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Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to UNITA

September 22, 2000

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) is to continue in effect beyond September 26, 2000, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

The circumstances that led to the declaration on September 26, 1993, of a national emergency have not been resolved. The actions and policies of UNITA pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. United Nations Security Council Resolutions 864 (1993), 1127 (1997), 1173 (1998), and 1176 (1998) continue to oblige all member states to maintain sanctions. Discontinuation of the sanctions would have a prejudicial effect on the prospects for peace in Angola. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the broad authorities necessary to apply economic pressure on UNITA to reduce its ability to pursue its military operations.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 22, 2000.

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

Remarks on Departure for Palo Alto, California, and an Exchange With Reporters

September 23, 2000

Strategic Petroleum Reserve

The President. Good morning. Yesterday I directed the Secretary of Energy to exchange 30 million barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve over the next 30 days.

As it stands, overall heating oil inventories are more than 20 percent lower than they were last year, 50 percent lower on the East Coast, more than 60 percent lower in New England. The underlying cause of low inventories is the high price of crude oil.

The overriding purpose for our action is to increase supply and help consumers make it through the cold winter. Families shouldn't have to drain their wallets to drive their cars or heat their homes.

I'd also note that this action will result in more oil in the reserve. This is a swap. And the reserve will be replenished along with a premium, further increasing our long-term protection against energy supply disruptions. This is the right thing to do. It's good energy policy, good national security policy, and good family policy.

Today I'm announcing new actions to help make sure that heating oil is available and affordable for our families. First, I'm directing the Department of Health and Human Services to release $400 million in Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds, the largest ever emergency funding release of its kind to help families who can least bear the burden of high energy prices this winter.

Second, I'm asking the EPA to help States identify ways to use more and different kinds of home heating oil while minimizing environmental consequences. This could help to further build home heating oil inventories.

Third, I am directing Federal agencies to make early contractual commitments to purchase heating oil throughout the winter so