

to Minnesota where you first learned about America. For over three decades, you have given every waking hour to the United Nations. Better than anyone, you know how this organization works, from its highest office down to the grassroots.

Most importantly, you have earned your reputation as a peacemaker. From Africa to Iraq to Bosnia, your remarkable efforts to turn people from conflict to cooperation have saved thousands of lives.

You have seen revolution, war, and starvation, and you have always risen to fight the suffering they bring. You have witnessed the collapse of the old colonial empires, the end of the cold war, the beginning of this new era of great possibility. I hope future historians will look back and say this was a time when the high principles that led to the founding of the United Nations at last were realized—not simply by avoiding bloodshed and war but also by bringing freedom and opportunity to men and women on every continent, from every background.

Today, through your strong leadership and quiet diplomacy, you are serving also as a different kind of peacemaker, bridging the gaps between the sometimes unruly members of the United Nations—a group that even on occasion, I must admit, includes the United States.

We have applauded your efforts to reform the United Nations, and we have particularly appreciated your efforts to explain those reforms to the American people. Deep down, our people care deeply about the U.N., and with you at the helm we are moving ahead to a new era of partnership.

Finally, let me note that article one of the charter calls the United Nations a center for harmonizing.

I would like to ask all of you to join me in a toast to Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations. May we always act in concert to achieve the harmony the founders dreamed of, the harmony he has worked so hard to realize.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2 p.m. in the North Delegates Lounge.

## **Message on the 50th Anniversary of the National Security Council**

*September 22, 1997*

*To Past and Present Members of the NSC Staff:*

I congratulate you on the 50th anniversary of the National Security Council.

During the more than forty years of the Cold War, you guided our country's leaders through the brinkmanship of East-West confrontation. In the almost ten years since communism's collapse, the NSC Staff has helped identify the possibilities and protect against the perils of our new era.

Indeed, at a time when the world's increasing interdependence challenges us all to new patterns of thought and action, the NSC's role is more important than ever. Your sound judgment, advice, and dedication are a key part of our ability to seize the opportunities of the 21st century. Because of your work, our lives are safer, our economy stronger, and our country more secure. On behalf of a grateful nation, congratulations and thank you.

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

## **Memorandum on Contributions to the International Fund for Ireland**

*September 22, 1997*

Presidential Determination No. 97-33

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Presidential Determination to Permit U.S. Contributions to the International Fund for Ireland with Fiscal Year 1996 and 1997 Funds

Pursuant to section 5(c) of the Anglo-Irish Agreement Support Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-415), I hereby certify that I am satisfied that: (1) the Board of the International Fund for Ireland as established pursuant to the Anglo-Irish Agreement of November 15, 1985, is, as a whole, broadly representative of the interests of the communities in Ireland and Northern Ireland; and (2) disbursements