

July 5 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994

Statement on Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty Headquarters Relocation

July 5, 1994

The Radios made a significant contribution to the victory of freedom during the cold war. All friends of liberty appreciate the strong support of the German Government and in particular the Bavarian officials over the last four decades. With this move, the Radios begin a new chapter in the continuing struggle to consolidate democracy throughout the former Communist bloc. I am grateful to President Havel

and the Czech Government for its generous offer and look forward to working with it to ensure the Radios' important work continues.

NOTE: This statement was included in a statement by the Press Secretary on the decision to accept the offer of the Czech Government to make the former Parliament building in Prague available to Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty.

Exchange With Reporters During Discussions With Baltic Leaders in Riga, Latvia

July 6, 1994

Baltic Nations and Russia

Q. Mr. President, did you make any progress in your conversation with Mr. Yeltsin?

The President. I think we're making good progress. I think we're making good progress toward completing the troop withdrawals on schedule, working out some of the remaining controversies over the rights of Latvian minorities. I feel good about it.

We talked about that here, as well as about our economic cooperation. And this agreement is, I think, just the beginning of what will be a long and very deep relationship between these

two countries and with the United States and the Baltics generally.

Q. Did Yeltsin give you a firm commitment on August 31 withdrawal?

The President. Well, he certainly clearly wants to complete the troop withdrawal, and he's worked very hard. You know, this has been a priority issue between the two of us, and I think that it will proceed apace. I feel good about where we are right now.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:30 a.m. in the White Room at Riga Castle. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's News Conference With Baltic Leaders in Riga

July 6, 1994

President Clinton. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Last year I had the pleasure of meeting these three Presidents, President Ulmanis, President Meri, and President Brazauskas, during the opening of the U.N. General Assembly. It is a great honor for me to see them again here as the first American President to set foot on free Baltic soil. On

Monday, my country celebrated the birth of democracy in America 218 years ago. Today, on behalf of all Americans, I salute the Baltic countries for another birth of democracy. And I salute the Baltic people for the courage, the perseverance, and the discipline that made independence possible.