

achieve agreement on an objective and fair factfinding process on what happened to bring us to this sad point and how we can avoid having it ever happen again. And we want to get the peace process going.

The future of the peoples involved here, the future of the peace process and the stability of the region are at stake. We cannot afford to fail here. In order to succeed, though once again we have a situation piled high with grievance, we have got to move beyond blame. We have got to focus on what we're going to do tomorrow and the next day and the next day. We have to have a balanced, mutual disengagement, and we have to restore the security cooperation and have the confidence-building measures necessary for people to go about their business and live in peace and begin to rebuild the bonds of trust.

The only other thing I want to ask you all is just to remember before these terrible events how far we have come since September 19, 1993, when the Palestinians and Israelis signed the agreement to find a peaceful future together and resolve their differences peacefully on the lawn of the White House.

We shouldn't give it all up for what has happened in the last few weeks. And what has happened in these last few weeks reminds us of the terrible alternative to continuing to live in peace and to continuing the peace process.

President Mubarak, I am grateful to you, again. We can, if we will look to the future and proceed in a fair and balanced way, we can do what we have to do here, and we must do that.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m. at the Jolie Ville Golf Resort. In his remarks, he referred to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; King Abdullah II of Jordan; United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan; and European Union Council Secretary General Javier Solana, High Representative for the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Legislative Agenda To Bridge the Digital Divide

October 16, 2000

I am pleased by a new report released today by the Commerce Department, documenting a sharp increase in the number of Americans that have access to computers and the Internet. Although much more remains to be done to bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunity for all Americans, I am especially pleased that many low-income, rural, and minority households are beginning to "get connected" at rates faster than the national average.

Access to these information age tools is becoming critical to full participation in America's economic, political, and social life. Americans are using the Internet to vote, look for work, acquire new skills, and communicate with their children's teachers. To ensure that we continue to make progress in bridging the digital divide, I urge Congress to fund the initiatives that I have proposed in my budget. These include my proposals to fully fund community technology centers, preparing tomorrow's teachers to use technology, assistive technology for people with disabilities, and the Commerce Department's home Internet access and technology opportunity program.

Statement on the Resignation of Barry R. McCaffrey as Director of National Drug Control Policy

October 16, 2000

General Barry McCaffrey, USA (Ret.), has informed me that he will step down in January as Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank and commend him for his extraordinary work in meeting one of our Nation's most pressing challenges. General McCaffrey has brought to his post the same professionalism, dedication, and leadership that have exemplified his 40 years of steadfast service to our Nation.

In accepting this post in 1996, General McCaffrey retired from the United States Army as its youngest and most decorated