

Foreign Military Financing under the Arms Export Control Act, without regard to any provision of the law within the scope of section 614. I hereby authorize such making of sales and extensions of credit, including the expenditure of previously obligated Foreign Military Financing funds needed to finance such sales.

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 614(a)(1) of the Act, 22 U.S.C. 2364(a)(1), I hereby determine that it is important to the security interests of the United States to furnish up to \$600,000 in Fiscal Year 1997 funds under Chapter 5 of part II of the Act for Colombia, without regard to any provision of the law within the scope of section 614. I hereby authorize the furnishing of such assistance.

You are authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 18.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on
Implementation of the Defense
Exports Monitoring Program**

August 18, 1997

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

As required by section 40A of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2785), I transmit herewith the first annual report on the implementation of a comprehensive program to monitor the end-use of defense articles and services, and to prevent the diversion of technology incorporated in defense articles, sold, leased, or exported under the Arms Export Control Act and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 *et seq.*).

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 August 19.

**Remarks on the Tentative Settlement
of the United Parcel Service Strike
and an Exchange With Reporters in
Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts**

August 19, 1997

The President. Good afternoon. I would like to compliment UPS and the Teamsters on resolving their differences and agreeing to a new contract. I think it is very much in the interest not only of the company and its employees but also of all of the people it serves and of the United States, and I'm very pleased about it.

I also want to say a special word of thanks and appreciation to Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, who I believe did a very fine job in working with the parties, trying to keep them working together and getting back together. I know that she deserves and will get some much-needed rest today. But I think it's a good thing for the country, and I'm very pleased it's resolved.

Administration's Role

Q. Mr. President, can you walk through your own evolution in this? The first 2 weeks were sort of hands off, and then on Saturday you gave them a little bit of a nudge, and then by the time you reached Martha's Vineyard, it seemed a little more like a push. Why, specifically, did you choose to engage at those two moments?

The President. Well, first of all, the Secretary of Labor had been involved with this almost from the beginning. But I thought it was important to give the parties a chance to work out their differences. And obviously, I was getting reports about where they were. I just wanted to—when it was obvious that they were quite close—it's been my observation, not just from them but sometimes in our negotiations with Congress, for example—sometimes you get very close, and you've got 95 percent of the issues or 99 percent of the issues resolved, and maybe just a little nudge in the right direction helps you go over the top. And I was just hoping to do that.

They did the work, and they deserve the credit. They resolved their differences in a way that I think will be good for the company and good for the employees.

Significance of the Settlement

Q. Mr. President, is this an outright victory for the labor movement?

The President. I think it's a victory for the proposition that you can have a profitable, highly competitive company with good, solid labor relations providing good jobs and good benefits for the employees. That's what I think it's a victory for. It's not an outright victory if you mean it's also a defeat for UPS; I wouldn't characterize it that way. I think this company will go forward. It will do real well, and the workers will do well. And they've made some important agreements around the side about how they're going to work together to be even more productive and competitive, so I would say that it is a victory for the proposition that you can have good, strong labor relations and treat your employees well and make money in this economy of ours. That's what I wanted to prove from the time I became President, so I was very pleased by it.

Q. Mr. President, how much of an economic threat would there have been if this strike had not been resolved when it was, if it had gone on much longer?

The President. It's hard to say. That would depend upon something we'll never know, which is how quickly others could have absorbed the capacity. But it could have been very difficult for both the company and for its employees. So I think they were both advantaged by making the agreement they did before any irreparable harm was done to both sides. And that may well have been something they were thinking of.

The President's Birthday

Q. On a more personal note, sir, how does it feel to be another year older?

The President. Well, it feels good today. I've had a wonderful time here. I had a good day yesterday on the golf course, and this morning I got up, and Chelsea and I went jogging. That's the longest I've been able to go since I hurt myself. And the three of us are just going to spend the day reading and playing games and having fun with each other, and then we're going to go to a party tonight. So I feel very blessed, and I'm very fortunate to be here. And as far as I know, I'm in good health, and the country's doing

well. That's the most important thing of all. So I'm very happy today, and I have a lot to be thankful for.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:43 p.m. at the press pool holding area.

Statement on the Tentative Settlement of the United Parcel Service Strike

August 19, 1997

We have learned tonight that UPS and the Teamsters have reached a tentative settlement in their contract negotiations. I am pleased that the parties negotiated in good faith. Today's agreement represents their hard work and determination to reconcile their differences for the good of the company, its employees, and the customers they serve. The issues that were at the heart of their negotiations are important to our Nation's economic strength and to all Americans.

I want to especially thank my Secretary of Labor, Alexis Herman, who worked tirelessly with both sides to enable them to reach this tentative agreement.

Proclamation 7017—Women's Equality Day, 1997

August 19, 1997

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Each year, on Women's Equality Day, we reflect on how far we have traveled on our journey to make America live up to the ideals of justice and equality articulated so powerfully in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Few constitutional amendments have affected that progress more profoundly than the 19th, which guarantees American women the right to vote.

Looking back from today's vantage point, where women hold positions of authority and responsibility at almost every level of government, it is hard to imagine that, for almost