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cosmetic modifications to weapons of war, our work is not done. And we must act swiftly and strongly.

That is what Secretary Rubin's announcement amounts to today. We are doing our best to say, you can read the fine print in our law and our regulations all you want, and you can keep making your minor changes, but we're going to do our best to keep our people alive and stop you from making a dollar in the wrong way.

It is our sworn duty to uphold the law, but it is also our moral obligation—our obligation to the children and families of law-abiding citizens, an obligation to stop the terrible scourge of gun violence. As parents, we teach our children every day to distinguish right from wrong. As a nation, we must also remember where to draw the line.

Today we draw it clearly and indelibly. If we do this, if we follow the recommendations set forth in this report, we chart the right course for America, toward a future more free of fear and a new century brimming with confidence and great promise.

Again, to all of you who played any role in this important day, I thank you on behalf of the people and the children and the future of the United States. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:55 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Raymond W. Kelly, Under Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement; John W. Magaw, Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; and Iowa Attorney General Thomas J. Miller.

Remarks Honoring Major League Soccer Champions D.C. United and an Exchange With Reporters

April 6, 1998

The President. Thank you very much. Welcome to the Rose Garden on this beautiful spring afternoon, Congresswoman Norton, Mrs. Barry, Councilman Evans.

In addition to being a magnificent spring day, this is also National Student Athlete Day. So I want to give a special welcome to those who have joined us to celebrate the achievements of students across the country. I want to thank Richard Lapchick, the director of the Center for the Study of Sport in Society at Northeastern University, and Ron Stratten of the NCAA for your work to promote academics, athletics, and community service among our Nation's youth.

I also want to welcome Kevin Payne, the president and general manager of D.C. United, and Coach Bruce Arena and the members and the staff of this very talented team. You've all worked hard to make D.C. United the most successful team in Major League Soccer history, winners of the 1996 and 1997 MLS Cups. Each year, despite torrential rains during the championship games, you've shown us you are strongly united. And with a great record this season, you're well on your way to a "threepeat," something the law prevents me from trying to equal. [*Laughter*]

D.C. United and Major League Soccer are making soccer more and more popular in the United States, especially among young people. Last year a record 3.2 million children across our Nation played youth soccer, more than any other sport. My daughter taught me all I know about soccer. It was a great experience for me to watch her grow up in her soccer league, and I know it's making a difference in the lives of millions of children all across this country.

D.C. United is linking America to the world and the love of soccer in bringing Americans of all backgrounds together and, unless my ears have given out on me entirely, bringing some people beyond America together on this team. Last year, despite those rains, over 57,000 fans went to RFK Stadium to watch you win the championship. The D.C. United fans come from nearly every country on Earth. Their diversity and spirit add to the life of this, our Capital City, as I'm sure the representatives here would attest. Kevin Payne says that the fans are the 12th man in your winning efforts.

We can also all be proud of how united you are with the community of Washington, DC. Your partnership with DC Scores supports after school reading and writing programs, combined with the joys of playing soccer. And I'd like to give you a special thanks for that.

I also want to acknowledge the winners of that program's essays contest who are here

with us today—and they're standing over here—Anoa Hunter and Aton Kent-Trout, who wrote outstanding essays on ''What United Means to Me.'' I just read their essays. I wish all of you could read them. I think it's an inspiring and important question for all of us to think about.

Congratulations to all of you, and now I'd like to turn it over to D.C. United's president, Kevin Payne.

Kevin.

[*At this point, Mr. Payne and Coach Arena made brief remarks, and the President was presented with an official team jersey advertising Major League Soccer's primary sponsor, Mastercard.*]

The President. I'll have to stay current on my Mastercard if I wear this—[*laughter*]—I like it. Thank you.

Thank you very much. Let me—before we close and I walk over here and we take a formal picture with the team—again thank the First Lady of Washington, DC, and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, and all the DC City Council members. I see at least three that I overlooked the first time. Would all the members of the DC City Council who are here stand up? I think they're all here. [*Applause*] Thank you. We have a quorum in case any of you have a particular problem you'd like solved. [*Laughter*]

And I'd also like to ask the student athletes and the coaches that I just honored in the Oval Office who have come here from around the country, who have done outstanding things. Many of them have overcome considerable personal obstacles to be outstanding athletes, outstanding students, and servants in their communities. I'd like to ask them to all stand please. [*Applause*] Thank you very much.

We're going to take a quick picture, and then we'll be adjourned. You can all stand up. We'll visit a little, have a little fun. Come on.

[*At this point, the President posed for photographs with the team.*]

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Mr. President, is another Middle East peace summit here a possibility? Chairman Arafat, Prime Minister Netanyahu left open that possibility. Would you consider it?

The President. We're working on it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:37 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Cora Masters Barry, wife of Mayor Marion Barry; Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans, District of Columbia Council; Ronald J. Stratten, group executive director for education services, NCAA; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of Israel. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on the Resignation of Federico Peña as Secretary of Energy

April 6, 1998

Earlier today, with regret, I accepted Secretary of Energy Federico Peña's resignation.

Secretary Peña has admirably served my administration, first as Secretary of Transportation and then as Secretary of Energy. It is a measure of my confidence in his abilities that I entrusted him to run not one but two Cabinet agencies.

In his last year he diligently managed the Energy Department, focusing on energy, environmental quality, national security, and science and technology issues. Just last week Secretary Peña unveiled our Comprehensive Electricity Competition Plan, saving consumers $20 billion per year, by introducing competition into the electricity industry. Under his leadership, the Department of Energy provided much of the analysis that gave me the confidence that we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions without harming the economy.

In the last year he helped shape our policy in the Caspian region, building a coalition among the key nations in that region; he provided a comprehensive national energy strategy for the Nation that will help ensure that Americans have affordable, clean, and secure energy supplies in the 21st century; and he privatized Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve, generating $3.65 billion for U.S. taxpayers.

During his 4 years at the Transportation Department, Secretary Peña increased the