chance to work in quiet and without interruption and to observe the necessary discretion that, without which, we won't be able to move forward.

Thank you.

Mexican Elections

Q. Mr. President, something about Mexico, about the Mexican elections, please?

The President. Well, I called President Zedillo and congratulated him on what was clearly an open and fair and well-fought election. And I called President-elect Fox and congratulated him on his victory. We talked a little bit about the importance of our relationship and what lies ahead, and I told him that he would be welcome here at any time if he would like to come up.

Obviously, he has a lot of things to do, and he'll have to make that decision. But I'd be happy to meet with him if he would like to come up and sort of get our relationship started. Most of his term will unfold with the next President, but the relationship that we have with Mexico needs to go beyond individual personalities always, because we have too much in common and too much of a future to build together.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:55 a.m. in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and President Ernesto Zedillo and President-elect Vicente Fox of Mexico.

Remarks on Signing the United Nations Optional Protocols on the Rights of Children in New York City

July 5, 2000

Thank you very much, Ambassador Holbrooke. That generous introduction confirms one of my unbreakable laws of politics, which is, whenever possible, you should endeavor to be introduced by someone you have appointed to high office. [*Laughter*]

I thank you, Deputy Secretary-General Frechette, for your welcome and for hosting me here today. And I'm delighted to see Olara Otunnu, Carol Bellamy. And thank you, Jim Wolfensohn, for being here and for your truly visionary leadership of the World Bank. I thank the members of the Security Council and the other Ambassadors who are here.

It's a special honor to have the President of Mali, President Konare, here, as well. I thank Secretary Summers for his work, and for coming here. And I'm delighted to be here with three Members of the House of Representatives, the chairman of the House Committee on International Affairs, Mr. Ben Gilman from New York, and Representative Carolyn Maloney, who represents the district in which the United Nations is located, and Sheila Jackson Lee from Houston, Texas, who did so much work on these subjects we're here to discuss today.

I also appreciate the presence here of members of the NGO community and members of the State, Defense, and Justice Departments' negotiating team who worked on these agreements. I'd also like to acknowledge the leadership of the Defense Department and the Joint Chiefs of Staff who worked hard to ensure that we could sign the child soldier's protocol in good faith, without compromising our military readiness or our national security in any way.

Let me begin just by expressing a general word of appreciation, if I might, to the United Nations for the work that you have done. You mentioned the 500 multinational protocols that have come out of this organization since it began. We are grateful for the attention that you are now devoting to the world health crisis, and for the opportunity that we will have to introduce this resolution tomorrow, for the work you are doing for peacekeeping, most recently in Sierra Leone, and in so many other ways. It's a profound honor for the United States to host the United Nations, especially in this millennial year, and I'm looking forward to coming back for the Millennial Summit.

These two protocols today, I believe, are very important statements that go beyond their very terms. With the Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor I signed last year, they form a trio of vital protections for children, and they must be signposts for the future of the global society.

To give life to our dream of a global economy that lifts all people, first we must stand together for all children. Yet every day, tens of millions of children work in conditions that shock the conscience. Every day, thousands of children are killed and brutalized in fighting wars that adults decided they should fight in. Every day around the world, and even here in the United States, children are sold into virtual slavery or traffic for the worst forms of sexual abuse.

Think about what has been lost for the future because roughly 2 million children have fought in wars over the last two decades. In Sierra Leone today, as many as half the rebel forces are under 18, some as young as 5 or 6. In Colombia, guerrillas have taken thousands of children from their villages to serve as soldiers.

Two years ago when we went to Africa, Hillary met with Ugandan children who had been abducted and heard their stories of unspeakable horror—of children forced to kill each other, family members, even their own parents. In Africa and around the world, she has been an eloquent and strong and consistent voice on behalf of our children—those who have been abused, exploited, and forced into war. And I wish she could be with me here today, because she's an important reason for why we're all here. This morning she reminded me that I should say, again, there is now worse sin in life than sending a child to kill the people who gave him life.

The Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict sets a clear and a high standard: No one under 18 may ever be drafted by any army in any country. Its signatories will do everything feasible to keep even volunteers from taking a direct part in hostilities before they are 18. They will make it a crime for any non-governmental force to use children under 18 in war. And they will work together to meet the needs of children who have been forced into war, to save a generation that already has lost too much.

What happens to the world's children in peacetime can be just as shocking. In the 21st century, it is difficult to believe that the global traffic in human beings is the third-largest source of income for organized crime—hundreds of thousands of children bought and sold, exploited and prostituted every year. Yet many countries don't even have laws against this kind of trade.

The Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography will do a great deal to change that. It specifies that child pornography, prostitution, and enslavement are crimes everywhere. It provides better tools for law enforcement to extradite and prosecute those who profit from this dirty business.

Already we are waging a firm fight against those who traffic in children, but this protocol will make a big difference. And I was glad that the Deputy Secretary-General invited other countries to sign this and other outstanding protocols when they're here for the Millennial Summit.

Every American citizen should support these protocols. It is true that words on paper are not enough, but these documents are a clear starting point for action, for punishing offenders, dismantling the networks of trafficking, caring for the young victims. They represent an international coalition formed to fight a battle that one country, even a large country, cannot win alone. They represent a worldwide consensus on basic values, values every citizen of our country shares. In short, I believe they represent the United Nations at its very best. And they remind us why, at a time when crime, disease, and hate can spread faster than ever before, we need a strong United Nations more than ever before.

The United States has already passed a sense of the Senate resolution in support of the Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict. I will send both protocols to the Senate this month, and I hope very much that they can be ratified this year.

Both agreements are stand-alone documents; they create no obligations to other agreements which the United States has not ratified. They speak to an international sense of justice and to the belief profoundly shared by our people that children deserve love and protection.

During one of the darkest moments of the 20th century, the great German theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, reminded us that "the test of the morality of a society is what it does for children." Today more than ever, this is a test the world cannot afford to fail.

The United States should always be at the forefront of this effort.

I am grateful for the opportunity Americans had to take a leading role in negotiating these agreements and to be among the first nations to sign them. I pledge my best efforts to see that we are also leaders in implementing them and, in so doing, in granting the world's children a future far better than its recent past. I thank all of you for your support as well.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:35 p.m. in the West Foyer at the United Nations. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Richard C. Holbrooke; U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Louise Frechette; Olara A. Otunnu, Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict; Carol Bellamy, executive director, UNICEF; and President Alpha Oumar Konare of Mali.

Memorandum on Delegation of Responsibilities Under the Foreign Relations Authorization Act

July 5, 2000

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Delegation of Responsibilities Under Section 1232 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (Public Law 106–113)

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby delegate to the Secretary of Defense the duties and responsibilities vested in the President by section 1232 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (the "Act")(Public Law 106–113), to transfer from War Reserve Allies Stockpiles in Korea and Thailand to the Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of Thailand, respectively, in return for concessions to be negotiated by the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, any or all of the items described in paragraph (a)(2) of section 1232 of the Act, subject to the conditions, requirements, and limitations set forth in section 1232 of the Act.

Any reference in this memorandum to the provisions of any Act shall be deemed to be a reference to such Act or its provisions as may be amended from time to time.

The authority delegated to the Secretary of Defense may be redelegated in writing within the Department of Defense.

The Secretary of Defense is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register.*

William J. Clinton

Remarks at a Military Salute Week Dinner in New York City

July 5, 2000

Please be seated. Let me say, first of all, I'm delighted to be here at Boomer Esiason's podium. [*Laughter*] When he was up here talking about being President, it was all I could do to avoid screaming, "Throw long, throw long!" [*Laughter*]

I want to also thank my good friend Lieutenant General Marty Steele, who is the president of the Intrepid Museum. It's a big step forward for him. He, like me, he was born and grew up in Arkansas, and he never saw a ship this big in his life until he was too old to figure out how to run one. [*Laughter*] So I appreciate your broadening his experience in life.

I'd like to thank the Members of Congress who are here, and General and Mrs. Shelton, I thank you for being here. And to all the executives who have worked so hard with Tony and the Fisher family to advance the cause of the Intrepid Museum and Foundation, I thank you.

I'd like to say a special word of thanks to Dick Grasso. He is the only person in New York who would give me any credit for the growth of the stock market in this last 7 years. [*Laughter*] There's ol' Mac saying he's wrong about that. It just shows you how confident Mr. Grasso is in his own leadership. [*Laughter*]

Let me say I am delighted to be here. Hillary and I were here yesterday with Chelsea for the tall ships and the review of the military ships. It was a magnificent day. I know many of you were here, and it's a