

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:31 p.m. at the La Crosse Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Wisconsin Attorney General Jim Doyle; Mayor John Medinger of La Crosse; Lee and Ruth Mathison, who introduced the President; and Thai Vue, June Kjome, and Roy Heath, community service volunteers.

**Statement on the Nomination of
General Joseph W. Ralston to be Vice
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**

January 28, 1998

I am pleased to announce that I have nominated General Joseph W. Ralston for a second 2-year tour as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

General Ralston has served with distinction as Vice Chairman over the past 2 years, providing excellent advice and support for two Secretaries of Defense and two Chairmen. His experience with the Quadrennial Defense Review and major defense policy issues, along with his demonstrated leadership skills, ensure that the position of Vice Chairman will continue to be filled by the high caliber of individual needed for this challenging and vital post.

**Statement on the Senate Republican
Child Care Proposal**

January 28, 1998

Earlier this month, I unveiled an ambitious initiative to make child care better, safer, and more affordable. Last night, in my State of the Union Address, I asked Congress to reach across party lines to work on this important issue. I am very pleased that today, Senators Chafee, Hatch, Snowe, Roberts, Specter, and Collins proposed a child care package that, like mine, significantly increases child care subsidies for poor children, provides additional tax relief to help low- and middle-income families pay for child care, creates a tax credit for businesses that provide child care to their employees, and improves State enforcement of health and safety standards. I look forward to working with Members of Congress in both parties to enact comprehensive child care legislation to meet the needs of children and families.

I believe that by continuing to work together on a bipartisan basis and by taking the best proposals from both sides of the aisle, we will achieve legislation that helps Americans fulfill their responsibilities as workers and, even more importantly, as parents. With this important contribution from Senator Chafee and his Senate colleagues, we move significantly closer to enacting child care legislation that is right for America's children.

**Proclamation 7065—Year of the
Ocean, 1998**

January 28, 1998

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

More than 70 percent of the Earth's surface is covered by water, and more than half the world's population lives within 50 miles of a coastline. We rely on the ocean as both a source and sustenance of life on our planet. It contains a wondrous abundance and diversity of life, from the smallest microorganism to the mammoth blue whale. It is a key source of food, medicine, energy, commerce, and recreation for the peoples of the world, and the more we learn about its influence on climate and weather, the more we realize its impact on our safety and quality of life.

We are only beginning to understand the depths of the ocean's mysteries, but we are quickly learning one crucial lesson: the ocean's resources are limited, and we must work together to preserve them. Many areas are already overfished; decades of pollution, including industrial waste, sewage, and toxic runoff, has taken its toll on the health of the ocean and its living creatures. Many species of fish are threatened with extinction, and even our precious coral reefs, once a safe haven for an amazing variety of animal and plant life, have suffered greatly.

Because the ocean is a treasure that all nations of the world share in common, we must work in partnership to become wise stewards of its many riches. We must strive together—at local, national, and international levels—to preserve the ocean's health, to

protect the marine environment, and to ensure the sustainable management of the myriad resources the ocean contains.

Dedicating 1998 as the Year of the Ocean is an important first step in this worldwide endeavor. Throughout the year, individuals, organizations, and governments will participate in activities designed to raise public awareness of the vital role the ocean plays in human life and of the equally vital role that human beings must play in the life of the ocean. The Year of the Ocean provides us with an extraordinary opportunity to learn more about the ocean's unique environment and to collaborate on protecting and preserving its invaluable resources.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim 1998 as the Year of the Ocean. I encourage the Governors of the States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to participate in the observance of this year. I invite all Americans to take this opportunity to learn more about the ocean and its vast biodiversity and to become involved in keeping our coastal waters safe and clean.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 29, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on January 30.

Memorandum on Funding of International Financial Institutions and Other International Organizations

January 28, 1998

Presidential Determination No. 98-12

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Determination Pursuant to Section 523 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1998 (Public Law 105-118)

Pursuant to section 523 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1998 (Public Law 105-118), I hereby certify that withholding from international financial institutions and other international organizations and programs funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to that Act is contrary to the national interest of the United States.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Zimbabwe-United States Extradition Treaty and Documentation

January 28, 1998

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Extradition Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe, signed at Harare on July 25, 1997.

In addition, I transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty. As the report explains, the Treaty will not require implementing legislation.