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Proclamation 6773—Women's History Month, 1995

March 1, 1995

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Women have made inestimable contributions to our country throughout our Nation's history. Some have names we recognize. Clara Barton. Harriet Tubman. Susan B. Anthony. Eleanor Roosevelt. And Rosa Parks. But women's history is also about the countless women whose names we do not know—the millions of women of courage and commitment who have served this society as doctors and scientists, teachers and factory workers, marathoners and mothers. At home and in schools, in offices and congregations, in our Armed Forces and our communities, women have helped to build this Nation and keep it strong. It is in their honor that we pause to celebrate Women's History Month each year.

The story of women's accomplishments in America is long and proud. Patriots such as Dolly Madison and Harriet Beecher Stowe put their concern for country ahead of their own well-being in order to advance the principles of justice and freedom upon which this Nation was founded. Writers and artists such as Emily Dickinson, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Martha Graham enlivened our culture, extended our horizons, and expanded our appreciation of the world around us. And in recent decades, women have made enormous strides. The pioneers such as Jane Addams, founder of Chicago's Hull House and our first woman Nobel Prize winner, and Frances Perkins, our first woman Cabinet Officer, have paved the way for ever growing numbers of women running businesses and universities, serving as governors and diplomats, conducting orchestras and exploring space, helping to lead our land toward a new century.

Yet barriers remain. Women now work for pay in greater numbers, in more occupations, and for more years of their lives than ever before, but too many must still settle for compensation far below what it should be, and too many still find their potential curbed by glass ceilings. And women still struggle every day, in tests of resourcefulness and devotion, to balance the demands of work and family. If freedom and opportunity are truly to be the law of the land, we must sustain and renew our commitment to the principle of equality that is our American heritage and work to remove the obstacles that stand in the way.

Women's History Month offers us an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of all of the women who have enriched our Nation. I encourage Americans to learn about women's history—this month and throughout the year. Only by studying the history of America's women—their triumphs and their struggles—can we understand the history of America.

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 the month of March 1995 as ''Women's History Month.'' I ask all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, and to remember year-round the many and varied contributions that women make each day.

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

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:18 a.m., March 2, 1995]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 3.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the Department of Transportation

March 1, 1995

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 308 of Public Law 97–449 (49 U.S.C. 308(a)), I transmit herewith the Twenty-seventh Annual Report

of the Department of Transportation, which covers fiscal year 1993.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
March 1, 1995.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the Department of Energy

March 1, 1995

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the requirements of section 657 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (Public Law 95–91; 42 U.S.C. 7267), I transmit herewith the 13th Annual Report of the Department of Energy, which covers the years 1992 and 1993.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
March 1, 1995.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Somalia

March 1, 1995

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

On February 27, 1995, at approximately 3:00 p.m. e.s.t., 1,800 combat-equipped U.S. Armed Forces personnel began deployment into Mogadishu, Somalia, to assist in the withdrawal of U.N. forces assigned to the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). The U.S. forces were accompanied by approximately 500 Italian marines. A total of 14,000 multinational personnel are participating in this operation. The U.S. forces include the USS *Essex* Amphibious Readiness Group, the USS *Belleau Wood*, the Special Marine Air-to-Ground Task Force, and Special Operations forces including four AC–130 gunships.

The U.S. Armed Forces entered Somalia in December 1992, pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 794, with the mission of establishing a secure environment for humanitarian relief operations. Upon completion of this mission in 1993, responsibility for maintaining the environment created by the U.S.-led operation was transferred to UNOSOM II. Almost all U.S. military forces were withdrawn from Somalia on March 31, 1994, and the few remaining U.S. forces were subsequently withdrawn on September 15, 1994.

The U.S. forces have returned to Somalia to support the U.N. withdrawal as part of the U.S. long-standing commitment to U.N. humanitarian efforts in Somalia. The withdrawal operation is a coalition effort consisting of forces from Italy, the United Kingdom, France, Pakistan, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and the United States. We do not intend that U.S. Armed Forces deployed to Somalia become involved in hostilities. Nonetheless, these forces are equipped and ready to take such measures as may be needed to accomplish their mission and defend themselves, if necessary; they also will have the support of any additional U.S. Armed Forces necessary to ensure their safety and the accomplishment of their mission. It is my intention that this will be an operation of short duration whose only purpose is to assist in the withdrawal of UNOSOM II forces.

Over the course of the U.N. operations in Somalia, various items of U.S. equipment (helicopters, tanks, and armored personnel carriers) were leased to the United Nations to support operations in Somalia. It is our intention to assist the United Nations in withdrawing this equipment, to prevent its falling into the hands of those who might use it to cause further harm to the Somali people.

I have taken this action pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

I remain committed to ensuring that the Congress is kept fully informed regarding significant employments of the U.S. Armed Forces. Accordingly, and consistent with the War Powers Resolution, I am providing this report on the U.S. military actions described above. I appreciate your continued support as we complete this operation.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Strom Thurmond, President pro tempore of the Senate.