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without compromising safety. And I congratulate the Vice President for all his work particularly on this effort.

Third, we will offer new hope to critically ill Americans by expanding access to drugs and therapies whose FDA approvals are still pending. Anybody who's ever had a family in this situation knows what an important part of the legislation this is. We know that for many patients, experimental treatments represent their best, perhaps their only, chance for recovery. That's why this bill writes into law current FDA policies that allow doctors and patients to use new drugs before they are formally approved. Already, thousands of AIDS, cancer, and Alzheimer's patients have found new hope, even new life, with these experimental therapies. We will also expand the database on clinical trials of drugs that fight serious illnesses so that patients can keep track of their progress.

It's been said that while the century we are about to leave has been an age of physics, the 21st century will be an age of biology, perhaps yielding cures to diseases we thought incurable. We are already witnessing the medical possibilities of the future, as the Vice President said. This fall alone, the FDA has approved new drugs and treatments for everything from HIV to breast cancer, cardiovascular disease to cystic fibrosis, Parkinson's to epilepsy.

The FDA has served America well. Today, with a bill I'm about to sign into law, we can ensure that it will serve America well into the 21 century, and I hope serve as a model again for how we can maintain our goals of pursuing the public interest and adjust our means to the possibilities and the challenges of a dramatically new era. The FDA has always set the gold standard for consumer safety. Today it wins a gold medal for leading the way into the future. And thank you all.

I'd like to ask the Congressmen now to join me up here so we can sign the bill.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:50 a.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building.

Remarks on Receiving the Man of Peace Award

November 21, 1997

Dalia, Michelle, Members of Congress, members of the administration, General and Mrs. Shelton, Secretary Christopher, Secretary Vance, General Powell, thank you all for coming. To the Ambassadors of Israel and Jordan and Egypt, we thank you for being here today. Shimon and Leah, thank you for your friendship, for your remarks, and for your continued profound and eloquent striving for peace.

I am delighted that this prize will fund scholarships for young Americans to study in Israel, further strengthening the bonds between our nations and deepening the friendship between our people. And I am profoundly honored to be the first recipient of the Man of Peace Award. But actually, as we all know, I can accept this only on behalf of all people in our administration and previous administrations and, indeed, citizens in this country who have devoted themselves to helping to bring peace in the Middle East. There can be no greater recognition than this award founded by the family of Yitzhak Rabin and by Shimon Peres, two men who helped to give the world one of its greatest gifts, the hope of a new era of peace in the land of light and revelation.

You know, I was sitting here thinking when Shimon and Leah were talking of all the times that Hillary and I and Al and Tipper with one or all of them—and it's so hard to say now, but actually, from time to time, we had a lot of fun doing this.

There were times when I thought that my role in the Middle East peace process was to bring to bear the wealth and power of the United States to work in a positive way and to work things through with Arab States, and all of that. A lot of times I thought I was Prime Minister Rabin's fashion adviser—[*laughter*]—which shows you just how much trouble he was in. [*Laughter*]

Upstairs in my office, which is actually almost exactly right above this room, I have on a little table in a silver tray, that I believe Shimon gave me, the yarmulke that I wore at the Prime Minister's funeral, a little pin I had to wear to go to the graveside, and

a small stone I took from the grave. But above it I have the picture of us together the last time I ever saw him, where I'm straightening the bow tie I had to get for him because he didn't bring a bow tie to take to this black-tie dinner that we attended.

I say that to remind you that the real purpose of peace is to allow people to laugh, to return to ordinary life, to appreciate the little things in life, and to appreciate it with people with whom they have previously been at odds and that it is not something we can be discouraged about, it has to be done little by little.

