

agency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola ("UNITA") is to continue in effect beyond September 26, 1996, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

The circumstances that led to the declaration on September 26, 1993, of a national emergency have not been resolved. The actions and policies of UNITA pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. United Nations Security Council Resolution 864 (1993) continues to oblige all Member States to maintain sanctions. Discontinuation of the sanctions would have a prejudicial effect on the Angolan peace process. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the broad authorities necessary to apply economic pressure to UNITA to reduce its ability to pursue its aggressive policies of territorial acquisition.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 16, 1996.

Statement on Signing the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 1997

September 16, 1996

I have today signed into law today H.R. 3517, the "Military Construction Appropriations Act, 1997," which provides funding for military construction and family housing programs of the Department of Defense.

The Act provides my full request for the vast majority of military construction projects, the military family housing program, other quality of life facilities for our military personnel and their families, and the Department of Defense base closure and realignment program.

But I am disappointed that the Act provides more funding than I requested. Specifically, I am concerned that the Congress has

chosen to spend \$154 million on projects that the Department of Defense has not identified as priorities and that will not improve the quality of life for our service members. These projects are clear examples of spending that is neither warranted nor justified, and is funded at the expense of higher-priority domestic programs.

Indeed, this Act is part of an overall approach by the Congress to provide more funds than necessary for nonpriority items through the Defense budget at the expense of important domestic priorities in education and training, the environment, science and technology, law enforcement, and other key priorities. At a time of scarce resources, we should not squander funds on items that we don't need while underfunding the very priorities that will help improve living standards and the quality of life of average Americans—both now and in the future.

I urge the Congress to complete action on the remaining 1997 appropriations bills as quickly as possible, and to send them to me in an acceptable form.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 16, 1996.

NOTE: H.R. 3517, approved September 16, was assigned Public Law No. 104-196. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 17.

Statement on Signing the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1997

September 16, 1996

I have today signed into law H.R. 3754, the "Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1997."

The Act provides fiscal year 1997 appropriations for the Congress, the Congressional Budget Office, the Architect of the Capitol, the General Accounting Office, the Government Printing Office, and the Library of Congress.

I am especially pleased to sign into law a provision that will allow blind and visually impaired persons to get earlier access to books and other reading matter. As a result of an agreement between the publishing in-

dustry and advocates for people with disabilities, books can now be converted into alternative formats such as Braille as soon as they appear in print. Prior to this change, the Library of Congress and other organizations that sought to provide these materials had to obtain permission from copyright holders on a case by case basis, leading to lengthy delays in access to all types of reading material. This law will help us reach our goal of full inclusion of people with disabilities.

I am also pleased with the provision that encourages the Senate to transfer excess or surplus computers and other educationally useful equipment to public schools at the lowest possible cost. This complements our initiative to encourage Federal agencies to do the same to help integrate technology into school curriculums, and ensure that all students have the skills they will need to succeed in the information-intensive 21st century.

I am disappointed, however, that the Congress has passed up yet another opportunity to establish a drug testing policy for those who work in the legislative branch. The Congress should follow the example of the White House and the other executive branch agencies and establish a comprehensive testing program for illegal drug use.

I urge the Congress to complete action on the remaining regular FY 1997 appropriations bills and to send them to me in an acceptable form.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 16, 1996.

NOTE: H.R. 3754, approved September 16, was assigned Public Law No. 104-197. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 17.

Remarks Announcing Pension Portability Regulations and an Exchange With Reporters

September 17, 1996

Iraq

The President. Thank you. Thank you, Secretary Rubin, and thank you, Trisha, for that comment. I want to speak about this at

some length but let me first of all say I think all of you know that this morning I had an opportunity to meet with congressional leadership to review with them what we have accomplished in Iraq and where we are going.

I believe we all agreed that Saddam Hussein's seizure of Irbil and movement in the northern part of Iraq after being warned not to do it by the United States and the world community required response. The response that we gave was one designed to improve the strategic position of the United States and our allies, to keep Saddam Hussein in a box, and to limit his ability to threaten his neighbors. That is a smaller box now because we have extended the no-fly zone. And we have also put Saddam Hussein on notice that we do not want him to take any actions that would increase the dangers to our pilots.

So I feel very good today that we did the appropriate thing in the appropriate way and that we've gotten the results that we sought. As I said, I had a good briefing with the congressional leaders. I was also very pleased by the report that Secretary Perry gave on his recent trip to the region and the support that our allies are giving the course that we are taking now. So I felt good about that.

Now, let me talk a little bit about what Trisha just discussed. When I became President it was obvious to everyone who had looked at the trends in the American economy that most new jobs were being created by people in small businesses and that many people were moving from job to job over the course of their lifetime.

Now, if we want to create an environment in which all working people and their children can prosper in a growing economy, obviously one of the things we have to do is to make it possible for people to move from job to job and still succeed in supporting their families. That means, among other things, we needed to make health insurance portable and we needed to make retirement portable and we needed to make retirement more accessible for small businesses, for the owners and the employees of small businesses. We've been working on trying to do that for the last 4 years.

As all of you know, the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill made health care policies more portable, that you could take them from job