

international norms that will advance the prosperity of the Turkmen people. Turkmenistan is committed to strengthening the rule of law and political pluralism, including free and fair elections for parliament and the presidency in accordance with international standards and the constitution of Turkmenistan, as planned for 1999 and 2002, respectively. Turkmenistan has invited the OSCE to open an office in Ashgabat, and the United States pledges its active support. President Clinton welcomed these steps to advance democracy and human rights.

The United States recognizes the challenges facing Turkmenistan in assuring its national security and respects its neutrality. The United States encourages Turkmenistan's further integration into emerging European security structures, including NATO's Partnership for Peace and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. The Presidents support enhanced security cooperation, which will be explored in a bilateral security dialogue to be initiated this summer.

The two Presidents exchanged opinions on important international issues. They discussed the serious threats posed by international terrorism, narcotics trafficking, international crime and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. They committed their governments to explore ways to expand cooperation in combating these threats to regional and global security.

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

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
Helsinki Joint Statement on Nuclear
Forces Reduction**

April 23, 1998

Dear _____:

As required by section 1229 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105-85), attached is a report on the Helsinki Joint Statement.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Strom Thurmond, chairman, and Carl Levin, ranking member, Senate Committee on Armed Services; and Floyd D. Spence, chairman, and Ike Skelton, ranking member, House Committee on National Security.

**Remarks at a Reception for
Supporters of the Omnibus Budget
Reconciliation Act of 1993**

April 23, 1998

Thank you. Many of you have said to me tonight that this was like a reunion. I hope you have loved being here and enjoyed seeing each other, but you couldn't be nearly as happy to be here as Hillary and Al and I are to have you here.

And I just want to say—there are a couple of other people I would like to mention. There are so many people in the administration who were crucial to this, but I want to add my thanks to Mack McLarty and acknowledge Gene Sperling. I want to thank Larry Summers, our Deputy Treasury Secretary; and in absentia, I'd like to thank Laura Tyson, Bob Rubin, Leon Panetta, and our friend Lloyd Bentsen, who's been a little under the weather, and I hope we will never forget him.

I never will forget when he came down to Arkansas before I got sworn in, and in that sort of dour, Texas, patrician way of his, and said, "Now, if we don't reduce the deficit by at least \$500 billion, interest rates will not go down and the market will not go up." [Laughter] And then they proceeded to tell me how hard it would be to do that, based on accepted scoring techniques. And then we proceeded to do what we all did.

And I want to thank you because it was so easy, there was no arm twisting involved. [Laughter] Not a deal made, it was all a high-flown sort of thing. [Laughter] I'm so indebted to all of you. I would like to thank especially Bob Kerrey for never releasing the contents of our last telephone conversation. [Laughter] And I don't know if he's here tonight, but I invited him—I'd like to say a special work of thanks, too, to Roger Altman, who ran our war room, which helped us to keep that non-pressure up. [Laughter] But it was a wonderful experience.