

Palestinians and throughout the region over the past 7 years now. Even as we meet, the situation in the territories remains tense. Yesterday again was violent.

This is a reminder of the urgency of breaking the cycle of violence. I believe we have made real progress today. Repairing the damage will take time and great effort by all of us.

When we leave here today, we will have to work hard to consolidate what we have agreed. Let me summarize what has been agreed so there will be no misunderstanding.

Our primary objective has been to end the current violence so we can begin again to resume our efforts toward peace. The leaders have agreed on three basic objectives and steps to realize them.

First, both sides have agreed to issue public statements unequivocally calling for an end of violence. They also agreed to take immediate, concrete measures to end the current confrontation, eliminate points of friction, ensure an end to violence and incitement, maintain calm, and prevent recurrence of recent events.

To accomplish this, both sides will act immediately to return the situation to that which existed prior to the current crisis, in areas such as restoring law and order, redeployment of forces, eliminating points of friction, enhancing security cooperation, and ending the closure and opening the Gaza airport. The United States will facilitate security cooperation between the parties as needed.

Second, the United States will develop, with the Israelis and Palestinians as well as in consultation with the United Nations Secretary-General, a committee of factfinding on the events of the past several weeks and how to prevent their recurrence. The committee's report will be shared by the U.S. President with the U.N. Secretary-General and the parties prior to publication. A final report shall be submitted under the auspices of the U.S. President for publication.

Third, if we are to address the underlying roots of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, there must be a pathway back to negotiations and a resumption of efforts to reach a permanent status agreement based on the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and subsequent understandings. Toward this end, the

leaders have agreed that the United States would consult with the parties within the next 2 weeks about how to move forward.

We have made important commitments here today against the backdrop of tragedy and crisis. We should have no illusions about the difficulties ahead.

If we are going to rebuild confidence and trust, we must all do our part, avoiding re-creation and moving forward. I'm counting on each of us to do everything we possibly can in the critical period ahead.

I am sure it will be a disappointment to some of you, but one of the things that all the leaders agreed was that our statement should stand on its own and we should begin by promoting reconciliation and avoiding conflict by forgoing questions today.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:43 p.m. at the Jolie Ville Golf Resort. In their remarks, the Presidents referred to King Abdullah II of Jordan; Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan; and European Union Council Secretary General Javier Solana, High Representative for the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy. President Mubarak spoke in Arabic, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on the Death of Governor Mel Carnahan

October 17, 2000

Hillary and I were very saddened to learn of the tragic death of my friend Governor Mel Carnahan, his son Randy, and his aide Chris Sifford. Mel devoted his life to his family, his State, and our Nation. Whether in the Air Force or the State legislature, as Lieutenant Governor or Governor, he always put the highest priority on serving others.

In his last campaign, Mel Carnahan, as always, gave everything he had for what he believed in. He loved politics and public service, and his extraordinary record proved they can be noble endeavors. For many years now, I have been proud to call Mel Carnahan my partner, and prouder still to call him my friend.

Hillary and I send our deepest condolences to his wonderful wife, Jean, to Russ, Robin, Tom, and the rest of his family, to the other families whose loved ones perished, and to the people of Missouri, whom he loved so much and served so well.

Statement on Signing the Children's Health Act of 2000

October 17, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law the Children's Health Act of 2000. This bipartisan legislation builds on my administration's longstanding commitment to improve the health and well-being of our Nation's children. I am particularly pleased that this legislation provides new authority to expand research for the treatment of chronic and acute diseases affecting children, improve the safety of child care centers, and ensure safe and quality mental health treatment services. This important legislation also addresses the critical need for substance abuse and mental health services, especially for our Nation's youth, through the reauthorization of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), supporting State and community efforts to reduce youth drug use, and improving research and treatment services. In addition, the legislation will allow us to strengthen our efforts to curtail the emerging use of the drugs methamphetamine and Ecstasy, which imperil the health and safety of our nation's young people.

I want to pay special tribute to my administration's number one advocate for children, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. Hillary has called the Nation's attention to the special health needs of children through her work on children's health insurance coverage, asthma, pediatric labeling, juvenile diabetes, and so much more. She has led the administration's effort to improve access to health care for children, has fought hard for improving the quality and safety of child care, and has done more than anyone to improve the lives of millions of our Nation's children.

NOTE: H.R. 4365, approved October 17, was assigned Public Law No. 106-310.

Statement on Signing the Children's Health Act of 2000

October 17, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 4365, the "Children's Health Act of 2000." This legislation authorizes expanded research and services for a wide variety of childhood and prenatal health problems, reauthorizes programs of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and addresses the problem of substance abuse and associated violence.

This Act calls on HHS to continue providing services to children whose lives have been affected by diseases such as diabetes, asthma, lead poisoning, cancer, and autism, and to expand research in these and other areas such as birth defects and brain injuries so that we can better understand their causes and develop treatments. I am pleased that H.R. 4365 authorizes a new research effort, a national long-term study of environmental influences on children's health and development, that will provide critical information about environmental, social, and economic factors that affect children's health. We hope that with increased understanding of children's diseases, we will get closer to ultimately finding cures or preventing these conditions from ever occurring. I am gratified to see that this bill's focus on children's health addresses several priority areas identified by the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children.

I am also pleased that H.R. 4365 authorizes new funds to improve the health and safety of children in child care. Available, affordable, safe, high-quality child care is a concern for any working parent. I have committed my Administration to achieving this goal, and today we are making substantial strides forward.

As a Nation, we continue to face the challenges of curbing substance abuse, especially among our youth, preventing youth violence, and addressing the mental health needs of our citizens. For this reason, I am especially proud of the comprehensive manner in which this legislation addresses illegal drug