

tainly won't give up if it doesn't happen. I'm going to keep on working until we get it done. I expect it to happen this year. I'm very optimistic. And I am hopeful that it can happen sooner rather than later. And I am committed personally to doing everything I can to put it together.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President's 141st news conference began at 3:40 p.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Ambassador Dennis Ross, Special Middle East Coordinator; Martin Lee, head of the Hong Kong Democratic Party; James Riady of the Lippo Group.

Proclamation 6991—National Day of Prayer, 1997

April 18, 1997

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America was born out of intense conflict as our forefathers fought the forces of oppression and tyranny. From our earliest history, Americans have always looked to God for strength and encouragement in those moments when darkness seemed to encroach from every side. Our people have always believed in the power of prayer and have called upon the name of the Lord through times of peace and war, hope and despair, prosperity and decline.

In his first inaugural address, during the rush of optimism that followed the Colonies' uplifting victory in the American Revolution, George Washington observed that "it would be peculiarly improper to omit, in this first official act my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe." Amid the bleak turmoil of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln conveyed similar sentiments by calling Americans to "a firm reliance on Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land." Almost a century later, Harry Truman emphasized the need for God's help in making decisions: "when we are striving to strengthen the foundation of peace and security we stand in special need of divine support."

Indeed, the familiar phrase "In God we trust," which has been our national motto for more than 40 years and which first appeared on our coinage during the Civil War, is a fitting testimony to the prayers offered up by American women and men through the centuries. Today within our Nation's Capitol Building, a stained glass window depicts General Washington humbly kneeling and repeating the words of the 16th Psalm, "Preserve me, O God, for in Thee do I put my trust."

As we face the last years of the 20th century, let us uphold the tradition of observing a day in which every American, in his or her own way, may come before God seeking increased peace, guidance, and wisdom for the challenges ahead. Even as we continue to work toward hopeful solutions, may our national resolve be matched by a firm reliance on the Author of our lives—for truly it is in God that we trust.

The Congress, by Public Law 100-307, has called our citizens to reaffirm annually our dependence on Almighty God by recognizing a "National Day of Prayer."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 1, 1997, as a National Day of Prayer. As in previous years, let us once again celebrate this day in the tradition of our Founders by humbly asking for divine help in maintaining the courage, determination, faith, and vigilance so necessary to our continued advancement as a people. On this National Day of Prayer, may all Americans come together to reaffirm our reliance upon our Creator, and, in the words of Franklin Roosevelt, to "pray to Him now for the vision to see our way clearly."

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:26 a.m., April 21, 1997]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 22.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 13

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with professional golfer Tiger Woods to congratulate Mr. Woods on winning the Masters golf tournament.

April 14

The President announced his intention to appoint J. Randall MacDonald to serve as a member of the Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry.

The President declared a major disaster in Arkansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding April 4 and continuing.

April 15

In the morning, the President traveled to Brooklyn, NY. In the evening, he traveled to Queens.

The President had a telephone conversation with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to express his sympathy for the victims of the fire at Mina. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Brian Dean Curran as Ambassador to Mozambique.

The President announced his intention to nominate Olivia A. Golden to serve as Assist-

ant Secretary for Family Support (Administration for Children and Families) at the Department of Health and Human Services.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jack Roderick as a member of the Arctic Research Commission.

The White House announced that the administration is requesting nominations for representatives to serve on the Advisory Commission on Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters.

April 16

In the evening, the President attended a foreign policy retreat with Members of Congress at Blair House.

The White House announced that Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan accepted the President's invitation to Washington, DC, for an official working visit, April 25.

April 17

The President announced his intention to appoint Emily Malino to serve as a member of the Commission of Fine Arts.

April 18

In the morning, the President attended Vice President Al Gore's meeting with Hong Kong Democratic Party Leader Martin Lee in the Vice President's West Wing Office.

The President announced his intention to reappoint Daryl L. Jones to be a member of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

The President announced his intention to appoint Edward Blakely, Donald G. Fisher, Amy Meyer, Mary G. Murphy, William K. Reilly, and Toby Rosenblatt to the Board of Directors of the Presidio Trust.