

July 26 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1995

human rights around the world who look to America for leadership.

The proposed cuts in the international affairs budget are dangerous and shortsighted. We know from experience that it is a lot less costly, in terms of money spent and lives lost, to rely on development aid and diplomacy now than it is to send in our troops later. There is a price to be paid for American leadership. But the return on our investment, in terms of increased security and greater prosperity for the American people, more than makes up for the

cost. What America cannot afford are the foreign affairs budget cuts proposed in these bills.

As I have made clear before, I want to work with Congress to get an international affairs bill I can sign, a bill that protects the President's authority to conduct foreign policy, maintains vital resources, and reflects a bipartisan spirit that serves America's interests. The legislation Congress is considering fails each of those tests. If it is sent to me as it now stands, I will veto it.

Statement on Senate Action on Appropriations Legislation

July 26, 1995

Yesterday's action by a Senate appropriations subcommittee removing funding for the Office of National Drug Control Policy would seriously undermine the Nation's battle against drug abuse and drug-related crime.

Removal of all funding for this office would severely curtail my ability to sustain a coordinated strategy among some 50 Federal agencies involved in drug control, including supply and demand, enforcement, interdiction, eradication, education, treatment, and prevention. Just when this coordinated effort is showing sustained success, the subcommittee is proposing we go back to the days when the Nation did not have a coordinated drug control strategy.

The Republican majority is already proposing severe cuts in antidrug programs—a 60 percent cut in safe and drug-free schools, which teaches 39 million children about the dangers of drugs; a 26 percent cut in prevention and treatment services aimed at reducing the number of potential criminals; and a 50 percent cut in international antidrug cooperation programs, a cut

that could prevent the continued arrests of the world's top drug kingpins.

Members of Congress cannot tie our hands by cutting effective antidrug programs, kill the very office that coordinates our national antidrug strategy, and then expect to be taken seriously when they criticize the administration for not doing more. It's time instead for the Congress to support our antidrug initiatives.

Lee Brown, Director of the ONDCP, is doing an extraordinary job focusing the Nation's attention on the need to fight drugs at all levels. He has helped me develop a comprehensive, effective, balanced antidrug strategy and has worked to reduce duplication among those agencies who play a role in our counternarcotics efforts.

As this bill is now constructed, I will not sign it. I urge the full Appropriations Committee and the Senate to restore the funding of this office that is so critical to our battle against drugs.

Remarks on Signing Emergency Supplemental Appropriations and Rescissions Legislation and an Exchange With Reporters

July 27, 1995

Good morning. Before I sign this bill I'd like to thank the congressional leadership from both parties for sticking with this project through

thick and thin. Right before we came in, one of the Senators said this is the only bill he'd ever seen that was passed 16 different times.