

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Editor's Note: The President was in Martha's Vineyard, MA, on September 5, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, September 5, 1997

The President's Radio Address

August 30, 1997

Good morning. This week a record number of American children will be heading back to school, reminding us of our greatest obligation, to prepare our children for the 21st century. We can't do that without a commitment to educational excellence for all those children, expecting them to meet high standards and testing to see if they do.

In my State of the Union Address, I challenged every State to adopt high national standards of academic excellence, defining what every child should learn, and by 1999, to join in a national test for all fourth graders in reading and all eighth graders in math, to ensure they have mastered these basics.

We know that challenging our students to achieve excellence works. This week, the College Board announced that SAT math scores continue to rise; and today, the National Assessment for Education Progress, the organization that issues what we call the Nation's report card, announced that in recent years we have improved math and science performance at every age level. Most exciting, more high schoolers are taking challenging courses and college-level courses.

Still, we all know we have more to do to improve our schools and to raise learning levels for all of our students. I've been working to improve education for nearly 20 years now, and I am convinced we can give our children the education they need to thrive in the 21st century only by setting high standards and by challenging students, teachers, parents, and principals to meet them. National standards will help us to upgrade curricula, improve teaching, and target students and schools who need assistance.

I'm pleased that Governors and mayors from all over the country, business leaders and educators from States and cities, big and small, people of both parties, are joining in

this effort. We're working to make sure this doesn't become a partisan issue.

Some people worry that the Federal Government would play too large a role in developing the test. To meet that concern, I have instructed my staff to rewrite our proposal to make sure these tests are developed not by the Department of Education but by an independent, bipartisan board created by Congress many years ago. This will make sure these tests measure what they should, nothing more, nothing less.

Still, there are some in Congress who, even as our children are heading back to school, are working to undermine the very progress in education our children are counting on. They have proposed an amendment that would prevent us from developing a common test for math and reading and, therefore, would prevent your school district or your State or your child from choosing to take the test. That means you won't be able to find out if your child's school is meeting world-class standards.

The arguments they're using are the very same ones we've heard for years now. They amount to a determination to avoid accountability. Some say we shouldn't pay for test development even though it's being done by an independent body. Some say the test will be misused, even though participation is voluntary and is clearly designed to show how students and schools are doing and to show the way toward improving them.

Some say it's unfair to poor kids and kids of immigrant parents, even though many big-city school districts, including those in six of seven of our largest cities, say they want to be a part of the test and the national standards movement even if their States don't.

The fact is high standards are essential to providing our children the best education in the world, and I intend to do whatever is necessary to make sure we move forward.

The 21st century will be a time of remarkable opportunity. With high national edu-

cation standards, we can make sure all our children have the education they need to seize these opportunities. Without them, our children will continue to pay for our own low expectations and our own limited vision for them. Our children, our schools, our future are far too important to be anything less than world class. Let us move forward into the 21st century with high standards, and make sure we meet them.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 6:04 p.m. on August 29 at a private residence at Martha's Vineyard, MA, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 30.

**Remarks in a Telephone
Conversation With the WNBA
Champion Houston Comets From
Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts**

August 30, 1997

Coach Van Chancellor. Mr. President?

The President. Coach, congratulations.

Coach Chancellor. Well, thank you very much. You know, we're from neighboring States. I'm a Mississippi boy.

The President. You are?

Coach Chancellor. Yes, I am.

The President. Well, double congratulations.

Coach Chancellor. Well, thank you very much.

The President. I'll tell you what, I've followed the season this year. I've watched several games on television. I've really enjoyed it, and I had a chance to get to know some of the players in the league when I went running with the Women's Olympic Team a couple of years ago, and I think it's just been a great thing. I hope it'll be a success and go forward, and you had a great season and a great team, and you had a good game to-night.

Coach Chancellor. Well, thank you very much. I do appreciate you taking the time to call our locker room. That means a lot to the women of this team and to this coaching staff.

The President. Can you hear me?

Coach Chancellor. Yes, I can hear you.

The President. We're on a cell phone, but I think we're doing all right. I can hear you fine.

Coach Chancellor. Yes. I do appreciate your support of women's athletics in general.

The President. Well, I'm strongly supportive of it, and I hope that—like I said, I want you to stay with it, and I'll be supporting you all the way, and congratulate the players for me.

Coach Chancellor. I will. They're all in the dressing room, and they will be honored that you have called us.

The President. Cynthia had a great game, and any of us who has ever been through a childbirth were awful impressed when Sheryl Swoopes came back to play so quickly.

Coach Chancellor. Yes. I'm amazed that she was able to have a child and come back and play for us. She just had some great games. This has just been a total team effort for us.

The President. Yes. Well, give them my best, and I hope to see you up here someday pretty soon.

Coach Chancellor. Okay. I would love to come up there.

The President. Thank you, Van.

Coach Chancellor. And thank you very much for calling us. I'm very honored.

The President. Bye-bye.

NOTE: The President spoke by satellite at 6:50 p.m. from a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to players Cynthia Cooper, and Sheryl Swoopes, Houston Comets.

**Remarks in a Telephone
Conversation With the WNBA
Second Place New York Liberty
From Martha's Vineyard**

August 30, 1997

The President. Hello?

Ms. Maureen Coyle. We have a couple of people here who want to say hi to you.

The President. Oh, great. Congratulations on your season.

Team members. Thank you!

The President. I can't believe you're all there.

Ms. Coyle. Our head coach, Nancy Darsch, wanted to say hey to you.

The President. Great.

Coach Nancy Darsch. Hey, Mr. President, how are you?

The President. I'm fine, Coach. Congratulations on your season.

Coach Darsch. Well, thank you. We met this past fall at Ohio State, and I'm glad to say that I've moved on, taken this team to the WNBA championships, and I'm jealous of you being on Martha's Vineyard, my home State.

The President. Well, it's beautiful up here, and I tell you, I was really pleased with the way your first season worked out. I saw a lot of the games on television and tried to keep up with you, and I hope that there's a bright future ahead for it. I'm really enthusiastic about it, and I'm very pleased about all that you and all your players have done to keep it going.

Coach Darsch. Well, thank you very much. We're very happy that you've followed us and very pleased that you have been able to reach us here tonight.

The President. What are you doing? Are you having a party somewhere?

Team members. Yes!

Coach Darsch. We are having a celebration of our season. We're very proud of the way that we've played this season and of the WNBA inaugural season and also the fact that we all kind of separate here in the near future. So we're having a little get-together, and probably someone here that you are very well familiar with, Teresa Weatherspoon, as well as Rebecca Lobo, would like to say hello to you.

The President. Yes, I know them both. [Laughter]

Ms. Teresa Weatherspoon. What's happening, Mr. President? [Laughter]

The President. Well, I wish——

Ms. Weatherspoon. This is Teresa Weatherspoon talking to you.

The President. I wish I were there with you. How are you doing?

Ms. Weatherspoon. I'm doing fine. We're doing much better. We're enjoying ourselves and just happy to be able to say hello to you.

The President. Well, I'm proud of your season. I know that you're feeling good, and I think that you've really got the interest of the country going.

Ms. Weatherspoon. We're trying. We're trying to be positive role models for young ladies, even for the younger guys. Hopefully, we've done some positive things to somehow, some way have younger girls to want to be like one of us.

The President. I think you have. And you've taught a lot of people a lot about defense. [Laughter] I'll tell you, the next time——

Ms. Kym Hampton. Mr. President, I'm Kym Hampton, the other president, and you've been doing your homework, haven't you? [Laughter]

The President. I watch you all on television. I watch you on television.

Ms. Hampton. Okay. Well, you know, I can teach them a little bit about defense; you just continue to defend our little country here there, you know?

The President. I'll do it. You've got a deal.

Ms. Hampton. Well, I appreciate talking to you. Here's Rebecca Lobo.

The President. Thanks, Kym.

Ms. Rebecca Lobo. Hello, Mr. President.

The President. Hey, Rebecca. How are you?

Ms. Lobo. Great. How are you doing?

The President. I'm okay.

Ms. Lobo. Thank you very much for taking time out to speak with us.

The President. Well, I'm really pleased. I hope you're pleased with your first season, and I hope it continues, because I thought it was great. I watched several of the games on television from the White House, and I thought they were exciting and good, and I think you've got a real future.

Ms. Lobo. Thank you very much. We appreciate it.

Ms. Weatherspoon. Can I say one more thing?

The President. Sure.

Ms. Weatherspoon. Even though we didn't win it all and, you know, normally the winners get the visitation there at your place, can we still come? [Laughter]

The President. Yes. You bet. If you want——

Ms. Weatherspoon. Because in our own right we're still champions.

The President. [*Inaudible*—if you want to come down here and have a tour, I'd be glad to have you down here.

Ms. Weatherspoon. We're coming! [*Laughter*]

The President. All right.

Team member. You are one of a kind, aren't you, honey? [*Laughter*]

Ms. Coyle. Mr. President, This is Maureen Coyle again. I'm actually going to hold your scheduling people to that.

The President. All right. We'll do it. We'll set up a tour.

Ms. Coyle. Thank you very much.

Team. Thank you.

The President. Goodbye. Thanks.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:53 p.m. from a private residence. Maureen Coyle is director of public relations, New York Liberty.

Remarks on the Death of Princess Diana and an Exchange With Reporters in Martha's Vineyard August 31, 1997

The President. Good morning. Let me say again how very sad Hillary and I are about the terrible accident that has taken the life of Princess Diana and the others who were with her. We liked her very much. We admired her work for children, for people with AIDS, for the cause of ending the scourge of landmines in the world, and for her love for her children, William and Harry.

I know that this is a very difficult time for millions of people in the United Kingdom who are deeply shocked and grieving, and the American people send their condolences to all of them. We value their friendship, and we understand this great and painful experience.

For myself, I will always be glad that I knew the Princess and always think of her in very strong and positive terms, as will Hillary, and we can only hope that her work will go forward and that everyone who can, will support her two fine sons and help them to have the life and the future that she would want.

Thank you.

Q. Mr. President, you, yourself, on this vacation have been subject to intrusive photog-

raphers. Is there a lesson in this tragedy for the press? Should we back off?

The President. I think it is better right now if we let a little time pass and let this event and the people involved be honored and grieved, and then we'll have time to think about that and maybe make a better judgment. I think it's better for me not to say anything until this moment has received its due respect.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. at the press pool holding area.

Remarks to Oak Bluffs School Teachers in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts September 3, 1997

The President. Thank you very much, Dr. Cash, Mr. Binney, all the teachers who are here. I am delighted to have this chance to come by and visit with you. I know I'm on vacation, but when school starts, if I don't participate in some start-of-school event—[*laughter*]—I begin to have a nervous twitch, and I—[*laughter*]—and I was delighted to be invited to come by and spend a few moments with you.

Let me begin by saying, as you know, our family has been on vacation here now for a little over 2 weeks, and we have until the end of this week. This is the longest time we've been away together in a very long time, and it's been a wonderful opportunity for us. We love it here. And it's especially important this year because this is the last family vacation we'll have before our daughter begins her next big educational adventure. So it's been great.

You know, every start of a school year is special because, as you well know, teachers come together with a new sense of dedication and energy and students show up wide-eyed in anticipation and parents pour all their hopes into what they hope will come out of the next year, that they're all truly wonderful. And I think they reflect the central premise of what you do for a living, and that is that our most important common enterprise as a people is clearly education. It's necessary not only for young people to grow up and be

able to earn a good living but, perhaps more importantly, to be good citizens and even beyond that to live their own lives to the fullest, with a high degree of self-awareness and an ability to learn and absorb and grow throughout a lifetime. So it's always important.

But this year, I think it's especially important. For one thing, we have the largest class of students in America, ever. We finally now have a student body, in the whole, in America, of over 52 million, bigger than the largest years of the baby boom, which is a great burden for all of us aging baby boomers to have on our shoulders. [*Laughter*]

For another, we have the most diverse student body we have ever had. We now have 5 school districts in America that have children from over 100 different racial and ethnic groups. And within a couple of years, we'll have a dozen school districts that have children—but as you know, here in Martha's Vineyard, we're also diverse in other ways. We have massively huge school districts and we have very, very small school districts. And somehow, some way, we expect you, all of you—you and your counterparts throughout the country—to work with our children and give them a world-class education and give them a shot to make the most of their own lives.

We also know that as we move closer and closer to the turn of the century and to the beginning of a whole new millennium, we're super-attuned to the fact that we're living increasingly in a global society as well as a global economy, where children in the smallest school on Martha's Vineyard, either now or someday soon, will be able to hook onto the Internet and do research in libraries in Australia or Asia, or talk to schoolchildren in Africa. And that's going to change the way we live and our perspective, and we have to be prepared for that.

It also means, frankly, that educational excellence at world-class standards is now more important than ever before. I can see a lot of very young teachers out there and then some of you who may be almost as old as I am, and those of you who have been teaching for a long time know very well that about 15 years ago, with the issuance of "A Nation At Risk" report in 1983, our country began a serious national effort to reexamine the

premises of public education and what needed to be done to make education better in our country.

And it's really been quite a moving thing for me both to observe and to participate in, even more when I was Governor than now as President, because the States of our country have constitutional responsibility for our public schools. But I have seen the recommendations of that report back in 1983 slowly but surely and steadily making their way into the lives of schools all across America. Our schools are offering broader and deeper curricula now; our students are taking more challenging courses now; our schools, by and large, are much better run now. There tends to be more participation and cooperation between principals and teachers. More of our school districts are pushing more and more educational decisions down to the school level, and our school districts tend to be better run now. And there's a whole different sense I get in school districts of all sizes as I go across America, and that's all very, very encouraging.

We also have begun to puncture some myths, and that is that you can't get an excellent education in a small school, or if you live in an urban setting in a difficult neighborhood, the kids really can't learn. We know that's not true, either. We have seen all these sort of fears that people had about coming to grips with the idea that we could establish a real uniform commitment to excellence in education basically evaporate with this school reform movement.

In 1989, I had the privilege of being one of the Governors to meet with then President Bush at the University of Virginia and—when we articulated six national education goals—and I was sort of the designated hitter for the Democrats, and we stayed up all night long, drafting these goals which then all of the Governors voted for and the President embraced, which basically were a lot like what Dr. Cash said. We started with the premise that everybody ought to have an opportunity to have a good preschool experience, that we ought to have a very high and uniform requirement for a curriculum that encompassed all of the things that all children should study, that we ought to achieve international excellence in math and science,

that everybody ought to have a chance to get education beyond high school, and that we ought to have a system of lifetime learning, that our schools all ought to be made safe and disciplined and drug-free.

There was another part to the national education goals that was often overlooked because it was either inconvenient or in some cases outright opposed, and that is there was a long section that I had stayed up half the night writing and, therefore, had been a little bit peeved to see ignored all these years—*[laughter]*—which basically said that one of the ways that we have to implement these goals is to set up a system of uniform national standards, not Federal Government standards but national standards, that reading and mathematics and basic science is the same in Montana as it is in Martha's Vineyard and that we should not pretend otherwise and that we should not be afraid to be held accountable.

For years, the Governors tried to do something about that, but the effort sort of fizzled out, because there were all kinds of people who were opposed to it. Now, we fast-forward: The Congress has just passed a budget which will bring our budget into balance for the first time since 1969, but also has the biggest increased investment in education from the Federal level since 1965, everything from Head Start to access to college. It has the biggest increase in aid to people that go on to get a college education, people of all ages, including people that go back and get graduate education which could benefit many of you in this room today, since the GI bill was passed in 1945. It is an astonishing educational document. And that leaves out, therefore, in my view, the one major thing that we've been sort of skirting since the National Education Goals were issued in 1989, and that is the whole question of national standards in measuring our children by them.

In the State of the Union Address in January, I challenged all of the States to adopt standards that were national and indeed international in terms of their quality, and then to participate voluntarily in reading tests for fourth graders and math tests for eighth graders to measure these standards in 1999. The National Education Goals actually call

for 4th, 8th, and 12th or 11th grade exams at the choice of the schools in a whole range of subjects.

But I thought we ought to begin here. And the response has been quite encouraging. I made clear that this was voluntary; nobody was going to be required to do it, that the Federal Government would not develop or administer the test but would only help to pay for it, and that the test should not be misused but neither should we pretend that it's not needed. Almost every school in every State has a lot of tests that children are given. But some of the State tests really do measure national standards, and some don't. A lot of the individual achievement tests tell you where you rank on a percentile, but that's really not relevant. If we have national standards, 100 percent of the children ought to clear the bar. And if nobody clears the bar, the child who made the highest grade shouldn't be considered to have done enough. That is the difference.

There are certain basic things that all of our children should know. I've been very heartened at a large number of States, the Defense Department schools, which educate a lot of children around the country and around the world, and something that would have been unheard of even in 1989—15 big-city school districts have come forward and said, "We want our children to be a part of this even if our States don't join," including the school districts in six of the seven biggest cities in America have said, "We are tired of being told our children can't learn. We are tired of being told we can't overcome our obstacles. We expect to be held accountable, and our kids, if anything, need a good education more than anybody else, not less, and we don't want to make any excuses anymore."

To me, this has been an overwhelming thing, especially in light of the long effort we've had since 1989 in trying to get this off the ground. That's the good news. And it is very good news, indeed. But now there are some people in Congress and in the country who don't want this to happen. They either say we've got enough tests already or the Federal Government's making a power grab or they're afraid that the tests won't be fair to people who don't do well on it.

I would just like to reemphasize, number one, these tests are voluntary; number two, the results are not to be misused, but it's helpful to know whether the children, individually or in a class or in a school or in a school district, do or do not perform at acceptable levels in reading and mathematics at the very least.

Today, we have basically two tests that measure us—our kids by national and international standards. One is the so-called National Assessment of Educational Progress, the NAEP test, which I'm sure a lot of you are familiar with; over 40 States participate in that. But only representative samples of the students do it, and the scores are given by school district, so they don't really address how the children are doing.

The other is the third international math and science tests, the so-called TIMSS test, which is only given to a few thousand students every year. But it should be very encouraging to us. This year for the very first time since those tests have been given, our fourth graders scored well above the international average in math and science, and the few thousand kids who take it are representative by race, by region, by income of the American student body, once again demonstrating that if you set a high standard and go after it, you can achieve it.

Now, also, to make full disclosure, our eighth graders are still below the international average, but that's, I think, because in large measure so many of the worst problems in our society hit kids when they reach adolescence, and in bigger school districts, so many of our middle schools are still organized around the family and community structures that existed in the 1950's and the early sixties when, in fact, they probably ought to be as small as a lot of grade schools are today to really meet the needs and the challenges these kids are facing.

But the bottom line is, we know from this example, that we can make it. And I think it would be a terrible mistake for people who are afraid our children can't measure up or who have a misguided notion that somehow the Federal Government is trying to take over the direction of education in America to persuade Members of Congress not to fund the tests. And that's basically an issue

we're going to be fighting out over the next few weeks.

We have agreed and feel strongly that a nonpartisan board which has been established by Congress for over 20 years now should be in charge of the development of the exam. All we want the Department of Education to do is to have the funds to pay for it and to help the States or school districts who need it, to give it. And now that we've got all these kids out there whose educators say they want to participate, I think we have to do it.

I said in the State of the Union Address that if there's one place politics ought to stop in America, it's at the schoolhouse door. And I have been gratified that we've had Republicans and Democrats from all over America supporting this effort.

