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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, January 30, 1998

The President's Radio Address

January 24, 1998

Good morning. Today I want to talk about our continuing efforts to fight fraud and abuse in the Medicare system.

For more than 30 years, Medicare has helped us to honor our oldest obligations to our parents and grandparents. And since I took office, our administration has made strengthening Medicare one of our top priorities. The balanced budget I signed into law last summer will extend the life of the Medicare Trust Fund for at least a decade. But to ensure that Medicare is as strong in the 21st century as it has been in the 20th, we must also do more to root out fraud and abuse.

Medicare fraud cheats beneficiaries and taxpayers out of billions of dollars every single year. It undermines the strength of this vitally important program. Since 1993, we've assigned more Federal prosecutors and investigators to fight Medicare fraud than ever before, increasing fraud convictions by a record 240 percent. All told, we've saved taxpayers over $20 billion. And the Kennedy-Kassebaum legislation I signed into law in 1996 has given us new resources and tools to investigate, prosecute, and convict dishonest providers and medical suppliers.

On Monday, I'll send to Congress a report that shows just how effective those new tools have been. I'm proud to say that in the last year alone we've collected nearly $1 billion in fines and settlements for health care fraud. Money that would have lined the pockets of scam artists is now going instead to preserve the Medicare Trust Fund and to improve health for millions of Americans. We've increased prosecutions for health care fraud by more than 60 percent, and we've stopped health care fraud before it starts by keeping nearly twice as many bad providers out of the system.

Now, make no mistake, Medicare fraud is a real crime, committed by real criminals intent on stealing from the system and cheating our most vulnerable citizens. Let me just give you one example.

In New York City, a Russian immigrant, believed by Federal investigators to be part of an organized crime ring, defrauded Medicare of $1.5 million by selling substandard medical supplies to elderly people and billing Medicare for premium goods. We shut him down and put him in jail, but he never should have been a Medicare supplier in the first place.

Last week, I put in place new regulations that require medical suppliers to post surety bonds to prove they're legitimate, solvent businesses. And to further ensure that medical suppliers aren't defrauding Medicare, the Department of Health and Human Services will expand its site inspections of medical supply companies all over the country.

But we must do more to crack down on fraud and abuse in the Medicare system. The balanced budget I'll submit to Congress next month will include antifraud and waste provisions that will save Medicare more than $2 billion. First, it will eliminate overpayment for certain drugs by making sure doctors receive no more and no less than the price they pay for the medicines they give Medicare patients. Second, it will ensure that when fly-by-night providers go bankrupt, Medicare is at the top of the list of debts to be repaid. And finally, it will bring down costs by allowing Medicare to purchase goods and services at a competitive price.

We will only win the fight against fraud and abuse in the Medicare system with the help of the American people. We know that patients and honest providers want to help crack down on fraud and abuse. Starting next month we'll make it easier for them to do so, with a toll-free hotline that will now appear on every statement Medicare sends out to every beneficiary it serves.

With these steps, we're making sure that the Medicare system, which has served our parents and grandparents so well, will also serve our children and grandchildren well into the 21st century.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 5:13 p.m. on January 23 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 24.

Remarks on the After-School Child Care Initiative

January 26, 1998

Thank you very much. First, let me thank all of you who are here. Many of us have been working together now for 20 years on a lot of these issues, and this is a very happy day for us.

I thank the First Lady for all she has done on this issue, for as long as I have known her. I thank the Vice President and Mrs. Gore for their family conference and the light it has shed on the announcement we're here to emphasize today. Thank you, Secretary Riley, for the community learning centers, and I'm very proud of what we've done there.

Thank you, Bill White. I'll talk more about your contribution in a moment, but it is truly remarkable. And I thank Rand and Debra Bass for giving us a living, breathing example of the best of America—parents who are working hard to do their jobs, but also determined to do their most important job very well with their children. I thank Senator Feinstein, Senator Dodd, and Senator Boxer for being here.

Tomorrow, in the State of the Union Address, I will spell out what we seek to do on behalf of our children to prepare them for the 21st century. But I want to talk a little bit about education today and about this announcement in that context.

Education must be our Nation's highest priority. Last year, in the State of the Union Address, I set out a 10-point plan to move us forward and urged the American people to make sure that politics stops at the schoolhouse door. Well, we've made a lot of progress on that 10-point plan: a remarkable—a remarkable—array of initiatives to open the doors of college to every American who's willing to work for it; strong progress toward high national standards in the basics, the America Reads challenge to teach every 8-year-old to read; continued progress in the Vice President's program to hook up all of our classrooms and libraries to the Internet by the year 2000.

This has been the most important year in a generation for education reform. Tomorrow I'll set out the next steps on our continuing road.

First, I will propose the first-ever national effort to reduce class size in the early grades. Hillary and I worked very hard 15 years ago now to have very strict class sizes at home in the early grades, and it was quite controversial and I think enormously beneficial when we did it. Our balanced budget will help to hire 100,000 teachers who must pass State competency tests but who will be able to reduce class size in the first, second, and third grades to an average of 18 nationwide.

Second, since there are more students and there will be more teachers, there must be more classrooms. So I will propose a school construction tax cut to help communities modernize and build new schools.

Third, I will promote a national effort to help schools that follow the lead of the Chicago system in ending social promotion but helping students with summer school and other programs to give them the tools they need to get ahead.

All these steps will help our children get the future they deserve. And that's why what we're announcing here is so important as well.

Every child needs someplace to go after school. With after-school programs, we can not only keep our kids healthy and happy and safe, we can help to teach them to say no to drugs, alcohol, and crime, yes to reading, sports, and computers. My balanced budget plan includes a national initiative to spark private sector and local community efforts to provide after-school care, as the Secretary of Education said, to half a million more children.

Now, let me say, in addition to all the positive benefits, I think it's important to point out that the hours between 3 and 7 at night

are the most vulnerable hours for young people to get in trouble, for juvenile crime. There is this sort of assumption that everybody that gets in trouble when they're young has just already been abandoned. That's not true. Most of the kids that get in trouble get in trouble after school closes and before their parents get home from work. So in the adolescent years, in the later years, it is profoundly important to try to give kids something to say yes to and something positive to do.

But we can't do it alone. As I said, our plan involves a public-private partnership. So it has fallen to me to announce that our distinguished guest from the Mott Foundation of Flint, Michigan, has pledged up to $55 million to help ensure that after-school programs supported by Federal funds are of the highest quality. That is an astonishing gift. Thank you, Bill White. Thank you.

We are determined to help Americans succeed in the workplace, to raise well-educated, healthy kids, and to help Americans succeed at the toughest job of all, that of being a parent. And the Mott Foundation has gone a long way toward helping us. I thank them.

Now, I have to go back to work on my State of the Union speech. And I worked on it until pretty late last night. But I want to say one thing to the American people. I want you to listen to me. I'm going to say this again. I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky. I never told anybody to lie, not a single time—never. These allegations are false. And I need to go back to work for the American people.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:37 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Bill White, president and chief executive officer, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation; and Rand and Debra Bass, parents whose children attend an after-school child care program at Barcroft Elementary School, Arlington, VA.

Memorandum on Assistance for the New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union

January 26, 1998

Presidential Determination No. 98–11

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Assistance Program for the New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union

Pursuant to subsection (c) under the heading "Assistance for the New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union" in Title II of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1998 (Public Law 105–118), I hereby determine that it is in the national security interest of the United States to make available funds appropriated under that heading without regard to the restriction in that subsection.

You are authorized and directed to notify the Congress of this determination and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress on the State of the Union

January 27, 1998

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of the 105th Congress, distinguished guests, my fellow Americans: Since the last time we met in this Chamber, America has lost two patriots and fine public servants. Though they sat on opposite sides of the aisle, Representatives Walter Capps and Sonny Bono shared a deep love for this House and an unshakable commitment to improving the lives of all our people. In the past few weeks they've both been eulogized. Tonight I think we should begin by sending a message to their families and their friends that we celebrate their lives and give thanks for their service to our Nation.

For 209 years it has been the President's duty to report to you on the state of the Union. Because of the hard work and high purpose of the American people, these are good times for America. We have more than 14 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment in 24 years, the lowest core inflation in 30 years; incomes are rising; and we have the highest homeownership in history. Crime has dropped for a record 5 years in a row, and the welfare rolls are at their lowest levels in 27 years. Our leadership in the world is unrivaled. Ladies and gentlemen, the state of our Union is strong.

But with barely 700 days left in the 20th century, this is not a time to rest. It is a time to build, to build the America within reach, an America where everybody has a chance to get ahead with hard work; where every citizen can live in a safe community; where families are strong, schools are good, and all our young people can go on to college; an America where scientists find cures for diseases, from diabetes to Alzheimer's to AIDS; an America where every child can stretch a hand across a keyboard and reach every book ever written, every painting ever painted, every symphony ever composed; where government provides opportunity and citizens honor the responsibility to give something back to their communities; an America which leads the world to new heights of peace and prosperity. This is the America we have begun to build; this is the America we can leave to our children if we join together to finish the work at hand. Let us strengthen our Nation for the 21st century.

Rarely have Americans lived through so much change in so many ways in so short a time. Quietly, but with gathering force, the ground has shifted beneath our feet as we have moved into an information age, a global economy, a truly new world. For 5 years now, we have met the challenge of these changes, as Americans have at every turning point in our history, by renewing the very idea of America: widening the circle of opportunity, deepening the meaning of our freedom, forging a more perfect Union.

We shaped a new kind of Government for the information age. I thank the Vice President for his leadership and the Congress for its support in building a Government that is leaner, more flexible, a catalyst for new ideas, and most of all, a Government that gives the American people the tools they need to make the most of their own lives.

We have moved past the sterile debate between those who say government is the enemy and those who say government is the answer. My fellow Americans, we have found a third way. We have the smallest Government in 35 years, but a more progressive one. We have a smaller Government, but a stronger Nation. We are moving steadily toward an even stronger America in the 21st century: an economy that offers opportunity, a society rooted in responsibility, and a nation that lives as a community.

First, Americans in this Chamber and across our Nation have pursued a new strategy for prosperity: fiscal discipline to cut interest rates and spur growth; investments in education and skills, in science and technology and transportation, to prepare our people for the new economy; new markets for American products and American workers.

When I took office, the deficit for 1998 was projected to be $357 billion and heading higher. This year, our deficit is projected to be $10 billion and heading lower. For three decades, six Presidents have come before you to warn of the damage deficits pose to our Nation. Tonight I come before you to announce that the Federal deficit, once so incomprehensibly large that it had 11 zeros, will be, simply, zero. I will submit to Congress for 1999 the first balanced budget in 30 years. And if we hold fast to fiscal discipline, we may balance the budget this year—4 years ahead of schedule.

You can all be proud of that, because turning a sea of red ink into black is no miracle. It is the product of hard work by the American people and of two visionary actions in Congress: the courageous vote in 1993 that led to a cut in the deficit of 90 percent, and the truly historic bipartisan balanced budget agreement passed by this Congress. Here's the really good news: If we maintain our resolve, we will produce balanced budgets as far as the eye can see.

We must not go back to unwise spending or untargeted tax cuts that risk reopening the

deficit. Last year, together, we enacted targeted tax cuts so that the typical middle class family will now have the lowest tax rates in 20 years. My plan to balance the budget next year includes both new investments and new tax cuts targeted to the needs of working families, for education, for child care, for the environment.

But whether the issue is tax cuts or spending, I ask all of you to meet this test: Approve only those priorities that can actually be accomplished without adding a dime to the deficit.

Now, if we balance the budget for next year, it is projected that we'll then have a sizable surplus in the years that immediately follow. What should we do with this projected surplus? I have a simple four-word answer: Save Social Security first. [*Applause*] Thank you.

Tonight I propose that we reserve 100 percent of the surplus—that's every penny of any surplus—until we have taken all the necessary measures to strengthen the Social Security system for the 21st century. Let us say to all Americans watching tonight—whether you're 70 or 50, or whether you just started paying into the system—Social Security will be there when you need it. Let us make this commitment: Social Security first. Let's do that together.

I also want to say that all the American people who are watching us tonight should be invited to join in this discussion, in facing these issues squarely and forming a true consensus on how we should proceed. We'll start by conducting nonpartisan forums in every region of the country, and I hope that lawmakers of both parties will participate. We'll hold a White House conference on Social Security in December. And one year from now I will convene the leaders of Congress to craft historic, bipartisan legislation to achieve a landmark for our generation: a Social Security system that is strong in the 21st century. [*Applause*] Thank you.

In an economy that honors opportunity, all Americans must be able to reap the rewards of prosperity. Because these times are good, we can afford to take one simple, sensible step to help millions of workers struggling to provide for their families: We should raise the minimum wage.

The information age is, first and foremost, an education age, in which education must start at birth and continue throughout a lifetime. Last year, from this podium, I said that education has to be our highest priority. I laid out a 10-point plan to move us forward and urged all of us to let politics stop at the schoolhouse door. Since then, this Congress—across party lines—and the American people have responded, in the most important year for education in a generation, expanding public school choice, opening the way to 3,000 new charter schools, working to connect every classroom in the country to the information superhighway, committing to expand Head Start to a million children, launching America Reads, sending literally thousands of college students into our elementary schools to make sure all our 8-year-olds can read.

Last year I proposed and you passed 220,000 new Pell grant scholarships for deserving students. Student loans, already less expensive and easier to repay—now you get to deduct the interest. Families all over America now can put their savings into new tax-free education IRA's. And this year, for the first 2 years of college, families will get a $1,500 tax credit—a HOPE scholarship that will cover the cost of most community college tuition. And for junior and senior year, graduate school, and job training, there is a lifetime learning credit. You did that, and you should be very proud of it.

And because of these actions, I have something to say to every family listening to us tonight: Your children can go on to college. If you know a child from a poor family, tell her not to give up; she can go on to college. If you know a young couple struggling with bills, worried they won't be able to send their children to college, tell them not to give up; their children can go on to college. If you know somebody who's caught in a dead-end job and afraid he can't afford the classes necessary to get better jobs for the rest of his life, tell him not to give up; he can go on to college. Because of the things that have been done, we can make college as universal in the 21st century as high school is today. And my friends, that will change the face and future of America.

We have opened wide the doors of the world's best system of higher education. Now we must make our public elementary and secondary schools the world's best as well by raising standards, raising expectations, and raising accountability. Thanks to the actions of this Congress last year, we will soon have, for the very first time, a voluntary national test based on national standards in fourth grade reading and eighth grade math. Parents have a right to know whether their children are mastering the basics. And every parent already knows the key: good teachers and small classes.

Tonight I propose the first ever national effort to reduce class size in the early grades. [*Applause*] Thank you. My balanced budget will help to hire 100,000 new teachers who've passed a State competency test. Now, with these teachers—listen—with these teachers, we will actually be able to reduce class size in the first, second, and third grades to an average of 18 students a class, all across America.

If I've got the math right, more teachers teaching smaller classes requires more classrooms. So I also propose a school construction tax cut to help communities modernize or build 5,000 schools.

We must also demand greater accountability. When we promote a child from grade to grade who hasn't mastered the work, we don't do that child any favors. It is time to end social promotion in America's schools. Last year, in Chicago, they made that decision—not to hold our children back but to lift them up. Chicago stopped social promotion and started mandatory summer school to help students who are behind to catch up. I propose to help other communities follow Chicago's lead. Let's say to them: Stop promoting children who don't learn, and we will give you the tools to make sure they do.

I also ask this Congress to support our efforts to enlist colleges and universities to reach out to disadvantaged children, starting in the sixth grade, so that they can get the guidance and hope they need so they can know that they, too, will be able to go on to college.

As we enter the 21st century, the global economy requires us to seek opportunity not just at home but in all the markets of the world. We must shape this global economy, not shrink from it. In the last 5 years, we have led the way in opening new markets, with 240 trade agreements that remove foreign barriers to products bearing the proud stamp "Made in the USA." Today, record high exports account for fully one-third of our economic growth. I want to keep them going, because that's the way to keep America growing and to advance a safer, more stable world.

