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the Government of Australia on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Washington on April 30, 1997, and a related exchange of diplomatic notes signed the same date. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to counter criminal activities more effectively. The Treaty should be an effective tool to assist in the prosecution of a wide variety of crimes, including drug trafficking offenses, terrorism and other violent crime, money laundering and other ''white-collar'' crime. The Treaty is self-executing.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Mutual assistance available under the Treaty includes: taking testimony or statements of persons; providing documents, records, and other articles of evidence; serving documents; locating or identifying persons; transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; executing requests for searches and seizures and for restitution; immobilizing instrumentalities and proceeds of crime; assisting in proceedings related to forfeiture or confiscation; and rendering any other form of assistance not prohibited by the laws of the Requested State.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and related exchange of notes, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 18, 1997.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 19.

Statement on the Study by the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence

September 19, 1997

Today's study released by the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence confirms what we have known all along: that the Brady law is helping to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. The study also gives us more good news about the Brady law—that it has worked to help disrupt illegal gun trafficking patterns, making it more difficult for gun traffickers to do business.

While States are no longer required to conduct Brady background checks in light of the Supreme Court's recent decision, I am pleased that State and local law enforcement agencies around the country are overwhelmingly continuing to do these checks on a voluntary basis. Our goal remains unchanged: no background check, no handgun purchase.

I have pledged to do everything in my power to make sure that we continue to keep handguns out of the hands of criminals—including extending Brady background checks to violent juveniles who should not be able to buy a gun on their 21st birthday. Today's study further makes the case that for the safety of our communities and of all Americans, Brady background checks must continue.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 15

In the afternoon, the President met in the Cabinet Room with leaders of environmental organizations to discuss climate change.

The White House announced that the President intends to nominate Gloria Tristani to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

September 16

In the morning, the President traveled to Langley, VA, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Terrence J. Brown to be Assistant Administrator for Management at the Agency for International Development.