

electronic funds transfer as part of our reinventing Government program in Washington. But these are commitment letters that will support the funds transfer to the Governors here. I want to give Governor Miller his, Governor Folsom his, and Governor Chiles his.

And let me make just this one last point to all of you. A lot of the work that's going to be done here will be done after these waters go down. A lot of the damage that will be done to crops will not become apparent until after the waters go down. And a lot of the agony that people will have in their businesses and these little towns that have had all their business districts wiped out will not become apparent until after the waters go down.

Our commitment is to stay in this for the long run and to do whatever is necessary. Mr. Panetta told me on the way down here today that we can make all these commitments we've made today and make good on them with the budgets that we have. We don't need—except for the farm assistance that I just mentioned, we don't need to go back to the Congress and ask for any more legislation on appropriations now. But we may or may not in the future, depending on what the facts are. And I just want to reemphasize to all of you, we will stay in this for the long run.

We are still working with Governor Chiles in Florida on the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew. The bad news is, we have to do it; the good news is, we are doing it. So we know that this will not be done overnight. And we want a clear message to go out to the citizens in Georgia, in Alabama, in Florida that we will stay in this for the long run; we will stay until the job is done. We know this is going to be a personal agony for tens of thousands of people. But we will do the best we can to help you put your lives back together.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:58 p.m. in the Ayres Corp. Building at the Southwest Regional Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Lawton Chiles of Florida; Gov. Jim Folsom of Alabama; Gov. Zell Miller of Georgia; Lt. Gov. Pierre

Howard of Georgia; Max Cleland, Georgia secretary of state; Tommy Irvin, Georgia agriculture commissioner; and Mayor Paul Keenan of Albany.

### **Statement on the Report on the American Helicopter Tragedy in Iraq**

*July 13, 1994*

I have been briefed on the report prepared by Major General Andrus of the 3d Air Force on the accidental downing on April 14 of two U.S. Army helicopters that were flying over Iraq as part of Operation Provide Comfort. The men and women on these helicopters were serving their countries in a humanitarian effort to help ensure the safety and welfare of the Iraqi-Kurdish people in the aftermath of the Gulf War.

I commend Secretary Perry, General Shalikashvili, and General Andrus for producing a thorough analysis of what went wrong on that terrible day and for ordering a sensible program of corrective actions to help prevent such tragedies in the future. I intend to ensure that these actions are implemented, and I look forward to receiving progress reports from Secretary Perry and General Shalikashvili on this process.

In considering this report, we necessarily are drawn to the errors of commission and omission that produced the tragedy. At the same time, we must keep in mind that Operation Provide Comfort has been and continues to be a very successful coalition effort that has effectively deterred Iraq from disrupting peace and order in the UN-established security zone. Because of Operation Provide Comfort, human rights abuses against the Kurdish population of northern Iraq have been curtailed.

The 26 brave Americans, allied and Iraqi-Kurdish personnel who died in the crashes served with courage and professionalism, and they lost their lives trying to save the lives of others. The important work they were doing must, and will, continue.

To the families and loved ones of those who were killed, I offer my sincere condolences and, on behalf of the United States of America, the gratitude of our entire Nation.

In remarks at the memorial service for the victims, I said that it is our duty to find the answers to this tragedy that these families rightfully seek. The report Secretary Perry is releasing today is an important step toward fulfilling that pledge.

### **Nomination for Federal Judges**

*July 13, 1994*

The President today announced the nomination of Michael D. Hawkins to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The President also nominated William T. Moore, Jr., for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia.

"These nominees have records of distinction and achievement in the legal profession and in public service," the President said. "They will make valuable contributions on the Federal bench for years to come."

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

### **Remarks Announcing an Israeli-Jordanian Meetings at the White House**

*July 15, 1994*

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I am pleased to announce today that King Hussein of Jordan and Prime Minister Rabin of Israel have agreed to my invitation to meet at the White House on July 25th.

I am also pleased that Speaker Foley after discussions with Majority Leader Mitchell has invited both leaders to address a joint session of Congress. And Hillary and I are delighted that both of them have agreed to join us at a dinner at the White House on that day.

This historic meeting is another step forward toward achievement of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East. The meeting will build on the dramatic progress made in the trilateral U.S.-Israel-Jordan meetings here in Washington last month and King Hussein's recent declaration in Parliament that he was prepared to meet with Prime Minister Rabin. It reflects the courageous leadership and the bold vision

with which both King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin have displayed as they work together to create a new future for their people and for all the region.

On behalf of all Americans, I salute their commitment to peace. I have pledged my personal dedication to the goal of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. Accordingly, Secretary Christopher will be traveling to the region next week. I want to compliment him on his tireless efforts to achieve peace in the region and the contribution he has made to the announcement today.

He will continue our efforts to achieve progress in the Israel-Syria negotiations. That also is a very, very important thing for us. I am committed to working to achieve a breakthrough on those talks as soon as possible so that we can make the dream of a lasting peace of the brave a reality.

Secretary Christopher will follow up on the discussions that the President and King Hussein have had on this initiative, and he will proceed and participate in the U.S.-Jordan-Israel discussions. He'll also meet with Chairman Arafat to review progress in implementing the Declaration of Principles on Palestinian self-rule.

The Middle East is entering a new era. I'll do everything I can to make certain that all the peoples of the region realize the blessings of peace that have been denied too long to them. This meeting on July 25th will be another important step on that long road. Now I have to go to Pennsylvania. I'm running a little bit late, and I want to turn the microphone over to Secretary Christopher.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:57 a.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House.

### **Remarks at a Health Care Rally in Greensburg, Pennsylvania**

*July 15, 1994*

Thank you very much. Mayor Fajt, Congressman Murphy, Senator Wofford, ladies and gentlemen: I must say, when I knew I was coming to Greensburg, I never dreamed that all of you would show up. And I am delighted to see you here. From the time we arrived at the Latrobe airport, and then driving all the way in, I felt so comfortable