All of you know, whatever your views are, that I think this is a great opportunity for America. I know there is opposition to more comprehensive trade agreements. I have listened carefully, and I believe that the opposition is rooted in two fears: first, that our trading partners will have lower environmental and labor standards which will give them an unfair advantage in our market and do their own people no favors, even if there's more business; and, second, that if we have more trade, more of our workers will lose their jobs and have to start over. I think we should seek to advance worker and environmental standards around the world. I have made it abundantly clear that it should be a part of our trade agenda. But we cannot influence other countries' decisions if we send them a message that we're backing away from trade with them.

This year I will send legislation to Congress, and ask other nations to join us, to fight the most intolerable labor practice of all: abusive child labor. We should also offer help and hope to those Americans temporarily left behind by the global marketplace or by the march of technology, which may have nothing to do with trade. That's why we have more than doubled funding for training dislocated workers since 1993. And if my new budget is adopted, we will triple funding. That's why we must do more, and more quickly, to help workers who lose their jobs for whatever reason.

You know, we help communities in a special way when their military base closes; we ought to help them in the same way if their factory closes. Again, I ask the Congress to continue its bipartisan work to consolidate the tangle of training programs we have today into one single "GI bill" for workers,

a simple skills grant so people can, on their own, move quickly to new jobs, to higher incomes, and brighter futures.

We all know, in every way in life, change is not always easy, but we have to decide whether we're going to try to hold it back and hide from it or reap its benefits. And remember the big picture here: While we've been entering into hundreds of new trade agreements, we've been creating millions of new jobs.

So this year we will forge new partnerships with Latin America, Asia, and Europe. And we should pass the new ''African Trade Act''; it has bipartisan support. I will also renew my request for the fast-track negotiating authority necessary to open more new markets, create more new jobs, which every President has had for two decades.

You know, whether we like it or not, in ways that are mostly positive, the world's economies are more and more interconnected and interdependent. Today, an economic crisis anywhere can affect economies everywhere. Recent months have brought serious financial problems to Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea, and beyond.

Now, why should Americans be concerned about this? First, these countries are our customers. If they sink into recession, they won't be able to buy the goods we'd like to sell them. Second, they're also our competitors. So if their currencies lose their value and go down, then the price of their goods will drop, flooding our market and others with much cheaper goods, which makes it a lot tougher for our people to compete. And finally, they are our strategic partners. Their stability bolsters our security.

The American economy remains sound and strong, and I want to keep it that way. But because the turmoil in Asia will have an impact on all the world's economies, including ours, making that negative impact as small as possible is the right thing to do for America and the right thing to do for a safer world.

Our policy is clear: No nation can recover if it does not reform itself. But when nations are willing to undertake serious economic reform, we should help them do it. So I call on Congress to renew America's commitment to the International Monetary Fund. And I think we should say to all the people we're trying to represent here that preparing for a far-off storm that may reach our shores is far wiser than ignoring the thunder till the clouds are just overhead.

A strong nation rests on the rock of responsibility. A society rooted in responsibility must first promote the value of work, not welfare. We can be proud that after decades of finger-pointing and failure, together we ended the old welfare system. And we're now replacing welfare checks with paychecks.

Last year, after a record 4-year decline in welfare rolls, I challenged our Nation to move 2 million more Americans off welfare by the year 2000. I'm pleased to report we have also met that goal, 2 full years ahead of schedule.

This is a grand achievement, the sum of many acts of individual courage, persistence, and hope. For 13 years, Elaine Kinslow of Indianapolis, Indiana, was on and off welfare. Today, she's a dispatcher with a van company. She's saved enough money to move her family into a good neighborhood, and she's helping other welfare recipients go to work. Elaine Kinslow and all those like her are the real heroes of the welfare revolution. There are millions like her all across America. And I'm happy she could join the First Lady tonight. Elaine, we're very proud of you. Please stand up. [*Applause*]

We still have a lot more to do, all of us, to make welfare reform a success—providing child care, helping families move closer to available jobs, challenging more companies to join our welfare-to-work partnership, increasing child support collections from deadbeat parents who have a duty to support their own children. I also want to thank Congress for restoring some of the benefits to immigrants who are here legally and working hard, and I hope you will finish that job this year.

We have to make it possible for all hard-working families to meet their most important responsibilities. Two years ago we helped guarantee that Americans can keep their health insurance when they change jobs. Last year we extended health care to up to 5 million children. This year, I challenge Congress to take the next historic steps.

A hundred and sixty million of our fellow citizens are in managed care plans. These

plans save money, and they can improve care. But medical decisions ought to be made by medical doctors, not insurance company accountants. I urge this Congress to reach across the aisle and write into law a consumer bill of rights that says this: You have the right to know all your medical options, not just the cheapest. You have the right to choose the doctor you want for the care you need. You have the right to emergency room care, wherever and whenever you need it. You have the right to keep your medical records confidential. Traditional care or managed care, every American deserves quality care.

Millions of Americans between the ages of 55 and 65 have lost their health insurance. Some are retired; some are laid off; some lose their coverage when their spouses retire. After a lifetime of work, they are left with nowhere to turn. So I ask the Congress, let these hard-working Americans buy into the Medicare system. It won't add a dime to the deficit, but the peace of mind it will provide will be priceless.

Next, we must help parents protect their children from the gravest health threat that they face: an epidemic of teen smoking, spread by multimillion-dollar marketing campaigns. I challenge Congress: Let's pass bipartisan, comprehensive legislation that will improve public health, protect our tobacco farmers, and change the way tobacco companies do business forever. Let's do what it takes to bring teen smoking down. Let's raise the price of cigarettes by up to a dollar and a half a pack over the next 10 years, with penalties on the tobacco industry if it keeps marketing to our children. Tomorrow, like every day, 3,000 children will start smoking, and 1,000 will die early as a result. Let this Congress be remembered as the Congress that saved their lives.

In the new economy, most parents work harder than ever. They face a constant struggle to balance their obligations to be good workers and their even more important obligations to be good parents. The Family and Medical Leave Act was the very first bill I was privileged to sign into law as President in 1993. Since then, about 15 million people have taken advantage of it, and I've met a lot of them all across this country. I ask you to extend that law to cover 10 million more workers and to give parents time off when they have to go see their children's teachers or take them to the doctor.

Child care is the next frontier we must face to enable people to succeed at home and at work. Last year I cohosted the very first White House Conference on Child Care with one of our foremost experts, America's First Lady. From all corners of America, we heard the same message, without regard to region or income or political affiliation: We've got to raise the quality of child care. We've got to make it safer. We've got to make it more affordable.

So here's my plan: Help families to pay for child care for a million more children; scholarships and background checks for child care workers, and a new emphasis on early learning; tax credits for businesses that provide child care for their employees; and a larger child care tax credit for working families. Now, if you pass my plan, what this means is that a family of four with an income of $35,000 and high child care costs will no longer pay a single penny of Federal income tax.

I think this is such a big issue with me because of my own personal experience. I have often wondered how my mother, when she was a young widow, would have been able to go away to school and get an education and come back and support me if my grandparents hadn't been able to take care of me. She and I were really very lucky. How many other families have never had that same opportunity? The truth is, we don't know the answer to that question. But we do know what the answer should be: Not a single American family should ever have to choose between the job they need and the child they love.

A society rooted in responsibility must provide safe streets, safe schools, and safe neighborhoods. We pursued a strategy of more police, tougher punishment, smarter prevention, with crimefighting partnerships with local law enforcement and citizen groups, where the rubber hits the road. I can report to you tonight that it's working. Violent crime is down; robbery is down; assault is down; burglary is down—for 5 years in a row, all across America. We need to finish the job

of putting 100,000 more police on our streets.

Again, I ask Congress to pass a juvenile crime bill that provides more prosecutors and probation officers, to crack down on gangs and guns and drugs, and bar violent juveniles from buying guns for life. And I ask you to dramatically expand our support for after-school programs. I think every American should know that most juvenile crime is committed between the hours of 3 in the afternoon and 8 at night. We can keep so many of our children out of trouble in the first place if we give them someplace to go other than the streets, and we ought to do it.

Drug use is on the decline. I thank General McCaffrey for his leadership, and I thank this Congress for passing the largest antidrug budget in history. Now I ask you to join me in a groundbreaking effort to hire 1,000 new Border Patrol agents and to deploy the most sophisticated available new technologies to help close the door on drugs at our borders.

Police, prosecutors, and prevention programs, as good as they are, they can't work if our court system doesn't work. Today there are large number of vacancies in the Federal courts. Here is what the Chief Justice of the United States wrote: "Judicial vacancies cannot remain at such high levels indefinitely without eroding the quality of justice." I simply ask the United States Senate to heed this plea and vote on the highly qualified judicial nominees before you, up or down.

We must exercise responsibility not just at home but around the world. On the eve of a new century, we have the power and the duty to build a new era of peace and security. But make no mistake about it, today's possibilities are not tomorrow's guarantees. America must stand against the poisoned appeals of extreme nationalism. We must combat an unholy axis of new threats from terrorists, international criminals, and drug traffickers. These 21st century predators feed on technology and the free flow of information and ideas and people. And they will be all the more lethal if weapons of mass destruction fall into their hands.

To meet these challenges, we are helping to write international rules of the road for the 21st century, protecting those who join the family of nations and isolating those who do not. Within days, I will ask the Senate for its advice and consent to make Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic the newest members of NATO. For 50 years, NATO contained communism and kept America and Europe secure. Now these three formerly Communist countries have said yes to democracy. I ask the Senate to say yes to them, our new allies. By taking in new members and working closely with new partners, including Russia and Ukraine, NATO can help to assure that Europe is a stronghold for peace in the 21st century.

Next, I will ask Congress to continue its support of our troops and their mission in Bosnia. This Christmas, Hillary and I traveled to Sarajevo with Senator and Mrs. Dole and a bipartisan congressional delegation. We saw children playing in the streets, where 2 years ago they were hiding from snipers and shells. The shops are filled with food; the cafes were alive with conversation. The progress there is unmistakable, but it is not yet irreversible. To take firm root, Bosnia's fragile peace still needs the support of American and allied troops when the current NATO mission ends in June. I think Senator Dole actually said it best. He said, "This is like being ahead in the 4th quarter of a football game. Now is not the time to walk off the field and forfeit the victory."

I wish all of you could have seen our troops in Tuzla. They're very proud of what they're doing in Bosnia, and we're all very proud of them. One of those—[*applause*]—thank you—one of those brave soldiers is sitting with the First Lady tonight: Army Sergeant Michael Tolbert. His father was a decorated Vietnam vet. After college in Colorado, he joined the Army. Last year he led an infantry unit that stopped a mob of extremists from taking over a radio station that is a voice of democracy and tolerance in Bosnia. Thank you very much, Sergeant, for what you represent. Please stand up. [*Applause*]

In Bosnia and around the world, our men and women in uniform always do their mission well. Our mission must be to keep them well-trained and ready, to improve their quality of life, and to provide the 21st century weapons they need to defeat any enemy.

I ask Congress to join me in pursuing an ambitious agenda to reduce the serious threat of weapons of mass destruction. This year, four decades after it was first proposed by President Eisenhower, a comprehensive nuclear test ban is within reach. By ending nuclear testing, we can help to prevent the development of new and more dangerous weapons and make it more difficult for nonnuclear states to build them. I'm pleased to announce that four former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—Generals John Shalikashvili, Colin Powell, and David Jones and Admiral William Crowe—have endorsed this treaty. And I ask the Senate to approve it this year. [*Applause*] Thank you.

Together, we must confront the new hazards of chemical and biological weapons and the outlaw states, terrorists, and organized criminals seeking to acquire them. Saddam Hussein has spent the better part of this decade and much of his nation's wealth not on providing for the Iraqi people but on developing nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and the missiles to deliver them. The United Nations weapons inspectors have done a truly remarkable job finding and destroying more of Iraq's arsenal than was destroyed during the entire Gulf war. Now Saddam Hussein wants to stop them from completing their mission.

I know I speak for everyone in this chamber, Republicans and Democrats, when I say to Saddam Hussein, ''You cannot defy the will of the world,'' and when I say to him, ''You have used weapons of mass destruction before. We are determined to deny you the capacity to use them again.''

Last year the Senate ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention to protect our soldiers and citizens from poison gas. Now we must act to prevent the use of disease as a weapon of war and terror. The Biological Weapons Convention has been in effect for 23 years now. The rules are good, but the enforcement is weak. We must strengthen it with a new international inspection system to detect and deter cheating.

In the months ahead, I will pursue our security strategy with old allies in Asia and Europe and new partners from Africa to India and Pakistan, from South America to China. And from Belfast to Korea to the Middle East, America will continue to stand with those who stand for peace.

Finally, it's long past time to make good on our debt to the United Nations. [*Applause*] Thank you. More and more, we are working with other nations to achieve common goals. If we want America to lead, we've got to set a good example. As we see so clearly in Bosnia, allies who share our goals can also share our burdens. In this new era, our freedom and independence are actually enriched, not weakened, by our increasing interdependence with other nations. But we have to do our part.

Our Founders set America on a permanent course toward a more perfect Union. To all of you I say, it is a journey we can only make together, living as one community. First, we have to continue to reform our Government, the instrument of our national community. Everyone knows elections have become too expensive, fueling a fundraising arms race. This year, by March 6th, at long last the Senate will actually vote on bipartisan campaign finance reform proposed by Senators McCain and Feingold. Let's be clear: A vote against McCain-Feingold is a vote for soft money and for the status quo. I ask you to strengthen our democracy and pass campaign finance reform this year.

At least equally important, we have to address the real reason for the explosion in campaign costs: the high cost of media advertising.

[*At this point, audience members responded.*]

To the folks watching at home, those were the groans of pain in the audience. [*Laughter*] I will formally request that the Federal Communications Commission act to provide free or reduced-cost television time for candidates who observe spending limits voluntarily. The airwaves are a public trust, and broadcasters also have to help us in this effort to strengthen our democracy.

Under the leadership of Vice President Gore, we've reduced the Federal payroll by 300,000 workers, cut 16,000 pages of regulation, eliminated hundreds of programs, and improved the operations of virtually every Government agency. But we can do more. Like every taxpayer, I'm outraged by the reports of abuses by the IRS. We need some

changes there: new citizen advocacy panels, a stronger taxpayer advocate, phone lines open 24 hours a day, relief for innocent taxpayers. Last year, by an overwhelming bipartisan margin, the House of Representatives passed sweeping IRS reforms. This bill must not now languish in the Senate. Tonight I ask the Senate: Follow the House; pass the bipartisan package as your first order of business.

I hope to goodness before I finish I can think of something to say ''follow the Senate'' on, so I'll be out of trouble. [*Laughter*]

A nation that lives as a community must value all its communities. For the past 5 years, we have worked to bring the spark of private enterprise to inner city and poor rural areas, with community development banks, more commercial loans in the poor neighborhoods, cleanup of polluted sites for development. Under the continued leadership of the Vice President, we propose to triple the number of empowerment zones to give business incentives to invest in those areas. We should—[*applause*]—thank you—we should also give poor families more help to move into homes of their own, and we should use tax cuts to spur the construction of more low-income housing.

Last year, this Congress took strong action to help the District of Columbia. Let us renew our resolve to make our Capital City a great city for all who live and visit here. Our cities are the vibrant hubs of great metropolitan areas. They are still the gateways for new immigrants, from every continent, who come here to work for their own American dreams. Let's keep our cities going strong into the 21st century; they're a very important part of our future.

Our communities are only as healthy as the air our children breathe, the water they drink, the Earth they will inherit. Last year we put in place the toughest-ever controls on smog and soot. We moved to protect Yellowstone, the Everglades, Lake Tahoe. We expanded every community's right to know about the toxins that threaten their children. Just yesterday, our food safety plan took effect, using new science to protect consumers from dangers like *E. coli* and salmonella.

