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Statement on the National Emergency With Respect to the Taliban

July 6, 1999

I have signed an Executive order imposing financial and other commercial sanctions on the Afghan Taliban for its support of Usama bin Ladin and his terrorist network. The Taliban has allowed the territory under its control to be used as a safe haven and base of operations for Usama bin Ladin and the al-Qaida organization, who were responsible for the bombings of our embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, last year, murdering 12 Americans, nearly 300 Kenyans and Tanzanians, and wounding another 5,000. To this day, bin Ladin and his network continue to plan new attacks against Americans, without regard for the innocence of their intended victims or for those non-Americans who might get in the way of his attack. The United States has tried repeatedly, directly and working with other governments, to persuade the Taliban to expel bin Ladin to the United States for trial or, if that is not possible, to a third country where he will face justice for his crimes, and to end the safe haven it gives to bin Ladin's network, which lives and trains in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. These efforts have failed. The Executive order I have signed will deepen the international isolation of the Taliban, limit its ability to support terrorist networks and demonstrate the need to conform to accepted norms of international behavior. The order does not affect humanitarian aid, food, and medical supplies for civilian use. It is not aimed at the people of Afghanistan, but at the Taliban. Those who nurture terrorism must understand that we will not stand by while those whom they protect target Americans.

Remarks in a Roundtable Discussion on Investment in the Mississippi Delta Region in Clarksdale, Mississippi

July 6, 1999

The President. Thank you. Please be seated. Well, it's hot as a firecracker in here. [*Laughter*] So I feel right at home. [*Laughter*] I don't know whether Bob Koerber and the people at Waterfield are insured against heatstroke by strangers happening in along the way, but let me say that I am delighted to be here today. I've had a good day already.

And I've got a large group with me, and I can't mention them all, but I'd like to mention a few of them. First I want to thank Secretary Slater, who is, as all of you know, also from Arkansas and worked with me on the Delta commission. I want to thank our Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman; our Secretary of Labor, Alexis Herman, who is here with me; our SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez. Reverend Jackson, thank you for being here.

I'd like to thank David Bronczek from FedEx; Jack Haugsland from Greyhound. We'll introduce our panelists later. I'd also like to say a special word of thanks to Lieutenant Governor Ronnie Musgrove and his family. They're here, and we thank him for his interest in the development of the Delta.

Our Congressmen, Bennie Thompson, from this district, thank you. And I understand Congressman Ronnie Shows from Mississippi is also here—Ronnie is standing up there; thank you. And we have two visitors who have come from a long way away to be with us, Congressman Jim Clyburn from South Carolina and Congressman Paul Kanjorski, all the way from Pennsylvania, down here. Thank you very much.

And we thank Attorney General Mike Moore for being here, and all the other people from Mississippi who are here.

Let me say again to Bob Koerber and all the folks here at Waterfield, we thank you for giving us a chance to both tour this plant and to camp out in some of your space.

And I would like to be very brief. I've learned to attenuate these remarks of mine. Yesterday it was 100 degrees in Hazard, Kentucky; we had 10,000 or 15,000 people outside. And I said I don't believe I better give this speech I was going to give.

Hello, Governor Mabus. It's nice to see you. Welcome. Thank you very much for being here. And I think my friend William Winter is here. Governor Winter, are you here somewhere? He met me at the airport.