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EMIGRATION LAWS AND POLICIES OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

AN UPDATED REPORT CONCERNING THE EMIGRATION LAWS AND
POLICIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA, PURSUANT TO 19
U.S.C. 2432(b)



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To the Congress of the United States:

On June 3, 1993, I determined and reported to the Congress that Bulgaria is in full compliance with the freedom of emigration criteria of sections 402 and 409 of the Trade Act of 1974. This action allowed for the continuation of most-favored-nation (MFN) status for Bulgaria and certain other activities without the requirement of a waiver.

As required by law, I am submitting an updated report to the Congress concerning emigration laws and policies of the Republic of Bulgaria. You will find that the report indicates continued Bulgarian compliance with U.S. and international standards in the area of emigration policy.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *January 29, 1996.*

REPORT TO CONGRESS CONCERNING EMIGRATION LAWS
AND POLICIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

This report is submitted pursuant to sections 402 and 409 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended ("the Act"), following Presidential Determination 93-26 of June 3, 1993, that Bulgaria is not in violation of paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of sections 402(a) and 409(a) of the Act.

All current information indicates that the emigration laws and practices of the Republic of Bulgaria satisfy the criteria set forth in sections 402(a) and 409(a) of the Act in respect to all matters covered in those subsections.

Freedom of movement within Bulgaria and the right to leave it are enshrined in the 1991 constitution and are not limited in practice. No exit visa is required to leave Bulgaria, and no more than nominal fees must be paid by potential emigres. Thousands of Bulgarians left during 1992-1994 in search of economic opportunities in the West. Every citizen has the right to return to Bulgaria, may not be forcefully expatriated, and may not be forcibly deprived of citizenship acquired by birth. A number of former political emigrants were granted passports and have returned to visit or live in Bulgaria.

There are no outstanding emigration cases involving the United States and no divided family cases in Bulgaria.

In addition to its good emigration practices, Bulgaria has made substantial progress in the protection of human rights and the development of a democratic, free market society, and continues to establish cooperative relations with the U.S. On December 18, 1994, Bulgaria held its third free election since the end of communist rule. As a result of that election, the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) effectively controls the government. Cooperative relations with the U.S. have continued, and we have noticed no significant problems on the human rights front since the BSP came to power.

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