

able to dictate the composition of it once having acknowledged that the United Nations should come in.

#### **Australian Leadership in East Timor**

**Q.** Is Australia's leadership nonnegotiable—[*inaudible*]?

**The President.** Well, that's, of course, for the U.N. to decide, but as far as I'm concerned, I'm quite comfortable with it and strongly supportive of it. Keep in mind, they are willing to provide what, in all probability, will be more than half of the total force needed.

We have a high regard for their abilities. We train with them. We work with them. We know that they can do this job, and in so doing, they make it possible for large numbers of other nations to participate who can make only more modest contributions. It's easier for New Zealand, for Malaysia, for the Philippines, for Korea, for any number of other countries to send in troops according to their ability to do it, knowing that there will be a large and very well-trained and led anchor force there. So the Australian commitment makes possible the effective commitments of a lot of other countries, just as our airlift capacity does.

So I would hope we can stick with it, and I think we will. I feel good about it.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:55 a.m. at the Stamford Plaza Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Jennifer Shipley of New Zealand; and President Jiang Zemin of China.

#### **Exchange With Reporters Following a Round of Golf in Queenstown, New Zealand September 14, 1999**

**Q.** How's your golf game today, Mr. President? Did it improve as you went along?

**The President.** It got a lot better. It had nowhere to go but up when I started. No, we did better, and we won the match, thanks mostly to my partner here. But we did okay. We played the way partners should play. When I had a good score, he didn't; when he had a good score, I didn't play good. We wasted no shots.

**Burton Shipley.** The President suggested at one stage that we were playing very good brother-in-law golf. I thought the line was very good.

**Q.** [*Inaudible*]

**The President.** We did, we actually played the pro and his partner, and we won, and they bought me a Diet Coke. It was a big stake here; it was great.

**Q.** [*Inaudible*]—the last hole?

**The President.** No, we won that, too. All four of us parred all four holes the second time we played.

**Mr. Shipley.** But we got a couple more strokes.

#### **Situation in East Timor**

**Q.** Are you satisfied with how the talks went in New York today?

**The President.** What?

**Q.** It seemed to be positive. It seemed that the Indonesians signed on to what the United States wants.

**The President.** It appears so. You know, the initial report I got was quite good, but I want to get a detailed briefing about exactly where we are. I think the important thing is to get the force mobilized, get it in in a hurry, and also get the humanitarian aid out there. There are a lot of people still actually in East Timor who need food and supplies, so we've got a lot of work to do.

#### **Hurricane Floyd**

**Q.** What have you heard about the hurricane?

**Q.** Are you monitoring Hurricane Floyd?

**The President.** Yes. I talked to Mr. Witt this morning, and he told me he would call me back in about 12, 14 hours and let me know where it was. I've not talked to him since I got up this morning.

**Q.** It sounds like a monster storm, sir.

**The President.** Yes, he said it's going to be huge. And we didn't know at the time how many States would be hit for sure. But all the experts think it's going to be a very, very large storm. We'll just have to hope for the best.

#### **President's Visit**

**Q.** [*Inaudible*]

**The President.** It's fabulous; it's really quite a wonderful course. It's an honest

course. It's a good course. It plays hard, but it's an honest course.

**Q.** What do you think of Queenstown?

**The President.** I wish I had weeks to spend here. You know, when we were coming in the airplane, landing, everybody on our plane was just gasping when we saw the landscape. It's just so beautiful. You're all very fortunate.

**Q.** When are you coming back, Mr. President?

**The President.** How about next week? [Laughter]

### Round of Golf

**Q.** [Inaudible]

**The President.** This guy hits the ball further than any person his age I've ever played with, including a lot of the pros I've played—water treatment.

**Mr. Shipley.** Just not as straight as the pros.

**The President.** And it's only because his public service has kept him from playing every day that he's not a scratch golfer.

### Chelsea Clinton

**Q.** What did Chelsea do today?

**The President.** I think she looked around here and went running. I don't think she went caving or anything as great as yesterday.

NOTE: The exchange began at 6:41 p.m. at the Millbrook Resort. In his remarks, the President referred to his golf opponents, club pro John Griffin and publisher Mike Robson. Burton Shipley is the husband of Prime Minister Jennifer Shipley of New Zealand. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

## Proclamation 7220—National Hispanic Heritage Month, 1999

September 14, 1999

By the President of the United States of America

### A Proclamation

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we reflect on the history of a people who were part of this land long before the birth of the United States. Hispanics were among the earliest European settlers in the

New World, and Hispanics as a people—like their many cultures—share a rich history and great diversity. Hispanic Americans have roots in Europe, Africa, and South and Central America and close cultural ties to Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, South America, and Spain. This diversity has brought variety and richness to the mosaic that is America and has strengthened our national character with invaluable perspective, experiences, and values.

Through the years, Hispanic Americans have played an integral role in our Nation's success in science, the arts, business, government, and every other field of endeavor, and their talent, creativity, and achievements continue to energize our national life. For example, Hispanic Americans serve as NASA astronauts, including Dr. Ellen Ochoa, the first Hispanic woman in space. Mario Molina of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology shared a Nobel Prize in chemistry for research that raised awareness of the threat that chlorofluorocarbons pose to the earth's protective ozone layer. Cuban-American writer Oscar Hijuelos earned a Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

The achievements of today's Hispanic Americans build upon a long tradition of contributions by Hispanics in many varied fields. Before Dr. Ochoa and other Hispanic Americans began to explore the frontiers of space, Hernando de Soto and Francisco Vásquez de Coronado ventured into the vast uncharted land of the New World. A thousand years before Mario Molina calculated the effects of human actions on the atmosphere, Mayan priests accurately predicted solar and lunar eclipses. And before Oscar Hijuelos described a Cuban family's emigration to 1940s America, Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra gave us the classic adventures of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza.

Today, people of Hispanic heritage are an increasingly important and growing segment of our Nation's population. Studies show that, in just a few years, Hispanics will form the largest minority group in the United States. In little more than a decade, Hispanic Americans will wield buying power of nearly \$1 trillion per year. And by the middle of the next century, if population trends continue, almost one-fourth of our population