

women in Beijing, China. Your words supported the statement she made on behalf of all Americans, that if women are healthy and educated, free from violence, if they have a chance to work and earn as full and equal partners, their families will flourish. And when families flourish, communities and nations will flourish.

We know that if we value our families, as we must, public policy must also support them. It must see to it that children live free of poverty with the opportunity of a good and decent education. If we value our families, we must let them know the dignity of work with decent wages. If we value our families, we must care for them across the generations from the oldest to the youngest.

Your Holiness, it is most fitting that you have arrived to be with us today on the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the champion of the poor, the defender of the defenseless. His prayer, carried to this day in the pockets, the purses, the billfolds of many American Catholics, and revered by many who are not Catholics, is a simple clarion to unity. It begins: "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me so love." Today, these words hold special meaning for us, for with God's help, we recently celebrated the advance of peace in the Middle East, and we are trying, earnestly, with your support, to knock on the door of peace in Bosnia.

We see peace advancing in Northern Ireland, in Haiti, in Southern Africa. All this has been

an answer to many, many prayers around the world, but many of them were led by you, Holy Father, and for that, you have the gratitude of all the American people.

On the threshold of a new millennium, more than ever, we need your message of faith and family, community and peace. That is what we must work toward for millions of reasons, as many reasons as there are children on this Earth.

It has been said that you can see the future by looking into the eyes of a child. Well, we are joined here today by 2,000 children from the Archdiocese of Newark and surrounding parishes. Your Holiness, looking out at them now and into their eyes, we can see that the future is very bright indeed. For them and for all Americans, we thank you, Holy Father, for coming back to the United States, and we welcome you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:35 p.m. at Newark International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Archbishop Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop of Newark; Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, Apostolic Pronuncio to the United States; William Cardinal Keeler, president, National Conference of Bishops; Father Paul Theroux, national coordinator for the Papal visit; Gov. Christine T. Whitman of New Jersey; and Mayor Sharpe James of Newark.

Statement on Hurricane Opal

October 4, 1995

As Hurricane Opal hits the coast of the Southern United States, our hearts and prayers go out to all whose lives have been disrupted by the devastation. The people of Florida and Alabama have shown great courage and strength in dealing with the damage that has already been done, and I know they will continue to show courage as the hours progress.

I want the States affected by this terrible storm to know that the rest of America is with them. One of the basic values of America is the responsibility to stand with each other in times of need. I will do all I can to ensure

you the Federal support you need for successful recovery efforts. Tonight I have signed emergency declarations to supplement State and local recovery efforts in both Florida and Alabama. James Lee Witt, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will be on the ground coordinating efforts in the South to save lives and protect the health, safety, and property of those affected by Hurricane Opal.

The action I am taking tonight will now enable us to immediately send rescue teams into the affected areas. Please be assured that the Federal Emergency Management Agency will

mobilize all necessary resources to help these States recover from the damage. And be assured that the prayers of our entire Nation are with you.

Remarks Announcing the Bosnia-Herzegovina Cease-Fire Agreement and an Exchange With Reporters

October 5, 1995

The President. Good morning. Today we take another solid step on the hard but hopeful road to peace in Bosnia. I'm pleased to announce that the parties in Bosnia have agreed to a cease-fire to terminate all hostile military activities throughout the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina to become effective on October 10th, if certain conditions are met.

At the same time, the Governments of Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia have agreed to proximity peace talks in the United States, beginning about October 25th, aimed at bringing them closer to a peace agreement. Those negotiations will take place with the assistance of our able negotiating team, led by Assistant Secretary Holbrooke, together with our Contact Group partners.

The talks will continue, then, at an international peace conference in Paris that can help to achieve an enduring end to the struggle. This is an important moment in the painful history in Bosnia, for today the parties have agreed to put down their arms and roll up their sleeves and work for peace.

We need to be clear-eyed about this. What matters is what the parties do, not simply what they say. There remain deep divisions to overcome. We are now on the right road, but we

have by no means reached our destination, which is a serious and lasting peace in Bosnia. This cease-fire, however, greatly increases our chances to end the war and to achieve a peace. The United States, together with our European and our Russian partners, intends to use all of our influence and every ounce of our energy to seize this historic opportunity for peace.

Q. Do you think it's fair to make this statement, and do you wish you had done it sooner? If you had moved more aggressively——

The President. All I know is that we're on the verge of a cease-fire. We're going to do our best to get the cease-fire. We have 5 days of hard work to do on that.

Q. Will NATO police this cease-fire? How will this be enforced?

The President. We're going to brief you on all the details of the cease-fire. We intend to go forward with the cease-fire, then go forward with the talks here in Washington. We hope we can start the talks in Washington by October 25th, and we feel very strongly that that will increase the chances of peace.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House.

Remarks on Presenting the Arts and Humanities Awards

October 5, 1995

The President. Thank you very much. It's an eerie feeling being introduced by your wife. [Laughter] You never know what's going to be said. [Laughter] You're steeling yourself for the discipline not to show any adverse reaction. [Laughter] We're having a good time today, Hillary and I are. We love this day; we look forward to it. And we thank all of you for coming. We

thank especially Senator Pell and Senator Simpson. Thank you for coming. We're glad to see you.

We thank the members of the administration who are here. I see Secretary Riley and Deputy Secretary Kunin of Education; and Roger Johnson, the Director of the General Services Administration. There may be others here. I thank