Tonight I ask you to join me in launching a new clean water initiative, a far-reaching effort to clean our rivers, our lakes, and our coastal waters for our children. [*Applause*] Thank you.

Our overriding environmental challenge tonight is the worldwide problem of climate change, global warming, the gathering crisis that requires worldwide action. The vast majority of scientists have concluded unequivocally that if we don't reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, at some point in the next century, we'll disrupt our climate and put our children and grandchildren at risk. This past December, America led the world to reach a historic agreement committing our Nation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through market forces, new technologies, energy efficiency. We have it in our power to act right here, right now. I propose $6 billion in tax cuts and research and development to encourage innovation, renewable energy, fuel-efficient cars, energy-efficient homes.

Every time we have acted to heal our environment, pessimists have told us it would hurt the economy. Well, today our economy is the strongest in a generation, and our environment is the cleanest in a generation. We have always found a way to clean the environment and grow the economy at the same time. And when it comes to global warming, we'll do it again.

Finally, community means living by the defining American value, the ideal heard 'round the world that we are all created equal. Throughout our history, we haven't always honored that ideal and we've never fully lived up to it. Often it's easier to believe that our differences matter more than what we have in common. It may be easier, but it's wrong.

What we have to do in our day and generation to make sure that America becomes truly one nation—what do we have to do? We're becoming more and more and more diverse. Do you believe we can become one nation? The answer cannot be to dwell on our differences but to build on our shared values. We all cherish family and faith, freedom and responsibility. We all want our children to grow up in a world where their talents are matched by their opportunities.

I've launched this national initiative on race to help us recognize our common interests and to bridge the opportunity gaps that

are keeping us from becoming one America. Let us begin by recognizing what we still must overcome. Discrimination against any American is un-American. We must vigorously enforce the laws that make it illegal. I ask your help to end the backlog at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Sixty thousand of our fellow citizens are waiting in line for justice, and we should act now to end their wait.

We also should recognize that the greatest progress we can make toward building one America lies in the progress we make for all Americans, without regard to race. When we open the doors of college to all Americans, when we rid all our streets of crime, when there are jobs available to people from all our neighborhoods, when we make sure all parents have the child care they need, we're helping to build one nation.

We, in this Chamber and in this Government, must do all we can to address the continuing American challenge to build one America. But we'll only move forward if all our fellow citizens, including every one of you at home watching tonight, is also committed to this cause. We must work together, learn together, live together, serve together. On the forge of common enterprise, Americans of all backgrounds can hammer out a common identity. We see it today in the United States military, in the Peace Corps, in AmeriCorps. Wherever people of all races and backgrounds come together in a shared endeavor and get a fair chance, we do just fine. With shared values and meaningful opportunities and honest communication and citizen service, we can unite a diverse people in freedom and mutual respect. We are many; we must be one.

In that spirit, let us lift our eyes to the new millennium. How will we mark that passage? It just happens once every 1,000 years. This year Hillary and I launched the White House Millennium Program to promote America's creativity and innovation, and to preserve our heritage and culture into the 21st century. Our culture lives in every community, and every community has places of historic value that tell our stories as Americans. We should protect them. I am proposing a public-private partnership to advance our arts and humanities and to celebrate the millennium by saving American's treasures, great and small.

And while we honor the past, let us imagine the future. Now, think about this: The entire store of human knowledge now doubles every 5 years. In the 1980's, scientists identified the gene causing cystic fibrosis; it took 9 years. Last year scientists located the gene that causes Parkinson's Disease—in only 9 days. Within a decade, ''gene chips'' will offer a roadmap for prevention of illnesses throughout a lifetime. Soon we'll be able to carry all the phone calls on Mother's Day on a single strand of fiber the width of a human hair. A child born in 1998 may well live to see the 22d century.

Tonight, as part of our gift to the millennium, I propose a 21st century research fund for path-breaking scientific inquiry, the largest funding increase in history for the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the National Cancer Institute. We have already discovered genes for breast cancer and diabetes. I ask you to support this initiative so ours will be the generation that finally wins the war against cancer and begins a revolution in our fight against all deadly diseases.

As important as all this scientific progress is, we must continue to see that science serves humanity, not the other way around. We must prevent the misuse of genetic tests to discriminate against any American. And we must ratify the ethical consensus of the scientific and religious communities and ban the cloning of human beings.

We should enable all the world's people to explore the far reaches of cyberspace. Think of this: The first time I made a State of the Union speech to you, only a handful of physicists used the World Wide Web—literally, just a handful of people. Now, in schools, in libraries, homes, and businesses, millions and millions of Americans surf the Net every day. We must give parents the tools they need to help protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet, but we also must make sure that we protect the exploding global commercial potential of the Internet. We can do the kinds of things that we need to do and still protect our kids.

For one thing, I ask Congress to step up support for building the next-generation Internet. It's getting kind of clogged, you know, and the next-generation Internet will operate at speeds up to 1,000 times faster than today.

Even as we explore this inner space in the new millennium, we're going to open new frontiers in outer space. Throughout all history, humankind has had only one place to call home, our planet, Earth. Beginning this year, 1998, men and women from 16 countries will build a foothold in the heavens, the international space station. With its vast expanses, scientists and engineers will actually set sail on an uncharted sea of limitless mystery and unlimited potential.

And this October, a true American hero, a veteran pilot of 149 combat missions and one 5-hour space flight that changed the world, will return to the heavens. Godspeed, John Glenn. [*Applause*] John, you will carry with you America's hopes. And on your uniform, once again, you will carry America's flag, marking the unbroken connection between the deeds of America's past and the daring of America's future.

Nearly 200 years ago, a tattered flag, its broad stripes and bright stars still gleaming through the smoke of a fierce battle, moved Francis Scott Key to scribble a few words on the back of an envelope, the words that became our national anthem. Today, that Star-Spangled Banner, along with the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, are on display just a short walk from here. They are America's treasures, and we must also save them for the ages.

I ask all Americans to support our project to restore all our treasures so that the generations of the 21st century can see for themselves the images and the words that are the old and continuing glory of America; an America that has continued to rise through every age, against every challenge, a people of great works and greater possibilities, who have always, always found the wisdom and strength to come together as one nation—to widen the circle of opportunity, to deepen the meaning of our freedom, to form that more perfect Union. Let that be our gift to the 21st century.

God bless you, and God bless the United States.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:12 p.m. in the House Chamber of the Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to former Senator Bob Dole and his wife, Elizabeth; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Message to the Congress Reporting on Terrorists Who Threaten the Middle East Peace Process

January 27, 1998

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby report to the Congress on the developments concerning the national emergency with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that was declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995. This report is submitted pursuant to section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c).

1. On January 23, 1995, I signed Executive Order 12947, "Prohibiting Transactions with Terrorists Who Threaten to Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process" (the "Order") (60 *Fed. Reg.* 5079, January 25, 1995). The Order blocks all property subject to U.S. jurisdiction in which there is any interest of 12 terrorist organizations that threaten the Middle East peace process as identified in an Annex to the Order. The Order also blocks the property and interests in property subject to U.S. jurisdiction of persons designated by the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, who are found (1) to have committed, or to pose a significant risk of committing, acts of violence that have the purpose or effect of disrupting the Middle East peace process, or (2) to assist in, sponsor, or provide financial, material, or technological support for, or services in support of, such acts of violence. In addition, the Order blocks all property and interests in property subject to U.S. jurisdiction in which there is any interest of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, to

be owned or controlled by, or to act for or on behalf of, any other person designated pursuant to the Order (collectively ''Specially Designated Terrorists'' or ''SDTs'').

The Order further prohibits any transaction or dealing by a United States person or within the United States in property or interests in property of SDTs, including the making or receiving of any contribution of funds, goods, or services to or for the benefit of such persons. This prohibition includes donations that are intended to relieve human suffering.

Designations of persons blocked pursuant to the Order are effective upon the date of determination by the Secretary of State or her delegate, or the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) acting under authority delegated by the Secretary of the Treasury. Public notice of blocking is effective upon the date of filing with the *Federal Register*, or upon prior actual notice.

Because terrorist activities continue to threaten the Middle East peace process and vital interests of the United States in the Middle East, on January 21, 1998, I continued for another year the national emergency declared on January 23, 1995, and the measures that took effect on January 24, 1995, to deal with that emergency. This action was taken in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)).

2. On January 25, 1995, the Department of the Treasury issued a notice listing persons blocked pursuant to Executive Order 12947 who have been designated by the President as terrorist organizations threatening the Middle East peace process or who have been found to be owned or controlled by, or to be acting for or on behalf of, these terrorist organizations (60 *Fed. Reg.* 5084, January 25, 1995). The notice identified 31 entities that act for or on behalf of the 12 Middle East terrorist organizations listed in the Annex to Executive Order 12947, as well as 18 individuals who are leaders or representatives of these groups. In addition, the notice provided 9 name variations or pseudonyms used by the 18 individuals identified. The list identifies blocked persons who have been found to have committed, or to pose a significant risk of committing, acts of violence that have the purpose or effect of disrupting the Middle East peace process or to have assisted in, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or services in support of, such acts of violence, or are owned or controlled by, or act for or on behalf of other blocked persons. The Department of the Treasury issued three additional notices adding the names of three individuals, as well as their pseudonyms, to the List of SDTs (60 *Fed. Reg.* 41152, August 11, 1995; 60 *Fed. Reg.* 44932, August 29, 1995; and 60 *Fed. Reg.* 58435, November 27, 1995).

3. On February 2, 1996, OFAC issued the Terrorism Sanctions Regulations (the ''TSRs'' or the ''Regulations'') (61 *Fed. Reg.* 3805, February 2, 1996). The TSRs implement the President's declaration of a national emergency and imposition of sanctions against certain persons whose acts of violence have the purpose or effect of disrupting the Middle East peace process. There has been one amendment to the TSRs, 31 C.F.R. Part 595 administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, since my report of August 5, 1997. The Regulations were amended on August 25, 1997. General reporting, recordkeeping, licensing, and other procedural regulations were moved from the Regulations to a separate part (31 C.F.R. Part 501) dealing solely with such procedural matters (62 *Fed. Reg.* 45098, August 25, 1997). A copy of the amendment is attached.

4. Since January 25, 1995, OFAC has issued three licenses pursuant to the Regulations. These licenses authorize payment of legal expenses of individuals and the disbursement of funds for normal expenditures for the maintenance of family members of individuals designated pursuant to Executive Order 12947, and for secure storage of tangible assets of Specially Designated Terrorists.

5. The expenses incurred by the Federal Government in the 6-month period from July 22, 1997, through January 22, 1998, that are directly attributable to the exercise of powers and authorities conferred by the declaration of the national emergency with respect to organizations that disrupt the Middle East peace process are estimated at approximately

$165,000. These data do not reflect certain costs of operations by the intelligence and law enforcement communities.

6. Executive Order 12947 provides this Administration with a tool for combating fundraising in this country on behalf of organizations that use terror to undermine the Middle East peace process. The Order makes it harder for such groups to finance these criminal activities by cutting off their access to sources of support in the United States and to U.S. financial facilities. It is also intended to reach charitable contributions to designated organizations and individuals to preclude diversion of such donations to terrorist activities.

Executive Order 12947 demonstrates the United States determination to confront and combat those who would seek to destroy the Middle East peace process, and our commitment to the global fight against terrorism. I shall continue to exercise the powers at my disposal to apply economic sanctions against extremists seeking to destroy the hopes of peaceful coexistence between Arabs and Israelis as long as these measures are appropriate, and will continue to report periodically to the Congress on significant developments pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c).

William J. Clinton

The White House,
January 27, 1998.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 28.

Remarks at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

January 28, 1998

The President. Thank you very much. Well, I was just sitting here thinking two things. First, when the Vice President got really warmed up—[*laughter*]—I thought to myself, first, it will become slightly obvious to this audience that he and I come from a little further south in the United States. [*Laughter*] And then I was thinking, when he really got going, I wish I had people walking the aisles passing the plate. It was amazing. [*Laughter*]

Anyway, the second thing I thought in the midst of this wonderful event was that I wish that I could take the Pep Band with me for the next month or two wherever I go. [*Applause*] Thank you.

Audience members. We love you, Bill!

The President. Thank you. I want to say to Chancellor Aiken and President Stukel and Mayor McCollum, Mayor Satterthwaite, Congressman Ewing, Senator Durbin and Senator Moseley-Braun, Secretary Riley, and Mr. Vice President, I am delighted to be here. I have spent a lot of time in Illinois in the last 7 years, and this State has been very good to me in many ways. The Vice President has been here a lot, and Hillary came and got a honorary degree and was able to speak here. And I have heard from also our families, friends what a wonderful place this is. I don't know how, with all my roaming across America, I have never lit down here before, but I'm sure glad I got here today. And I thank you for making me feel so welcome.

If you heard the State of the Union last night or just listened to the Vice President here today you know that—you know there's a reason we're here, because you represent, both all of you individually and this great institution, what we're trying to build for the future of America. Last night I talked about all the changes that have occurred just in the last few years. We've had one foot in the 21st century for quite some time. The generation living today has lived through more changes in more different areas in a shorter time than virtually any generation in the history of this country.

And when the Vice President and I took office, we were committed to trying to make America work again, to try to fix the things that just weren't working for ordinary people, and then to free us up to sort of imagine the future and take the steps that were necessary to get us to the future we want to build. That's really what I talked about last night: How can we strengthen this country for the 21st century; what do we have to do?

Now, I don't want to go over everything that was said, and besides that, I can't do as well as the Vice President. He must have gotten 30 more minutes sleep than I did last night. [*Laughter*] He was terrific. But I want

to talk to you about just two or three things that I think we should be thinking about for tomorrow.

Let me begin with a bit of history, and your chancellor mentioned it earlier, or the president did. Shortly before—shortly after Abraham Lincoln was elected President, Congressman Justin Morrill, from Vermont, asked his colleagues to help him create a system of land grant colleges. It was in the middle of the Civil War, and frankly, most of them thought he was nuts. You know, people were worried about the survival of the Union. But Abraham Lincoln was always worrying about other things, even in the middle of the Civil War.

At night, when I work in the White House, I go to an office that I've had restored to the way it was in the mid-1800's. And I remember that that room was Abraham Lincoln's waiting room during the Civil War. And all during the Civil War, at certain appointed hours, he kept a time apart to meet with ordinary citizens. If you wanted a job in a post office in Baltimore in 1862, if you came at the appointed day, at the appointed hour, you could walk up to the room that I go into every night and sit there, and Abraham Lincoln would see you—the President would see you and listen to you tell why you wanted a post office job. And when he was asked why he did this, he said, "I have to remember that people are concerned about other things, and I want this war to be over so all of us can go back to thinking about things like that."

So he always thought about what life would be like when the war was over. And he was open to this. In 1862, Morrill's bill passed, and President Lincoln signed it into law. It became one of the wisest investments our Nation ever made, and the University of Illinois, here, was one of the original land grant colleges under that Morrill Act.

It's played a dramatic role in helping to shape our Nation. You heard and you were cheering about all the Nobel Prize winners and all that. The Vice President pointed out that it was here that the transistor was invented; Jack Kilby, class of '47, co-invented the microchip. NCSA, headed by Larry Smarr, launched a billion-dollar browser industry. Illinois and other land grant colleges have literally led our way into the information age.

And it all stemmed from something somebody did in 1862 that no one could have imagined would one day have led to all you see around you. I think Lincoln would have liked the Pep Band. [*Laughter*] But he could not have imagined it.

So that's what we've been trying to do. And you heard the Vice President say that basically our view was—the first thing we had to do was we had to get rid of the deficit, but we had to do it in a way that would enable us to invest in our future. We had to shrink the Government, but we had to do it in a way that would allow us to be more active in the areas that were important to our future, that would help to bring us together and widen the circle of opportunity. And the strategy is working.

Now, as you look ahead, I'd just like to mention three things today that I think the University can have a major impact on, two directly and one indirectly. First, we should look to the millennium to try to speed the pace of scientific and technological advances in ways that benefit all of us. So I proposed last night a huge increase in medical research, an increase in the National Science Foundation, a doubling of the National Cancer Institute, because I believe we have enormous opportunities there, and you should be a part of that.

I think it is highly likely that many of you who will be having children in the next 3 or 4 years will have children that will live into the 22d century because of the work that will be done in places like the University of Illinois.

The second thing that I think we should think about is we should reaffirm our commitment to the exploration of outer space. I talked a little about the international space station last night and about Senator John Glenn at 77 years old going back into space. It's so thrilling, and I know all of you are happy about that. But we are learning a lot from our work in space about how our bodies work here on Earth and about how our environment works here on Earth and how it might be better preserved. And so I ask all of you to continue to support the work we're doing there.

And finally, I'd ask you to support, as the Vice President said, this next-generation Internet. I mean, can you really believe that only 5 years ago there were just 50 Web pages on the Internet; that the Internet was the private preserve of physicists 5 years ago, and now most 8-year-olds know more about it than their parents? [*Laughter*] I mean, that gives you some sense of the speed of change.

So we're trying to develop the next-generation Internet, and Larry Smarr is helping us, and if it works, it will work about 1,000 times faster than the present one does. I don't know how we can absorb any more speed in information, but we have to be able to. We have to maintain public support across party lines and regional lines and age lines and race lines and all kinds of lines for investments in the future. We always have to be trying to shape the future, and we need your help to do that.

Now, the second thing that I want to emphasize is that I want all of you to support the proposition that we have to make, in the years ahead, a college education as universal as a high school education is today. Now, why do I say that? Already it is perfectly clear from looking at all the census figures that any young person who has at least 2 years of college or more is highly likely to get a job with growing income prospects and high stability and the prospect of positive change in the future. Now, a young person with less than 2 years of college is highly likely to be in a job where income increases don't keep up with inflation, subject to changes which may be unstable and not positive.

We have to create a network of lifetime learning. We have to, first of all, make our elementary and secondary education as excellent as our higher education is today so more people will be prepared to go to college. But then we literally—we've got to make sure that college is open to all.

Now, as the Congressman said, 1997 was the best year for education in a generation, and I believe, clearly, the best year since the GI bill was passed. If you listen to all the things that were done—and I'll just litanize them for you—I think you can make a compelling case that the doors of college have been opened to everybody who will work for it. Now, listen to this: 220,000 new Pell grant scholarships and the maximum amount increased; 300,000 new work-study positions; 50,000 AmeriCorps slots for people who do community service work and earn money to go to college. As Senator Moseley-Braun said, she cosponsored the bill to make interest on student loans tax deductible again; there are IRA's now that you can invest in and then withdraw from tax-free if the money is used for education. The first 2 years of college, virtually all Americans are eligible for a $1,500 tax cut to pay for tuition in the first 2 years of college, the HOPE scholarship; and then another tax credit for the 3d and 4th years of college, for graduate school, and for further job training—a lifetime learning credit.

Now, this is an amazing thing. But what I want to say to you is, all of you who are here, I came here to ask, as a great university, in whatever service groups you're in, in whatever family or neighborhood or church networks you have, you need to get this message out to people who are coming on behind you. We need every child in this country to know that if he or she works hard and learns what they're supposed to learn, they can all go to college now. And we need them there for our future in the 21st century.

Now, the last thing I want to ask your help on in the coming year, because we're going to have a big dialog about it, is something that all of you students probably never think about, and that is Social Security and your retirement. I don't know about you, but when I was your age I never thought about it. [*Laughter*] I thought I would live forever, always young. And what Senator Moseley-Braun said is true: The older you get, the faster time goes.

I never will forget, once a few years ago I saw a man who was 76 years old at an airport, meeting his brother, getting ready to go to his sister's funeral. And I said, "What are you thinking about?" And he said, "Oh, I'm thinking about when we were 5 years old, how we used to play together." He said, "You know, Bill, it doesn't take long to live a life." I say that to say that even the young must care for the future, even the young must think about their obligations to generations yet unborn; that America must work as

a seamless web of community, always doing what is best for today and tomorrow.

Now, what's that got to do with Social Security? There are polls that say that young people in their twenties think it's more likely that they will see UFO's than that they will ever collect Social Security. [*Laughter*] And all of you know that the Social Security system is supposed to be in trouble. Now, what does that mean? It is not in trouble today; nobody today has got any problems drawing their money. In fact, today we collect more money in Social Security taxes every year, quite a bit more, than we pay out.

The problem is that when the baby boomers retire—starting with me, I'm the oldest of the baby boomers—people my age and down about 18 years younger, we are the largest group of Americans that have ever lived, except the group that started first grade last year—second grade, or third grade, whatever it is, something in grade school—because we've got more children in schools now, public schools, than we had during the baby boom generation for the first time. But we're going to have 18, 20, 25 years where there will be a huge number of people on Social Security in their retirement years, compared to the people who are paying in. That is the issue.

Now, the question is, what is the best way to prepare for the retirement of the baby boomers in ways that do not either rob those people who need it of their secure retirement or impose intolerable burdens on our children, who, in turn, will be burdened in raising our grandchildren?

I don't know anybody in my generation who believes that we ought to just take it out on you and put our feet up when we turn 65 and turn away from the obligations we have to contribute to the further growth and vitality of people who are younger than we are. So the question is, what is the fairest way to change this? What's best for people who are on Social Security now? What's best for the baby boomers? What's best for young people in their twenties and thirties just starting to pay into the system? What's best for the kids that are in high school now who haven't even started?

We're going to spend a year having forums all across the country, completely nonpartisan, trying to bring people in and debate it. And then about a year from now, I'm going to convene the leaders of Congress, and we're going to try to craft historic, bipartisan legislation to reform Social Security, to save it for the 21st century, to make sure it's there not just for the baby boomers but for everybody in this audience and all your children, too, so we'll have a system that works, so that people who work hard and do their part will know they'll have elemental retirement security and that we can do it without bankrupting the country. I think we can do it. I know we can do it. But it's going to take your good-faith involvement—people of all ages.

And since what we do may affect how you proceed throughout your entire worklife, we've got to have people involved in their twenties, in their thirties. The young people of this country have got to be involved in this debate. It will affect you as much as anybody else.

But if we do it, it will be just sort of like balancing the budget. You know how people said, "Oh, you'll never get that budget balanced. You'll never do that. That's just something politicians talk about. It is a huge thing to do." Why? We spend less money on debt; we invest more money in our future; we have a stronger economy. The same thing will be true of Social Security. Once we make the adjustments necessary to fix it, the increase in confidence, the increase in savings, the increase in belief in the future of this country as we go forward together will be absolutely astonishing. And we need you to be a part of it.

The last thing I want to ask about—the Vice President touched this briefly, and he knows more about it than I do—but we need young people in this country, particularly young people in our university system, to convince the rest of America that we must and we can address the challenge of climate change and global warming.

Now, I can tell you, I have been working on the economics of energy efficiencies for over 20 years now in various guises. I am convinced that the technology is out there right now to do what we need to do to do our part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in factories, in power generation systems, in

homes and office buildings. And we're getting very, very close in automobiles. We can get there.

But listen, this is your future; this is your life; this is the world your children and your grandchildren will have to live in, in the 21st century. This is crazy for us not to do this. We do not have to take the economy down; we will lift the economy up. And you have to take the lead in helping us meet this challenge.

Scientific research, universal access to university education, reforming Social Security for the 21st century, dealing with the challenge of climate change: those are just four of the things that are out there. Keep your eyes on the future. Believe in this country. Believe in yourself. Reach out across the lines that divide us. Do not let people—do not ever let people who are divisive or pessimistic convince you that there is anything this country can't do. I can look at you and tell you that this country can do anything we put our minds to.

Thank you, and God bless you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:33 a.m. in Assembly Hall at the University of Illinois. In his remarks, he referred to Michael Aiken, chancellor, and James Stukel, president, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana; Mayor Dannel McCollum of Champaign; Mayor Tod Satterthwaite of Urbana; and Larry Smarr, director, National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA).

Remarks to an Overflow Crowd at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana

January 28, 1998

The President. Thank you very much. Thank you. Let me, first of all——

Audience member. [*Inaudible*]

The President. [*Laughter*] Thank you. Let me ask you a question. Did you see the event in the other place? [*Applause*] One fellow over here said, "Yeah, you don't have to say anything again. It was great." [*Laughter*] Well, I want to thank Secretary Riley and thank the Vice President, but mostly, let me tell you we are overwhelmed at the crowd that has come out today. Here—5,000 people here. There's another 3,500 people in another room. I'm overwhelmed, and I thank you very much.

Look, here's the bottom line. Here's the bottom line. For 5 years we have worked basically on two things: First of all, we tried to get the country in shape, in good shape, so that it just works in a good way for people; and secondly, we tried to get the American people to imagine the future, to think about the 21st century, to think about what kind of country we want this to be and how we're going to build it. Now that we have the lowest unemployment in 24 years, the lowest inflation in 30 years, the highest homeownership ever, record drops in welfare, 5 years of dropping crime, things are pretty well in shape; we need to be thinking about the future. And that's what I tried to talk about last night.

We need a future in which all these areas that have been left behind in the economic recovery have a chance to educate their children well, to have their kids on safe streets, to have jobs in places that have never been there. We need a future like that. And we need a future that you can help us with—younger people especially can help us with, a future where we understand that our future is tied to the rest of the world, that we have to work in cooperation with other countries and it doesn't make us weaker, it makes us stronger when we reach out a hand of friendship to Africa, to Latin America, to Asia, to all these other countries and we work together to go forward. We have to understand that.

We need a future in which we understand—we believe that America can lead the world in growing an economy and not only saving but actually improving our natural environment. We can cure this problem of global warming and grow the economy. Young people believe that. America has to believe that. And you have to make it happen.

And finally, we need a future in which we really believe that education is for everyone. We have worked so hard—you heard us talking about it in the other room—we worked so hard to make it possible for every young person in this country to go on to college. And you have to tell people who are coming along behind you, "You can do it. Don't be discouraged." That little baby in your arms

can go to college. Every baby in this country I want to be able to go to college.

We have to figure out a way when the Vice President and I—when our generation retires, the so-called baby boomers, we provide for a system that preserves our retirement, guarantees it for the 20 and 30-year-olds today, and doesn't bankrupt you. We can do that, if you'll help us do it, next year.

And the last thing I want to say is this, and in some ways this may be more important than anything else. America—look at this crowd here today. Look at you. Look at each other. Now, we've got people who are young and not so young. [*Laughter*] We have people who are in wheelchairs and people who may play varsity athletics. We have people from every conceivable racial and ethnic group here in what you used to think of as homogeneous Champaign-Urbana. Why is that? Because America is changing. We're becoming more and more and more diverse.

Now, a lot of the time that Al Gore and I spend working for you, we're out there worrying about these ethnic problems in Bosnia, or religious and ethnic differences in the Middle East, or old hatreds in Ireland, or tribal warfare in Africa. And we still see examples of horrible discrimination from time to time in America. But you know, just look around this room. This is our meal ticket to the future, our diversity and sharing values, believing in each other, believing in the fundamental unity of human nature. That's our meal ticket to the future. You can make one America. And I want you to help us make one America for a new century.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:41 p.m. in Gymnasium 1 of the Intramural Physical Education Building.

Remarks to an Overflow Crowd at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana

January 28, 1998

Thank you. First of all, thank you for coming, and thank you for waiting. I'm sorry you had to wait so long. [*Applause*] Thank you.

I want to thank Secretary Riley and the Vice President, and I also want to thank your Congressman, Congressman Tom Ewing, for coming along with me. Let's give him a big hand. [*Applause*]

We have had an incredible day at the University of Illinois—an incredible day. You know, this is the third meeting we've been to. You had to sit through the other two, didn't you? Is that okay? [*Applause*]

This reminds me—I hate to give the same speech over, but once I went to a concert where Tina Turner sang—you all know who Tina Turner is—and at the end of the concert, after singing all her new songs, she started to sing her first hit, "Proud Mary." And the crowd started clapping, and she said, "I have been singing this song for 25 years, but it gets better every time I do it."

But I'm not going to give you the whole dose again. I want to just make two points very briefly. Number one, the Vice President and I and our administration, we've worked very hard these last 5 years to get America in good shape, to have this country work again for ordinary people. And I think you can see, from the condition of the economy and from the fact that we're making real progress on our social problems and from our work in the world at large, that we're making that kind of progress.

Now is the time we need to be thinking about what the 21st century will look like for all the young people here. And that means a commitment to education for everybody, all the way through college. It means a commitment to the idea that we can preserve and improve our environment while we grow the economy. It means a commitment to the idea that we can reform Social Security so that the big baby boom generation, that I'm the oldest member of, can retire without putting unfair burdens on those of you who are younger and your children.

And it means that we can find a way in our increasingly diverse country to come together, across all the lines that divide us, into one America, because in a global society, believe you me, a great democracy like ours that can accommodate people of every race, every background, every religion, and still be bound together by shared values is the most blessed place on Earth.

Our best days are ahead of us as a nation. And we are here today to ask you to stand

with us in that fight, to imagine that kind of future and to be a part of it. And I am very grateful to you for coming out.

Thank you, and God bless you. I want to go shake hands. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:04 p.m. in Gymnasium 2 of the Intramural Physical Education Building.

Remarks in La Crosse, Wisconsin

January 28, 1998

Thank you so much. Thank you for the warm welcome—the ''warm'' welcome. [*Laughter*] Thank you for being here in great numbers and with great enthusiasm. Thank you for sending Ron Kind to Congress. He's a fine man, and he represents you well. Thank you, Attorney General Doyle. Thank you, Mayor Medinger. Thank you, Secretary Riley, for all you do. Thank you, Mr. Vice President, for getting our blood running—[*laughter*]—and for your magnificent leadership. And thank you, Lee and Ruth Mathison, for reminding us what's best about the United States of America. Didn't they do a good job? Let's give them another hand. [*Applause*]

Were any of you here back in 1992, when the Vice President and I came on the bus? [*Applause*] I remember we had been on the road 18 hours. We got into the Days Inn about 2 o'clock. I could barely speak, and I was bone tired. But the people that were there for us on that night, giving us high fives, making us feel at home, make it a wonderful memory, and it feels good to be back in God's country tonight. And I thank you so much for being here.

The Vice President and I even got to speak on the Clinton Street Bridge. And I remember that.

You've heard everybody talk already about the blessings our country enjoys, and I am grateful for that. I'm grateful for the chance that I had last night to outline the state of the Union and to talk about the future. I'm grateful that we really have opened the doors of college education to all Americans for the first time. And I hope everybody here who is a young person knows that because of the tax cuts and the scholarships and the grants and the work-study program and the AmeriCorps program, you ought to go out and tell everybody they can go to college now, and they never have to worry about that again.

But I want to thank you for what you're doing here to make America work from the ground up, to make America work together to give our kids a better future. I can't mention all the local heroes behind me today, but I want to mention one, Jerry Freimark, who has worked with businesses and students to help students in rural areas gain the skills necessary for 21st century careers in banking and finance by learning over interactive TV.

You know, we forget sometimes that people in small towns and rural areas have the same right to the 21st century future everybody else does. And I want you to know that Al Gore and I will never forget that.

But tonight I don't want to talk about that. I want to talk very briefly about that future, because to me the most important thing we've done in the last 5 years is just to try to make America work again for ordinary people, so that we can be free to imagine the 21st century and we can be free to build it.

In 1962, President Kennedy said, ''The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining.'' And I couldn't say that any better tonight. I'm grateful that we have—almost have—a balanced budget. We're going to get one this year or next year. I'm proposing one for next year, and I think it will be balanced before the year is out.

Now, let's talk about what we're going to do. And I just want to mention two or three things. I want all of you to think about this and be involved in it. First of all, it's projected we're going to have a big surplus, cumulative, over the next 4 or 5 years; we haven't had one in 30 years. Naturally enough, people are thinking, well, let's cut taxes or let's spend the money, even though we've still got a debt we've piled up that's quite considerable. What I want to do is to say, before we spend any of that surplus, let's make sure that we have saved the Social Security system so we don't bankrupt our children when the baby boomers retire.

Now, this is a place of community. I can look around—here's a couple who have been married 51 years, still working, with kids. I

want to think about our intergenerational responsibilities. I saw a survey the other day that said young people in their twenties thought it was more likely that they would see UFO's than that they'd ever get to collect Social Security. [*Laughter*]

Now, here's what I have to say about that. I don't want to stop people from watching the ''X-Files.'' Go on and do that. [*Laughter*] But I hope you'll also next year participate in the discussions we're going to have all across America—nonpartisan, across party lines, across age lines—about the Social Security system and what we need to do to make sure that when the baby boomers—and I'm the oldest baby boomer at 51—when people my age and 18 years younger, when we retire—and there's so many of us that there will be more than ever before, more people retired compared to people working—how are we going to save the system in a way that doesn't put undue burdens on our children and, therefore, undue burdens on our children when they're raising their children? I think that's something we all want.

And let me tell you something. We can do it. It won't be too difficult. But we have to do it in a nonpolitical way, and we have to do it as friends and neighbors and family members. La Crosse can be the model for how we save Social Security for the 21st century, and I hope you'll support us in that.

The second thing I want to say is, we've got to save our education system for the 21st century. I could just feel it last night at the State of the Union. I was talking about all the things we had done to open the doors of college, and people were cheering all over America. They thought, ''Oh, my goodness, that's something I won't have to sweat.'' Why were we cheering? Why? Because we know we have the best system of higher education in the entire world. No one questions that. I want, in the 21st century, people to be able to say with the absolute same conviction, we have the best system of elementary and secondary education in the entire world.

The third thing I want you to think about is what we can do—and I talked a little about it last night—to bring more investment into the inner-city areas and into the small towns and rural areas that have been left behind in this recovery. You know as well as I do, we still have a lot of people leaving the farm. The average farmer in America is 59 years old today.

Now, I don't have all the answers, but I come from a rural State that had tough inner-city areas. And I'm proud of the fact that we've got the lowest unemployment rate in 24 years, and I'm glad we've got the highest percentage of people in the work force in history. But you know and I know that there are still people who are working hard and don't have enough to live on, and there are still people who would like to work who don't have jobs. And you know and I know that the prosperity we have seen has still not swept into every neighborhood in America.

So I ask you, let's find a way in the 21st century to make free enterprise reach every rural community and every inner-city neighborhood. We can do it if we'll do it together.

The next thing I'd like to mention that I think is very important, and the Vice President talked about it a little bit, is the environment. We have a lot of environmental challenges. I'm very proud of the fact that, compared to 5 years ago, the air is cleaner; the water is cleaner; we have fewer toxic waste dumps; our food supply is safer. I am proud of that. But we do have—the Secretary made that joke about El Niño, and I loved it because I was shaking up here, too, but the truth is that the scientific opinion in the world is virtually unanimous that the climate of the Earth is warming at an unsustainable pace—even on this cold night. And we know that just small changes in temperature can affect great changes in the surface of the Earth and the way we live.

We know what's mainly causing it: It's greenhouse gases, the stuff we put out in the air from powerplants, from homes, from factories, from farms, from cars, from trucks—you name it. We also know that without a lot of effort, if we really put our mind to it, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and grow the economy.

Now, every time we have faced a new environmental challenge, pessimists have said, ''Oh, goodness, if we do that, maybe we can clean the environment, but it will shut our economy down.'' It has never happened. We have the cleanest environment in history and

the strongest economy we've ever had. And I want you to make a commitment here that places like the University of Wisconsin can figure out how to find the technological ways to have the efficient cars, the efficient trucks, the efficient homes, the efficient office buildings, the efficient factories, the efficient electricity generators to make sure we save this planet for our grandchildren and their grandchildren. We can do that in the 21st century.

Finally, I want us to really tap the full measure of the scientific and technological potential of this country. Ron Kind said he hoped that his child and the child he's about to have might be two of those that I talked about last night when I said children born in the next couple of years might well live to see the 22d century. That is literally true. We have proposed, the Vice President and I and our administration, to create a research fund for the 21st century to make an unprecedented effort in the National Institute of Health, the National Cancer Institute, the National Science Foundation. I hope you will support that.

I hope you will support something that may seem a long way from La Crosse. I hope you will support our mission in space and the international space station. Why? Because when John Glenn, at 77 years old, goes up into space, we're going to learn something about how people's bodies work down here on Earth. A lot of our space research is helping us not only to find out what's in the heavens and to protect ourselves in the future but also to find out what's going on here on Earth, how to preserve our environment, how to improve our health. It may seem a long way from La Crosse, but we have learned that we dare not turn away from the frontiers of knowledge. We need to embrace them and make them work for the good of humanity, and we can do it, and I hope you will support that.

The last thing that I want you to think about for the 21st century is how we can make all of America work the way these local community heroes work in their communities. How can we reach across the lines that divide us?

I know that in La Crosse you had a conference on race last month, with the leadership of Thai Vue and June Kjome and Roy Heath and other citizen heroes that are here today. I want to thank them for that. And I thank all of you who participated.

Let me say to you—I said last night to the American people, we are more interdependent on each other and on the rest of the world than ever before. I mean, whether we like it or not, a third of our economic growth that we all celebrate came because we're selling things to people around the world. We represent 4 percent of the world's population and, thanks to our hard work and God's good fortune to us, we have about 20 percent of the world's wealth. So we have to work with others around the world.

And when you do business with people, you also have to be good partners, good neighbors, good friends. You have to care about them, and you have to get them to kind of reach out of their own prejudices and problems. I spent a lot of time working on getting people to stop behaving like fools, frankly, and hating each other because they have different races or different ethnic backgrounds or different religious backgrounds, whether it's in Bosnia or Northern Ireland or the Middle East or in Africa—around the world, the whole world is tormented by that. Now, here in America, we're becoming more and more and more diverse. And if we can prove to the world that we can live together, work together, learn together, and serve in our communities together, you can bet your bottom dollar we'll get along together. And America will still be the shining light of freedom and hope in the world well into the 21st century. And that's what we have to do.

I thank you again for having us here, for waiting in the cold—or the warm—[*laughter*]—and I don't know how many of you were at the Packers' welcome home party, but I thank them for showing up. [*Laughter*] Hang in there. There's always next year.

I will never forget looking out on this sea of people tonight, this beautiful old restored street, all the American flags, reading the stories of the American heroes. This is the best of America. This is the best of our past and the hope of our future. And together, we can make America's best days ahead.

Thank you, and God bless you all. Thank you.

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.

The provisions in this Treaty follow generally the form and content of extradition treaties recently concluded by the United States.

This Treaty will, upon entry into force, enhance cooperation between the law enforcement communities of both countries, and thereby make a significant contribution to international law enforcement efforts. It is the first extradition treaty between the two countries.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
January 28, 1998.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Latvia-United States Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters 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 Treaty Between the United States of America and the Republic of Latvia on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Washington on June 13, 1997. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, an exchange of notes that was signed the same date as the Treaty and that provides for its provisional application, as well as 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. 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 of testimony or statements of persons; providing documents, records, and articles of evidence; serving documents; locating or identifying persons; transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; executing requests for searches and seizures; assisting in proceedings related to restraint, confiscation, forfeiture of assets, restitution, and collection of fines; and 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 give its advice and consent to ratification.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
January 28, 1998.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Kazakhstan-United States Agreement on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and Documentation

January 28, 1998

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)), the text of a proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Republic of Kazakhstan Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, with accompanying annex and agreed minute. I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the agreement, and the memorandum of the Director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency with the Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement concerning the agreement. The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy, which includes a summary of the provisions of the agreement and various other attachments, including agency views, is also enclosed.

The proposed agreement with the Republic of Kazakhstan has been negotiated in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 and as otherwise amended. In my judgment, the proposed agreement meets all statutory requirements and will advance the nonproliferation and

other foreign policy interests of the United States. The agreement provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation between the United States and Kazakhstan under appropriate conditions and controls reflecting our common commitment to nuclear nonproliferation goals.

Kazakhstan is a nonnuclear weapons state party to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the Republic of Kazakhstan agreed to the removal of all nuclear weapons from its territory. It has a full-scope safeguards agreement in force with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to implement its safeguards obligations under the NPT. It has enacted national legislation to control the use and export of nuclear and dual-use materials and technology.

The proposed agreement with the Republic of Kazakhstan permits the transfer of technology, material, equipment (including reactors), and components for nuclear research and nuclear power production. It provides for U.S. consent rights to retransfer, enrichment, and reprocessing as required by U.S. law. It does not permit transfers of any sensitive nuclear technology, restricted data, or sensitive nuclear facilities or major critical components thereof. In the event of termination, key conditions and controls continue with respect to material and equipment subject to the agreement.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested agencies in reviewing the proposed agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the agreement and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

Because this agreement meets all applicable requirements of the Atomic Energy Act, as amended, for agreements for peaceful nuclear cooperation, I am transmitting it to the Congress without exempting it from any requirement contained in section 123 a. of that Act. This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act. The Administration is prepared to begin immediately the consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations and House International Relations Committees as provided in section 123 b. Upon completion of the 30-day continuous session period provided for in section 123 b., the 60-day continuous session provided for in section 123 d. shall commence.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
January 28, 1998.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Switzerland-United States Agreement on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and Documentation

January 28, 1998

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)), the text of a proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Swiss Federal Council Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, with accompanying agreed minute, annexes, and other attachments. I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the agreement, and the memorandum of the Director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency with the Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement concerning the agreement. The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy, which includes a summary of the provisions of the agreement and other attachments, including the views of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, is also enclosed.

The proposed new agreement with Switzerland has been negotiated in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 (NNPA) and as otherwise amended. It replaces an earlier agreement with Switzerland signed December 30, 1965, which expired by its terms August 8, 1996. The proposed new agreement will provide an updated, comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation between the

United States and Switzerland, will facilitate such cooperation, and will establish strengthened nonproliferation conditions and controls including all those required by the NNPA. The new agreement provides for the transfer of moderator material, nuclear material, and equipment for both nuclear research and nuclear power purposes. It does not provide for transfers under the agreement of any sensitive nuclear technology (SNT). (U.S. law permits SNT to be transferred outside the coverage of an agreement for cooperation provided that certain other conditions are satisfied. However, the Administration has no plans to transfer SNT to Switzerland outside the agreement.)

The proposed agreement has an initial term of 30 years, and will continue in force indefinitely thereafter in increments of 5 years each until terminated in accordance with its provisions. In the event of termination, key nonproliferation conditions and controls, including guarantees of safeguards, peaceful use and adequate physical protection, and the U.S. right to approve retransfers to third parties, will remain effective with respect to transferred moderator materials, nuclear materials, and equipment, as well as nuclear material produced through their use. The agreement also establishes procedures for determining the survival of additional controls.

Switzerland has strong nonproliferation credentials. It is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and has an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the application of full-scope IAEA safeguards within its territory. In negotiating the proposed agreement, the United States and Switzerland took special care to elaborate a preamble setting forth in specific detail the broad commonality of our shared nonproliferation commitments and goals.

The proposed new agreement provides for very stringent controls over certain fuel cycle activities, including enrichment, reprocessing, and alteration in form or content and storage of plutonium and other sensitive nuclear materials. The United States and Switzerland have accepted these controls on a reciprocal basis, not as a sign of either Party's distrust of the other, and not for the purpose of interfering with each other's fuel cycle choices, which are for each Party to determine for itself, but rather as a reflection of our common conviction that the provisions in question represent an important norm for peaceful nuclear commerce.

In view of the strong commitment of Switzerland to the international nonproliferation regime, the comprehensive nonproliferation commitments that Switzerland has made, the advanced technological character of the Swiss civil nuclear program, the long history of U.S.-Swiss cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy without any risk of proliferation, and the long-standing close and harmonious political relationship between Switzerland and the United States, the proposed new agreement provides to Switzerland advance, long-term U.S. approval for retransfers to specified facilities in the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) of nuclear material subject to the agreement for reprocessing, alteration in form or content, and storage, and for the return to Switzerland of recovered nuclear materials, including plutonium, for use or storage at specified Swiss facilities. The proposed agreement also provides advance, long-term U.S. approval for retransfers from Switzerland of source material, uranium (other than high enriched uranium), moderator material, and equipment to a list of countries and groups of countries acceptable to the United States. Any advance, long-term approval may be suspended or terminated if it ceases to meet the criteria set out in U.S. law, including criteria relating to safeguards and physical protection.

In providing advance, long-term approval for certain nuclear fuel cycle activities, the proposed agreement has features similar to those in several other agreements for cooperation that the United States has entered into subsequent to enactment of the NNPA. These include U.S. agreements with Japan and EURATOM. Among the documents I am transmitting herewith to the Congress is an analysis of the advance, long-term approvals contained in the proposed U.S. agreement with Switzerland. The analysis concludes that the approvals meet all requirements of the Atomic Energy Act, as amended.

I believe that the proposed agreement for cooperation with Switzerland will make an important contribution to achieving our nonproliferation, trade, and other significant foreign policy goals.

In particular, I am convinced that this agreement will strengthen the international nuclear nonproliferation regime, support of which is a fundamental objective of U.S. national security and foreign policy, by setting a high standard for rigorous nonproliferation conditions and controls.

Because the agreement contains all the consent rights and guarantees required by current U.S. law, it represents a substantial upgrading of the U.S. controls in the recently-expired 1965 agreement with Switzerland.

I believe that the new agreement will also demonstrate the U.S. intention to be a reliable nuclear trading partner with Switzerland, and thus help ensure the continuation and, I hope, growth of U.S. civil nuclear exports to Switzerland.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested agencies in reviewing the proposed agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the agreement and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

Because this agreement meets all applicable requirements of the Atomic Energy Act, as amended, for agreements for peaceful nuclear cooperation, I am transmitting it to the Congress without exempting it from any requirement contained in section 123 a. of the Act. This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act. The Administration is prepared to begin immediately the consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations and House International Relations Committees as provided in section 123 b. Upon completion of the 30-day continuous session period provided for in section 123 b., the 60-day continuous session period provided for in section 123 d. shall commence.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
January 28, 1998.

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 29.

Videotaped Remarks on Id al-Fitr

January 29, 1998

On behalf of all Americans, I want to extend my personal greetings to the entire Muslim community in the United States and around the world as you celebrate the Id al-Fitr.

This week marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan. It's a time for rejoicing and celebration, a time of family and community. It is also a time for reflection and for recommitting ourselves to the values of tolerance, mutual respect, and understanding. In a world where many Muslims suffer the terrible consequences of war, poverty, and unrest, we must renew our efforts to resolve conflicts and remove the causes of strife.

The United States is determined to do all it can to bring a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace to the Middle East. As I told Chairman Arafat, Palestinians should be allowed to realize their aspirations to live as a free people, and Israelis should be able to live in security, recognized by all their neighbors. Our goal is to help the people of the region end this age-old conflict and to give their children the future of hope and promise they deserve.

Today our sympathies are with the people of Algeria and Afghanistan, who have endured too much suffering. And we pray that a time of healing will soon come for them. We are also deeply concerned by the hardships that afflict the people of Iraq, and we will continue working within the United Nations so that they receive the food and medicine they need.

To the people of Iran, I would like to say that the United States regrets the estrangement of our two nations. Iran is an important country with a rich and ancient cultural heritage of which Iranians are justifiably proud. We have real differences with some Iranian policies, but I believe these are not insurmountable. I hope that we have more exchanges between our peoples and that the day will soon come when we can enjoy once again good relations with Iran.

Let me say to the Muslims of South Asia, I look forward to visiting your region later this year and to deepening the bonds between the United States and the peoples of the subcontinent.

On this occasion, let us rekindle our commitment to the cause of peace among all the peoples of the Earth. If we are dedicated in our belief and constant in our labor, we can build a better future, one of cooperation, understanding, and compassion for ourselves and for generations to come.

As the new moon ushers in this holy celebration, let me say to all who follow the faith of Islam: *As-Salaamu alaykum*. May peace be with you, and may God grant you health and prosperity, now and in the years ahead.

NOTE: These remarks were videotaped at approximately 6 p.m. on January 23 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for later broadcast on the U.S. Information Agency Worldnet. They were released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 29.

Remarks at the National Defense University

January 29, 1998

Thank you very much. Thank you, General Shelton, for those kind remarks and for your little walk through memory lane about our association together. My most vivid memory of my association with General Shelton is when he walked out of the water and looked down at the Haitian dictator and said he thought he would have to go. And I thought to myself, we should have just sent him down there by himself. [*Laughter*] I thank you for your leadership.

Thank you, Secretary Cohen, for your remarks and for your extraordinary leadership of the Defense Department and for helping us to demonstrate every day that this is not a Democratic or a Republican effort, or a Democratic or Republican administration when it comes to the defense of this country and the welfare of the American people and our men and women in uniform.

To the members of the Joint Chiefs, the Commanders in Chief, General Chilcoat, the students of the National Defense University, faculty and others: I am delighted to be here, at a place where education, experience, and excellence make a common home. I'm especially pleased to be here with the members of the Joint Chiefs and our Commanders in Chief, whose 68 stars form a shining constellation of talent and achievement.

We have just had a wonderful meeting. And each of the Commanders in Chief has shared a few moments with me, and we've had a little conversation discussing the whole range of America's security interests, the whole range of the concerns of people who are managing the welfare of our men and women in uniform. And I must say that I couldn't help thinking, during the course of this meeting, I wish every person who wears the uniform of the United States could be watching this on closed-circuit television, because they'd have so much confidence in the leadership of our military.

And in a larger sense, I wish every American citizen could have seen it because they would feel so much more pride, even than they do now, in the way our military is led, the thinking about the future that is going on, the innovation that is going on, and the profound concern for the people who wear our Nation's uniform, as well as what I consider to be an enormous sensitivity to the increasing interdependence of our United States with other countries and the necessity of more creative, positive partnerships around the world. And I know we have people here from other nations in this audience today, and I welcome you here.

Twelve of the Commanders in Chief behind me are graduates of the National Defense University. They indicate the value of this university to the Nation. They also indicate that in the not too distant future, some of you out there will be sitting up here or will otherwise be helping to shape the future

of the United States. For that I am very grateful.

In my State of the Union Address, I talked about what we all have to do together to strengthen America for the 21st century. Today I wanted to meet with you, the future stewards of our national security, to talk about the foundation of our strength, our military and the essential role it will play in this era of challenge and change.

You all know that we live in a time of tremendous promise for our Nation in the world. Superpower conflict has ended. Democracy is on the march. Revolutions in technology and communications have literally brought a world of information to our doorstep. Americans are more secure and prosperous than ever. And we have a rare opportunity and a profound responsibility to build a new era of peace and cooperation in the world.

Even as we welcome this hopeful new moment, we all acknowledge, especially those of you who are here studying it, that the world is far from free of risk. Challenges persist, often in more complex guises, from the spread of weapons of mass destruction, to the menace of rogue states, to the persistence of religious, ethnic, and regional conflict. The openness and freedom of movement that we so cherish about this modern world actually make us more vulnerable to a host of threats, terrorists, drug cartels, international criminals, that have no respect for borders and can make very clever use of communications and technology.

In this new world, our global leadership is more important than ever. That doesn't mean we can go it alone or respond to every crisis. We have to be clear where our national interests are at stake. But more than ever, the world looks to America to get the job done. Our Nation is leading in building a new network of institutions and arrangements to harness the forces of change, while guarding against their dangers. We are helping to write the international rules of the road for the 21st century, protecting those who've joined the family of nations and isolating those who do not.

To advance this strategy, we have to preserve and strengthen the tools of our engagement of fully funded diplomacy backed by a strong and modern defense. Diplomacy and force are two sides of the same coin. Our diplomacy is effective precisely because it is backed by the finest military in the world. Nothing illustrates the scope of our interests or the purpose of our power better than our unified commands. No other nation in history has achieved a global force presence, not through intimidation, not through invasion but through invitation. That is an extraordinary thing. No other nation has acquired mastery of land, sea, sky, and space and used it to help advance world peace, instead of to pursue conquest.

The military commanders who share this stage and the forces they lead know their first mission must be always to be ready to fight and win our Nation's wars. But day-in and day-out around the world they are shaping an international environment, enhancing the security of America and the world so that peace can endure and prevail. In our own hemisphere, where elected civilian governments now reign, American leadership is spurring greater military cooperation than ever, promoting regional confidence, working together as peacekeepers, supporting law enforcement efforts against drugs. Through the defense ministerial of the Americas, with the assistance of the NDU, we are finding new ways to advance common goals, such as healthy civil-military relations and respect for human rights.

In Europe, our Armed Forces are reinforcing the foundations of an undivided democratic continent. They've helped new democracies to restructure their own defenses. They have participated in dozens of joint exercises with new partners. They stopped a brutal war in Bosnia, and they're helping to heal its scars.

During my meeting with the CINC's, I talked with General Clark, our Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, about our Bosnia mission. I am very proud of the men and women who are representing all of us in Bosnia. But perhaps even more important, they're pretty proud of themselves. They know that they have stopped the guns, enabled free elections, made it possible for refugees to come home, given the children of Bosnia the precious gift of peace.

Yes, the progress has been slower than we had hoped, but clearly, it is moving forward. If we walk away, it could backslide into war, costing the lives of more innocent people, jeopardizing Europe's stability. Last month I concluded that our troops should take part in a follow-on security presence when the SFOR mission leaves in June. Soon, NATO will finish its review of what forces are appropriate for the new mission. And this spring, I will submit funding requests to ensure that we can pay our share without undercutting our readiness. I'll be working closely with Congress to ensure approval of this important legislation.

The NATO-led efforts in Bosnia reflect our hope for Europe's future as former rivals work together for stability and peace. Soon, I'll ask the Senate to give its advice and consent to make Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic NATO's newest members. By enlarging the sphere of security in Europe, we can secure democracy's roots and help to prevent conflicts like Bosnia from happening again.

We're also working to strengthen democracy and peace in Africa by helping Africans to help themselves. Through the Africa Crisis Response Initiative, we're helping African militaries to improve their peacekeeping capabilities so they can respond to crises more quickly and effectively and stop trouble from escalating into tragedy.

And just as our interests span the Atlantic, so they bridge the Pacific. In our meeting today, Admiral Prueher, the Commander in Chief of our Pacific Command and General Tilelli, the Commander of U.S. Forces, Korea, confirmed that the 100,000 troops they lead continue to perform superbly. From the soldiers of the Korean DMZ who sleep in their uniforms, ready to stop an invasion at a moment's notice to the marines and the sailors on the ships of the 7th Fleet forward deployed in Japan, our troops provide the bedrock of stability on which Asia's peace and America's interests depend.

In recent years, we've strengthened our treaty alliances with Japan, with Thailand, with South Korea, Australia, and the Philippines. We persuaded North Korea to halt its dangerous nuclear program. We've launched talks that can bring about a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. We're deepening our areas of agreement with China, while dealing with our differences frankly and openly. We're working with our partners to restore Asia's financial stability, as we build a secure and prosperous Asia-Pacific community. Our troops make clear that America is committed to remaining a Pacific power, and every day they help the Pacific region live up to its name.

America also has vital interests in a stable Persian Gulf region. It's home to two-thirds of the world's oil resources and some of its most hostile regimes. General Zinni, our Commander in Chief of the Central Command, provided me today with an up-to-date assessment of Saddam's latest challenge to the community of nations. Since Desert Storm, America has worked steadily and persistently to contain the threat Saddam poses, through sanctions that deny him billions every year to rebuild his military and, where necessary, with force. We struck Iraq's intelligence headquarters after its agents plotted to murder President Bush. We convinced Saddam to pull back his troops from Kuwait's border in 1994. We tightened the strategic straitjacket on him by extending the no-fly zone when he attacked the Kurds in 1996.

As I said in the State of the Union Address, we know that Saddam has used weapons of mass destruction before. We again say he should comply with the UNSCOM regime and the will of the United Nations. But regardless, we are determined to deny him the capacity to use weapons of mass destruction again. Preventing nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons from winding up in the wrong hands is among the primary challenges we face in the new security environment. Nineteen ninety-eight will be a decisive year for our arms control and nonproliferation agenda.

I'm very pleased that four Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs, General Shalikashvili, General Powell, Admiral Crowe, and General Jones, have just this week announced their support for Senate ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. The treaty will help to prevent the development of new and more dangerous weapons and make it more difficult for non-nuclear states to build them. The Senate should ratify it this year.

We are also committed to toughen the Biological Weapons Convention by establishing an international inspection system to track down and crack down on cheating. And we'll continue to urge the Russian Duma to ratify START II, paving the way for START III, and even deeper nuclear weapons reduction. General Habiger, Commander of America's Strategic Command, understands the importance of arms control and addressing the threat of weapons of mass destruction. Today he and I reviewed the steps we've taken to ensure that our nuclear deterrent force remains safe, reliable, effective, and unchallenged well into the 21st century.

One of the key reasons that all of these efforts can be successful is the skill of our military. And one of the greatest privileges of my job, as I said earlier, has been seeing our military at work. At home and abroad, from Haiti to Bosnia, from Japan to Kuwait, at sea and on shore, it makes no difference where they're stationed, the rank they hold, or how many ribbons they wear, our service men and women reflect America's highest standards of skill, discipline, and service. They are the patriots who answer the call whenever our Nation needs them, heroes who man their stations around the clock so the rest of us can sleep without fear. Hardship, uncertainty, and separation from loved ones are a part of the job. Many have missed the birth of their own sons and daughters to make the rest of our children safer.

Part of the reason I wanted to come here today, to one of our top military educational institutions, in the company of our military leadership, is to bring home to the American people the extraordinary service of our military men and women and all they do to protect our Nation and bear the burden of our global leadership. In times of peace, it's tempting to ignore that the dangers to that kind of service exist, but they do. When the guns are silent, it's easy to forget that our troops are hard at work, but they are. We must never, never take our Nation's security or those who provide it for granted. Defending our Nation is difficult and dangerous work, even in peacetime.

Most Americans, for example, have absolutely no idea that we lose about 200 of our service men and women in training accidents and in the course of regular duty every single year. People like Private Michael Harrington and Private First Class Brenda Frederick, who were killed just this week in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, when their truck rolled over and burst into flames during a night blackout drive training; people like Captain Lynn Svoboda, who went down with her A–10 fighter while training in Arizona last summer, the first female Air Force fighter pilot to die in a military plane crash.

I think the American people ought to know that. And I hope all of you, as you go out and you have communications with your family and friends around the country, will just say that in passing, and ask your family members and your friends to share it with their fellow citizens. It is not easy to wear the uniform, and it is never a completely safe proposition.

As President, the hardest decision I ever have to make is to put our troops in harm's way. Force can never be the first answer, but sometimes, still, it is the only answer. We must, and we will always do everything we can to protect our forces. We must and will always make their safety a top priority, as I did on the issue of antipersonnel mines. But we must be strong and tough and mature as a nation, strong and tough and mature enough to recognize that even the best prepared, best equipped force will suffer losses in action.

Every casualty is a tragedy all its own for a parent or a child or a friend. But when the cause is just and the purpose is clear, our military men and women are prepared to face the risk. The American people have to be, as well. As the inscription on the Korean War Memorial says, "Freedom isn't free."

Our obligation to our service men and women is to do all we can to help them succeed in their missions, to provide the essential resources they need to get the job done. This week I will submit to Congress my defense budget request for the coming fiscal year, a budget that is fully consistent with the quadrennial defense review.

Readiness remains our number one priority, and my budget provides for the readiness we need in a hopeful but still hazardous time. It makes the enhancements in quality of life

that our service personnel and their families deserve. It funds the procurement of sophisticated weapons to make sure our troops can be certain of victory, no matter how uncertain the future.

Our military leaders understand that tomorrow's force must be agile, effective, and lean, not only in its personnel but in its operations. Secretary Cohen, working with General Shelton and General Ralston, has put together a far-reaching defense reform initiative to revolutionize the way we do the business of defense, streamlining operations, spurring competition, emphasizing efficiency. If our Armed Forces are to have the training, the readiness, the equipment, the personnel to man the frontiers of freedom abroad, Congress must do its part by making tough choices here at home. That includes closing down bases we no longer need, stripping away excess infrastructure, not adding funds for unneeded or lower priority projects.

Let our common commitment be to support our troops. Let that be the bottom line. And let us uphold in the future, as well as the past, the legacy of our American leadership.

Earlier today, as I walked into my meeting with our CINC's and members of the Joint Chiefs, I saw emblazoned on the wall a quote from General George Marshall. It read, "We are now concerned with the peace of the entire world. And the peace can only be maintained by the strong." Those words are no less true today than the day they were spoken by General Marshall. America's leadership is no less imperative today than the day General Marshall spoke those words. Our strength is every bit as important. But more than just maintaining the peace, now we have a chance to shape the future, to build a world more secure, more prosperous than any we have ever known, to give our children a world that our own parents could not even have dreamed of.

Our Nation will continue to look to our Armed Forces to pursue that historic mission. And I know, because of people like you, our Armed Forces will never let us down.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:55 p.m. in Baruch Auditorium, Eisenhower Hall at Fort McNair. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Statement on the Bombing of a Family Planning Clinic in Birmingham, Alabama

January 29, 1998

I strongly condemn the senseless violence that claimed the life of an off-duty police officer, and injured others, in Birmingham, Alabama this morning.

This bombing was an unforgivable act that strikes at the heart of the constitutional freedoms and individual liberties all Americans hold dear. It is specifically in order to protect those liberties that I signed into law legislation that makes it a Federal crime to interfere with a woman exercising her constitutional right to visit a women's health center. We will continue to enforce that law to its fullest extent—and to protect our Nation's family planning clinics.

Federal agents are already in Birmingham to assist local law enforcement officials in bringing the perpetrators of this terrible crime to justice.

Hillary and I join all Americans in sending our thoughts and prayers to the families and friends of the victims.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Trademark Law Treaty and Documentation

January 29, 1998

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith for advice and consent to ratification, the Trademark Law Treaty done at Geneva October 27, 1994, with Regulations. The Treaty was signed by the United States on October 28, 1994. I also transmit for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty, accompanied by a detailed analysis of the Treaty and Regulations, prepared by the Department of State and the Patent and Trademark Office of the Department of Commerce.

Ratification of the Treaty is in the best interests of the United States. The Treaty eliminates many of the burdensome formal requirements that now exist in the trademark application and registration maintenance processes of many countries. Those requirements cause considerable expense and delay for trademark owners. The Treaty is aimed at standardizing and simplifying the application process so that the application will be accepted and processed by the trademark offices of all parties to the Treaty.

I recommend, therefore, that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Trademark Law Treaty with Regulations and give its advice and consent to the ratification.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
January 29, 1998.

Remarks at a United States Conference of Mayors Breakfast

January 30, 1998

Thank you for that wonderful welcome. When Secretary Peña started talking about Mayor Helmke being on ''Jeopardy,'' I thought he was going to say—and I knew we were getting into this law school business—I thought he was going to say, ''which two politicians in this room went to the greatest lengths early in their career to cover up the fact that they went to Ivy League schools.'' [*Laughter*] Once you get gray headed, you can fess up to that.

