

much that next week there will be real progress to provide a humane and decent life in the future for the Bosnians.

I have said all along that—going back to February—that the United States would be prepared to participate in a multinational peacekeeping effort there if there were a fair settlement, generally and freely entered into by the Bosnian Government, which we have supported. But while the signs of the agreement are hopeful, it is important not to overread them. There has not been an agreement in the major areas of contention yet.

So next week, or soon thereafter, if an agreement is reached that the United States can evaluate and act on, I can answer that question, but I can't answer that question until there is an agreement that we know is a full and fair agreement that we have some sense is enforceable.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's 26th news conference began at 1:43 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. Following his opening remarks, Prime Minister Ciampi spoke in Italian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Proclamation 6593—Citizenship Day and Constitution Week, 1993

September 17, 1993.

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

September 17, 1787, is one of the most important, yet ironically one of the least known, dates in American history. On that day the delegates to the Philadelphia Convention completed their work by signing and reporting to the Continental Congress their proposed Constitution of the United States. Despite the enormous growth of our Nation in terms of population, industry, culture, and technology since 1787, the document drafted by 55 patriots during that summer in Philadelphia remains the fundamental law of our land.

Chief Justice Marshall wrote that the Constitution was "designed to approach immortality as nearly as human institutions can ap-

proach it." Our Constitution is by far the oldest written framework for government in existence. The extraordinary longevity of the Constitution suggests that the British statesman William Gladstone was not exaggerating when he described our Constitution as "the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man."

The Constitution's endurance is, of course, a tribute to the wisdom and statesmanship of the Framers. But it is also a tribute to our continuing commitment to the fundamental precept of constitutionalism. The Constitution has served us well, but the same document, if given to a people without an appreciation of and a commitment to the rule of law, would be worse than useless. Thus, as we mark the 206th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution, we celebrate not only the genius of the Founders, but also the fidelity of our people to the principles embodied in the Constitution.

If we are to maintain that commitment to government under law, we need to read and study the Constitution. Only by becoming familiar with its provisions can we understand and truly appreciate the Constitution's principles. Among the groups of Americans that have demonstrated their familiarity with the Constitution are naturalized Americans. As part of the naturalization process, persons seeking citizenship must pass an examination on the principles of American Government. That hundreds of thousands of people come to this country every year with the dream of becoming American citizens eloquently attests to the success of the venture in self-government launched by our Constitution. It is the duty of all Americans to understand this document and the rights and responsibilities it conveys.

In commemoration of the signing of the Constitution, and in recognition of all those who as citizens of this Republic share the responsibility for preserving and protecting our constitutional heritage, the Congress has designated September 17, 1993, as "Citizenship Day" and the week beginning September 17, 1993, as "Constitution Week."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 17, 1993, as "Citizenship Day" and the week beginning September 17, 1993, as "Constitution Week." I call upon the people of the United States to observe these occasions with appropriate ceremonies and activities, and I urge them to devote themselves to the study and discussion of the Constitution.

I further call upon the officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on September 17, 1993, in honor of Citizenship Day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:10 a.m., September 20, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 21.

Appointment for Chair of the United States Commission on Civil Rights

September 17, 1993

The President today announced his appointment of Mary Frances Berry to be Chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Berry is the first woman to be appointed to the chair since its inception.

Ms. Berry, the senior member of the commission, having served as Vice-Chair under President Carter, is currently the Geraldine R. Segal professor of American social thought and professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania.

"Mary Frances Berry is a civil rights scholar as well as an advocate," said the President. "I am proud to make this historic nomination, and I have every confidence in the commitment and abilities of Ms. Berry. Her distinguished life and career uniquely qualify her for this new leadership role."

NOTE: A biography of the appointee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Nomination for Secretary and Under Secretary of the Army

September 17, 1993

The President today announced his intention to nominate Togo Dennis West, Jr., a veteran of the Defense Department and a former Army officer, as Secretary of the Army. The President also announced his intention to nominate Joe R. Reeder Under Secretary of the Army.

"I am pleased today to announce my nomination of Togo West as our new Secretary of the Army," the President said. "Togo is a seasoned veteran of the Defense Department who knows firsthand the challenges facing our fighting men and women. I am confident he will do an excellent job of leading our Army as we adapt to the changes forced by the end of the cold war, while continuing to ensure that our fighting force remains number one in the world."

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 11

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC, from Houston, TX.

September 13

In the morning, the President met with President Bush and President Carter in the Oval Office. In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel.