

country stands with you and shares your continuing grief.

The sponsors of terrorism hope that with the passing of time the world will forget their crimes. We will not forget. Time has not diminished our outrage, and it never will. We are determined to see that those who committed these murders are brought to justice. That is why we continue to demand the extradition of the two Libyans who have been indicted for this vicious offense to stand trial in the U.S. or U.K. It is also why we have pushed for and secured tough international sanctions against Libya that we strengthened further with legislation in 1996. We will not rest until this case is closed and justice is done.

NOTE: This statement was embargoed for release by the Office of the Press Secretary until 12 noon on December 21, the anniversary date of the bombing. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

December 21, 1996

In just a few days we celebrate the miracle of Christmas, the gift of light and hope that has lasted for nearly 2,000 years. I'd like to talk about how we can share that gift by shining the light of literacy on millions of precious children and families.

Literacy is about reading, but it's about much more, too. It's about opportunity, giving people the tools to make the most of their God-given potential. It's about preparing people for the 21st century, when a fully literate work force will be crucial to our strength as a nation. Without literacy, the history books and job manuals are closed, the Internet is turned off, and the promise of America is much harder to reach.

To achieve our full potential as a nation, we must make sure everyone can read, adults as well as children. I'm proud that we're increasing the assistance we give to States for adult education and literacy by more than 50 percent, the largest increase in more than 30 years. This will help hundreds of thousands of adults to rise to the obligations of family and community and to make the most of their own lives.

When it comes to children, the first teachers must always be their parents. Hillary and I still talk about the books we read to Chelsea when we were so tired we could hardly stay awake. I urge all of America's parents, make sure there are books beneath your Christmas tree. Share the joy of reading as a family.

Of course, parents can't do it alone. Our country has outstanding teachers and educators on the frontlines of the literacy crusade, but all the rest of us must work with them to make sure that every child and every adult can read.

This summer in Wyandotte, Michigan, I announced a national literacy campaign called America Reads that begins with a clear national goal: Every American child should be able to read on his or her own by the third grade. I proposed to meet that goal by using 30,000 reading specialists and volunteer coordinators to mobilize a million volunteer reading tutors all across America. This week I announced that my Domestic Policy Adviser, Carol Rasco, will move to the Education Department with Secretary Riley to head this effort, to make absolutely sure we have the highest level attention to get the job done.

We know that individualized tutoring works. Here in the Nation's Capital there are many remarkable tutoring programs, such as the St. Ann's Infant Home; Growing Together, which helps public school children to double their rate of learning; and the Academy of Hope, which teaches adults to read.

Yesterday some of these students joined me for my annual reading of " 'Twas the night before Christmas," and they're here with me now. If more Americans could see their joy in reading and learning, we'd have our one million volunteers overnight.

Today we're taking the next major step in our America Reads campaign, to build our army of reading tutors on college campuses all across America. This fall, at my request, Congress created over 200,000 new work-study jobs on America's college campuses. Work-study helps young people to work their way through college, often by serving their school. I want a large portion of work-study to be devoted to community service and especially to teaching our children to read.

Today I'm happy to announce that 20 of our Nation's leading college presidents, from San Francisco to Texas to Southern Illinois, are unleashing the energy and enthusiasm of their students to help every 8-year-old learn to read. As members of a new America Reads college presidents steering committee, they will each dedicate half of their new work-study slots to students who work as reading tutors. Right away this should give us thousands of new tutors, a downpayment toward our goal of enlisting 100,000 work-study students to help America read.

The steering committee members will also recruit at least five more college presidents to join the effort. To help them I am making an important change in the work-study program. If a student works as a reading tutor, colleges will no longer be required to pay one-quarter of that student's work-study costs. With today's actions by these college presidents, and with the steps we are taking to help them, college students can now work their way through school by teaching our children to read. That is how we will take more responsibility, create more opportunity, and build a stronger, more united community for all Americans.

These students will create a whole new culture of service, working alongside our AmeriCorps volunteers who will be doing the same, inspiring hundreds of thousands of Americans to tutor not just children but adult learners as well.

There is simply no better way to serve your country and your community than by helping children and adults to read. And there is no better time to start than Christmas, the season of enlightenment. By reading to your own children, by giving your time so that others might learn to read, you can light a spark that keeps the spirit of Christmas burning every day of the year.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 5:36 p.m. on December 20 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 21.

Remarks to the Community at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

December 23, 1996

Thank you very much. Please sit down. Lieutenant General Wilhelm, Sergeant Major Wilson, Major General Howard, Major General Smith, members of the Camp Lejeune and Jacksonville community; my good friend Governor Hunt; Representative McHale, Representative-elect McIntyre, Mayor Choate, Chaplain. I also want to thank Chief Warrant Officer Anderson and the 2d Marine Division Band. Thank you all.

Lieutenant General Wilhelm was not quite right; one person here at least would have preferred to hear him speak—me. [*Laughter*] I've heard me speak before. And he spoke so well, even if briefly, that he said most of what I meant to say in fewer words.

He reminds me of the first speech I ever gave, 20 years ago, as a public official. It was at a Rotary Club installation banquet. And the banquet began at 6:30, and I was introduced to speak at 10. You know, it was one of those things—there were 500 people there; everyone was introduced except 3 people—they went home mad. Ten people spoke first, and the guy got up to introduce me, and he said, "We could stop now and have had a very nice evening." [*Laughter*] Now, he didn't mean that, but I knew how he felt.

Let me tell all of you, beginning with you, General Wilhelm, this day has been especially moving to me. When I got on the plane this morning, on Air Force One in Washington, flying down here with General Shalikashvili and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Brown and Navy Secretary Dalton, the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, and yes, General Krulak himself—[*laughter*]—I was looking forward to this day. But I have enjoyed it beyond my wildest expectations. I can't say it the way you do, but I would like to say at least hoo-rah—thank you very much.

I'm delighted to be here today to join you in the holiday season, to welcome back the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit and the 3d Battalion, 2d Marines, from their long de-