I'm delighted to be here with you, Paul, and I'm very proud of your success and the partnership we've enjoyed. Mayor Webb, good job in the Super Bowl. [*Laughter*] I want to say to all of you—my mayor, Jim Dailey, is here. I want to thank Secretary Cuomo and Secretary Peña, Secretary Riley, Secretary Babbitt, Secretary Slater, OMB Director Frank Raines, OPM Director Janice Lachance, General McCaffrey, Gene Sperling, my National Economic Adviser. And I want to thank our whole team. There are others who are here. I also want to say a special word of thanks to Mickey Ibarra and Lynn Cutler, who have been working with you on this conference. I think they've done a superb job, and I hope you are pleased with it.

And we have a lot of other members of the administration here from other departments in the White House. We all like it when the mayors come to town; we get to talk about real people, real issues and building a real future for America, because that's what you embody.

Earlier this week in the State of the Union Address I asked the American people to continue working with me to strengthen our Nation for the 21st century, just 700 days, more or less, left in this century and in this millennium.

We can be very grateful for the strength that our country enjoys today. We got some new evidence, actually, this morning of that strength with the new economic report. Our economy continues to grow steadily and strongly. In the fourth quarter of last year, our economy expanded at a vigorous 4.3 percent rate with continued low inflation. Last year, economic growth for the entire year was fueled by strong exports and strong business investment. It was 3.8 percent on an annual basis. That's the highest growth rate for the United States in a decade, after years of economic expansion.

This economic strategy that we have embraced of fiscal discipline, expanded trade, and investment in our people and our future is working. What I want to talk to you about today is that we have to continue that until every American is a part of this success story.

The next steps we have to make—in education, in economic development, in crime, in partnerships with our cities, in involving all of our citizens in the work of our cities and nations—these next steps will be critical. Whether we can empower all of our urban areas and our urban citizens to make the most of their own lives will be critical to determining whether we can, in fact, take all this success that our country has had and reach every neighborhood, every block, every family, every child.

Today, thanks to your leadership, there is truly an urban renaissance taking place all across America, from New York, where crime has dropped to record lows, to Detroit, where the unemployment rate has been cut in half, to Long Beach, where the downtown

is once again bustling with shoppers and students in school uniforms are learning more in safer environments.

The urban revitalization is one of the most extraordinary successes of the past 5 years. It is a great achievement of America's mayors and the people whom they lead. Our cities are back because so many of you rolled up your sleeves and went to work. I thank you for your leadership and for the extraordinary opportunity that we have had to work together. I can tell you, for me, it's been a lot of fun, and we've done a lot of good. And we're going to do even more in the next 3 years. I know we can.

The other night in the State of the Union Address, I tried to capture for the American people the different direction in Government that our administration has pursued for the last 5 years. I said that one of the reasons I came to Washington as the Governor of a small State—sort of like being the major of a big city—was to break out of this old gridlock between those who said Government is the problem and those who said Government is the solution. It was obvious that, if for no reason than the deficit, Government could not be the solution; plus the nature of the problems we have and the nature of the changing economy and society that we're living in, and certainly the one toward which we are moving, made it impossible to think about the solutions to today's problems in sort of 1930's through 1960's terms.

So what we said is there has got to be a third way here. These two extremes won't work. We think Government ought to be a catalyst for new ideas to experiment. We think Government ought to be a partner with the private sector and community groups. We think the Government ought to focus on creating the conditions and giving people the tools so that people can solve their own lives and chart their own futures and build this country from the ground up. That is what you represent for me. You do that all day, every day, sometimes without even thinking about it. You do it because it is the only way to proceed, and you do it without regard to party. A long time ago, Mayor La Guardia said, ''There's no Republican or Democratic way to pick up the garbage. It either gets picked up or it doesn't.'' [*Laughter*]

Now, I tried to reflect that third way approach in how we have related. A lot of you were terrifically understanding when I came into office and I said, ''You know, you're my friends, and I care about you, but the first thing I've got to do is get this deficit down, otherwise the economy will never come back, and you won't have any jobs anyway.'' And we found a way to find some more investments, to make some innovative partnerships, while we were continuing to follow the discipline necessary that has brought us to the point where we are now, where the budget deficit was estimated to be $357 billion for this year when I took office; now the estimate is $10 billion. That's a pretty big difference.

We know, and I think you can see by the extraordinary presence of Cabinet members here today, we know that every single part of this Federal Government has a responsibility to work with you and to be a good partner. Secretary Cuomo's reinvented HUD exemplifies the kind of approach we're trying to take to working with the cities all across the Federal Government. We want to be your partner, and we want to be a good partner and help you be a good partner with the private sector, with community groups, with individual citizens.

Now, on Monday, as a part of my balanced budget, I'll be proposing one of the broadest, strongest, and most innovative urban agendas in a generation that will focus on three keys to closing the opportunity gaps in America and building one America for the 21st century: education, economic development, and crime.

First, as I said the other night, all Americans know, I think, in the marrow of their bones that we have the finest system of higher education in the world. Therefore, when I was able to announce to the American people the other night all the steps we had taken essentially to open the doors of college to all Americans, I could hear the cheering in living rooms all across this country. You didn't have to say—people knew we were giving them a good thing.

We have to keep working until people have that same level of confidence that their elementary and secondary schools will give their children the best education in America. And

we can do it. If we can build an international space station in the sky, if we can put all the telephone calls on Mother's Day on a single piece of fiber the width of a human hair—which will happen in just a couple of years—if our scientists can unlock the secrets—the genetic secrets of Parkinson's disease in 9 days, all those things I talked about the other night, this is not rocket science. This is not rocket science. We can do this. We have never had, in the last 20 years, when we have known we needed to do it, the kind of systematic, disciplined approach to giving our children the education they need that we must bring to bear on this problem now. But we can do it.

One thing I know, there are some cities where the mayors have direct jurisdiction over the schools and other cities where the mayors seem to have no legal say over the schools, but in every city the mayor should be involved in the schools. I am thrilled that you're going to have a conference on public schools. I thank you for your invitation, and I expect to be there. I want us to continue to work together on this important issue.

I am—as you know, if you heard the speech the other night, I'm very excited about what's going on in Chicago with the schools. I have been there twice. I have spent a lot of time both in the schools and sitting around tables talking to the people who are part of the restructuring of the way they're operated, not only from the district down but from the school level up, with parental involvement.

I think it is a good thing to do end social promotion, but I think you have to couple that with second chances. And so when they ended social promotion, they also had mandatory summer school to give every child a second chance. You can stand up and say something like, I'm ending social promotion, and it sounds great and everybody will clap and your popularity will go up, but in the end, the only thing that really matters is, are the children learning or not? And the reason we should stop the practice is that it covers up the sins of the system which is not producing an educated citizenry among our children and not preparing them for the future.

So it's a good thing to do to end it, but it's not enough, because you have to put something in its place. And the thing that's exciting to me about Chicago is they have—if these children don't perform at grade level, then they have a mandatory summer school program and everybody goes. By the way, it cuts down on juvenile disruption problems as well.

But it's an exciting thing. I went to a school there with a principal and a parent, and the parent had a child in the school as a student and a child in the school as a teacher. And it was an inner-city school, and all of these parent groups showed up. None of them felt aggrieved because this school had ended social promotion. They felt empowered because it had, because it was done at the grassroots level. And they thought it was a fair system because they were involved in it and because there kids had a positive alternative. So it wasn't just that they were going to be held back. We have to do things like that all across the country.

I am proposing new education opportunity zones to help poor school districts close down falling schools, promote public school choice, remove bad teachers, follow the model of the Chicago system to try to help to stop social promotion, but start learning an opportunity for our kids.

I also proposed the first-ever Federal help to help our local schools hire 100,000 more school teachers, so that we can have smaller classes in the early grades. We can reduce class sizes in the first, second, and third grade to an average of 18 nationwide if my proposal is adopted. And because that will create enormous problems—we have both more teachers and more students; we have to have more classrooms—I have proposed a school construction tax cut to help communities modernize or build 5,000 schools. And that will help a lot of you in this room.

The second thing we have to do is keep working to extend economic opportunity to every corner of every community. Over the past 5 years, with the leadership of the Vice President, we've created 125 empowerment zones and enterprise communities, offered tax cuts to clean up and redevelop brownfields, offered a network of community development banks to make loans to people in places where they're not normally made, and we have dramatically strengthened the

Community Reinvestment Act. I don't know if anybody has talked about that here yet, but that act has been on the book since 1977. Over 80 percent of all the lending done in the 20-plus year history of the Community Reinvestment Act has been done in the last 5 years, since we've been here. And it's made a big difference in communities all across this country to grow the economy and bring opportunity. And I'm very proud of that.

Our balanced budget will propose, as I'm sure Secretary Cuomo has already said, new housing vouchers to help people stay off welfare and move closer to jobs, an expanded low income housing tax credit, new opportunities for homeownership, tougher efforts to fight housing discrimination.

We have created 14 million new jobs here in the last 5 years. Just 13 percent of them, though, have been in the central cities. We have to get the message out to our businesses. And that's why I went to Wall Street the other day with Jesse Jackson and people from Wall Street to say, the most important emerging market for a strong American economy, the most important way to continue to grow the economy and keep inflation low, is to move into the markets that are right here within the borders of the United States, into these neighborhoods that have not been developed.

That's why I am announcing today that my balanced budget will create a new $400 million community empowerment fund to be run by HUD that will help local governments attract more businesses and jobs to poor and underserved neighborhoods. The fund will encourage the standardization of economic development lending, a first step in creating a secondary market for such loans. It will provide capital to businesses who recognize the potential and the possibilities of the inner cities. This is the right way to help our cities. It is not a handout. It will bring new credit, new jobs, and new hope to the people. I thank Secretary Cuomo for developing it, and it's going to bring a lot of economic opportunity to many of you.

Let me also say, though, one of the things I appreciate about the mayors is that you not only want me to help you do the things you have to do, you understand that some of the things we do create the framework within which you proceed. So mayors have been very good about supporting my efforts to balance the budget. Mayors have been very good, across party lines, in supporting my efforts to expand trade. And I was very excited with the focus you put on Africa trade. You know, we've got an Africa trade initiative coming up. And I just wanted to say to you, one of the things that we have to understand about this new world is that the old dividing line in our mind between a domestic issue and a foreign policy issue has come crashing down. And increasingly, the dividing lines in our mind between what is a national security issue and an economic issue is coming crashing down.

Yesterday, I had my annual meeting with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and our other Commanders in Chief of our regions around the world of various military functions like space and transportation and other things. And what we do every year is we sit around and basically they go around the table and make a report to me about their area of responsibility, and then I make a comment, and we talk a little about it. And yesterday at the meeting, a big topic of conversation was the financial crisis in Asia. Now, you say, ''Well, what are the military people worried about that for?'' Well, it affects the ability of those Asian countries to modernize their militaries. It affects their capacity to cooperate with us. It affects the internal stability of their government. So, all of a sudden, if you get to wear four stars around on your shoulder and go to the Pacific, you got to become an expert in international finance. And you have to care about whether the Congress will vote to have America do its part in contributing to the International Monetary Fund and rebuilding the economy.

So, if you're a mayor in Indiana or Wyoming or Wisconsin, why should you care about it? Because you know that the overall health of the American economy will determine the parameters within which you must proceed. Now, you may do a better or worse job on any given day, like all of the rest of us, but you know that.

So I would say to you again, thank you for your concern for and support for trade. But I think the mayors, without regard to party and without regard to the particular

conditions in each city, understand that over the long run we are much better off when we continue to expand trade and when we build good, constructive economic partnerships with free countries who share our values around the world.

So I ask for your support for the international trade agenda I announced, for more open doors to Africa and Latin America, for an extension of the fast-track authority, and most immediately, for the United States doing its part with the International Monetary Fund to stabilize the situation in Asia. Those are very important markets for us, and I ask you for your help in securing that in Congress.

The third thing that we have to do if we really want to bring all the cities back and all the neighborhoods back is make the streets safe. People are not going to invest money, they're not going to open businesses, they're not going to stake their future on the schools of a place where they don't feel safe. The greatest thing that's happened in some ways to all of our cities is the capacity that you have developed to dramatically lower crime rates.

Now, we have worked with you to empower that strategy, to make it work more. The crime bill we passed in '94, with the strong support of many of the mayors here, was written, in effect, by local law enforcement officials, local elected officials like mayors, and local community group leaders who were concerned about making our streets safe. You know, I wasn't Einstein up here coming up with a bunch of ideas; I just took what I knew would work based on the experience that was sweeping the country. And it has been working. More police, tougher punishment, better prevention: those things work, working at a neighborhood level where everybody works together to try to keep crime from happening in the first place. Now, crime is down now for 5 years in a row in this country.

So even though we have to balance the budget, we have to do more to invest in the fight, for two reasons: One, we have to finish what we started in '94 and finish the work of putting all 100,000 police on the street; second, we have to recognize that we still have some issues out there that we have to face. Particularly, as all of you know, the juvenile crime rate has not dropped as much as the overall crime rate has. We have the biggest group of young people in our schools in history. Finally, we've got a group of kids in our schools more numerous than the baby boom generation. And by the time they all start turning 12, 13, 14 years old, we better have found a solution to the juvenile crime problem, or we will not be able to continue to say, we're lowering the crime rate. It will become a new, horrible problem for the cities.

Now, we have seen from what many of you have done that there are ways to dramatically lower the juvenile crime rate. So all we're trying to do here is basically to do a step two in the fight against crime that reflects a national effort to give you the tools to do with juvenile crime what you have already done with the overall crime rate.

I have proposed a Federal effort to help to hire as many as 1,000 neighborhood prosecutors across our country to work closely with police and residents to prevent crime as well as prosecute criminals. They'll try to prevent crime with a lot of tools like injunctions to clear playgrounds of drug dealers and other legal strategies to rid neighborhoods of troubled spots.

You know, I've seen what has happened when we have more prosecutors and more probation officers and they're working in a systematic way. I've seen—I see Mayor Menino back there—the experience of Boston has become legendary, but it is not unique now because so many others are doing this. We have to do this everywhere.

I remember one day I spent with Mayor Menino in Boston, my jaw dropped when the people that were sitting at our roundtable said that the young people on probation—they had a 70 percent compliance rate with probation orders. And I figured that's probably about double what the national average is for any city of any size in America, because they were going in the homes, working the streets, bringing the neighborhoods back into the real life of the community. So that's what this juvenile initiative to have more community prosecutors and more probation officers is all about.

We also are going to strengthen our efforts against illegal gun-trafficking, helping local

police departments and the ATF to trace all guns discovered at crime scenes. I want to hire over 160 new ATF agents to investigate and arrest gun traffickers who sell guns illegally to gangs and to juveniles. That's our responsibility. We need to do more to help you with that.

Finally, on the domestic front here, in addition to the prosecutors and the probation officers and the gun efforts, I think it's important that the mayors sent a loud and clear, nonpartisan message to the Congress and to the country that most juvenile crime is not committed by people who don't have anybody in their family who cares about them. Most juvenile crime is committed by young people who get in trouble when the school is out and mama or daddy aren't home from work; between 3 and 8 at night is when most juvenile crime is committed. So we've got to do more to have after-school programs either in the schools or in community centers. That would do more than anything else.

Now, we have some money coming through the Justice Department for this; we have some money coming through the Education Department for this, for community-based learning centers. I think Secretary Riley's initiative is called 21st century community learning centers or something like that. We need your help. We really need your help to tell the Congress that this is not a political issue; this is not a partisan issue; and this is not shoveling some old-fashioned grant to the cities that some of the Members of Congress may not want. This is children's lives. And this is whether you can succeed or not in really building the kind of cities you want for the 21st century.

You cannot make it unless we can do something about the problem of juvenile crime. And we're not going to do it, with all those kids, when all their juices are flowing and they're out there vulnerable to get in all kinds of trouble, unless you give them something positive to do when the schoolhouse door is open for the last time in the day until they can go home and be under proper supervision at night. We have got to do this. And we need your help to do it. And we can do it.

