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relieve the pressure on Bihac. And of course, that is a commitment the United Nations has made as well.

So we hope that whatever is done can be done without leading to a wider war. One of the prime objectives of the United States has been to try to confine the conflict to its present dimensions.

Teenage Smoking

Q. Mr. President, do you think that smoking among youth is——

The President. I think that smoking among youths should be diminished, and the Government has a responsibility there. I'm looking at what our options are, and we'll have an announcement on it before too long.

Q. So you support that idea?

Q. Is that a yes?

The President. I think—I told you what I—I think it's a terrible problem. We've got to do something about it. It's going up when it ought to be going down. If you want to lower health care costs, increase life expectancy, and broaden the quality of life for people, reducing teenage smoking is one good way to start. There's hardly anything we could do that would have a bigger impact. The question is, exactly what should we do? I've gotten some recommendations on it, and we'll have a position shortly. I just don't have an announcement to make today.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Statement on Proposed Welfare Reform Legislation

August 3, 1995

I strongly support the Work First bill proposed by Senators Daschle, Breaux, and Mikulski. Instead of maintaining the current welfare system, which undermines our basic values of work, responsibility, and family, this plan sends people to work so they can earn a paycheck, not a welfare check. It provides the child care people need to move from welfare to work and to enable them to stay off welfare in the first place. It holds State bureaucracies accountable for real results and rewards States for putting people to work, not just cutting people off. It saves money by moving people to work, not by shipping the States more problems and less money. The Work First plan is real reform, and it should be the basis for a strong bipartisan bill.

It is time for Congress to reach across party lines and pass real welfare reform. The American people have waited long enough.

Statement on Hurricane Erin

August 3, 1995

For several days now, we have been watching and waiting as Hurricane Erin approached the Florida coast, not knowing what to expect but preparing for the worst. We thank God that this storm did not pack the catastrophic punch that others have in the past. However, it did cause considerable damage.

Our hearts and prayers go out to all who have been impacted by the hurricane. We pray for a quick recovery. To help that process get underway, I have tonight signed an emergency declaration for the State of Florida and have asked James Lee Witt, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to coordinate all efforts to save lives and protect the health, safety, and property of those affected.

There are already FEMA trucks loaded with plastic sheeting, chainsaws, generators, and other tools headed for the impacted area. Director Witt will go to Florida first thing in the morning, inspect the damage, and report back to me.

I have spoken with Governor Chiles and asked him to convey to the people of Florida our commitment to this recovery effort. I am proud of the work Governor Chiles and all of the State and local emergency workers did in preparing for this storm. As a former Governor, I know how important emergency preparedness is in saving lives and protecting property. I applaud their efforts and salute the courage and strength of all Floridians dealing with the damage caused by the hurricane.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Iraq

August 3, 1995

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

Consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102–1), and as part of my effort to keep the Congress fully informed, I am reporting on the status of efforts to obtain Iraq's compliance with the resolutions adopted by the U.N. Security Council.

Since its recognition of Kuwait last November, Iraq has done little to comply with its numerous remaining obligations under Council resolutions. At the most recent review of Iraq sanctions on July 11, 1995, the Security Council unanimously decided to maintain the sanctions regime on Iraq without change. We shall continue to insist that the sanctions be maintained until Iraq complies with all relevant provisions of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Iraq remains out of compliance with its obligations regarding weapons of mass destruction (WMD), according to recent reports from the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM). Iraq's recent admission that it had an offensive biological weapons program has received much attention. This admission should come as no surprise, the evidence of this program having been known for some time. Now we must see if Iraq discloses the details of this program, as required. If history is any indicator, we can expect Iraq to conceal information about details of the program until confronted with irrefutable evidence by UNSCOM.

The Iraqi regime recently said it would not be forthcoming on its biological weapons program until UNSCOM ''closed the file'' in the missile and chemical weapons areas. This type of quid pro quo is unacceptable. The Council's resolutions are unconditional. Iraq cannot trade compliance in one for a ''clean slate'' in another. The fact that issues remain to be addressed in these various areas can be directly attributed to a pattern of Iraqi obfuscation. Moreover, the nature of UNSCOM's mandate is such that files can never be pronounced ''closed.'' The UNSCOM must be able to investigate new leads as they arise in any area.

In addition to failing to comply with the WMD provisions of Security Council resolutions, the regime remains in violation of numerous other Security Council requirements. The regime has failed to be forthcoming with information on hundreds of Kuwaitis and some third-country nationals missing since the Iraqi occupation.

Iraq has also not returned to Kuwait the millions of dollars worth of Kuwaiti property looted during the occupation. This includes a vast store of military equipment. Earlier this year, Iraq dumped a large amount of military equipment on the Kuwaiti border in an attempt to convince the Council it was making a good-faith effort to comply. None of the equipment returned was operational. It had all been stripped bare of anything of value. Some of the material returned had not even originated in Kuwait; it was captured from Iran during the Iran-Iraq War. Some vehicles and items still bore hastily painted-over portraits of the Ayatollah Khomeini and contained Iranian identity papers. None of the top-of-the-line military equipment looted from Kuwait has been returned.

The Council on April 14 unanimously adopted Resolution 986, an effective means to provide relief for the hardship that ordinary Iraqis are suffering as a result of Saddam Hussein's failure to comply with Council requirements. Nonetheless, on June 1, Secretary General Boutros-Ghali informed the Security Council that Iraq had officially refused to implement this resolution. The sanctions regime does not prevent the shipment of food or medicine to Iraq. However, Saddam Hussein continues to squander Iraq's resources on his repressive security apparatus and personal palaces, while using the suffering of ordinary Iraqis as a propaganda tool to press for the lifting of sanctions. Resolution 986 undermines his self-serving excuses for neglecting the legitimate needs of the Iraqi people.

The no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq continue to deter Iraq from using its aircraft against its population. However, the Iraqi government persists in its brutal campaign against its perceived enemies throughout the country. Iraqi forces periodically shell villages in the south and the north with artillery. In the south, Iraq's repression