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ago, and I want to go, and I hope it will be possible for me to go.

One other thing, Prime Minister, if you'll indulge me before the Pakistani press leaves, I think I would like to say to the people of Pakistan, on behalf of not just myself personally but the United States, our country has been enormously enriched by the presence of Pakistani-American citizens and immigrants. And we are a stronger, better place today because of the people who have come from Pakistan to the United States, and that makes me all the more determined to try to be a positive force and a good friend and a good partner. And I hope we're going to make some progress today.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Resignation of Steve Grossman as National Chairman of the Democratic National Committee

December 2, 1998

While it is good news for his family, the resignation of DNC National Chairman Steve Grossman is a loss for the Democratic Party. Steve has been a leader, a party builder, a prolific fundraiser, and a wonderful friend to Hillary and me.

When Steve became national chairman in early 1997, the Democratic Party faced an enormous debt and the possibility that we would not have the financial resources to compete effectively in the midterm election. With Steve's energy and dedication, the party has nearly eliminated its debt, and we had the resources we needed to compete in November.

Steve and our general chairman, Governor Roy Romer, have made a remarkable team. The millions of voters mobilized under their leadership led to the extraordinary and historic successes of Democratic candidates nationwide.

Steve's life has been dedicated to public service, his community, and his faith. I will always be grateful to him for his service to our party and the Nation. Hillary and I wish the best to Steve, his wife, Barbara, and their sons, David, Benjamin, and Joshua.

Statement on the Acquittal of Former Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy

December 2, 1998

I am pleased by the jury's verdict today acquitting former Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy of all charges brought by the Independent Counsel. Mr. Espy served his country and my administration with distinction—first as a Congressman from Mississippi and then as Secretary of Agriculture.

As Secretary, Mike Espy worked hard and successfully to create a Department that now better serves the American people. He was a relentless champion for America's farmers and consumers. He reached out when lives and livelihoods were threatened by natural disasters in rural communities and offered relief. He was an advocate for those suffering from hunger, and he fought for the environment.

After what have been challenging times for Mr. Espy, both personally and professionally, I am heartened that he has, as he said, emerged from this ordeal stronger. I hope that, as he moves forward, he will continue his notable record of service to the country.

Remarks at a Democratic Leadership Council Dinner

December 2, 1998

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, I have to ask a couple of questions. The first question I want to ask is whether you can actually hear us. Can you hear? Some say yes; some say no. So-so. How's that? One of these mikes is working, but is that better? Okay. Still so-so. I'll do the best I can.

You know, this magnificent gallery may not be the best place for a speech, but most of you have heard my speech anyway. But it is a wonderful place, full of the rich history of Washington, full of the great culture of our country. It has special memories for me, because I once stood on a platform in this very same spot, a little over 3 years ago, with King Hussein, Shimon Peres, Yasser Arafat,