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Week Ending Friday, April 21, 2000

Statement on Congressional Action on Africa and Caribbean Basin Trade Legislation

April 14, 2000

The bipartisan agreement reached by the House and Senate on the Africa and Caribbean Basin trade legislation is a major step toward enactment of these historic initiatives. This bill is a win-win proposition for the United States and our friends in Africa and the Caribbean Basin. It will boost investment, economic growth, and job creation in these countries, while improving the global competitive position of our own textile industry. It will help promote economic reform, reduce poverty, and broaden participation in the benefits of the global economy. I congratulate congressional leaders from both parties who worked hard to reach this agreement. I urge Congress to complete the remaining work on the bill rapidly so that final approval can occur during the first week after its Easter recess.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on National Youth Service Day

April 14, 2000

This weekend, as we celebrate the 12th annual National Youth Service Day, I want to recognize the millions of young Americans across the country who give to their communities day in and day out. They are rebuilding our Nation's schools and neighborhoods and sparking a new spirit of civic engagement. And they know that service is not the work of just a single day; it is the work of a lifetime.

In recent months we've had too many tragic reminders that young people pay the price when bonds of community and responsibility become frayed. But we should also remember that our children are our greatest resource and that, if we are to build a stronger, safer Nation, we should begin by empowering young people to make a difference. That's why I am so proud of the young citizens who have served in AmeriCorps. And that's why I am so proud of the many contributions that so many of our youth are making on this special day. Through the leadership of young Americans, all of us—whatever our age—can help keep alive our sense of opportunity, responsibility, and community.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7294—National Recall Round-Up Day, 2000

April 14, 2000

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Every year, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) researches the safety of more than 15,000 types of products used by the American people and secures the recall of defective or potentially dangerous products. Last year alone, the CPSC negotiated almost 300 recalls involving more than 74 million individual consumer products that presented a significant risk to the public. Despite these recalls and additional safety alerts issued by the CPSC, many consumers are still using products that may seriously injure or even kill them or their children, and people are still able to purchase these products at flea markets, secondhand stores, and garage or yard sales.

The CPSC estimates that some 29 million Americans will suffer injuries involving consumer products this year, and 22,000 will lose their lives. To reduce these tragic statistics, the CPSC is working to increase public awareness of recalled products and to ensure that such potentially hazardous products are