

Week Ending Friday, September 17, 1999

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
on Cyprus**

September 10, 1999

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with Public Law 95-384, (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question covering the period June 1, 1999, to July 31, 1999. The previous submission covered events during April and May 1999.

Cyprus was one of the many issues raised at the G-8 Summit in Cologne, Germany, this past June. My colleagues agreed that a resolution to the dispute is long overdue and issued a statement urging U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to "invite the leaders of the two parties to negotiations in the fall of 1999." This is a positive step toward addressing the legitimate concerns of both sides and reaching a just and lasting solution for all Cypriots.

In July, Secretary of Defense William Cohen traveled to Greece and Turkey to enhance our bilateral relations and underscore the important role Greece and Turkey play in maintaining stability in the southern European region. Secretary Cohen also emphasized the U.S. commitment to reaching a Cyprus solution.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

September 11, 1999

Good morning. All across America the new school year is now underway with over 53 million children, the largest and most diverse

group ever enrolled. It's a time of hope and excitement for students, parents, and teachers alike. But in many communities, it's also a time of concern—concern that when our children walk through the schoolhouse door they won't be safe from the threat of violence.

We know the vast majority of our schools are safe, but we can't forget the communities in cities, suburbs, and rural areas that do have a serious problem with school violence. And we can't forget that even one incident of school violence is one too many.

The tragic shootings of the past 2 years were a wakeup call, an urgent reminder that to protect our children from violence, we need nothing less than a national campaign that draws on all our resources and demands all our commitment, with all of us taking responsibility.

For more than 6 years now, our administration has worked hard to do our part. We've strengthened and expanded our safe and drug-free schools program, which helps school districts provide counseling, after-school activities, and violence mediation among other things. We enacted a national zero tolerance policy for guns in schools, helping to expel 4,000 students for carrying guns to school last year alone. We announced a grassroots national campaign against youth violence, and we fought hard to keep guns out of the hands of children and criminals. At the first-ever White House School Safety Conference, and after the tragedy in Littleton at a White House strategy session on youth violence, we launched new actions—2,000 more school resource officers in our schools, an antiviolence media campaign you may have already seen on television, and a new plan to help schools respond to deadly violence. These steps have made our schools safer, more disciplined, better learning environments. But when it comes to protecting our children, we must do more.