Just yesterday, the Secretary of Education went to Philadelphia, which has a remarkable superintendent named David Hornbeck, who used to be the superintendent of schools in Maryland, the State of Maryland, and he left the job to go to Philadelphia to prove that you could run a big-city school district and give educational excellence to all kids. And they've established a very rigorous standards program, and student achievement has risen among all students at all grade levels from all backgrounds in the Philadelphia school system. So it's just like everything else. Setting a goal means you're more likely to meet it than if you don't set it.

And those who say we shouldn't measure—if I were to say, "Well, we ought to stop testing airline pilots because it might be offensive to some people," we would be reluctant to fly. If I were to say that we should end the rigorous evaluation techniques that the United States military has because it might be offensive to some people, you would say, "You must be out of your mind." The military is a place where more people from more different backgrounds, more different racial and ethnic backgrounds, have found a way to achieve excellence than any other institution in our life. And besides that, they protect us better than anybody else is protected in the world. Why would you stop setting high standards in measuring to see if we meet them? That's all that I am trying to do.

So I hope that since Massachusetts is one of the first States to agree to voluntarily participate, I hope all of you will support this, and I hope that if you have the opportunity, you will encourage the Members of Congress and your Senators to support it, because to me, it's the last major step. I have done all I could to push more decisions down to the school district into the school level. We have dramatically reduced paperwork in the Department of Education. We have dramatically increased the ability of local school districts to spend Federal money—and States—according to their own designs, within the general framework of the intent of Congress. So I want more decisionmaking done at the local level, but I still think we ought to have national standards that give our children a chance to do well in the global economy. And I believe that they all can do well.

And I believe that the poorest of our kids, the kids that come from the most difficult backgrounds, need it more than others, because they look to you, they look to the schools to give them the chances that their own parents didn't have. I know it's harder for you, and I know a lot of you have to contend with problems that these children bring from home that weren't there a generation ago, but every single thing you can mention just means that they need it more, not less.

So I expect this to be one of the major debating issues of the next few weeks when I go back home to go back to work. And I came here to thank you for what you do, to ask you to continue to support the educational excellence, and to send a clear message that you believe that excellence and accountability and high aspirations are for all our children, because we know they can make it. And we know that for their sakes, we have to expect them to do so.

Thank you, and bless you.

[At this point, Oak Bluffs Selectman Richard Combra presented a gift to the President.]

The President. Let me say, I actually believe I could pass a history exam on Oak Bluffs. *[Laughter]* This is one of the most interesting communities that I have ever heard anything about, and its history over the last 100 years, particularly, is fascinating to me, and I always spend a lot of time here

when we come to the Vineyard, and I'm grateful for this.

I also should tell you that someone gave Hillary and Chelsea and me that huge 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle—*[laughter]*—and we did it. So I am now prepared for a detailed geography examination on Martha's Vineyard in general and Oak Bluffs in particular.

I also want to say this is a magnificent school and just before I came in here, I was offered the chance by your principal to actually decorate one of the tiles. I have no doubt that mine will not be nearly as good as the students' or the staff's, but I'll give it my best shot.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:53 a.m. in the library. In his remarks, he referred to Dr. Kriner Cash, superintendent, Martha's Vineyard Schools; and Laury Binney, principal, Oak Bluffs School.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting the Report on the Partnership For Peace September 3, 1997

Dear _____:

In accordance with section 514(a) of Public Law 103-236 (22 U.S.C. 1928(a)), I am submitting to you this report on implementation of the Partnership for Peace (PFP) initiative.

The recent NATO Summit in Madrid highlighted the tremendous success of the Partnership for Peace and the important role PFP plays as a permanent security structure for the undivided Europe of the 21st century. On the second day of the Summit, 27 Partner Heads of State and Government met with their NATO counterparts under the auspices of the new Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. This meeting, the first of its kind, underscored the strength of the cooperative relationship NATO has built with the Partners in the 3-½ years since the creation of PFP.

The Partnership for Peace has been instrumental in helping countries prepare for NATO membership. At the same time, it has also been a critical tool in helping all the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, regardless of their desire to join NATO, to build stronger ties with the Alliance and de-

velop closer cooperative relationships with all their neighbors. As you will see from the attached report, NATO and its Partners have made impressive progress in broadening and deepening the Partnership over the past year. With the creation of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and the implementation of enhancements to the PFP program, Allies and Partners together will help bring about our shared goal of a Euro-Atlantic community that is safe, secure, and united by common values and common understanding.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; and Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, and Lee H. Hamilton, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and Documentation
September 3, 1997

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters ("the Convention"), adopted at the twenty-second regular session of the Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly meeting in Nassau, The Bahamas, on May 23, 1992, and the Optional Protocol Related to the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters ("the Protocol"), adopted at the twenty-third regular session of the OAS General Assembly meeting in Managua, Nicaragua, on June 11, 1993. Both of these instruments were signed on behalf of the United States at the OAS headquarters in Washington on January 10, 1995. In addition, for the information of the Senate, I transmit the report of the Department of State with respect to the Convention and the Protocol.

