

We cannot tolerate any attempt to repeal the crime bill and to move away from strategies that we know are working to lower the crime rate. I ask for your support to put more police officers on the street, to keep those prevention programs, and to stand up for giving America a future when we will once again be surprised when we turn on the television and see that a terrible crime has been committed. You want to know when we'll win the battle against crime? When you're surprised when you turn on the evening news and you read about some violent, outrageous, unforgivable act.

Sustained growth, a balanced budget, stronger families, safer streets, a cleaner environment, better education, welfare reform, health care for those who need it most; we can do all these things if we will do them together. You know, I know that a lot of people are so bewildered by the things that are going on in the world today, and I know that it is easy to get disheartened. And I read from time to time about how people have gone from being skeptical to being cynical. But I say to you, my fellow Americans, that is a luxury we cannot afford. If you went to work cynical every day it would be an excuse for you to do nothing, and soon you would be out of a job.

The only people in this country who can't be fired in their roles are citizens. The Constitution gives our citizens the right to vote or the right not to vote; the right to say what they believe or the right to keep silent. And, therefore, they ultimately have the right, if they choose, to be cynical. But I want to tell you something: This is a very great country. Most people in the world would still give anything to have the opportunities Americans have. Most wealthy countries in the world would give anything to be able to see a private sector vital enough to create the kind of jobs that have been created in this economy. And all the problems we have are simply because we are fortunate enough to be living at the time of most profound change this country has endured in 100 years.

Now, there are problems associated with that change. There is no change that is painless, ever. There never has been and there never will be. There is no such thing as a painless, consequence-free period of change.

But we should rejoice that we have been given the opportunity to serve the public at this moment in our history. And one of the things that you can do, because you are so close to the people, is to go back home and say, look, there is nothing facing this country we can't handle if we'll work together; and cynicism is a poor excuse for inaction and is the only thing that will determine our failure.

All my life I have believed it was wrong, fundamentally wrong, for any human being to be denied the opportunity to make the most of his or her own life. That is fundamentally what public life is all about. That is what your work is all about; that is what my work is all about. And a big part of that is involving our citizens in the process of getting through this period of change and transformation.

I believe if we do that the years ahead of us will be America's best years. And if we do it, you can take a full measure of pride and credit in that magnificent endeavor.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. at the Washington Hilton and Towers Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Douglas Bovin, president, and Michael Hightower, president-elect, National Association of Counties; and Carol M. Browner, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

Remarks to the People of Israel

March 5, 1996

Good evening, and thank you, Ms. Dayan, for inviting me to speak to the people of Israel at this very difficult moment.

Over the last week the world has watched in horror as scores of innocent Israeli citizens have been murdered by suicide bombers. On behalf of the American people, I want to express my deepest sorrow and strongest outrage to the people of Israel and especially to the families and friends of the victims. As I have told Prime Minister Peres, I share your determination to do everything possible to bring this horror to an end and to bring those responsible to justice.

These fanatical acts are aimed not just at killing innocent people but at killing the growing hope for peace in the Middle East. Those responsible for these vicious crimes

thrive on division and conflict. They know a new day is dawning in their region. They know the vast majority of Israelis and Palestinians have chosen the path of peace. With every new step that is taken along that path, the enemies of peace grow more desperate. We must not allow their hatred to turn us back to the past. We must counter their senseless violence with resolve and action.

Those who committed the recent bombings brutally attacked Israelis. But make no mistake: The future they darken is their own. Instead of a life of security and prosperity, all they have to offer is violence, poverty, and despair. Chairman Arafat knows that his leadership and the hopes of the Palestinian people are under direct challenge. He must do everything possible to end this campaign of terror.

I have pledged to Prime Minister Peres that the United States will work with Israel and with our friends in the Middle East to stop the killing, to bring the criminals to justice, to permit the process of peacemaking to continue. Today, I announced a series of measures to support these critical goals. These include the immediate emergency transfer to Israel of sophisticated equipment for detecting explosives; the dispatch of American specialists to work with their Israeli colleagues on strengthening antiterrorism measures; the development of a comprehensive package of training, technical assistance, and equipment to improve antiterrorism cooperation among Israel, Palestinians, and regional governments; and urging our friends and allies all around the world to step up their own struggle for peace.

The United States has stood with you, the people of Israel, in times of triumph and tragedy. We stand with you today. Our nations both cherish the same ideals: freedom, tolerance, and democracy. And we know that whenever these ideals are under siege in one country they are threatened everywhere.

We have never been more determined to defend these ideals and to achieve our goal of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The road ahead will not be easy, but think how far you have come. Now is the time to redouble our efforts. Now is the time to be strong. Bullets and bombs must not prevail against the will for peace. And they will not.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at 1:30 p.m. on March 5 in the Roosevelt Room of the White House for later broadcast in Israel. In his remarks, he referred to Ilana Dayan, anchor, Channel 2 TV in Israel.

Remarks at a Memorial Service at the Embassy of Israel

March 5, 1996

Thank you, Mr. Ambassador. Rabbi Simon, Mr. Krauser, Cantor Tasat; to my fellow Americans and all the people of Israel: The American people join in this time of grieving and loss. We mourn Israel's loss—we mourn Israel's terrible loss, and we share your outrage. We stand with you in your determination to bring this terror to an end and to bring to justice those responsible for the senseless violence that has afflicted the land of Israel and taken the lives of innocent people.

In moments such as these our anguish challenges our spirit. Daughters and sons, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, friends murdered—murdered solely for the blood running through their veins, solely because of where they live, solely because they wish to live in peace and harmony.

Our faith may be shaken, but at times like this it is all the more important to persevere. These fanatical acts were not aimed simply at killing innocent people, they were clearly aimed at killing the promise of peace. Those responsible thrive on division and conflict. It is almost as if they cannot exist without someone to hate, someone to kill.

They know a new day has been dawning in the Middle East. They know the vast majority of Israelis and Palestinians want a new day of peace. With every new step taken along the way, the harshest enemies of peace have grown more and more desperate. We must not allow them to prevail. The best way to defeat them is to first restore security and then bolster the peace they fear, that will take away their very reason for being.

We will counter the threat of terror with unshakable resolve. As I have pledged to Prime Minister Peres, the United States is working with Israel to stop the killing, to bring the criminals to justice, to step up the