

rededicating themselves to improving their communities and to ending the crime and violence that still threaten us. This has indeed been a year worthy of the Prince of Peace.

I have always believed that the Christmas spirit of giving and caring joins children and parents across the country and around the world. This year, let us listen to the dreams

of our children and gain strength from their idealism. On this holiday, let us reach out to the people around us and work for a world at peace.

Hillary joins me in extending best wishes to all for a very merry Christmas.

BILL CLINTON

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Telephone Conversation With President Boris Yeltsin of Russia

December 22, 1993

The President telephoned Russian President Yeltsin in Moscow this morning. The two leaders spoke for 30 minutes.

The President offered his congratulations to President Yeltsin and the Russian people on the recent free and fair elections held in Russia and on the adoption of a new constitution. President Yeltsin said that he and the Russian Government intended to work well and constructively with the new Parliament.

The two leaders discussed preparations for their January meetings in Moscow, agreeing that part of the agenda would include a review of U.S.-Russian economic cooperation to date. In this connection the President reaffirmed strong

U.S. support for economic reform and democracy in Russia. President Yeltsin confirmed his intention to continue a firm course of economic reform in Russia.

The two Presidents also discussed foreign policy issues that will be on the agenda for their January meetings. They agreed on the need to continue the cooperative tripartite dialog with Ukraine, with the aim of resolving the complex set of nuclear issues. President Yeltsin affirmed that Russia had no intention of interfering in the affairs of its neighbors. The President reiterated the U.S. hope for concrete movement on the question of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia and Estonia.

Nomination for Deputy Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

December 22, 1993

The President announced today that he will nominate Michael K. Kirk to be the Deputy Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks at the Department of Commerce.

"Michael Kirk has a long record of public service at the Patent and Trademark Office. I

am confident that he will do well as Deputy Commissioner."

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

Nomination for Director of the United States Mint

December 22, 1993

The President announced today that he intends to nominate Phillip N. Diehl, until re-

cently the Chief of Staff at the Department of the Treasury, to be the Director of the U.S.

Mint.

“As a senior member of Secretary Bentsen’s staff, both in the Senate and at the Treasury, and during his service in Texas’ State Government, Phil Diehl has distinguished himself as a public servant of high quality,” said the Presi-

dent. “He has the skills and experience that it takes to be an effective manager of the U.S. Mint.”

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

Appointment for Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff *December 22, 1993*

The President and Chief of Staff Thomas F. “Mack” McLarty today announced the appointment of Harold Ickes to be Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff, reporting to Mr. McLarty. In that capacity, Ickes will have major responsibility for efforts to enact the health security act next year.

The President made the following statement: “I am pleased that my good friend Harold Ickes will be joining our team. Harold combines a savvy political sense, honed by years of experience in national politics, with a deep commitment to improving the lives of average citizens. I admire his insight and his sharp wit.”

Appointment for the Small Business Administration *December 23, 1993*

The President today appointed Maine small businessman Patrick K. McGowan to be the Small Business Administration’s Regional Director for Region I, covering all of New England.

“I am very proud to make this appointment today,” said the President. “Patrick McGowan

knows what small businesses need and will do everything that he can to help New England small business.”

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

Nomination for Chief Financial Officer of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration *December 23, 1993*

The President today announced his intention to nominate Arnold G. Holz, assistant comptroller and director of general accounting for the State of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

“The depth of experience that Arnold Holz has acquired in 34 years of complex accounting, auditing, and financial reporting activities is a

welcomed addition to the Nation’s space exploration program as it enters a new era of international cooperation to build a space station and prepares for sustained human exploration of the solar system,” the President said.

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