

Statement on the Supreme Court Decision on Penalties for Drug Traffickers Who Carry Firearms

June 8, 1998

I applaud the Supreme Court's decision today to make sure that drug traffickers who carry firearms, whether on their person or in their car, are subject to the stiffest penalties possible. Crime rates have fallen in America for 6 years in a row, but guns and drugs remain serious problems among our youth and in many of our neighborhoods. Today's decision is one more victory for law enforcement and law abiding citizens in the fight against crime and drugs.

Joint Communiqué With President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico

June 8, 1998

The President of Mexico, Ernesto Zedillo, and the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, met today in New York City.

During their conversation, both Presidents expressed their satisfaction regarding the convening of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Illicit Drugs. They agreed with the comprehensive approach to deal with the problem of drugs based on the principle of shared responsibility on the part of all nations.

The Presidents of Mexico and the United States reviewed the many improvements that have taken place in the bilateral relationship. Trade was among the specific topics discussed. They noted that the increase in the bilateral trade of goods and services has been remarkable. In this regard, the Presidents agreed to seek solutions to pending disagreements in the trade agenda, in order to further eliminate obstacles to the free flow of goods and services between both countries.

Regarding migration issues, both Presidents underscored the priority that their governments give to the protection of the human rights of migrants and to a safe and orderly border. They agreed to continue broadening and strengthening specific measures to achieve these objectives.

President Clinton praised the courageous efforts of the Mexican people in fighting the

recent forest fires in their country. President Zedillo conveyed appreciation for the assistance provided by the United States Government in this endeavor.

Bilateral cooperation against drug trafficking was given special consideration. The Presidents underscored the importance of combating all drug trafficking, in conformity with the laws in each country. They noted that this objective is best accomplished through improved cooperation and mutual trust, with full respect for the sovereignty of both nations. They agreed to strengthen mechanisms in their countries to deal with antidrug and money laundering efforts, and to improve cooperation, communication and information exchange between both governments.

The Presidents reaffirmed their governments' commitment to further the objectives and fully comply with the principles stated in the "Declaration of the Alliance against Drugs", which both signed in Mexico City, in May 1997. They therefore welcomed and endorsed agreement between Attorneys General Reno and Madrazo to develop a process for improved consultation and collaboration on law enforcement operations of mutual interest and avoid actions that could have undesirable effects on the bilateral relationship, and through this process strengthen that relationship. The U.S. and Mexican Attorneys General working in consultation with their respective Treasury and Hacienda officials will intensify efforts to investigate and prosecute narcotics trafficking and money laundering networks. They also will determine additional measures, such as regulations, enforcement techniques and actions, that should be taken in their own countries to deter organized crime, drug trafficking and money laundering in the future. The two Attorneys General will meet again in the days to come to define the common agenda.

Presidents Zedillo and Clinton reaffirmed their commitment to continue to work together in all aspects of the bilateral agenda and to further pursue the mature relationship and the friendship that is vital for the well-being of both peoples.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of this joint communiqué.

**Remarks at a Democratic
Congressional Campaign Committee
Dinner in New York City**
June 8, 1998

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Has a nice ring to it, don't you think? *[Laughter]* Let me thank the very large number of House Members who are here or who have been here, in addition to Congressman Gephardt and Congressman Frost: Congressman Rangel and Congresswoman Lowey and Congresswoman Maloney, Congressman Pallone, Congressman Nadler, Congressman Hinchey, Congressman Ackerman, Congressman Engel. And Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher is here from California where in the California primary she won 55 percent of the vote against nine Republicans. That's a good sign for our future.

Let me tell you, in California, for those of you who don't know it, everybody just runs and all the votes get added up together, and the top voting Democrat and the top vote-getting Republican then run against each other in the fall. If I were the Republican in her race, I would reconsider.

Let me also thank Judith Hope for her work for the Democratic Party, and Mayor Dowden, thank you for coming. We have two candidates here. I don't know if they were mentioned earlier, but Paul Feiner from the 20th district and William Holtz from the 1st, thank you for running. We can't win if we don't have candidates. And for all of you that had anything to do with putting this event together, I thank you.

I do want to apologize to Congressman Frost's mother for comparing Martin to my dog, Buddy. That's not exactly what I did. I said if I'd been thinking clearly I would have named my dog Martin, instead of Buddy—*[laughter]*—because Martin Frost is so insistent, it's just like a dog biting you on the leg, you know, until you do what he wants to do he will not let go of your leg. And so here I am, and I'm honored to be here.

Let me say to my long-time friend, Chevy Chase, that deal on the Bosnian vowels is one of the funniest things I've heard in a long time. *[Laughter]* But you have persuaded me that it ought to be done. *[Laughter]* But I do want to make an announcement

about it. I've worked a long time to eliminate deficit spending, too long to change course now. I'm also against deficit voweling. And therefore, we are going to have to reduce our vowels in order to increase our gift to Bosnia. *[Laughter]* And Chevy, you lost the lottery. We are taking your vowels. From now on, your stage name will be "Chv Chs." *[Laughter]* I will write your first note to that effect tomorrow. *[Laughter]*

Ladies and gentlemen, I feel good about where our country is; I feel good about where our party is. I feel profoundly honored to be associated with all of these Members of Congress who are here tonight. I guess I would like to make just a couple of points.

When I became President, I was not very interested in politics as usual. I had the same reaction to a lot of what goes on in Washington. It is so plainly and blatantly and nakedly political and so clearly divorced from the way ordinary people live out there in the country that many of you expressed to me tonight when you walked through the line.

I was, in the words of one of my distinguished opponents "just a Governor from a small Southern State." But I did have these old-fashioned ideas, and some fairly modern ones as well. I thought that, yes, we needed new ideas, consistent with Democratic Party's enduring values, but I also had this really old-fashioned idea that if somebody just sort of showed up in Washington and went to work every day and worried about how many things you could get done, at the end of a year or two, you'd actually get a lot of things done. And that if we spent more time trying to pile up accomplishments for the American people, instead of pile up negative words on each other, we would get a great deal done, indeed.

And I have to say to you now, 5½ years into my Presidency, I am more optimistic today than I was the day I took the oath of office for the first time about the potential for this political system to do what needs to be done for the American people, to empower them to make the most of their lives in the 21st century, to create conditions of peace and security, to move us forward together. But it takes sustained effort.

Now, I look back on the last 6 years, and here is the story we can say—and if someone