

stability in the region. This mission was initially composed of a Nordic battalion, which deployed in early 1993. In July 1993, I directed that a U.S. Army contingent be deployed to FYROM in order to augment the UNPROFOR Macedonia mission, a deployment welcomed by the U.N. Security Council in its Resolution 842. In April of this year, the United Nations requested that we increase the U.S. contingent in order to replace elements of the Nordic battalion, which was being redeployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina. In response to this request, we augmented the U.S. contingent with the deployment of an additional U.S. Army reinforced company.

Through observation and monitoring operations along the FYROM border with Serbia, UNPROFOR Macedonia continues to be effective in preventing a spillover of the conflict. This mission has been carried out safely with no hostilities encountered and no U.S. casualties since the operation began. The mission has the support of both the FYROM Government and its people. Our forces will remain fully prepared not only to fulfill their peacekeeping mission,

but to defend themselves if necessary. The units currently comprising the U.S. contingent will soon be replaced by approximately 500 soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Kirchhons, Germany.

The U.S. contribution to the UNPROFOR Macedonia peacekeeping effort is part of our larger continuing commitment toward resolving the extremely difficult situation in the former Yugoslavia. I have continued the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces for these purposes pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct foreign relations and as Commander in Chief.

I remain grateful for the continuing support the Congress has provided, and I look forward to continued cooperation with you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 23.

Statement on the Observance of Kwanzaa

December 23, 1994

Warm greetings to everyone who is observing the festival of Kwanzaa.

A vibrant and energizing celebration, Kwanzaa offers millions an opportunity to embrace the rich cultural traditions of the African heritage. The seven principles of Kwanzaa, unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith, serve as vital tools in building hope and opportunity in our communities and throughout our country, and I am pleased that so many

of my fellow Americans are celebrating this year. All of you can be proud of your efforts to infuse the holiday season with diversity and new purpose.

Hillary joins me in wishing all of you a wonderful celebration and a Happy New Year.

NOTE: An identical message on the observance of Kwanzaa, December 26–January 1, was also made available by the White House.

Statement on Disaster Assistance for Florida and Georgia

December 23, 1994

I am designating Federal emergency assistance today to help those communities in Florida and Georgia damaged by the recent severe

weather. The people of both Franklin County, Florida, and Macon, Georgia, have worked hard to help those directly affected by the storm.