

Proclamation 6759—World AIDS Day, 1994

November 30, 1994

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

On this World AIDS Day, we recognize the countless determined individuals who have provided assistance to those affected by HIV and AIDS, and we redouble our efforts to work with our international partners and to confront the enormous challenges that remain. Here and around the world, people are reaching out to those who are living with HIV and AIDS and are joining the fight to stop this epidemic. The theme of this year's commemoration, "Families and AIDS," is especially fitting. When one person suffers, the entire global family is affected. Today, we pledge to keep faith with the thousands of people living with HIV and AIDS and their families—their mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, their friends, neighbors, and loved ones.

In slightly more than 13 years, AIDS has claimed the lives of more than 250,000 Americans—nearly five times as many men and women as were killed in the Korean War. If current trends continue, by the end of this decade we will have lost half a million people to this insidious disease, more than our Nation's total losses in World War II. The World Health Organization estimates that 30 to 40 million people worldwide will have been infected with HIV by the end of the decade. The problem of HIV and AIDS is global, and it is one of staggering proportions. The United States will continue to work with our global partners in the worldwide battle against HIV and AIDS.

Here at home in response to the epidemic, hundreds of community-based organizations have devoted themselves to provide medical care, social and support services, respite care, meal delivery, and education and prevention programs to persons with HIV or AIDS. Together with those they serve, the men and women of these organizations—most of whom are volunteers—are the heroes of our common struggle.

In the past two years, our Nation has reenergized its response to HIV and AIDS. At a time of zero budget growth, funding for AIDS programs has been increased by 30 percent. AIDS research funding has risen by 25 percent, and money going to grants under the Ryan White CARE Act has been increased by 82 percent, bringing vital services to thousands of men, women, and children in need. Our research efforts have been reorganized and refocused, and they have already begun to produce results. When scientists discovered that treatment with AZT could sharply reduce the risk of HIV transmission from mothers to their unborn children, the Government acted quickly both to provide women and their health care professionals with new guidelines and to change the labeling on that drug. Already, we are saving lives.

On World AIDS Day, we rededicate ourselves to the battle against HIV and AIDS. Our Government must continue to do its part, including reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act and continuing to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act. Business and community leaders must push forward in their remarkable efforts to educate people everywhere. And every one of us must strive to reach out to those who are living with HIV and AIDS to make their paths a little smoother, to make their hearts a little lighter, and to make their lives a little richer.

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 December 1, 1994, as "World AIDS Day." I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of other territories subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in reaffirming our commitment to combat HIV and AIDS and to reach out with compassion to those living with this disease.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.

William J. Clinton

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 2.

Memorandum on Assistance to the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union

November 30, 1994

Presidential Determination No. 95-6

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Assistance Program for Independent States of the Former Soviet Union

Pursuant to subsection (d) under the heading "Assistance for the New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union" in title II of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1995 (titles I-V of Public Law 103-306), I hereby determine that it is in the national interest of the United States to make available funds appropriated under that heading without regard to the restriction in that subsection.

You are authorized and directed to notify the Congress of this determination and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

Remarks Announcing the Appointment of George Mitchell as Special Adviser for Economic Initiatives in Ireland

December 1, 1994

Good morning. Ladies and gentlemen, today is the last day of this session of Congress. And therefore, it's the last day that all of us in America have the privilege of having George Mitchell as the Senate majority leader. I will personally miss him very much, his wise counsel, his support, his strong leadership for the American people.

I know that his colleagues on both sides of the aisle and the American people will also miss his leadership and the thoughtfulness and the courage that have distinguished him throughout his long career. My regret about

his retirement is tempered, at least in some measure, by the fact that as one chapter in his life of extraordinary public service closes, another is opening.

Today, Senator Mitchell has agreed to work on an issue of central importance to me and to our country as Special Adviser to the President and the Secretary of State for Economic Initiatives in Ireland. We stand on the verge of a new and peaceful era in Northern Ireland. For over 3 months, the historic cease-fires between the IRA and the loyalist parliamentary groups have held. I welcome today's invitation by Downing Street to Sinn Féin to begin an exploratory dialog by December the 7th.

A just and lasting settlement that respects the rights and traditions of the two communities in Northern Ireland is, after so many years of bloodshed, finally within reach. But at this hopeful and historic moment, it's essential to create more economic opportunity in a region whose prospects have been so blighted by bloodshed. There must be a peace dividend in Ireland for the peace to succeed. Peace and prosperity depend upon one another.

One of the most important ways that we here in the United States can ensure that peace takes root is to promote trade and investment in the areas of Ireland that have suffered the most from violence. That's why last month we announced our economic initiatives for Ireland. They're a response to the call of all the parties in the region for the development that will help them to lift themselves out of the cycle of conflict and despair.

As we have in the past, the United States stands ready to help those who are taking risks for peace. To do that, we'll work in close cooperation with the private sector here in the United States and with Britain, Ireland, and other concerned parties in Europe and elsewhere. Ultimately of course, the success of the peace process will depend most on those who have been most affected, on whether they believe it will give them a better future.

That's why our initiatives to help revitalize the economy are so important and why I wanted someone of great talent, great stature, and great wisdom to lead in that effort here in the United States. No one fills that