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who seek to build a vibrant civil society and to secure respect for basic human rights. The presence of His Holiness John Paul II in Cuba inspired the Cuban people, providing an important psychological boost to the Cuban Catholic Church, to Cuba's nascent civil society, and to the Cuban people. The measures I have announced today are designed to build upon that visit, to support the Cuban people through the hardships and difficulties ahead, to contribute to the growth of a civil society and to help prepare for a peaceful transition to democracy.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Saint Kitts/Nevis-United States Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Documentation

March 20, 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 Government of the United States of America and the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Basseterre on September 18, 1997, and a related exchange of notes signed at Bridgetown on October 29, 1997, and February 4, 1998. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the Report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to counter criminal activities more effectively. The Treaty should be an effective tool to assist in the prosecution of a wide variety of crimes, including drug trafficking offenses. 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 immobilization and forfeiture of assets; restitution; 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 related exchange of notes, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
March 20, 1998.

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.

March 15

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton returned to Washington, DC, from Camp David, MD.

March 16

In the morning, the President traveled to Silver Spring, MD, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

In an evening ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Petrit Bushati of Albania, Bruno Nongoma Zidouemba of Burkina Faso, Samson K. Chemai of Kenya, Marcelo Perez Monasterios of Bolivia, Michael Arneaud of Trinidad and Tobago, Rachel Gbenyon Diggs of Liberia, Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson of Iceland, Eloy Alfaro de Alba of Panama, Dorodjatun Kuntjoro-Jakti of Indonesia, Nicholas J.O. Liverpool of Dominica, Li Zhaoxing of China, and Claude Sylvestre Anthony Morel of Seychelles.

Later, the President met with Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness of Sinn Fein in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to appoint Curtis A. Prins to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation.

March 17

In the afternoon, the President attended a St. Patrick's Day luncheon in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill.

In the evening, the President held separate meetings in the Oval Office with the leadership of four Irish political parties: David Trimble and John Taylor of the Ulster Unionist Party; John Hume and Seamus Mallon of the Social Democratic and Labor Party; Gary McMichael and David Adams of the Ulster Democratic Party; and Lord John Alderdice and Niall Johnston of the Alliance Party.

March 18

In the morning, the President traveled to Las Vegas, NV. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC, arriving after midnight.

The President announced his intention to appoint Ruth Mandel as Vice Chair of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

The White House announced that the President invited Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy for an official visit to the United States, May 5–8.

March 19

In the afternoon, the President met with King Hussein I of Jordan in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to appoint Steven Pennoyer as U.S. Commissioner of the International Pacific Halibut Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint James Pipkin as U.S. Federal Commissioner of the Pacific Salmon Commission.

March 20

The President declared a major disaster in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and ordered Federal aid to supplement recovery efforts in the area struck by severe drought beginning January 17.

The White House announced that the President will attend the 23d annual meeting of the heads of state of the world's leading industrialized democracies in Birmingham, United Kingdom, May 15–17, and the semiannual U.S.-European Union summit on May 18 in London. The President will visit Germany prior to his visit to the United Kingdom.

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.

Withdrawn March 16

Frederica A. Massiah-Jackson,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, vice Thomas N. O'Neill, Jr., retired, which was sent to the Senate on July 31, 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 March 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy National Security Adviser Jim Steinberg on the President's meetings with Irish political leaders on the Northern Ireland peace process

Released March 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Released March 18

Transcript of remarks by Vice President Al Gore on IRS customer service improvements

Statement by the Press Secretary: Official Visit by Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi

Announcement on release of a Health Care Financing Administration memorandum to State insurance commissioners and insurance issuers on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996