on the President's
Telephone Conversations With
President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria and
King Hussein of Jordan**
March 18, 1994

President Clinton called President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria and King Hussein of Jordan this afternoon to discuss developments in the Middle East peace process. President Asad informed the President that he had consulted with the leaders of Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon and that they had agreed that bilateral peace process negotiations with Israel would