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Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting the Report on Peacekeeping Operations

July 25, 2000

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to transmit herewith the 1999 Annual Report to the Congress on Peacekeeping required by section 4 of the United Nations Participation Act (Public Law 79–264), as amended.

United Nations and other peacekeeping operations helped us protect our interests before they were directly threatened, and ensured that other nations shared with us the risks and costs of maintaining international stability.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that peacekeeping remains a viable option for dealing with international conflicts.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; John W. Warner, chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Ted Stevens, chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, House Committee on International Relations; C.W. Bill Young, chairman, House Committee on Appropriations; and Floyd Spence, chairman, House Committee on Armed Services. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 26.

Remarks on the Anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act

July 26, 2000

Thank you very much. And thank you, Justin, for all you said, all you've done; how you've been a conscience to me and to Hillary and to the Vice President and our entire administration and to the country.

I want to thank all the Members of Congress who are here, especially, obviously, Senator Harkin and Senator Hatch. But thank you, Senator Kennedy, Senator Specter, Senator Jeffords. Senator Metzenbaum, it's good to see you back. I'd like to thank Representative Morella and former Representative Bartlett. And Secretary Mineta, former Representative Mineta, thank you for what you did on this; and recognize that Tony Coehlo—I'm not sure that he's here—but for all he did, along with—and I thank all the members of the administration who are here: Secretary Herman, Secretary Gober, and Commissioner Apfel, Director Lachance, the EEO Chairwoman, Ida Castro, and many others over there.

But I'd like to especially thank the people that Justin Dart recognized, the Americans with disabilities who have made our administration the most diverse in America, and I think the best, because of their contributions in terms of reflecting America's values. Thank you, Paul Miller, Bob Williams, Marca Bristo, Judy Heumann. Thank you, Becky Ogle, and all the others who are here for what you did for our administration.

I finally think I've carried this too far. There is an article in the Washington Post this morning on Becky Ogle. If you haven't seen it, you ought to. I've been here 8 years, and I have never gotten that good of press in the Washington Post. [*Laughter*] It was amazing, so we're really making progress.

I'd also like to thank young Beth Gray from my home State of Arkansas for singing the national anthem. Didn't she do a wonderful job? [*Applause*] I thought she was really terrific—and all the other young people that are here.

One of the things that Tom Harkin didn't tell you about his brother, Frank, is that when we celebrated the first anniversary of the ADA, that I had a chance to celebrate as President in 1993, we made the first—Tom and I did—made the first and ever phone call from the White House to the nationwide relay service which allows people who are deaf to use the phone. We called Frank at home in Cumming, Iowa. And guess what? Here we were, the whole national press, we're in the Oval Office, Tom and I—the line was busy. [*Laughter*] Frank couldn't wait for us. He was already calling his friends to say hello, because he was so excited to be on the phone for the first time. Eventually, Frank found time to take our call, and we had a wonderful visit.

I say that to make this point. A lot of what the Americans with Disabilities Act is all about is making sure people can live like people, can do things that other folks take for