When ratified, the Convention and the Protocol will constitute the first multilateral convention between the United States and other members of the OAS in the field of

international judicial cooperation in criminal matters. The provisions of the Convention and Protocol are explained in the report of the Department of State that accompanies this message.

The Convention and Protocol will establish a treaty-based system of judicial assistance in criminal matters analogous to that which exists bilaterally between the United States and a number of countries. These instruments should prove to be effective tools to assist in the prosecution of a wide variety of modern criminals, including members of drug cartels, "white-collar" criminals, and terrorists. The Convention and Protocol are self-executing, and will not require implementing legislation.

The Convention provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Mutual assistance available under the Convention includes: (1) taking testimony or statements of persons; (2) providing documents, records, and articles of evidence; (3) serving documents; (4) locating or identifying persons or items; (5) transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; (6) executing requests for searches and seizures; (7) assisting in forfeiture proceedings; and (8) rendering any other form of assistance not prohibited by the laws of the Requested State.

The Protocol was negotiated and adopted at the insistence of the United States Government, and will permit a greater measure of cooperation in connection with tax offenses. I believe that the Convention should not be ratified by the United States without the Protocol. If the Convention and Protocol are ratified, the instruments of ratification would be deposited simultaneously.

One significant advantage of this Convention and Protocol is that they provide uniform procedures and rules for cooperation in criminal matters by all the states that become Party. In addition, the Convention and Protocol would obviate the expenditure of resources that would be required for the United States to negotiate and bring into force bilateral mutual assistance treaties with certain OAS member states.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Convention and the Protocol, and that it gives its

advice and consent to ratification, subject to the understandings described in the accompanying report of the Department of State.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 3, 1997.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 4.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
Organization of Eastern Caribbean
States-United States Legal Assistance
Treaties in Criminal Matters and
Documentation**

September 3, 1997

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaties Between the Government of the United States of America and the governments of four countries comprising the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. The Treaties are with: Antigua and Barbuda, signed at St. John's on October 31, 1996; Dominica, signed at Roseau on October 10, 1996; Grenada, signed at St. George's on May 30, 1996; St. Lucia, signed at Castries on April 18, 1996. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaties.

The Treaties are part of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to counter criminal activity more effectively. They should be an effective tool to assist in the prosecution of a wide variety of crimes, including "white-collar" crime and drug trafficking offenses. The Treaties are self-executing.

The Treaties provide for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Mutual assistance available under the Treaties includes: taking of testimony or statements of persons; providing documents, records, and articles of evidence; serving documents; locating or identifying persons or items; transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; executing requests for searches and seizures; assisting in proceed-

ings related to forfeiture of assets, restitution to the victims of crime, and collection of fines; and any other form of assistance not prohibited by the laws of the Requested State.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to these Treaties and give its advice and consent to ratification.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 3, 1997.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 4.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the Barbados-United States Mutual
Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal
Matters and Documentation**

September 3, 1997

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Barbados on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Bridgetown on February 28, 1996. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to counter criminal activities more effectively. The Treaty should be an effective tool to assist in the prosecution of a wide variety of crimes, including drug trafficking offenses. The Treaty is self-executing.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Mutual assistance available under the Treaty includes: taking of testimony or statements of persons; providing documents, records, and articles of evidence; serving documents; locating or identifying persons; transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; executing requests for searches and seizures; assisting in proceedings related to forfeiture of assets, restitution, and collection of fines; and rendering any other form of assistance not

prohibited by the laws of the Requested State.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 3, 1997.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 4.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Trinidad/Tobago-United States Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Documentation

September 3, 1997

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Port of Spain on March 4, 1996. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to counter criminal activities more effectively. The Treaty should be an effective tool to assist in the prosecution of a wide variety of crimes, including drug trafficking offenses. The Treaty is self-executing.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Mutual assistance available under the Treaty includes: taking of testimony or statements of persons; providing documents, records, and articles of evidence; serving documents; locating or identifying persons; transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; executing requests for searches and seizures; assisting in proceedings related to restraint, confiscation, forfeiture of assets, restitution, and collection of fines; examining objects and sites; and any other form of assistance not

prohibited by the laws of the Requested State.

I recommended that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 3, 1997.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 4.

Remarks on the Terrorist Attack in Jerusalem and an Exchange With Reporters in Martha's Vineyard

September 4, 1997

The President. Today's bombing in Jerusalem is an outrageous and inhuman act. My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families and all the people of Israel.

It is clear that the perpetrators of this attack intended to kill both innocent people and the peace process itself. They must not be allowed to succeed. Everything possible must be done to stop them.

The peace process can only move forward in a secure environment. And the Palestinian Authority, through concrete actions on its own and continuing work with the Israeli authorities, must do all it can to create an environment that leaves no doubt that terror will not be tolerated.

This is the message that Secretary Albright will emphasize when she travels to the region next week. I know the overwhelming majority of Israelis and Palestinians yearn for an end to violence and for the start of lasting peace. If they are to see their hopes realized, we must see the strongest possible security cooperation. Only on that basis can the process proceed.

1996 Campaign Financing

Q. Mr. President, the Justice Department says it's investigating—reviewing, rather, whether campaign solicitations by Vice President Al Gore should warrant a preliminary investigation which could trigger the independent counsel law. Do you think that the Vice President's conduct should be investigated?

The President. I have nothing to add to what I've said before. I believe what he did was legal, and the Justice Department has to make its own determination, which I'm confident they will do, based on the law.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Back on the bombing, sir——

The President. Yes?

Q.——what does this do to the peace process, do you believe?

The President. I would hope it would give it added urgency. It is obvious that when things are hanging in limbo, all sides become more vulnerable to the enemies of peace, and particularly the people of Israel become more vulnerable to the terrorists who desperately do not want to see this peace process proceed. They do not want a peaceful resolution of the differences between the Israelis and the Palestinians. They do not want us to be able to go forward to see an ultimate resolution with the Syrians and the Lebanese. Hamas does not want that. Hamas and the other terrorists, they thrive on anger and anxiety and uncertainty and being able to inject their murderers into this situation.

So what I hope will happen is that we will see—we believe we've made some progress. Mr. Ross went out there—on the security cooperation, and I hope we'll see some more, and I hope we'll see that this peace process can get going again.

I think it's all the more important for Secretary Albright to go, and I've made it clear. And I tried to call Prime Minister Netanyahu. He was in the hospital with the victims and so he was unable to take my call, but I look forward to a discussion with him. I think it's important that she go on and go right out there, and we keep pushing this thing.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:18 p.m. at the press pool holding area. In his remarks, he referred to Special Middle East Coordinator Dennis B. Ross and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of Israel.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on United States Government Activities in the United Nations

September 4, 1997

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit herewith a report of the activities of the United States Government in the United Nations and its affiliated agencies during calendar year 1996. The report is required by the United Nations Participation Act (Public Law 264, 79th Congress; 22 U.S.C. 287b).

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 4, 1997.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 5.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the Federal Labor Relations Authority

September 4, 1997

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 701 of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-454; 5 U.S.C. 7104(e)), I am pleased to transmit the Eighteenth Annual Report of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for Fiscal Year 1996.

The report includes information on the cases heard and decisions rendered by the Federal Labor Relations Authority, the General Counsel of the Authority, and the Federal Service Impasses Panel.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 4, 1997.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 5.

Statement on the Death of Mother Teresa

September 5, 1997

With the passing of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the world has lost one of the giants of our time. She gave comfort to the poor, the suffering, and the dying, and served as an inspiration and a challenge to all of us.

Hers was a ministry of action—of passion and compassion. She led by serving, and showed us the stunning power of simple humility. Her unconquerable faith touched the lives of millions of people in India, here in the United States, and all around the world. I had the pleasure of meeting Mother Teresa when she came to Washington, and I was moved by her conviction and courage. Hillary had the privilege of working with Mother Teresa and her community to open a home for abandoned babies in Washington, and later Hillary and Chelsea had the opportunity to witness firsthand the work of Mother Teresa and her community in India.

The home for the dying she opened in Calcutta almost a half century ago is called Nirmal Hriday—"pure heart"—and if ever there was a pure heart, it was hers. Mother Teresa is gone, but as the Gospels teach us, these things endure: faith, hope, and love. She had them in abundance. They will stay with us always.

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.

September 2

The President announced his intention to nominate Barbara K. Bodine to be Ambassador to Yemen.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mayor Cardell Cooper of East Orange, NJ, to be Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response at the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate Daniel Fried to be Ambassador to Poland.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jane G. Gould to serve as Deputy Commissioner of the Social Security Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard J. Griffin to be Inspector General at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate B. Lynn Pascoe for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Negotiator for Nagorno-Karabakh.

The President announced his intention to nominate Julia V. Taft to be Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeanette C. Takamura to serve as Assistant Secretary for Aging at the Department of Health and Human Services.

The President announced the recess appointment of Tadd Johnson as Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission at the Department of the Interior.

September 3

The President announced his intention to nominate Kathryn Walt Hall to be Ambassador to Austria.

The President announced his intention to nominate David Timothy Johnson to be the Head of the U.S. Delegation to the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tom McDonald to be Ambassador to Zimbabwe.

The President announced his intention to nominate Edward E. Schumaker III to be Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago.

The President announced his intention to appoint Charles R. Lee as Chair and Van B. Honeycutt as a member of the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

September 4

The President announced his intention to nominate Stanley T. Escudero to be Ambassador to Azerbaijan.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ray Kammer to be Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology at the Department of Commerce.

The President announced his intention to appoint Phillip G. Lewis to the Board of Directors of the Mickey Leland National Urban Air Toxic Research Center.

September 5

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas M. Foglietta to be Ambassador to Italy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alphonse F. La Porta to be Ambassador to Mongolia.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted September 2

Katherine Milner Anderson, of Virginia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2000, vice Sheila Tate, term expired.

Barbara K. Bodine, of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Yemen.

Espiridion A. Borrego, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, vice Preston M. Taylor, Jr., resigned.

Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be a member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term expiring July 29, 2002, vice Tony Armendariz, term expired.

William Clyburn, Jr., of South Carolina, to be a member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2000, vice J.J. Simmons III, term expired.

Hiram Arthur Contreras, of Texas, to be U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Texas for the term of 4 years, vice Basil S. Baker.

Cardell Cooper, of New Jersey, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency, vice Elliott Pearson Laws, resigned.

Carolyn Curiel, of Indiana, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Belize.

F. Amanda DeBusk, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, vice John Despres, resigned.

Paula Dobriansky, of Maryland, to be a member of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy for a term expiring July 1, 1998, vice Pamela J. Turner, term expired.

Thomas J. Dodd, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Costa Rica.

Douglas S. Eakeley, of New Jersey, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 1999 (re-appointment).

Jacques Gansler, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, vice Paul G. Kaminski, resigned.

Robert Wayne Gee, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Policy, Planning, and Program Evaluation), vice Susan Fallows Tierney, resigned.

Lt. Gen. John A. Gordon, USAF, to be Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, vice George J. Tenet.

Cheryl F. Halpern,
of New Jersey, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 1999 (reappointment).

Margaret Ann Hamburg,
of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice Peter Benjamin Edelman, resigned.

John Arthur Hammerschmidt,
of Arkansas, to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2000 (reappointment).

Charles N. Jeffress,
of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Joseph A. Dear, resigned.

G. Douglas Jones,
of Alabama, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama for a term of 4 years, vice Claude Harris.

Richard F. Keevey,
of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, vice John A. Knubel.

Patricia Watkins Lattimore,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Cynthia A. Metzler.

Victor Marrero,
of New York, to be the Permanent Representative of the United States to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Harriet C. Babbitt.

Kenneth Ray McFerran,
of Arkansas, to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas for the term of 4 years, vice Hugh Dinsmore Black, Jr.

Eva M. Plaza,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Elizabeth K. Julian.

Dan Reicher,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy), vice Christine Ervin, resigned.

Charles Rossotti,
of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue, vice Margaret Milner Richardson, resigned.

Nancy H. Rubin,
of the District of Columbia, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Human Rights Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, vice Geraldine A. Ferraro.

Lange Schermerhorn,
of New Jersey, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Djibouti.

Brenda Schoonover,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Togo.

Charles Vincent Serio,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of 4 years, vice James V. Serio, Jr.

Michael Telson,
of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy, vice Joseph F. Vivona.

Scott E. Thomas,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2003 (reappointment).

Sally Thompson,
of Kansas, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture, vice Anthony A. Williams.

Thomas J. Umberg,
of California, to be Deputy Director for Supply Reduction, Office of National Drug Control Policy, vice John P. Walters, resigned.

Johnny Young,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor,

to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Bahrain.

Thomas S. Foley,
of Washington, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Japan.

Jane G. Gould,
of New York, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2001 (new position).

Richard J. Griffin,
of Illinois, to be Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs, vice Stephen Anthony Trodden, resigned.

Tadd Johnson,
of Minnesota, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of 3 years, vice Harold A. Monteau, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Gail W. Laster,
of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, vice Nelson A. Diaz, resigned.

Jeanette C. Takamura,
of Hawaii, to be Assistant Secretary for Aging, Department of Health and Human Services, vice Fernando M. Torres-Gil, resigned.

Julia Taft,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State, vice Phyllis H. Oakley.

Kirk K. Robertson,
of Virginia, to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, vice Christopher Finn, resigned.

Anita M. Josey,
of the District of Columbia, to be Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice Colleen Kollar-Kotelly.

John M. Campbell,
of the District of Columbia, to be Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District

of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice John H. Suda.

Submitted September 3

R. Nicholas Burns,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Greece.

Kathryn Walt Hall,
of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Austria.

Tom McDonald,
of Ohio, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Mark Robert Parris,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Turkey.

Edward E. Schumaker III,
of New Hampshire, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Trinidad and Tobago.

Submitted September 4

Raymond G. Kammer,
of Maryland, to be Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, vice Arati Prabhakar.

Dale A. Kimball,
of Utah, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Utah, vice David K. Winder, retired.

R. Roger Majak,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, vice Sue E. Eckert, resigned.

Edward F. Shea,
of Washington, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, vice Alan A. McDonald, retired.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released September 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Announcement of nominations for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Announcement of nomination of U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Louisiana

Announcement of nomination of U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Texas

Announcement of nomination of U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas

Released September 3

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Released September 4

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Announcement of nominations for U.S. District Judges for the Eastern District of Washington and for the District of Utah

Released September 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Statement by the Press Secretary: U.S. Delegation to Panama

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

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