ted to taking it down. Ultimately, the purpose of the crime bill is to give people at the grassroots the power to lower the crime rate, not to hire more police, to have fewer crimes. That is the purpose of what we are doing. And it can happen. It happened in Odessa, Texas. It's happened in a lot of big cities around this country. It can happen all over America.

I know that Members of this new Congress have some ideas about fighting crime. I welcome those ideas. I ask them only to remember that we should do what was done in the last Congress: listen to the people in law enforcement; listen to the people in community organizations; listen to the people at the grassroots level who know how to catch criminals, but who also know how to prevent crime and lower the crime rate. If we listen to people at the grassroots level and enlist ourselves as your supporters, then we can continue to make progress on crime. But I also have to say that I don't think we should turn back on the progress we have made. We shouldn't give up on this community policing program. We ought to keep going until there are 100,000 more police on the street. And I'm going to do my dead-level best to make sure we don't turn back.

I'm going to come up with plenty of budget cuts. But we shouldn't cut the money that Lee Brown and people all over America need for drug prevention, drug education, drug treatment, things to lower the problem of drugs so we can lower the crime rate in that way. We shouldn't do that.

And even though we did not have a majority in both parties for the Brady bill, and we certainly didn't have a majority in both parties for the assault weapons ban last time, I think we ought to leave them right where they are. We ought to stay with it, and go forward and implement it.

I think all of you know that there's one thing the skeptics said during the crime bill debate that was right. It wasn't an argument to vote against the crime bill, but it was true. We can pass all these laws and come up with all this money and all these prohibitions, but if we don't implement it right at the grassroots level, the crime rate won't go down. That is true. We could have 50 crime bills and a million police officers, and if the American people don't join in the fight, the crime rate won't go down.

So the last thing that I'd like to say is that if community policing is more than a deployment of police officers, and is really a philosophy of law enforcement, it is two words: police and community. That means that neighbors have to help neighbors, parents have to raise kids, that schools have to do things they didn't used to have to do. But if we do this together, then this community policing can be the banner of a safer America. And if we can lower the crime rate again, and make people feel safer on their streets, in their homes, and in their schools, we will begin to see this country coming together as a community again, we will begin to see people believing in our country again, we will begin to see people willing to make sacrifices for the common good again.

For all that all of you have done to that end, I thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:28 p.m. in the Great Hall at the Justice Department. In his remarks, he referred to Police Chief Joseph Brann of Hayward, CA, who will administer the President's police hiring program, and Police Chief Jerry Sanders of San Diego, CA.

Remarks on Presenting Medals for Service in Operation Uphold Democracy

December 20, 1994

Secretary Perry, Admiral Owens, members of the Joint Chiefs; to General Shelton and Mrs. Shelton, members of the Shelton family; to the representatives of each of our military services who served in Haiti and their families; all the other distinguished guests here, welcome to the Rose Garden.

We gather today to honor General Shelton and members of our Armed Forces for their service to our Nation in Operation Uphold Democracy. All those who have served and all those who still serve in Haiti have served with extraordinary skill, courage, and dedication.

For 3 years the United States and other countries throughout the world tried everything short of force to remove Haiti's illegal military regime and to restore its democrat-

ically elected government. It wasn't until the regime's leaders knew our armed forces were on the way that they agreed to step down peacefully.

Think for a moment where we would be today had we not acted and had General Shelton and the other members of our Armed Forces not performed their mission so admirably. The military regime would still be in power in Haiti, terrorizing the people there. Tens of thousands of refugees would continue to pose a threat to our region's stability. The march of democracy in the Americas would have suffered a severe setback. And the commitments of the United States in the international community would have proved empty.

Instead, we kept our word. President Aristide, Haiti's freely elected leader, has returned to office. The parliament is functioning. A sense of security and hope has replaced the climate of fear. The private sector is beginning the job of getting back on its feet. The rebuilding process has begun. And clearly our region is more stable and secure.

At the Summit of the Americas last week when we had 34 democratically elected leaders from our hemisphere, I think no one would dispute the fact that the emotional highlight of the weekend was President Aristide's speech in three languages, expressing his gratitude to those who supported freedom and democracy in Haiti.

General Shelton, your careful planning and your ability to adapt to a fast-changing situation were at the heart of our success in Haiti. The strong personal leadership, the steady hand, and the real determination that you, personally, conveyed to the military leaders of Haiti in the first days, from the first moment of your action there were, I know, absolutely critical to the success of this operation and to its peacefulness.

First, we asked you to prepare an innovative, integrated invasion force, drawing on the special capabilities of each of our services. Then, when the regime agreed at the 11th hour to leave, you had to switch gears immediately, and to ready our troops for a soft entry into Haiti.

On the ground, you have done a magnificent job of laying a secure foundation for the future. This has allowed 800 international police monitors from all around the world to work with an interim police force that is gaining the respect of the Haitian people. As a result, we've been able to draw down our own forces from 20,000 to about 6,000 at Christmas time. This number will soon decrease further as we transfer our mission in Haiti to the United Nations.

Through your efforts, General, Haiti today is democratic and free and much more secure. The Haitian people themselves, of course, must meet the difficult challenges ahead. It will take time for rebuilding and progress, but now at least all Haitians have a chance to work for a better future for themselves and their children.

The hand-painted signs we see in Haiti today say it all: Thank you, America. Today America says: Thank you, General. And thanks to the men and women of our military who served so well in Haiti.

In a few moments I will be honored to award General Shelton the Army Distinguished Service Medal. But first I want to recognize the exceptional concern the General has also shown for the men and women under his command. I know that their safety and their well-being were always his first priority. And for that our Nation is also grateful to General Shelton.

General, you requested that enlisted members from all our military branches join you today to receive the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal on behalf of their respective services. The soldiers who stand before us are the finest of America's finest. Each also will be awarded an individual commendation for meritorious service in Haiti.

I'd like to recognize them now: from the Coast Guard, Radioman 1st Class Charles Brown; from the Air Force, Staff Sergeant John McCormick; from the Navy, Senior Chief Operations Specialist Samuel Wood; from the Marine Corps, Sergeant Paul Panici; from the Army, Staff Sergeant Morris Jones; and from the Special Forces, Sergeant 1st Class Shannon Davis. Each of you has helped to prove once again that our military is the best prepared, the best equipped, the best trained, the most devoted and highly motivated military in the entire world.

It is now my privilege to present all of you and General Shelton with your awards. Let

our history recall that you answered the call of duty, you did your job, you advanced America's mission. Freedom and democracy are better as a result. Haiti's long night of fear has given way to a new day of hope.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:47 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Adm. William A. Owens, USN, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Lt. Gen. Henry H. Shelton, USA, commander of the Haiti operation; and General Shelton's wife, Lee.

Teleconference on Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities

December 21, 1994

The President. Hello, can you all hear me? Governor Jones?

Gov. Brereton Jones. Yes, sir.

The President. Mayor Harris?

Mayor Elihu Harris. Yes.

The President. Mayor Campbell?

Mayor Bill Campbell. Yes, sir.

The President. Mayor Daley?

Mayor Richard M. Daley. Here.

The President. Mayor Cleveland—Cleaver. Mayor Cleaver?

Mayor Emanuel Cleaver II. Here.

The President. Mayor Steineger?

Mayor Joe Steineger. Here.

The President. Mayor Schmoke?

Mayor Kurt Schmoke. Yes, sir.

The President. Mayor Menino?

Mayor Thomas Menino. Here.

The President. Mayor Archer?

Mayor Dennis W. Archer. Here, Mr. President.

The President. Mayor Rendell?

Mayor Edward Rendell. Here.

The President. Mayor Webster?

Mayor Arnold Webster. Here, President.

The President. Mayor Rendell, that's the weakest "here" I ever heard out of you. Are you sure you're there? [*Laughter*]

Mayor Rendell. You don't want us to tell you what's happening here. You don't want to get into it. [*Laughter*]

The President. Mayor Giuliani?

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. Hello, Mr. President.

The President. Is Congressman Rangel there with you?

Mayor Giuliani. Yes, he is.

Representative Charles B. Rangel. Hello, Mr. President.

The President. Watch him close——

Mayor Giuliani. Former Mayor Dinkins is here, also.

The President. Oh, great. It's good to hear your voice, Mayor.

David Dinkins. Thank you.

The President. Mayor White?

Mayor Michael R. White. I'm right here, Mr. President.

The President. Mayor Lanier?

Mayor Bob Lanier. Here, Mr. President.

The President. Jerry Rickett from Kentucky?

Jerry Rickett. Here, Mr. President.

The President. Willis Brumfield——

Willis Brumfield. Yes, sir, Mr. President.

The President. ——from Leflore County?

Humberto Rodriguez?

Humberto Rodriguez. Good afternoon, Mr. President. Kika de la Garza's here.

The President. It's great to hear all of you. And I want to congratulate you for being selected as empowerment zones and supplemental zones and enhanced enterprise communities. As I'm sure you know, we had 500 applications from people all across America who wanted to be a part of this program, and yours were the best. I hope you're all very, very proud of what you have done.

I want to thank the Vice President and Secretary Cisneros and the others in our administration who worked on setting up the genuinely competitive process to honestly review all of these applications. And I want to thank you for your participation, as well as all the others.

I know the Vice President wants to say a few words, but let me say that when I ran for President in 1992, I advocated setting up these empowerment zone ideas. I advocated seeing if we could have a partnership between the National Government, grassroots communities, and the private sector to get investment going in places where too many people have been left behind. And I believe that we can do it. We are not only making this announcement today, I want you to know we're going to stay with you all through this process. We're going to work hard with you.