A REPORT ON UNITED STATES MILITARY FORCES DEPLOYED TO YEMEN

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

HIS REPORT ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES MILITARY FORCES SENT TO ASSIST THE USS COLE AND TO PROVIDE MEDICAL, SECURITY, AND DISASTER RESPONSE ASSISTANCE IN YEMEN

OCTOBER 16, 2000.—Referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed

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The White House,

Hon. J. Dennis Hastert,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Speaker: At approximately 5:15 a.m. eastern daylight
time, October 12, 2000, a small boat exploded alongside the USS
COLE (DDG 67) while the USS COLE was mooring to a harbor
fueling island during a refueling stop in the port of Aden, Yemen.
A number of American sailors were killed or wounded, and the
USS COLE suffered extensive damage. Department of Defense as-
sets were immediately identified to provide medical, security, and
disaster responses.

Later in the day on October 12, 2000, approximately 45 military
personnel from U.S. Naval Forces Central Command deployed to
Aden to provide medical, security, and disaster response assistance.
In addition, a team of approximately 50 U.S. military security per-
sonnel arrived in Aden in the early morning hours of October 13,
2000. It is also anticipated that additional similar security ele-
ments may be deployed to the area. The security personnel will en-
hance the ability of the United States to ensure the security of the
USS COLE and the personnel responding to the incident. Although
the security personnel are equipped for combat, their presence is
solely for the purpose of assisting in on-site security. Finally, two
U.S. Navy surface combatant vessels are operating in or near Yemeni
territorial waters to provide communications and other support,
as required. United States forces will redeploy as soon as the addi-
tional security support is determined to be necessary.

I have taken this action pursuant to my constitutional authority
to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and
Chief Executive. I am providing this report as part of my efforts
to keep the Congress fully informed, consistent with the War Pow-
ners Resolution.

I appreciate the support of the Congress in this action to assist
in ensuring security of U.S. military forces and other personnel
overseas.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton.