

Feb. 8 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994

to setting national standards that will challenge our students, encourage partnerships between parents, schools, and communities, and guarantee that our young people have the skills they need to compete in the global marketplace.

I look forward to swift agreement between the House and Senate on these critical investments in our Nation's future.

Statement by the Press Secretary on House Banking Committee Access to Iraq-Related Documents

February 8, 1994

President Clinton on February 4 restored the access of the House Banking Committee to classified material and ordered relevant Federal agencies to declassify certain Iraq-related documents requested by the committee.

In a letter to Banking Committee Chairman Henry Gonzalez, the President said, "I am very pleased to tell you that in view of your October 28 letter and your pledge to protect the confidentiality of classified information provided by the administration, we have decided, effective immediately, to restore fully your committee's access to classified information. This action will resolve an unfortunate and long-standing difficulty that has severely interfered in the committee's relations with the executive branch."

Accordingly, the President has directed relevant agencies of the Federal Government to provide the committee access to the classified information it has requested in connection with its investigation of BNL and pre-war policy to-

ward Iraq. Consistent with past practice and policy, access will be subject to arrangements to protect intelligence sources and methods as well as ongoing law enforcement investigations.

The President also ordered relevant Federal agencies to declassify and disclose to the public Iraq-related documents requested by the committee concerning the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL), Cardoen, Matrix-Churchill, Gerald Bull, and U.S. policy toward Iraq immediately preceding the Persian Gulf war. The President also indicated that agencies will review for declassification other specific documents identified by the committee as necessary to carry out the purposes of its investigation. The administration will declassify these documents to the maximum extent possible, excluding from public release only: (1) material that must remain classified; (2) material whose disclosure would compromise privacy rights; and (3) material that reveals executive branch deliberations.

Remarks at Prince Georges County Correctional Center in Upper Marlboro, Maryland

February 9, 1994

Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President. And Dr. Brown, thank you for all the work you have done to develop the drug strategy. Thank you, Adele Hayes, for this fine program we came here to celebrate today. And thank you, Mr. Saxton, for having us here.

I was a little uncomfortable about how hard you all laughed at the—[laughter]—it occurred to me that this could be one of the great moments in American history for people who hate politicians. You've got the President, the Vice

President, half the Cabinet, and a substantial portion of the Congress all in jail at the same time. [Laughter]

I want to say a special word of thanks, too, to Joseph Mundo, because I know how hard it was for him to stand up here and give that talk. And I thank you, sir, for doing it.

We have introduced a lot of people here today, and I don't want to lengthen that. But there are two people that I think it's very, very important to recognize as I get into what our