

dent and General McCaffrey and I and the other members of our Cabinet will read the reports of all the various sessions of this conference.

I have only two regrets as I leave here. One is that we couldn't spend all day hearing from all the young people who are here. And the other is that we couldn't spend all day listening to all the people who are here from the conference who could have just as well been on this panel.

I want to thank you for the life you're leading, the work you're doing. Many of you out there

in this audience I've had some personal involvement with, and I feel personally indebted to you—you know who you are—and I thank you for that.

This is our country's great challenge. And if you look at these fine young people that were here, the rest of us owe it to them to meet it. And I feel more optimistic than I did before I came here today that we'll do exactly that.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:18 p.m. in the auditorium at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus March 7, 1996

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with Public Law 95-384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question. The previous submission covered progress through November 30, 1995. The current submission covers the period December 1, 1995, through January 31, 1996.

The continuing lack of a solution on Cyprus is in marked contrast to the recent advances achieved in Bosnia and the Middle East. My Administration remains committed to pursuing a settlement in 1996. We are confident that if the parties to the dispute are prepared to engage seriously and with flexibility, we can move to active negotiations and to a final settlement, which creates a bizonal, bicomunal federation. We will need the full support of Greece and Turkey for our efforts. My Special Emissary, Richard Beattie, travelled to Cyprus in Decem-

ber for further discussions with the two Cypriot leaders. The progress he made, although modest, gives us a basis to pursue our initiative once circumstances in the region are more favorable.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the U.N.-sponsored settlement process and Cyprus' course toward accession to the European Union (EU) affect each other. For that reason, my Administration will strive to ensure the closest possible coordination among efforts by the United Nations, the EU, and ourselves to address the question of Cyprus.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Statement on the Report of the President's Council on Sustainable Development March 7, 1996

I was pleased tonight to accept a report from my Council on Sustainable Development, an advisory group which I established to outline a new direction in environmental policy. In my

State of the Union Address, I said that the era of big Government is over, but I also said that we can't go back to a time when citizens were left to fend for themselves. As we move toward

a new, smaller Government, citizens must work together to tackle the challenges of a new century. We must reach across the lines that divide us to find common ground.

When I first appointed the Council almost 3 years ago, some of them knew each other only as adversaries. But with this report, they have shown us the power of partnership. They have demonstrated that when business, environmentalists, and Government work together in good faith, we can pursue simultaneously the goals of economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental quality.

This report will make a major contribution to the challenge I set forth: to enable all our people to make the most of their own lives with stronger families, more educational opportunities, economic security, safer streets, a cleaner environment in a safer world. I want to thank

all who contributed to making this difficult undertaking such a success.

The work, however, is not finished. This report will not sit on a shelf gathering dust. Instead, I am announcing the following actions: First, I ask the Council to continue its work in order to begin implementing some of its recommendations. I hope Jonathan Lash and David Buzzelli will continue to serve as co-chairs through December. Second, I have asked the Vice President to lead these efforts within the administration. Finally, I will ask White House offices and Federal agencies to support the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Association of Counties in establishing a new Joint Center on Sustainable Communities. This new partnership will work to implement the recommendations in this report in communities across the Nation.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on International Agreements

March 7, 1996

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

Pursuant to subsection (b) of the Case-Zablocki Act, (1 U.S.C. 112b(b)), I hereby transmit a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. An original was not available. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 8.

Address to the People of the Middle East

March 8, 1996

Greetings to all the viewers of "Dialogue With the West." I'm pleased to have this opportunity to speak with you today. This has been a difficult week for all of us who have cherished the growing prospects of peace in the Middle East and Israel. Dozens of people lost their lives to an inhuman campaign of terror.

Think about the victims for a moment. Each was a human being, a son or a daughter, a husband or a wife, a mother or a father. Each

wanted only to live and to love, to work and to dream in a land of peace.

Those responsible for these terrible acts have but one aim: to stop the peace process that so many people throughout Israel and the Arab world so strongly desire. The enemies of peace know that a new day is dawning in the Middle East, a day in which all its peoples can enjoy the simple blessings of a normal life. With each new step along the way, these enemies grow more and more desperate, and so they sow the