

been lower commodity exports, which account for a third of our farm output.

We fought long and hard to secure the nearly \$18 billion in IMF funding included in the bill, which will especially help our customers in Asia and elsewhere so that they can continue to buy our farm products. The bill also makes permanent the ability of farmers to average their income across good years and bad to stabilize the farm family budget.

However, I also recognize that there are some fundamental shortcomings in the structure of the Federal farm income safety net. Therefore, I will review proposals for long-term improvements in the risk management and crop insurance programs to reduce the risk that next year farmers and ranchers will again suffer under such severe conditions.

I also want to thank Secretary of Agriculture Glickman for his tireless work on behalf of American agriculture. I know he and his staff are hard at work right now setting the process in place to deliver the assistance I am designating today. While it cannot happen overnight—in particular, we will not know the full extent of the 1998 crop losses and due compensation for some weeks to come—I know he will shortly begin delivering these funds to farmers and ranchers as quickly and as fairly as possible.

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: H.R. 4328, approved October 21, was assigned Public Law No. 105-277. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

## **Proclamation 7143—United Nations Day, 1998**

*October 23, 1998*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

### **A Proclamation**

Every year on October 24, we celebrate the United Nations, a unique institution conceived in the crucible of World War II. Although the U.N. is an international body, the term “United Nations” was coined by an American, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who vigorously advocated for the cre-

ation of an assembly, composed of representatives from nations around the globe, devoted to the promotion of world peace and prosperity.

The member countries of the United Nations are large and small, with diverse social, cultural, and political values, but each has a voice in shaping the world’s destiny. Maintaining peace and security; promoting democracy, development, and human rights—this is the noble mission put forth in the U.N. Charter. The U.N. has been effective in fulfilling this formidable mission, winning Nobel Peace Prizes for its peacekeeping operations, its promotion of children’s and workers’ rights, and its assistance to refugees. The U.N. has also enabled people in more than 45 countries to participate in free and fair elections by providing electoral advice and assistance and monitoring results. Its day-to-day operations—supplying safe drinking water, fighting disease, giving food and shelter to victims of emergencies and political tumult—have made a difference in the lives of millions of people around the world.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, one of the first major achievements of the U.N. The Declaration has become the standard for international human rights law, beginning with the uncompromising statement: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” Over the years, the Declaration has been used countless times in countless ways to advance and defend human rights. As Secretary General Kofi Annan has stated, “Human rights are universal, indivisible, and interdependent and lie at the heart of all that the United Nations aspires to achieve in peace and development.”

Despite the U.N.’s extraordinary accomplishments, many challenges lie before us. Lasting peace can be realized only through wide social and economic development. Today, three-fourths of the world’s people live in developing countries, and 1.3 billion live in abject poverty. The ever-widening gap between the world’s richest and poorest countries remains one of our most pressing

challenges. The U.N. and its agencies, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, provide vital assistance to developing countries through grants and loans of over \$25 billion a year. With the current disruption in the world financial markets, the U.N. also plays a pivotal role as a stabilizing force, attracting investment in emerging economies in the developing world by promoting political stability, transparency, and good governance. And the U.N. continues to serve the world as an effective forum for instant consultation and cooperation among governments when attacking such shared threats as terrorism, drug trafficking, environmental degradation, and infectious disease.

The United States can best honor and celebrate the good work and many accomplishments of the United Nations by ensuring its continued strength and effectiveness. The U.N. has made great strides in streamlining its programs and cutting its costs. I applaud this progress, and I deeply regret the failure of this Congress to agree to pay our overdue U.N. dues. I pledge to work with the next Congress to meet our financial treaty obligations to the U.N. America played a vital role in the birth of the United Nations more than 50 years ago, and, if we are to remain true to our values and goals, we must work constructively with this great institution and maintain our vote in its deliberations.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Commission and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 24, 1998, as United Nations Day. I encourage all Americans to acquaint themselves with the activities and accomplishments of the United Nations and to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities furthering the goal of international cooperation.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 27, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 28. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

### **Remarks at the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church's 160th Anniversary Celebration**

*October 23, 1998*

Thank you very much, Reverend Green. [*Laughter*] You know, Ernie was doing so well up here, it reminded me about what my grandmother used to say to me. She said, "Bill, I think you could have been a preacher if you'd been just a little better boy." [*Laughter*]

I want to thank Ernie Green for his lifetime of friendship. I thank my longtime friend Secretary Slater, who has done a magnificent job in our Cabinet. I am delighted to be here with Secretary Togo West and Mayor Barry, Congresswoman Norton, Johnnie Booker, Bishop Anderson, Reverend Harvey, Assistant HUD Secretary Cardell Cooper, many members of our White House staff. And I'm really glad to be here with Gwen Ifill. I told the Bishop on the way in—and Reverend Harvey—I said, you know, Gwen Ifill's daddy was an AME preacher. And we used to talk about the AME back in 1992 when I was—back when I had a life, when I was a real citizen, and I was running for President and she was covering me. And you know, when you get in the press corps in Washington, you tend to drift away. And I'm glad to see her back, getting close to the faith again tonight here, working with all of you. [*Laughter*] It's very good.

I wish you a happy 160th birthday. I thank you more than you will ever know for the prayers, the friendship to me and to my family over these last few months and, indeed, over these last many years. And I am honored to have been invited to be with you on this occasion. And believe you me, I am very happy that we wound up those Middle East peace talks today, so I could be here.

It is now 8:30, and I have been awake for 36 hours and 30 minutes. [*Laughter*] I think