

Statement on the Death of Donald A. Dugan *February 3, 1996*

I deeply regret the death today in Bosnia of an American soldier who was killed this morning when he stepped on a landmine. This is the first fatality that U.S. forces have suffered in Operation Joint Endeavor.

Hillary and I join all Americans in extending our deepest sympathies to his family. They should know that he died in the noblest of causes, the pursuit of peace.

Since before Operation Joint Endeavor began, I have said it entails real risks. But our commanders have provided our troops with the finest training and equipment to confront the challenges in Bosnia. We will continue to take every precaution to protect American troops as they continue to perform this critical mission of securing an enduring peace in Bosnia.

Remarks at the National Governors' Association Dinner *February 4, 1996*

Good evening, Governor and Mrs. Thompson, Governor and Mrs. Miller, ladies and gentlemen, welcome back to the White House. It's always a delight to have all of you here. I look forward to it every year, but I especially look forward to it this year.

As all of you know, we are living through a time of enormous change and great opportunity. I rather think the Founding Fathers would enjoy what is going on here today because we are debating a lot of first principles of American government: what should government do, which level of government should do it, what are our ultimate objectives. These are questions that Governors live with in a very practical and immediate way every single day. And they are questions that, frankly, I have relished being a part of this public debate in America.

We are obviously moving into a time that is very different from any the American people have ever lived in before. Our economy is changing. We are now clearly in a global village that will be dominated for the rest of our lifetimes by information and technology. That requires certain changes in government as well.

I believed when I came here, and I believe more strongly today, that the great questions before us are how we can make the American dream available to all Americans who are willing to work for it, how we can come together to deal with our challenges and our problems as one community amidst all our diversity, and how

we can maintain the leadership of our great country for peace and freedom throughout the world.

We have many challenges, and I tried to deal with those at some length in the State of the Union Address. One of our greatest challenges is to give the American people a Government that commands their confidence and that does its part in meeting our common problems. We have reduced the size of the Government in the last 3 years; it's now as small as it was in 1965. Next year it will be as small as it was when President Kennedy was living in this house. We have also given an unprecedented amount of power back to State and local governments and to individual citizens. We are about to do some more of that. And that is obviously what you are here to work on and try to reach common agreement among yourselves first, and then with the leaders of Congress and the White House. I am looking forward to this.

The thing I wish more of our citizens knew is how hard we are working to do the right thing over great issues of high principle. This is not a normal political debate. It is a profoundly important discussion of the direction our country will take and what all our responsibilities will be in seeing that that direction is achieved in a way that benefits all the American people.

I am looking forward to our discussion tomorrow morning, to all the times that we have together, and I know that all the members of the Cabinet and the White House are as well.