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Statement on Senate Action on the "Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act"

September 29, 1998

I am pleased that the Senate last night passed the ''Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act,'' important bipartisan legislation to help our Nation prepare its computer systems for the new millennium.

This bill, which builds upon a proposal my administration submitted to Congress in July, will help businesses, State and local government, and Federal agencies better address the year 2000 (Y2K) problem by providing limited liability protections to encourage greater information sharing about solutions, while also protecting consumers from misleading advertising or other statements when purchasing products for their own use.

January 1, 2000, is one deadline we cannot push back. I urge the House to pass this critical legislation before the end of the legislative session. I look forward to signing it into law so that Y2K information sharing will enable the Nation to prepare for this global challenge.

Memorandum on Assistance for Federal Employees Affected by Hurricane Georges

September 29, 1998

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Assistance for Federal Employees Affected by Hurricane Georges

I am deeply concerned about the devastating losses suffered by many as a result of Hurricane Georges. Multiple parts of the Federal Government have been mobilized to respond to this disaster.

As part of this effort, I ask the heads of executive departments and agencies who have Federal civilian employees in designated disaster areas resulting from Hurricane Georges and its aftermath (including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands) to use their discretion to excuse from duty, without charge to leave or loss of pay, any such employee who is prevented from reporting to work or faced with a personal emergency because of this disaster and who can be spared from his or her usual responsibilities. This policy also should be applied to any employee who is needed for emergency law enforcement, relief, or clean-up efforts authorized by Federal, State, or other officials having jurisdiction.

I am also authorizing the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to determine whether there is a need to establish an emergency leave transfer program to assist employees affected by this major disaster. An emergency leave transfer program would permit employees in an executive agency to donate their unused annual leave for transfer to employees of the same or other agencies who were adversely affected by the hurricane and who need additional time off for recovery. If the need for donated annual leave becomes evident, I direct OPM to establish the emergency leave transfer program and provide additional information to agencies on the programs's administration.

William J. Clinton

Memorandum on Funding for the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization

September 29, 1998

Presidential Determination No. 98–37

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Use of $10 Million in Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs Account Funds and $5 Million in Economic Support Funds for a U.S. Contribution to the Korean Peninsula Development Organization (KEDO)

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2364(a)(1) (the ''Act''), I hereby determine that it is important to the security interests of the United States to furnish up to $10 million in funds made available under the heading ''Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs'' in title II of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing,