

of the affected countries living in the United States, while examining on an urgent basis recommendations for further relief, consistent with the recommendation Mrs. Gore made to me.

A storm shows no respect for boundaries, and we should respond the same way. Many American citizens have relatives in Central America; our nations are related, too. They are our friends and our neighbors. We are going to share the future together. America is at its best when lending a helping hand to friends in need. Central Americans have taken great strides in the last decade in ending conflicts and strengthening democracies. We must not, and we will not, let a hurricane drown these aspirations.

The United States will spare no aid to people of Central America, our fellow Americans, as we all strive to build a better world in a new century.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:59 p.m. on November 13 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 14. This transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 13 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Memorandum on Emergency Disaster Relief for Central America

November 14, 1998

Presidential Determination No. 99-04

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the
Secretary of Defense*

Subject: Drawdown Under Section 506(a)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the Foreign Assistance Act to Provide Emergency Disaster Relief Assistance for Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 506(a)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended ("the Act"), 22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(2), I hereby determine that it is in the national interest of the United States to draw down articles and services from the inventory and resources of the Department of Defense, for the purpose of providing international disaster relief assistance

to Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

Therefore, I direct the drawdown of up to \$45 million of articles and services from the inventory and resources of the Department of Defense for the Governments of Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala for the purposes and under the authorities of chapter 9 of part I of the Act.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress immediately and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

Statement on the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

November 14, 1998

On this International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, I want to reaffirm my administration's strong commitment to religious freedom around the world.

Today, in solidarity with millions of people at home and abroad, we pray for those who suffer for their beliefs—a suffering forewarned by Scripture: ". . . they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you . . . [you will be] brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake." But with this warning comes the promise, "I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to deny or resist." (Luke 21:12).

My administration worked closely with Members of Congress and the U.S. religious community to secure passage of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, which is an important addition to our ongoing efforts to make the promotion of religious freedom a national priority and an integral part of our foreign policy.

On this day, when we keep in our thoughts the noble struggle for religious freedom of people of all backgrounds, whether Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Taoist, Baha'i, or of any other faith, we remember the words of the American Founding Father James Madison, who called religious liberty the "luster of our country." And we pray that our devotion to religious tolerance will serve as a beacon for all people everywhere who yearn for spiritual freedom.