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victory for all Americans who treasure and want to preserve the cultural and natural resources our parks have to offer. The Act contains a number of measures to assist National Park Service operations. This legislation is the first major overhaul of the way that the National Park Service awards concessions contracts in more than 3 decades. It ensures that all major contracts will be awarded through competitive bidding and makes concessions franchise fees available directly to the Park Service to improve the parks. These changes will result in better service to visitors and a better return to the taxpayers.

The Act requires the development of a training program that will allow Park Service employees the opportunity to gain the skills and experience they will need to protect parks. It also allows the Secretary of the Interior to lease park buildings consistent with other park legislation, and it lays out a clear process for the Park Service to recommend areas to be studied for possible inclusion into the National Park System.

Finally, the Act establishes a park ''passport,'' which includes a collectible stamp that provides an innovative way for the public to directly support parks. My Administration will work to minimize any confusion that may result between the introduction of this new parks-only passport and the continued use of the Golden Eagle Passport, which provides access to all public lands.

I commend retiring Senator Dale Bumpers, Senator Craig Thomas, and Representatives Don Young and George Miller for their outstanding work in forging a consensus to bring about the passage of S. 1693.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 13, 1998.

NOTE: At time of publication, S. 1693, approved November 13, had not yet been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of a Public Law number. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Statement on Signing the Africa: Seeds of Hope Act of 1998

November 13, 1998

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 4283, the ''Africa: Seeds of Hope Act of 1998.'' This Act, which passed the Congress with broad bipartisan support, reaffirms the importance of helping Africans generate the food and income necessary to feed themselves. It is an important component of my Administration's efforts to expand our partnership with Africa and complements our efforts to expand trade and investment through the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which I hope will be passed by the next Congress.

During my trip to Africa last March, I pledged our continuing support to help reform-minded Africans help themselves. In the area of hunger and malnutrition, I announced the 1998 commencement of the Africa Food Security Initiative, a 10-year effort implemented through the U.S. Agency for International Development to help improve agricultural productivity, incomes, and nutrition for the rural poor.

The Africa: Seeds of Hope Act is another step in fulfilling that commitment and it demonstrates that both the Administration and the Congress are united in pursuit of a brighter future for the people of Africa.

Enactment of this bill comes at a critical time for Africa. At the 1996 World Food Summit, the United States pledged to help meet the goal of reducing malnutrition by half by the year 2015. Despite some recent progress, the percentage of malnourished people in Africa is the highest of any region in the world and U.S. help is greatly needed.

In signing H.R. 4283, I applaud the efforts that many African nations are making to improve the lives of their people. They are strengthening democracy and good governance, reforming economic policies to promote broad-based growth, and attacking diseases such as HIV/AIDS. They are doing a better job of educating their children, especially girls, and adopting improved farming practices. We need to do much more, however, to ensure that Africa and its rural poor

are not left behind as we enter the next century. As demonstrated by the passage of the Africa: Seeds of Hope Act, the United States remains ready to do its share.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 13, 1998.

NOTE: At time of publication, H.R. 4283, approved November 13, had not yet been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of a Public Law number. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

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.

November 7

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton went to Camp David, MD. In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with the crew of the space shuttle *Discovery*, which was orbiting the Earth.

The White House announced that the President decided to ease sanctions against India and Pakistan in response to positive steps both countries have taken to address nonproliferation concerns following their nuclear tests in May.

November 9

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to appoint Leo Mullin to the President's Export Council.

The White House announced that the President asked former National Security Adviser Anthony Lake to return to the Horn of Africa to assist in talks concerning the border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

November 10

In the morning, the President met with House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt in the Oval Office.

In the afternoon, the President met with the Dalai Lama in the Map Room.

November 11

In the morning, the President traveled to Arlington, VA. He returned to Washington, DC, in the afternoon.

November 13

The President announced his intention to appoint Irving J. Stolberg to serve as a member of the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad.

The President announced the recess appointment of Montie R. Deer to serve as Chair of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: The Congress having adjourned *sine die* on October 21, no nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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 November 7

Statement by the Press Secretary: Easing of Sanctions on India and Pakistan

Released November 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Statement by the Press Secretary: Lake Mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea

Released November 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart