

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on Imports of
Broom Corn Brooms**

November 28, 1996

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 203(b)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, attached is a report concerning my actions in response to the ITC safeguards investigation of broom corn brooms.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 2.

**Remarks on Presenting the
Congressional Space Medal of Honor
to Astronaut Shannon Lucid and an
Exchange With Reporters**

December 2, 1996

The President. Good morning. It's a pleasure to have all these dignitaries here today. I want to especially acknowledge Senators Glenn and Burns; the NASA Administrator, Dan Goldin; Dr. Jack Gibbons; the Russian Ambassador, Mr. Vorontsov, who is here on behalf of the two cosmonauts that Dr. Lucid roomed with in space. She just told me she made them Jell-O every Sunday morning. [Laughter] I want to welcome Michael Lucid and the shuttle crew that brought her home: Commander Bill Readdy, Pilot Terry Wilcutt, Mission Specialists Tom Akers, Jay Apt, and Carl Walz.

I can think of no better way to begin this season of hope than by presenting the Congressional Space Medal to Dr. Shannon Lucid. The United States has always been sparing in its honors because the medals and official recognition we bestow are more than simple congratulations. They are public declarations of outstanding achievement and extraordinary service to the Nation. Dr. Lucid achieved that kind of service for 188 days this year, the longest flight by an American in space, the longest mission for any woman

of any nation in space, five shuttle missions altogether.

Her accomplishments should come as no surprise. She has always been a determined visionary. I think many of us have now heard the story of how, as an eighth grader, she wrote a school paper about wanting to be a rocket scientist, and she was told by the teacher that there was no such job and, even if there were, a girl couldn't get it. Fortunately, she didn't listen to everything her teacher said.

In 1978 she was chosen as one of NASA's first six women Astronauts. As a biochemist, she's done important work on the effects of weightlessness on the human body, including her own. She surprised just about everyone when, after 6 months in space, she stood up to gravity and walked right off the space shuttle.

Most pioneers set their sights on just one frontier. Shannon Lucid has pushed to the furthest reaches of two, the frontiers of both space and science. She has done so with brainpower, willpower, courage, skill, and good humor.

This medal commemorates her service, but it also stands for something greater: Her mission did much to cement the alliance of space we have formed with Russia. It demonstrated that as we move into a truly global society, space exploration can serve to deepen our understanding not only of our planet and our universe but of those who share the Earth with us. That's why we're committed to keeping a strong space program, to keep the shuttle flying, to work toward the international space station, to develop the X-33 which will replace the shuttle, to continue robotic exploration of Mars and the solar system. In fact, countdown begins this afternoon for the launch of the Mars *Pathfinder* mission.

Let me also express my gratitude to the brave men and women of our space program, past and present, and especially those who have given their lives in this noble endeavor. I want to say a special word about the *Discovery* crew that is here with us today. They are doing remarkable work. I mean, they're up there right now. We wish them Godspeed on their journey home and to all the people of NASA, many of whom I've had the privi-