

Xie xie. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:55 p.m. at the South Gate of the Old City. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Feng Xuchu of Xi'an; Governor Cheng Andong of Shaanxi Province.

Memorandum on Refugee Admissions Consultations

June 25, 1998

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: FY 1999 Refugee Admissions Consultations

In accordance with section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), you are authorized to consult with the appropriate committees of the Congress concerning refugee admissions as follows:

1. The authorization of 78,000 refugee admissions during FY 1999, which would be allocated by specific region as follows: 12,000 for Africa; 9,000 for East Asia (including Amerasians); 3,000 for Latin America and the Caribbean; 4,000 for the Near East and South Asia; 48,000 for Europe; and 2,000 for the Unallocated Reserve. The recommended level of funded admissions is equal to the level assumed in the FY 1999 budget request.

2. The authorization of an additional 10,000 refugee admission numbers to be made available for the adjustment to permanent resident status of persons who have been granted asylum in the United States.

3. The designation, pursuant to section 101(a)(42)(B) of the INA, of persons in Cuba, Vietnam, and the former Soviet Union, who if they otherwise qualify for admission as refugees, may be considered refugees under the INA even though they are still within their country of nationality or habitual residence.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 26.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the National Science Board

June 26, 1998

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by 42 U.S.C. 1863(j)(1), I am pleased to submit to the Congress a report of the National Science Board entitled *Science and Engineering Indicators—1998*. This report represents the thirteenth in a series examining key aspects of the status of American science and engineering in a global environment.

Investments in science and engineering research and education have enjoyed bipartisan support. They are critical to America's ability to maintain world leadership and fulfill our potential as a Nation as we begin the transition into the 21st century.

This report provides a broad base of quantitative information about U.S. science, engineering, and technology in an international context. I commend *Science and Engineering Indicators—1998* to the attention of the Congress and those in the scientific and technology communities. It will assist us in better understanding the new developments and trends in what is rapidly becoming a global knowledge-based economy.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
June 25, 1998.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 26.

Exchange With Reporters in the Village of Xiahe, China

June 26, 1998

Q. Good morning, sir.

Human Rights

Q. Mr. President, the Chinese arrested a couple of dissidents, one apparently for intending to do an interview with an American journalist. I wonder, does such an action make it more difficult for you to make the case