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Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. If confirmed by the Senate, General Myers will succeed Gen. Joseph J. Ralston.

General Myers currently serves as Commander in Chief, United States Space Command; Commander in Chief, North American Aerospace Defense Command; and Commander, Air Force Space Command. He brings to the position of Vice Chairman extensive operational and planning experience as well as proven leadership ability. During this distinguished career, General Myers commanded the 335th Tactical Fighter Squadron, the 325th Tactical Training Wing, the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing, U.S. Forces Japan, the 5th Air Force, and U.S. Pacific Air Forces. He is a Command Pilot with more than 3,900 flying hours, including combat missions in Vietnam. His broad professional experience also includes significant tours on the Joint Staff and Air Staff in the Pentagon.

General Myers assumes the post of Vice Chairman at a time of diverse challenges for our Armed Forces, ranging from preserving and enhancing military readiness to modernizing and transforming our forces to maintain our military superiority in the 21st century. I have the utmost trust and confidence in his ability to meet these challenges.

Statement on the Nomination of Gen. Joseph J. Ralston To Be Supreme Allied Commander Europe

October 14, 1999

I am pleased to announce that I have nominated Gen. Joseph J. Ralston, United States Air Force, to succeed Gen. Wesley K. Clark, United States Army, as Supreme Allied Commander Europe. This nomination is subject to the approval of the North Atlantic Council's Defense Planning Committee. Upon Defense Planning Committee approval of his nomination as Supreme Allied Commander Europe, I intend to send forward to Congress General Ralston's nomination to serve as Commander in Chief, United States European Command.

General Ralston's distinguished career spans three decades, with significant operational and policy experience. He established impeccable credentials as a military commander while commanding the 68th Tactical Fighter Squadron, the 56th Tactical Training Wing, the U.S. Alaskan Command, the 11th Air Force, and the Air Combat Command. He has served with great distinction as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff over the past 3½ years, providing excellent advice and support for two Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairmen and two Secretaries of Defense.

This is a time of significant change within the North Atlantic Alliance, as NATO continues the work of building a secure and undivided Europe. General Clark is doing an extraordinary job as Supreme Allied Commander Europe. He led Allied forces to a brilliant victory in Operation Allied Force and is demonstrating similarly impressive leadership as KFOR provides the security necessary to build a lasting and just peace in Kosovo. I know he will continue his dynamic leadership of NATO forces in Europe during the remainder of his tour. I have utmost confidence that General Ralston will be a worthy successor.

Statement on the Death of Former President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania

October 14, 1999

On behalf of the American people, Hillary and I extend our deepest sympathies to the family of former President Julius Nyerere, to President Mkapa, and the people of Tanzania. President Nyerere's death is a great loss for Tanzania, for Africa, and for the international community as a whole.

President Nyerere was a pioneering leader for freedom and self-government in Africa. Many African leaders sought his guidance as they crafted their own new societies.

President Nyerere dedicated his life to a vision rooted in the belief that all people have a responsibility to protect those who cannot protect themselves. He practiced this ethic personally, aiding not only courageous African leaders but also ordinary victims of regional conflict; he opened Tanzania's borders to refugees from wars in Mozambique, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, and Uganda.

President Nyerere's legacy of determination and compassion lives on in the generous