

to walk with us hand-in-hand. We cannot tolerate this kind of conduct.

Thank you.

Q. Mr. President, in light of the possibility that the bombing was carried out by people who don't want American and Western forces on Arab soil, do you feel the need to reaffirm the mission to the American people?

The President. Well, first of all, I believe that the United States has been made very welcome there. We have tried not to be an obtrusive presence. We have worked in close partnership with the Saudis for a long time, since the Presidency of Franklin Roosevelt. And I think it would be a mistake for the United States to basically change its mission because of this.

We are there at the invitation of the Saudi Government and in partnership with the Saudi Government. I am reluctant to comment on what the possible motives of this act are and whether it was directed primarily against us because we're Americans or simply because we're there in partnership with this government.

I had a good talk with King Fahd yesterday who expressed his deep regret at our loss and his determination to find those responsible, and I believe that we should wait until we know who did this and what their motives were to say more. But I believe the United States mission in the Middle East is important, and it is supportive of countries that support the peace process, and I believe that we should continue on that mission.

Q. Mr. President, will the FBI be able to conduct an independent investigation?

Q. Are you going to Saudi Arabia, Mr. President?

The President. On the question of going to Saudi Arabia, at this time I have no plans to do it. If we change our plans, I'll let you know. As I'm sure you know, I have been there since I've been President. My heart is there today and has been. It is difficult to think about anything else but our people in uniform there and especially those whose lives were lost and their families. But I do not want to be in the way of the attempt to take care of all of the people there and to get this investigation off to a good start.

If something happens that makes me think it's appropriate for me to go, I will let you know at the earliest possible time.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:01 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to King Fahd bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia.

Proclamation 6906—Victims of the Bombing in Saudi Arabia

June 26, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As a mark of respect for those killed in the June 25, 1996, bombing of the Military Housing Complex near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States of America by section 175 of title 36 of the United States Code, that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset, Sunday, June 30, 1996. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:32 a.m., June 27, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 28.'

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting the Report on
Aeronautics and Space**

June 26, 1996

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit this report on the Nation's achievements in aeronautics and space during fiscal year 1995, as required under section 206 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2476). Aeronautics and space activities involved 14 contributing departments and agencies of the Federal Government, and the results of their ongoing research and development affect the Nation in many ways.

A wide variety of aeronautics and space developments took place during fiscal year 1995. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully completed seven Space Shuttle flights. A Shuttle program highlight was the docking of the Shuttle *Atlantis* with the Russian space station *Mir*.

NASA launched three Expendable Launch Vehicles (ELV), while the Department of Defense (DOD) successfully conducted five ELV launches. These launches included satellites to study space physics, track Earth's weather patterns, and support military communications. In addition, there were 12 commercial launches carried out from Government facilities that the Office of Commercial Space Transportation (OCST), within the Department of Transportation (DOT), licensed and monitored.

NASA continued the search for a more affordable space launch system for the coming years with its Reusable Launch Vehicle program. NASA hopes to develop new kinds of launch technologies that will enable a private launch industry to become financially feasible.

In aeronautics, activities included development of technologies to improve performance, increase safety, reduce engine noise, and assist U.S. industry to be more competitive in the world market. Air traffic control activities focused on various automation systems to increase flight safety and enhance the efficient use of airspace.

Scientists made some dramatic new discoveries in various space-related fields. As-

tronomers gained new insights into the size and age of our universe in addition to studying our solar system. Earth scientists continued to study the complex interactions of physical forces that influence our weather and environment and reached new conclusions about ozone depletion. Agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as well as the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior, used remote-sensing technologies to better understand terrestrial changes. Microgravity researchers conducted studies to prepare for the long-duration stays of humans that are planned for the upcoming International Space Station.

International cooperation, particularly with Russia, occurred in a variety of aerospace areas. In addition to the Shuttle-*Mir* docking mission and the Russian partnership on the International Space Station, U.S. and Russian personnel also continued close cooperation on various aeronautics projects.

Thus, fiscal year 1995 was a very successful one for U.S. aeronautics and space programs. Efforts in these areas have contributed significantly to the Nation's scientific and technical knowledge, international cooperation, a healthier environment, and a more competitive economy.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
June 26, 1996.

**Remarks to the Citizens of Perouges,
France**

June 27, 1996

Mayor de la Chapelle; Mayor Bussy; Prefect Ritter; to Mr. Mavereaux, the president of the local veterans association; to Henri Girousse; to all the World War II veterans who are here; to members of Parliament; especially to the children and the teachers of Perouges and Meximieux; to my fellow Americans: Let me begin by saying that Hillary and I and our party are very, very pleased to be here in Perouges today, to be so warmly welcomed by you, and especially to be here with all the schoolchildren. Thank you very much. I would like to say a special word of thanks to the very large number of members of Parliament who are here and to the mili-