

**Letter to Congressional Leaders on
Review of Title III of the Cuban
Liberty and Democratic Solidarity
(LIBERTAD) Act of 1996**

July 16, 1999

Dear _____:

Pursuant to section 306(c)(2) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-114), (the "Act"), I hereby determine and report to the Congress that suspension for 6 months beyond August 1, 1999, of the right to bring an action under title III of the Act is necessary to the national interests of the United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Ted Stevens, chairman, and Robert C. Byrd, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, and Sam Gejdenson, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations.

**Proclamation 7209—Captive Nations
Week, 1999**

July 16, 1999

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

This month Americans mark 223 years of freedom from tyranny. We celebrate the vision of our founders who, in signing the Declaration of Independence, proclaimed the importance of liberty, the value of human dignity, and the need for a new form of government dedicated to the will of the people. As heirs to that legacy and the fortunate citizens of a democratic Nation, we continue to cherish the values of freedom and equality. Many people across the globe, however, are still denied the rights we exercise daily and too often take for granted. During Captive Nations Week, we reaffirm our solidarity with those around the world who suffer under the shadow of dictators and tyrants.

Americans have expressed their devotion to freedom and human rights through actions as well as words, having fought and died for these ideals time and again. In World War II, we battled the brutality of fascism. In Korea, Vietnam, and throughout the Cold War, we stood up to the despotism of communism. In the Persian Gulf, and in partnership with our NATO allies in the skies over Serbia and Kosovo, we have fought brutal and oppressive regimes.

Thanks to our strength and resolve and the courage of countless men and women in countries around the world, we can be proud that the list of captive nations has grown smaller. The fall of the Berlin Wall a decade ago finally enabled us to pursue democratic reform in Central and Eastern Europe and to lay the firm foundations of freedom, peace, and prosperity. And in countries around the world, from South Africa to South Korea to South America, democracy is flourishing, and citizens enjoy the liberty to seek their own destiny.

The post-Cold-War world, however, confronts us with a new set of dangers to freedom—threats such as civil wars, terrorism, and ethnic cleansing. There are still rulers in the world who refuse to join the march toward freedom, who believe that the only way to govern is with an iron fist, and who rely on reprehensible practices like arbitrary detention, forced labor, torture, and execution to subjugate their people.

As we observe this Captive Nations Week, let us once again reaffirm our profound commitment to freedom and universal human rights. Let us continue to promote tolerance, justice, and equality and to speak out for those who have no voice. Let us rededicate ourselves to the growth of democracy and the rule of law; and let us resolve that in the next century we will foster the further expansion of the rights and freedoms with which Americans have been blessed for so long.

The Congress, by Joint Resolution approved July 17, 1959 (73 Stat. 212), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week in July of each year as "Captive Nations Week."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim July 18 through July 24, 1999, as Captive Nations Week. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to rededicate ourselves to supporting the cause of freedom, human rights, and self-determination for all the peoples of the world.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 21, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 22.

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.

July 10

In the afternoon, the President traveled from Los Angeles, CA, to Pasadena, CA. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

July 12

In the morning, the President met with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia in the State Dining Room for a working visit.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jared L. Cohon as Chair and member of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.

July 13

In the morning, the President traveled to Miami Beach, FL. In the evening, he traveled to Coral Gables, FL, and later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to appoint Lee Haney as Chair of the Presi-

dent's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

July 14

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Baltimore, MD, and later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate David N. Greenlee to be Ambassador to Paraguay.

The President announced his intention to appoint Ronald Morriss as a member of the National Drought Policy Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Nancy M. Zirkin as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Little Rock, AR, on August 6–10 and September 22.

July 15

In the afternoon, the President met with Crown Prince Khalifa bin Zayid of the United Arab Emirates in the Oval Office.

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton went to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Lansing, MI, on July 22.

The White House announced that the President welcomed the successful outcome of talks between Argentina and the United Kingdom concerning the Falklands/Malvinas and other South Atlantic islands.

July 16

In the morning, the President traveled to Des Moines, IA.

In the afternoon, the President visited the Amos Hiatt Middle School.

In the evening, the President attended a dinner for Senator Tom Harkin at a private residence. Later, the President returned to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Andrew Fish to be Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations at the Department of Agriculture.