

Third, on nutrition, the world can make enormous improvements through simple steps such as eliminating Vitamin A deficiency, which can be deadly, and by promoting more breast feeding for infants.

These are simple low-cost strategies. They don't require space-age technology. They rely on basic medicines, inexpensive vaccines, drinkable water, access to family planning, and expanded educational opportunities, especially for women and girls. And we can afford to do our part in this effort because the financial burden will be shared among many nations.

If we let the world's children suffer, we know that in time we'll reap a bitter harvest of despair and desperation and violence. We know that when children grow up healthy and nurtured, they're more likely to do better by their own children, they're more likely to become citizens and contributors, more likely to add to the global marketplace. This is how free societies and open markets evolve, how global progress happens, how future friends of the United States and these children will be created.

We still call this, I think instructively, the post-cold-war era. The problem with that designation is it tells us where we've been but not where we're going. We have to chart a new path, channeling the remarkable forces at work in this era with a bold vision of what might be. Let us today commit that our children and the world's children will figure large in that vision, that the post-cold-war era will instead be the world's era of peace and prosperity and humanity in which our minds and hearts work together to give all children a better life.

Now I'd like to ask our six health heroes to step forward and to be recognized for the outstanding work they've done. First, Dr. Gretchen Berggren, being recognized for her lifelong commitment to the health of the world's children as a medical missionary and an innovator in community-based nutrition and primary health care; next, Dr. William Foege, for his long commitment to the health of the world's children through his global leadership on immunization goals and the eradication of smallpox; Dr. Norbert Hirschorn, for his distinguished career in public health and his leadership in demonstrating the value of oral rehydration therapy to change children's lives all around the world; Dr. Donald Hopkins, for his leadership in the global effort to eradicate Guinea worm and other diseases and to assure safe water and better sanitation to support children's health around the world; Patrice Jelliffe, for her lifetime commitment to the world's children as a public health expert, promoting breast feeding and appropriate weaning foods and practices in the developing world; Dr. Carl E. Taylor, for his sustained work around the world, from India to Beijing, which has demonstrated key linkages among nutrition, family size, and other efforts on child survival.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:28 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Jim Grant, American Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Statement on House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt's Support for Legislation on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade *December 21, 1993*

I welcome Majority Leader Richard Gephardt's support for the implementation of the Uruguay round agreement. His statement reflects the fact that we have a strong agreement that promises important benefits for U.S. industry, services, and agriculture. The majority leader's support will help make it possible to implement the agreement expeditiously, with a strong base of congressional support.

The overriding commitment of this administration in trade policy has been to open markets and expand trade—multilaterally where possible, and bilaterally where necessary—and to enforce trade laws against unfair trade practices by other

trading nations. The successful Uruguay round result strengthens our hand in doing so, and I look forward to working with the majority

leader and others in Congress on the implementing legislation.

Nomination for an Assistant Secretary of Commerce

December 21, 1993

The President announced today that he intends to nominate Thomas R. Bloom to be Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration at the Department of Commerce. Upon confirmation by the Senate, Mr. Bloom will supervise the overall administration and budget of the Commerce Department.

“In this time of constrained budgets, we need people with the financial and management ex-

pertise of Thomas Bloom to ensure that the taxpayers’ money is effectively managed,” said the President. “I welcome his service at the Commerce Department.”

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Nomination for Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

December 21, 1993

The President announced his intention today to nominate Adm. William A. Owens, USN, to be Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense. Admiral Owens will succeed Adm. David E. Jeremiah, USN, who is retiring.

“Admiral Owens has served his country proudly and with distinction for 35 years. He

has held a number of challenging assignments and demonstrated strong leadership ability,” said the President. “I am certain that he will perform up to the high standards set by his predecessor, Admiral Jeremiah, in this key post.”

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Nomination for Chief Counsel at the Small Business Administration

December 21, 1993

The President announced his intention today to nominate Jere W. Glover, the founder of several small businesses, to be the Small Business Administration’s Chief Counsel for Advocacy. The Chief Counsel acts as a spokesman for small business interests throughout the Government, as well as being an adviser to the SBA Administrator and overseeing the development of research and economic analysis projects on behalf of the small business community.

“Jere Glover knows what it takes to make a small business successful, and he knows how Government works. As the SBA’s Chief Counsel, he will work to make every part of the Federal Government responsive to small businesses’ needs.”

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.