I remember the day we were in here and we were fixing to go out, in September, and sign the peace agreement. And the Prime Minister was of two minds: First, you know, people were grinding on him, ''How can you do this? You can't trust the Palestinians,'' and all this, and he had this great one-liner, ''Well, you can't make peace with your friends.'' But then when I said when we went out there it was going to be quite an extravaganza, and Mr. Arafat was an emotional person, and there was going to have to be a handshake—well, now, the handshake was another thing altogether. [*Laughter*]

He said, ''I have been fighting him for decades.'' I said, ''You just told me you can't make peace with your friends. There is going to be a billion people watching. What are you going to do?'' He said, ''All right, but no kissing.'' [*Laughter*] And so I'm glad the press didn't know that because there's always this question, is the glass half empty or half full? So the whole world was electrified by this picture of these two men shaking hands. If the whole story had been known, someone would have written the story, why didn't they kiss? [*Laughter*]

We have to remember what the purpose of this is. Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin rose to the height of Israeli politics by being concerned with the security of the State of Israel. And after a lifetime devoted to its security, based on their experience and their understanding not only of the particular situation but of human nature, they reached a unique partnership premised on a commitment to peace as ultimately the only guarantor of security. They found the sort of courage that we saw when Sadat and Begin signed the Camp David accords.

And I will never forget that great day here in September of '93, when Yitzhak Rabin said, ''Enough of blood and tears.'' Leah mentioned the things which happened afterward, and we have seen a great deal of progress, the interim accords, the peace with Jordan in the Araba, growing diplomatic ties with neighbors.

Shimon said in his Nobel Address that Israel had proved, and I quote, ''that aggressors do not necessarily emerge as the victors.'' But also, he had learned that the victors do not necessarily win peace. To win peace these two leaders, on behalf of the Israeli people, stepped beyond the bounds of convention, put aside old habits of suspicion and mistrust. And after an assassin's bullet took Yitzhak's life, Shimon stayed true to the path they had chosen, even when the enemies of peace waged terror against the people of Israel.

We know from experience both before and since that progress is possible and progress is difficult, that barriers fall only if people show a consistent and constant will to go forward, guided by and bound to several principles. I think it's worth repeating them here today. Israelis and Palestinians must embrace the spirit at the heart of the Oslo accords, not jockeying for advantage but working together for the benefit of both sides. Both sides must dedicate themselves to building confidence, step by step, through a series of agreements on issues affecting both Palestinians and Israelis. Both sides must refrain from actions that undermine the joint pledge they have made to strengthen security. Both sides must approach each other as partners, joined by the prospect of peace and security. And both sides must live up to the letter and the spirit of their obligations.

In recent months, you have to acknowledge at least that the pace of change has slowed and that the bonds of trust have eroded on both sides. The answer is not to bemoan the present condition but to renew our resolve to move forward.

During recent negotiations here in Washington and in the region, Israelis and Palestinians worked together seriously in an atmosphere of genuine respect. They faced the essential task of building cooperation and

preventing terrorism. They moved closer to agreement on concrete steps to benefit the Palestinian people. They worked to advance the discussion on more difficult issues they will face in permanent status negotiations.

Now both sides have got to realize the need for urgency. The window of progress will become smaller with time. The frustration of ordinary people, both Israelis and Palestinians, will grow in the absence of progress. That is why we want the parties to work intensively on the matters that Prime Minister Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat have undertaken to discuss: security cooperation, redeployment of Israeli forces, a time-out on provocative actions, the acceleration of permanent status talks. By addressing these issues, we can establish for Israelis and Palestinians that peace will bring tangible benefits. By speeding the progress on this track, we can move closer to invigorating negotiations between Israel and Lebanon and Israel and Syria to establish a lasting and comprehensive peace.

In recent weeks, as Iraq has challenged the United Nations, we have been reminded again of how vital it is to continue forging a community of shared values throughout the region to strengthen the bonds among all people who oppose intimidation and terror and how we will never, ever do that until there is peace between Israel and her neighbors and that the absence of that peace makes the other difficulties, tensions, and frustrations all the more troubling because it compounds them and undermines our ability to seek a unified solution.

I think I should say just a few words about Iraq before closing. Early this morning, the international weapons inspectors arrived back in Baghdad, including the Americans assigned to the team. Their unconditional return is an important achievement for the international community. It shows once again that determined diplomacy backed by the potential of force is the only way to deal with Saddam Hussein. We must make sure that inspectors are able to resume their mission unimpeded. The inspector team has a clear mission and a clear responsibility. They must be able to proceed with their work without interference, to find, to destroy, to prevent Iraq from rebuilding nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and the missiles to carry them.

Let there be no mistake: We must be constantly vigilant and resolute, and with our friends and partners, we must be especially determined to prevent Saddam's ability to reconstitute his weapons of mass destruction program. Our children and our grandchildren will not forgive us unless we honor the work of the UNSCOM professionals. We must not let our children be exposed to the indiscriminate availability and potential of use and actual use of the biological and chemical and smaller scale nuclear weapons which could terrorize the 21st century.

The UNSCOM team of dedicated professionals have labored quietly and effectively for 6 years. The past 2 weeks have made them famous people in the world. Let us not so much cherish their fame as value their mission. And let us be determined to see that it can go forward.

Leah and Shimon, it was not 5 years go that I promised Yitzhak, as President Carter had promised Menachem Begin, that the United States would be there every step of the way with Israel as it walks the path of peace. Today I renew that pledge, for myself, our administration and indeed for the American people. I am deeply honored by this award. But the only prize in the end that really matters is the prize of peace we must give to the children of the Middle East.

For as long as I live, I will be grateful for the profound honor I had to work with you, Shimon, and with Yitzhak, to get to know your families, your co-workers, your friends, to see one of those magic moments that the Nobel Prize-winning Irish poet, Shamus Heaney, spoke of when he said that sometimes people just leave aside their cynicism and their bitterness, and hope and history rhyme. That is what you made happen. The only way we can truly honor the memory of our friend and the continuing work of our friend, Shimon Peres, is not to let it go but to bear down and see it through.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:27 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Dalia Filosof, daughter, and Leah Rabin, wife of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin; Michelle Waldin, granddaughter of

former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres; Gen. Henry H. Shelton, USA, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his wife, Carolyn; former Secretary of State Warren Christopher; former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance; former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Colin Powell, USA (Ret.); Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestinian Authority; and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of Israel. The Rabin Foundation and the Peres Foundation jointly established the Man of Peace Award. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Korean Peninsula Peace Process

November 21, 1997

I am pleased with the agreement reached today in New York to begin plenary talks on December 9 in Geneva to achieve a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. It carries forward the four-party peace initiative President Kim Yong-sam and I launched in April 1996. In Geneva, the four parties—the United States, the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the People's Republic of China—will together discuss how we can secure a stable and permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. There is a lot of hard work ahead. But this is an important first step and the United States is prepared to be a full partner in helping the Korean people build a future of peace.

Proclamation 7052—Thanksgiving Day, 1997

November 21, 1997

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Another year has passed on our American journey. The seasons have completed another cycle, and it is harvest time in America. Once again, millions of us will gather with family and friends to give thanks to God for the many blessings that He has bestowed upon us.

This Thanksgiving Day, as every day, we are grateful for the gift of freedom, for the vision made real by our Nation's founders and preserved by the courage, vigilance, and sacrifice of generations of Americans. We are thankful for the bounty and beauty of this great land, which has welcomed so many to its shores across the years. We cherish the love of our families and friends. We value the opportunity to provide for our children's future with the fruits of our honest labor. And, like the Pilgrims who celebrated Thanksgiving more than 300 years ago, we thank God for bringing us safely to the threshold of a new world, full of exhilarating challenge and promise.

In this new world, our children are growing up free from the shadows of the Cold War and the threat of nuclear holocaust. Nations once held captive by communism are learning the lessons of liberty and democracy. A revolution in technology has brought the world closer together and holds the prospect of greater knowledge and prosperity for people across the globe.

More than three centuries of change and growth separate us from the Pilgrims and their Native American friends who sat down together for their Thanksgiving meal. But the example and experience of those early Americans still hold great meaning for us today. They remind us that God's love strengthens and sustains us, both as individuals and as a Nation. They remind us that everyone has something to contribute, and that we are all richer when we learn to share. They teach us a simple but powerful lesson that each new generation of Americans must learn and pass on: we need one another. Like the Pilgrims, if we are to flourish in our new world, we must do so not as isolated individuals, but as members of a family, one America, sharing our gifts and leaving no one behind.

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 Thursday, November 27, 1997, as a National Day of Thanksgiving. I encourage all Americans to assemble in their homes, places of worship, or community centers to share the spirit of goodwill and prayer; to express heartfelt thanks to God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us; and to reach out in true friendship to our brothers and sisters across