

Gov. Paul E. Patton of Kentucky; Gov. Zell Miller of Georgia; Gov. David M. Beasley of South Carolina; Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas; Gov. George W. Bush of Texas; Gov. Lawton Chiles of Florida; and musician Chet Atkins.

### **Remarks on Departure From Kansas City and an Exchange With Reporters**

*September 10, 1996*

#### ***Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty***

**The President.** Today in New York the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to adopt the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and open it for signature later this month. On behalf of the American people, I will have the honor to sign this historic treaty.

Our signature, along with that of Russia, China, France, the United Kingdom, and the vast majority of nations around the world will create an international barrier against nuclear testing as soon as we sign.

With this treaty we're on the verge of realizing a decades-old dream, that no nuclear weapons will be detonated anywhere on the face of the Earth.

This has been a dream of American leaders going back to Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy. They long worked for a safer world at home and abroad. By banning all nuclear tests for all time, the treaty will constrain any nation from improving its existing nuclear arsenal and end the development of advanced nuclear weapons and help to stop their spread.

We're taking the next crucial step to lift the dark cloud of nuclear fear that has hung over the world for 50 years now. Over the past 4 years we have permanently extended the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, dramatically cut existing nuclear arsenals under the START treaties, persuaded Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan to give up the nuclear weapons left on their land after the USSR dissolved, frozen North Korea's dangerous nuclear program, and today no Russian missiles are pointed at our cities or our citizens.

For four decades visionary statesmen like Prime Minister Nehru of India worked tirelessly to make the comprehensive test ban a reality. More recently, Britain's John Major,

France's Jacques Chirac, Russia's Boris Yeltsin, China's Jiang Zemin—all have made courageous decisions to halt their country's nuclear testing programs. I want to thank them, along with Foreign Minister Downer of Australia and the chairman of the CTBT negotiating committee, Netherlands' Ambassador Jaap Ramaker for all the work they have done.

I'd also like to express my gratitude on behalf of our country to our Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, Stephen Ledogar, along with the entire United States delegation. They worked very hard for the last 3 years to bring us to this happy day. I'm proud that our American leadership has played an important role in this success.

Now, together, the United States and the nations of the world have taken another giant step toward making our world safer. It is in that spirit that I will urge all nations to sign the agreement.

Thank you.

**Q.** Mr. President, there were three votes against—

**The President.** There were: the Indians and Bhutan voting with India and Libya. The Indians have some concerns which they have made clear in public, but now that we have voted overwhelmingly to do it, and when we sign it, then we'll have to work out the entry into force provisions. I am convinced we can do it, and I believe we can find a way for the Indians to have their security concerns met.

And so this is a big plus today. We're a lot closer today than we were yesterday toward realizing the dream of a comprehensive nuclear test ban.

#### ***Same Sex Marriage***

**Q.** Mr. President—[*inaudible*—same sex marriage bill passed today. Are you still going to sign it?

**The President.** Yes.

**Q.** Why?

**The President.** For the reason that I said all along—I have—I said back in '92 that while I believe that gay partners can have certain contractual rights and other considerations, that the term marriage should not be applied in law. And this bill simply says that no State has to recognize any other State's

law to that regard. So it's consistent with the position I took back in '92, and therefore, I will sign it.

I will say again as I have repeatedly said, this should not be cause for any sort of discrimination or gay bashing, and I regret that the Senate failed by one vote to adopt the antidiscrimination bill with regard to employment discrimination, which I think is a very good bill. And we're so close, and I feel comfortable we'll be able to get it sometime in the near future.

Thank you.

### **Iraq**

**Q.** [*Inaudible*—Saddam Hussein—*inaudible*]—

**The President.** Well, we don't have any independent confirmation of their allegation about firing the missiles. And again I will say I will take the position that I have taken from the day I took this office: We will evaluate them based on what they do, not what they say.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:14 p.m. at Kansas City International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom, President Jacques Chirac of France, President Boris Yeltsin of Russia, and President Jiang Zemin of China. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Remarks in St. Louis, Missouri**

*September 10, 1996*

**The President.** Thank you.

**Audience members.** Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

**The President.** Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, it is wonderful to be here. Thank you for this vast sea of people. Thank you for all these wonderful signs: "Students for Clinton," "Teachers for Clinton," "Cardinals and Clinton," "Seniors for Clinton." There's one that says, "I'm from Haynes, Arkansas." "I'm from Hope, Arkansas." Good for you. My favorite one is that one back there that said, "I'd vote for anyone smart enough to marry Hillary." Thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, first of all, I want to thank all these people who are here with

me. I want to thank my friend Al Green for singing the national anthem. Wasn't he great? I want to thank those who preceded us on the program: your comptroller, Darlene Green; your president of the board of aldermen, Francis Slay; Representative Skelton, our Democratic chair; the county prosecutor, Bob McCulloch; Dr. Hammonds, the superintendent; all the principals who are here; the people from the school board; the State treasurer, Bob Holden; the secretary of state, Becky Cook; Joe Carmichael, our State Democratic chair. Senator Banks, thank you for being here.

Thank you, Gateway Elementary and Middle Schools, for welcoming us here. I love this place. I also want to introduce just one person I brought with me, my deputy campaign manager, the former Congressman from Missouri and former nominee to the United States Senate, Alan Wheat is here with me today, a great American. I thank him.

I want to thank your mayor for his aggressive leadership in education and housing and fighting crime, in proving that this city can be given back to its people and that, just as the motto of this school says, if you empower people and give them a chance to make the most of their own lives, they will do it. That's his philosophy, and that's what we're doing together.

I want to thank Governor Mel Carnahan for being one of the most enlightened and progressive Governors in the entire United States, for a person who believes that welfare reform means putting people to work, not putting them on the street, and giving our children and our families a better chance at a better future.

I want to say a thank you to Joan Kelly Horn for being willing to put herself on the line and run for the Congress again against the well-financed members of the other party, knowing that they are wrong and she is right. And you need to prove her right on election day.

I want to thank Congressman Dick Gephardt for being a great majority leader, a courageous minority leader, a man who is the best prepared person in the country to be the next Speaker of the House of Represent-