Let me also say that there is something else we have to do more of—and General McCaffrey is here—I want to mention this. We want to do a better job of keeping drugs from coming into this country in the first place. Not long ago I went to Miami with General McCaffrey, and we saw the work that the Coast Guard is doing there to try to interdict drugs. The problem is that the better job we do in stopping drugs from coming in in the water and through the air, the more pressure it puts on land through Mexico.

I mean, these people didn't get rich being stupid. They are a very powerful, well-organized, violent, and phenomenally wealthy enemy of the children and the future of the United States. What we want to try to do is to dramatically increase our capacity to deal with border imports. And we proposed to hire another 1,000 border patrol agents, to continue our antidrug media campaign, which is important, to crack down on heroin and methamphetamine trade, to boost drug abuse treatment and prevention—also very important. We're also going—and Secretary Slater is here—we're also going to try to bring to bear the latest technologies and really spend some money. And we've reauthorized this new transportation bill. And I want all of you to support us, whether you live near the border or not, because it affects you. We need to spend some serious money on the border to have the best available technology to do everything we can to find drugs.

Now, it is not possible yet with technology, but if I could paint a picture of the future and I could have any technological breakthrough—if a genie came down the aisle here and said, "In the next 3 months, you could have any technological breakthrough you want for your country. What would you do?" I think that if I could pick one for the next 3 months, I would say I would like to have a border patrol system for picking drugs that is as effective as airport metal detectors are from getting weapons away from people. I mean that should be our model. That's what we should be imagining.

Why? Because it not only is effective, we don't hold up everybody else very long. You never hear anybody griping about going through an airport metal detector anymore. And every now and then you've got a money clip in your pocket or something, you've got

to go back around and go through again, but it's not any kind of a big deal. That should be what we are working for. We should be working and working and working; we shouldn't stop until we basically have the capacity to check every vehicle that crosses our border in a way that doesn't shut commerce down and unduly burden totally innocent people who are just going about their lives.

And I want you to help us when this transportation bill comes up, and I want you to help us when the drug budget comes up to get that kind of structure, because you have got to have more help in trying to cut off the drugs at the source in the first place. And we're going to do our best to give it to you.

The last point I want to make is I believe that our cities can embody the image that I have for America in the 21st century because they are the most diverse places in America. And as we become more diverse, in a funny way we've got to become more united. As we become more diverse, we have to learn to celebrate what's different about ourselves, but we have to hold even tighter to the things that bind us together at the family and the neighborhood and the community level.

We're going to reauthorize the national service program, AmeriCorps, this year. I hope all of you will support because you have really used it a lot. I know General Powell is going to speak to you before you end your conference, and I hope all of you will support what he's doing. That Presidents' Summit on Service in Philadelphia last April was a remarkable thing. The idea that we ought to mobilize hundreds of thousands of volunteers, maybe millions of them, to give every child a safe street to grow up on, a good school to attend, a good health care system so that the child is healthy, a mentor, and the chance to serve—those are five laudable goals.

And if you think about it, in terms of what I just said, about the economy and education and crime—if we have a country in which in every city, across the lines of race, people have an equal chance to work together, to learn together, to serve together, we're going to get along together just fine. You all show that every day. And most of you have a good time doing it. I think it's fun to be a mayor these days, isn't it? [*Laughter*] I think you're having a good time doing it.

When I think of one America, I think of all the places I've been in all of your communities, where people are living together, learning together, working together, serving together, closing those opportunity gaps, building one country. The best days of this country are ahead of us. All we have to do is to bear down and do more of what you have been doing these last few years.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:57 a.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks he referred to Mayor Paul Helmke of Fort Wayne, IN; Mayor Wellington Webb of Denver, CO; Mayor Jim Dailey of Little Rock, AR; and Mayor Thomas Menino of Boston, MA.

Statement on the Japan-United States Civil Aviation Agreement

January 30, 1998

I am pleased that the United States has reached a landmark agreement with Japan that will dramatically increase air service between our countries. This agreement will expand a $10 billion market that services nearly 12 million passengers and carries well over 1 billion pounds of cargo each year. It will allow more U.S. cities to have direct service to Japan and give U.S. airlines extensive new rights to fly into and beyond Japan. This increased competition means more choices for American business travelers and tourists alike.

Like our agreements on telecommunications and financial services, this aviation agreement reflects my policy of opening the world's markets in areas where American companies are most competitive. In aviation alone, we have already concluded far-reaching agreements with Germany, Canada, and 20 other nations. Along with today's agreement, these pacts are moving international aviation into a 21st* century where consumer needs, not governments, will determine where and how often passenger and cargo planes travel.

*White House correction.

I want to thank Secretaries Albright and Slater and the negotiators at the Departments of State and Transportation for their sustained efforts in reaching this historic agreement.

Proclamation 7066—American Heart Month, 1998

January 30, 1998

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Fifty years ago, a heart attack meant an end to an active lifestyle, and, for a third of those stricken, it meant death. Thankfully, the past half-century has brought us an array of advances in the prevention and treatment of heart disease. Procedures such as balloon angioplasty and coronary artery bypass grafts, noninvasive diagnostic tests, and drugs that treat high blood pressure and clots and reduce high blood cholesterol have enabled Americans to live longer and healthier lives. Equally important, we have become better educated during the past five decades about heart disease risk factors and how to control them.

This year, two of the groups most responsible for this remarkable progress—the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the American Heart Association—are celebrating their golden anniversaries. The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, leads the Federal Government's efforts against heart disease by supporting research and education for the public, heart patients, and health care professionals. The American Heart Association plays a crucial role in the fight against heart disease through its research and education programs and its vital network of dedicated volunteers.

Despite the encouraging developments in that fight, we still face many challenges. Heart disease continues to be the leading cause of death in this country, killing more than 700,000 Americans each year. The number of Americans with heart disease or a risk factor for it is staggering. Approximately 58 million have some form of cardiovascular disease, about 50 million have high blood pressure, and about 52 million have high blood cholesterol. Americans are also becoming more overweight and less active—two key factors that increase the risk of heart disease. Most disturbing, for the first time in decades, Americans are losing ground against some cardiovascular diseases. The rate of stroke has risen slightly, the prevalence of heart failure has increased, and the decline in the death rate for those with coronary heart disease has slowed.

Women are particularly hard hit by this disease, in part because public health messages too often have not focused on how this segment of our population can best protect their hearts. The American Heart Association recently discovered that only 8 percent of American women know that heart disease and stroke are the greatest health threats for women, and 90 percent of women polled did not know the most common heart attack signals for women.

For a variety of reasons, including poorer access to preventive health care services, minorities in America have high mortality rates due to heart disease. The American Heart Association reported that, in 1995, cardiovascular disease death rates were about 49 percent greater for African American men than for white men, and about 67 percent higher for African American women than white women. In addition, the prevalence of diabetes—a major risk factor for heart disease—is very high in some of our Native American populations, and Asian Americans have a high mortality rate for stroke.

However, both the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the American Heart Association have undertaken activities to counter these trends. Both groups have initiated major efforts to better inform women and minorities about the threat of heart disease and the steps that can be taken both to prevent and treat it. These fine organizations also continue their efforts to educate health professionals on improving medical practice in heart health and to inform patients and the public about how to reduce their risk of heart disease. As we celebrate their 50th anniversaries, let us resolve to build on their record of accomplishment. By

continuing our investment in research, raising public awareness of the symptoms of heart disease, and educating Americans about the importance of a heart-healthy diet and exercise, we can continue our extraordinary progress in saving lives and improving health.

In recognition of these important efforts in the ongoing fight against cardiovascular disease, the Congress, by Joint Resolution approved December 30, 1963 (77 Stat. 843; 36 U.S.C. 169b), has requested that the President issue an annual proclamation designating February as "American Heart Month."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim February 1998 as American Heart Month. I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in reaffirming our commitment to combating cardiovascular disease and stroke.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth 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., February 2, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on February 3.

Proclamation 7067—National African American History Month, 1998

January 30, 1998

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

African American history is one of the great human chronicles of all time. It is the story of men and women who, with extraordinary courage and faith, prevailed against centuries of slavery and discrimination to build lives for themselves and their families and to contribute immeasurably to the strength and character of our Nation. It is the story of millions of people who arrived on these shores in chains, yet who had the greatness of heart and spirit to love this country for its possibilities. It is the story of generations of heroes who with their labor, voices, vision, and blood sought to change the essence of our society—our laws, institutions, and attitudes—to reflect the fundamental American ideals of freedom, justice, and equality. African American history is ultimately the story of America's struggle to become a more perfect union.

Each year during the month of February, we focus on a particular aspect of African American history to broaden our knowledge and deepen our appreciation of the countless contributions African Americans have made to the life of our Nation. This year's theme, "African Americans in Business: The Path Towards Empowerment," presents an opportunity not only to celebrate these contributions, but also to build on them.

Our Nation's system of free enterprise has been a sure path to inclusion and independence for generations of Americans, and today African American entrepreneurs are reaping its many rewards. In every facet of American endeavor, in the fields of health care, law, government, and education; as artists, bankers, scientists, and computer programmers, African Americans are excelling and adding significantly to the strength of our economy. If current trends continue, African Americans will account for nearly 12 percent of the American labor force by the year 2000. And even more promising, according to the most recent data available from the U.S. Census, the number of businesses owned by African Americans has grown at an impressive annual rate and significantly faster than the number of new U.S. businesses overall. These statistics are a testament to the perseverance, hard work, and energy of African Americans and of their enduring faith in the American Dream.

As we celebrate National African American History Month, let us resolve to build on this record of success. We must ensure that every American shares equal access to a quality education—an education that will

offer the knowledge and skills necessary to fill the jobs of the 21st century. We must strive to eradicate every trace of discrimination from our society and the American workplace. And we must work together—government, private industry, community organizations, and concerned citizens—to invest in all our people, providing them with the tools they need to succeed and widening the circle of opportunity.

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 February 1998 as National African American History Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that raise awareness and appreciation of African American history.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth 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., February 2, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on February 3.

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.

January 26

In the evening, the President placed a telephone call to Coach Mike Shanahan of the Denver Broncos to congratulate him and the team on winning Super Bowl XXXII.

The President announced his intention to appoint John Deutch as a member of the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology.

January 27

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom concerning the situation in Iraq.

The President announced his intention to nominate Togo D. West, Jr., to be Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

January 28

In the morning, the President traveled to Champaign-Urbana, IL, and in the afternoon, he traveled to La Crosse, WI. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

January 29

In the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada concerning the situation in Iraq.

The President announced his intention to nominate Scott S. Fleming to serve as Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs at the Department of Education.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stuart E. Eizenstat to be Alternate Governor for the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the African Development Fund, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate David R. Oliver, Jr., to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology.

The President announced his intention to nominate Margaret H. Greene to be a member of the Board of Directors at the U.S. Enrichment Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rebecca T. Bingham and Martha B. Gould to serve as members of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

The President announced his intention to appoint Gen. Henry Shelton, USA, to serve

as a member of the Board of Governors of the American National Red Cross.

The President announced his intention to appoint Thomas L. Soto to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Mort Topfer and Jerome Davis as members of the Advisory Committee to the President's Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection.

The President declared a major disaster in New Mexico and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm on December 22–25, 1997.

January 30

In the afternoon, the President hosted a reception for the 1997 Stanley Cup champion Detroit Red Wings in the East Room.

In the evening, the President and Chelsea Clinton went to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to appoint former Senator George J. Mitchell as a member of the Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted January 27

Togo Dennis West, Jr.,
of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs, vice Jesse Brown, resigned.

John D. Kelly,
of North Dakota, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, vice Frank J. Magill, retired.

Marsha L. Berzon,
of California, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, vice John T. Noonan, Jr., retired.

Kim McLane Wardlaw,
of California, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, vice J. Cliford Wallace, retired.

Judith M. Barzilay,
of New Jersey, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of International Trade, vice Dominick L. DiCarlo, retired.

Delissa A. Ridgway,
of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of International Trade, vice Nicholas Tsoucalas, retired.

William P. Dimitrouleas,
of Florida, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, vice Stanley Marcus, elevated.

Robert G. James,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, vice John M. Shaw, retired.

James W. Klein,
of the District of Columbia, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia, vice Stanley S. Harris, retired.

Steven W. Mickle,
of Florida, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Florida, vice Maurice M. Paul, retired.

Johnnie B. Rawlinson,
of Nevada, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Nevada, vice Lloyd D. George, retired.

Richard W. Roberts,
of the District of Columbia, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia, vice Charles R. Richey, deceased.

Gregory Moneta Sleet,
of Delaware, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Delaware, vice Joseph J. Longobardi, retired.

Emilio W. Cividanes,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for the term of 15 years, vice John Maxwell Ferren.

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Rebecca T. Bingham,
of Kentucky, to be a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for a term expiring July 19, 2001, vice Carol K. DiPrete, term expired.

Charles H. Dolan, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be a member of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy for a term expiring July 1, 2000 (reappointment).

Stuart E. Eizenstat,
of Maryland, to be U.S. Alternate Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of 5 years; U.S. Alternate Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of 5 years; U.S. Alternate Governor of the African Development Bank for a term of 5 years; U.S. Alternate Governor of the African Development Fund; U.S. Alternate Governor of the Asian Development Bank; and U.S. Alternate Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, vice Joan E. Spero, resigned.

Richard W. Fisher,
of Texas, to be Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Charlene Barshefsky, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Scott Snyder Fleming,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education, vice Kay Casstevens.

Martha B. Gould,
of Nevada, to be a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for a term expiring July 19, 2002 (reappointment).

Margaret Hornbeck Greene,
of Kentucky, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Enrichment Corporation for a term expiring February 24, 2003 (reappointment).

Paul M. Igasaki,
of California, to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2002 (reappointment), to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Bill Lann Lee,
of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Deval L. Patrick, resigned.

Kevin Emanuel Marchman,
of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Joseph Shuldiner, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Christine O.C. Miller,
of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims for a term of 15 years (reappointment), to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

David R. Oliver,
of Indiana, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, vice R. Noel Longuemare, Jr.

Paul L. Seave,
of California, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California for a term of 4 years, vice Charles Joseph Stevens, resigned.

Nancy E. Soderberg,
of the District of Columbia, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Nancy E. Soderberg,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Orson Swindle,
of Hawaii, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of 7 years from September 26, 1997, vice Roscoe Burton Starek III, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Cherryl T. Thomas,
of Illinois, to be a member of the Railroad Retirement Board for a term expiring August 28, 2002, vice Glen L. Bower, term expired.

Mozelle Willmont Thompson,
of New York, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of 7 years from September 26, 1996, vice Christine A. Varney, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

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James Hudson Bailey,
of Wisconsin, to be Deputy Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, vice Harvey G. Ryland, resigned, which was sent to the Senate on October 8, 1997.

Ronald Kent Burton,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2002 (reappointment), which was sent to the Senate on January 9, 1997.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released January 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of remarks by the First Lady and Vice President Al Gore on the after-school child care initiative

Released January 27

Transcript of a press briefing by National Economic Council Director Gene Sperling and senior administration officials on the State of the Union Address

Fact sheet: The Biological Weapons Convention [1]

Announcement of nominations for judges of the U.S. Courts of Appeals, U.S. District Courts, U.S. Court of International Trade, and District of Columbia Court of Appeals

Released January 28

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of remarks by Vice President Al Gore in La Crosse, WI

Statement by the Press Secretary: Statement by Former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on Ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

Released January 29

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by the Press Secretary: Bloody Sunday Inquiry

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California

Released January 30

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by National Economic Council Director Gene Sperling, Energy Secretary Federico Peña, Treasury Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tax Analysis John Scholz, White House Staff Secretary Todd Stern, and National Economic Council Senior Director Peter Orzag on the President's climate change initiative [2]

[1] This item was embargoed for release until delivery of the State of the Union Address on Tuesday, January 27, 1998.

[2] This item was embargoed for release until after broadcast of the President's radio address on January 31.

Transcript of a press briefing by Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs Dan Tarullo, Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Alan Larson, and Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Aviation and International Affairs Charles Hunicutt on Japan-U.S. civil aviation agreement

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.