

**Letter to Congressional Leaders  
Reporting on the National  
Emergency With Respect to Iran**  
*November 16, 1998*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

I hereby report to the Congress on developments since the last Presidential report of May 13, 1998, concerning the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979. This report is submitted pursuant to section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c)(IEEPA). This report covers events through September 30, 1998. My last report, dated May 13, 1998, covered events through March 31, 1998.

1. There have been no amendments to the Iranian Assets Control Regulations, 31 CFR Part 535 (the "IACR"), since my last report.

2. The Iran-United States Claims Tribunal (the "Tribunal"), established at The Hague pursuant to the Algiers Accords, continues to make progress in arbitrating the claims before it. Since the period covered in my last report, the Tribunal has rendered three awards. This brings the total number of awards rendered by the Tribunal to 588, the majority of which have been in favor of U.S. claimants. As of September 30, 1998, the value of awards to successful U.S. claimants paid from the Security Account held by the NV Settlement Bank was \$2,501,515,655.22.

Since my last report, Iran has failed to replenish the Security Account established by the Algiers Accords to ensure payment of awards to successful U.S. claimants. Thus, since November 5, 1992, the Security Account has continuously remained below the \$500 million balance required by the Algiers Accords. As of September 30, 1998, the total amount in the Security Account was \$107,563,705.15, and the total amount in the Interest Account was \$26,226,833.16. Therefore, the United States continues to pursue Case No. A/28, filed in September 1993, to require Iran to meet its obligation under the Algiers Accords to replenish the Security Account.

The United States also continues to pursue Case No. A/29 to require Iran to meet its obligation of timely payment of its equal

share of advances for Tribunal expenses when directed to do so by the Tribunal.

3. The Department of State continues to present other United States Government claims against Iran and to respond to claims brought against the United States by Iran, in coordination with concerned government agencies.

On April 20, 1998, the United States filed a major submission in Case No. B/1, a case in which Iran seeks repayment for alleged wrongful charges to Iran over the life of its Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program, including the costs of terminating the program. The April filing addressed liability for the costs arising out of termination of the FMS program.

Under the February 22, 1996, settlement agreement related to the Iran Air case before the International Court of Justice and Iran's bank-related claims against the United States before the Tribunal (see report of May 16, 1996), the Department of State has been processing payments. As of September 30, 1998, the Department has authorized payment to U.S. nationals totaling \$17,521,261.89 for 55 claims against Iranian banks. The Department has also authorized payments to surviving family members of 228 Iranian victims of the aerial incident, totaling \$56,550,000.

On June 5, 1998, the full Tribunal issued an award in Case No. A/27. The Tribunal held that, because of decisions of a United States District Court and Court of Appeals declining to enforce the Tribunal's July 1988 award to Iran in *Avco v. Iran*, the United States violated its obligation under the Algiers Accords to ensure that Tribunal awards be treated as binding.

On June 17, 1998, the Tribunal issued an order in Case No. B/61, in which Iran seeks compensation for the alleged non-transfer of certain military property. The order dismissed certain claims on grounds that they were duplicative of claims in other cases.

In Case No. A/30, a case in which Iran alleges that the United States has violated paragraphs 1 and 10 of the General Declaration of the Algiers Accords, based on an alleged covert action program aimed at Iran and U.S. sanctions, the United States and Iran filed submissions in response to Iran's

request that the Tribunal require the United States to produce classified intelligence information.

4. U.S. nationals continue to pursue claims against Iran at the Tribunal. Since my last report, the Tribunal has issued awards in two private claims. On July 2, 1998, Chamber Two issued an award in *Kamran Hakim v. Iran*, AWD No. 587-953-2, ordering Iran to pay the claimant \$691,611 plus interest as compensation for measures that deprived the claimant of his interest in a company he had established. The Tribunal dismissed claims regarding parcels of real property on grounds that, in certain instances, the claimant failed to prove expropriation or other measures affecting property rights, and failed in other instances to prove ownership.

On July 8, 1998, Chamber One issued an award in *Brown & Root, Inc. v. Iran*, AWD No. 588-432-1, giving effect to a settlement agreement between the parties, ordering Iran to pay the claimant \$16,718,214.

5. The situation reviewed above continues to implicate important diplomatic, financial, and legal interests of the United States and its nationals and presents an unusual challenge to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. The Iranian Assets Control Regulations issued pursuant to Executive Order 12170 continue to play an important role in structuring our relationship with Iran and in enabling the United States to implement properly the Algiers Accords. I shall continue to exercise the powers at my disposal to deal with these problems and will continue to report periodically to the Congress on significant developments.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
November 16, 1998.

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

**Statement on the Election of  
Representative Jim Clyburn To  
Chair the Congressional Black  
Caucus**

*November 17, 1998*

I am pleased that Representative Jim Clyburn was elected by his colleagues to chair the Congressional Black Caucus. In January Representative Clyburn will begin his fourth term representing the people of the Sixth District of South Carolina. Throughout his career, he has been a tireless advocate for his constituents and he has been a national leader on issues including rural economic development and affirmative action.

I commend outgoing CBC Chairwoman Maxine Waters for her outstanding leadership of the caucus, and I am confident that Representative Clyburn will be a most able successor. I look forward to working with Chairman Clyburn and the entire Congressional Black Caucus during the 106th Congress.

**Statement on the Election of  
Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard  
To Chair the Congressional Hispanic  
Caucus**

*November 17, 1998*

I am pleased that today the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) elected Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard as their new chair for the 106th Congress. Representative Roybal-Allard has already established a record of distinction, serving her constituents in the 33d District of California and as a national leader in the areas of education, financial services, homeownership, and women's and children's rights.

I commend outgoing CHC Chair Xavier Becerra for his outstanding leadership of the caucus, and I am confident that Representative Roybal-Allard will be an excellent advocate for the caucus and the entire Latino community. I look forward to working with Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and the entire