

for American products around the world, while we continue our traditional mission to protect the environment and the health, safety, and welfare of our elderly and our children.

In every aspect of his career—as an Olympian, as a professional basketball player, as a

Senator—Bill Bradley has performed admirably. New Jersey and America are better for his service. Hillary and I wish the best for him and for Ernestine and their daughter, Theresa Anne.

Statement on Welfare Reform

August 17, 1995

In the past 2½ years, as part of my continuing effort to make Government better reflect the values of the American people, my administration has granted more State welfare reform experiments than in the past 12 years combined. Today, 33 States are experimenting in requiring welfare recipients to work for their benefits, requiring teen moms to live at home and stay in school, requiring delinquent parents to pay child support, and requiring recipients to be held to a time limit.

I am offering States a new, simpler way to achieve welfare reform. My fast-track dem-

onstration initiative will let States build on strategies we already know are moving people from welfare to work. We must replace our broken welfare system with one that reflects the fundamental American values of work, responsibility, and family. When Congress returns, they should immediately put welfare reform at the top of their agenda and send me a tough, bipartisan bill that builds upon our progress. In the meantime, I will continue to do everything in my power to move welfare reform forward in the States and in Washington.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the Partnership For Peace

August 17, 1995

Dear Mr. Chairman: (Dear Claiborne:) (Dear Lee:)

In accordance with Section 514(a) of Public Law 103-236 (22 U.S.C. 1928(a)), I am submitting to you this report on implementation of the Partnership for Peace (PFP) initiative.

The ongoing adaptation of Europe's security structures to post-Cold War realities remains one of our highest foreign policy priorities. A central element of this adaptation is the extension of NATO's zone of stability and security to include Europe's emerging democracies. Over the past year and a half the Partnership for Peace has made a significant contribution to this goal by forging new cooperative ties between the Alliance and its partners. This U.S. initiative has united NATO Allies with former adversaries and traditionally neutral states in a partnership based on respect for democratic principles,

peaceful resolution of disputes, and practical cooperation. Consistent with our broad, inclusive approach to European security, the Partnership embraces 26 partner states, including Russia.

For all Partners, PFP will be an enduring instrument for forging stronger ties with NATO. For those Partners interested in joining NATO, PFP will be the path to membership.

Already, through joint training exercises and other PFP activities, PFP is helping interested Partners improve the ability of their forces to work alongside NATO's for possible future joint missions. As you will see from the attached report, NATO and its partners have made impressive progress in broadening and deepening the Partnership over the past year. We are working with our Allies and Partners to build on the Partnership's early momentum, in the shared conviction that cooperation and common action

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are among the best means to achieving lasting peace and security throughout the Euro-Atlantic area.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, and Claiborne Pell, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; and Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, and Lee H. Hamilton, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations.

The President's Radio Address

August 19, 1995

Good morning. As I speak to you this morning, I can look out on Grand Teton National Park in the Rocky Mountains where my family and I are enjoying our summer vacation. We're looking forward to exploring both Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks over the next several days. The beauty of these mountains is absolutely breathtaking, and their tranquillity is good for the soul.

We could all use a lot more peace and quiet in our lives and in our society these days. So today I want to talk about our progress in reducing the violent crime that has shattered the lives of too many Americans for too long.

Just a year ago this week, we ended 6 years of partisan stalemate in Washington by pushing a tough, sweeping crime bill through the Congress. Narrow interest groups on the left and the right didn't want the bill to pass, and you can be sure the criminals didn't, either. But every major law enforcement organization in America fought hard for the crime bill, and so did I, because it puts Government firmly on the side of the people who abide by the law, not the criminals who break it.

Already the crime bill is making a difference. So far, we have awarded community policing grants to put 24,000 new police officers on the street. And we paid for it with the money saved by reducing the size of the Federal bureaucracy to its lowest level since John Kennedy was President. Already there are 150,000 fewer people working for the U.S. Government than there were the day I became President.

The assault weapons ban and the Brady bill have stopped thousands of criminals from getting their hands on deadly weapons. We're giving States more help in building prisons to keep serious offenders behind bars longer. And we're giving communities funds for prevention, to give

our young people something to say yes to as well as something to say no to.

Although it's far too early to declare victory, aggressive efforts like these and aggressive efforts by local police departments to expand community policing and crack down on drugs and gangs have helped to reduce the murder rate this year in Chicago, New York, New Orleans, and several other major cities. In fact, the crime rate is down overall in almost every area in America.

The crime bill has also given prosecutors tough new penalties to use against violent criminals. The death penalty can now be imposed for nearly 60 Federal crimes, such as killing a law enforcement officer and using weapons of mass destruction resulting in death. Prosecutors are using this statute to seek the death penalty in indictments in the Oklahoma City bombing just now.

And just this week, a violent career criminal in Iowa named Thomas Farmer was sentenced to life imprisonment because the crime bill says to repeat offenders, when you commit a third violent crime you'll be put away and put away for good, "three strikes and you're out."

Until this week, Thomas Farmer had been a textbook case of what's wrong with our criminal justice system. He committed one violent crime after another and each time was paroled long before his sentence was up. In 1970, he murdered a doctor and drew a 20-year sentence, but he was paroled a few years later, even after he tried to escape. In 1979, he was sentenced to 25 years for armed robbery. Two years later, he murdered a fellow inmate and was sentenced to an additional 10 years, but the State paroled him yet again. And last fall he went on a crime spree, robbing two supermarkets and threaten-