

cooperation at its best. Senators reached across the aisle in a way that supports our work with Mexico to keep illegal narcotics out of America's neighborhoods and away from our children.

The Senate and I share a common goal: We both want to improve cooperation with Mexico, Latin America, and the Caribbean in the fight against drugs. I certified Mexico because of the unprecedented level of counternarcotics cooperation we have achieved in the last year and because of the positive steps Mexico has taken on its own to fight drug trafficking. But as I said when I made that decision, much more needs to be done by everyone in this battle. This certification reinforces our ongoing efforts and will foster increased U.S.-Mexico cooperation and strengthen Mexico's own antidrug initiatives. This approach, not confrontation, is the right way to get the results we all want.

The Senate's resolution adopts a clear stand that will support our efforts. It also makes a constructive contribution by emphasizing that solving the problem of drugs requires work on both sides of the border. For example, the bill requires reporting on steps that my administration is taking, such as strengthening border enforcement and improving antidrug education for our youth. I welcome the Senate's farsighted approach, and I urge the House to take up this bill and pass it as quickly as possible.

### **Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Dinner Hosted by President Ahtisaari in Helsinki**

*March 20, 1997*

#### **President's Visit**

**Q.** President Clinton, what are the prospects for common ground on this NATO issue?

**The President.** I'm looking forward to the meeting. I think we'll work something out; I hope we will. We have had 11 meetings. We've worked hard together, and I'm glad to see President Yeltsin looking so fit and well.

**Q.** How are you doing, President Clinton?

**The President.** Great.

NOTE: The exchange began at 7:05 p.m. in the Yellow Room at the Presidential Palace as part of a photo opportunity with Finnish President Ahtisaari and Russian President Boris Yeltsin. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

### **Exchange With Reporters on Greeting President Boris Yeltsin of Russia and President Ahtisaari of Finland in Helsinki**

*March 21, 1997*

#### **Helsinki Summit**

**Q.** Mr. President, do you expect to be able to find a way to agree to disagree with President Yeltsin on NATO expansion?

**President Clinton.** I think we'll have a good meeting. And we'll have a press conference this afternoon to answer your questions.

**Q.** Do you expect any surprises?

**President Yeltsin.** During the discussions there may be some surprises, but I'm confident that we'll be able to find a way out, a solution out of these surprises. We have a good will to try to accommodate each other and remove all the disagreements that we still have today. And we grow convinced that our most ardent desire—and then we know that skeptics in the past have always proved that wrong, saying that it's not possible to reach agreement on an issue—in the final analysis we did come to agreement on most thorny issues. And the two Presidents, heads of the two great powers, are duty bound to act in this way. And I think Bill would agree with me that each of us will be prepared to cover his own part of the way.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:38 a.m. at the President's Residence. President Yeltsin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.