

Working together, we can create a more just society that underscores our shared strengths instead of focusing on our differences. The Fair Housing Act continues to be an indispensable tool in these efforts, and as we celebrate its 30th anniversary, I call on all Americans to join me in making division and discrimination issues of the past, and to make America a stronger, better place to live for all of our people.

Best wishes for a memorable anniversary celebration.

Bill Clinton

Proclamation 7081—Pan American Day and Pan American Week, 1998

April 10, 1998

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Today, the nations of the Americas stand at the forefront of a promising new era of exciting growth and global cooperation. Americans north and south of the equator are communicating, interacting, and trading with one another more than ever before. All the nations in our hemisphere but one enjoy freely elected governments that promote human rights, free enterprise, and sustainable economic development through free trade. These vibrant democracies continue to seek opportunities to work together for the security, prosperity, and general welfare of all our citizens.

In keeping with this spirit of cooperation, the leaders of the 34 American democracies will meet in Santiago, Chile, on April 18 and 19 for the second Summit of the Americas. The United States hosted the first such summit in Miami in December 1994, and we look forward to strengthening our involvement in what is becoming a mature partnership that is fostering increased prosperity and security for our country. We hope to reach agreements in Santiago that will enhance hemispheric collaboration in more than 20 areas—including education, economic integration, democracy, justice, counternarcotics, security, poverty, and human rights.

This month also marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Organization of American States (OAS), a cornerstone of cooperation in our hemisphere. The most recent successes of the OAS include agreements against corruption and illegal firearms trafficking and ratification of the Washington Protocol, which provides for the suspension from the OAS of any country whose democracy has been overthrown by force. We applaud the crucial role the OAS plays in promoting and preserving democracy and human rights in the Americas. We look forward to its continued success in multilateral efforts to deepen the roots of democracy in this hemisphere and create new possibilities for progress in the next millennium.

The peoples of the Americas stand united in a commitment to democratic values and to increased regional cooperation and understanding. The partnership among our countries is laying the foundations for lasting freedom, prosperity, and peace in our hemisphere and bringing to reality our shared vision of a brighter future.

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 Tuesday, April 14, 1998, as Pan American Day and April 12 through April 18, 1998, as Pan American Week. I urge the Governors of the 50 States, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the officials of other areas under the flag of the United States of America to honor these observances with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of April, 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., April 14, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 15.

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.

April 5

The President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom concerning the Northern Ireland peace process.

April 6

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia concerning the President's recent visit to Africa and the upcoming meeting of the heads of state of the world's leading industrialized democracies in Birmingham, United Kingdom.

In the afternoon, the President met with student-athletes and their sponsors in the Oval Office.

The President announced the nomination of Diane D. Blair to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The President appointed Tony Coelho, Everett M. Ehrlich, Gilbert F. Casellas, and Lorraine Green as members of the U.S. Census Monitoring Board.

April 7

In the morning, the President traveled to Kansas City, MO. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland to express his sympathies for the death of Mr. Ahern's mother.

In the afternoon, the President toured the Kansas City Jazz Museum and the Negro Baseball League Museum. In the evening, he traveled to Chicago, IL.

April 8

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dayton R. Duncan as Chair and Gerald E. Galloway, Jr., William L. Graf, Anthony P. Grassi, Debbie Jaramillo, Charles

R. Jordan, Daniel Kemmis, David Olsen, Yolanda Rivera, Donald G. Sampson, Maria F. Teran, and P. Kay Whitlock as members of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative Advisory Committee.

The President announced his intention to nominate Vivian Lowery Derryck and Susan E. Rice as members of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation.

April 9

In the morning, the President traveled to Carrollton, KY, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, the President attended a dinner honoring Senator Mary L. Landrieu at a private residence.

The President declared a major disaster in Alabama and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes beginning on April 8 and continuing.

The President announced that he has amended the major disaster declaration for Georgia, declared March 11, to include seven additional counties hard hit by the severe storms and tornadoes.

In the late evening, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to discuss the Northern Ireland peace process.

April 10

After midnight, the President had further telephone conversations on the Northern Ireland peace process with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Gerry Adams, leader, Sinn Fein; John Hume, leader, Social Democratic and Labor Party; Samuel R. Berger, National Security Adviser; James B. Steinberg, Deputy National Security Adviser; former Senator George J. Mitchell, independent chairman of the multiparty talks in Northern Ireland; Gerry Adams, again; David Trimble, leader, Northern Ireland Ulster Unionist Party; Prime Minister Blair, twice again; Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland; and Mr. Hume again.

In the afternoon, the President hosted a working lunch for President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines in the Map Room.