

whatever we can to help parents in these situations find their children.

Every year, approximately 300 children are abducted by strangers. Just yesterday, we heard news of a terrible tragedy in Texas, where a young girl was found murdered, after she had been missing for 5 days. We must do everything we can to stop this from happening again. Time is the enemy in abduction cases—and the most important tool we have against it is making sure information gets out to the public.

The Federal Government, through the FBI and other law enforcement agencies, is doing its part to help State and local law enforcement investigate these cases and disseminate information as quickly as possible. But it is critical that the FBI be notified within 48 hours of the abduction. In 6 out of 10 recent cases, the FBI learned of the abduction from TV reports. We've got to do better. And we will.

Nearly all 16,000 police departments around the country have the capacity, through a state-of-the-art computer system, to report missing persons to the FBI. I have asked the Attorney General to make it the highest priority to make sure this system works as quickly as possible.

The Federal Government already works with States to establish clearinghouses for information on missing children. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, funded by the Justice Department, has helped establish clearinghouses in 47 States plus the District of Columbia. The Center also funds Project Alert, which uses the expertise of volunteer retired police officers to help search for missing children.

Now it is time to do more to help families beat the race against time in searching for their missing children. Federal offices come into contact with thousands of citizens and workers every day. That gives the Federal Government a unique role to play in the search for missing children.

Today I will sign an executive memorandum directing all agency heads to take the necessary actions to allow the posting of photos of missing children in Federal buildings. This Presidential action also directs agencies to appoint an action officer to maintain the space for these notices.

This memorandum is just one step, but it's a step in the right direction. There is more we can do—and we will.

The Federal Government is doing its part. But we know that the key to finding missing children is within their own communities. When these terrifying abductions occur, we have seen communities band together to distribute flyers, interview potential witnesses, and support the families. Unfortunately, sometimes a terrible tragedy brings out the very best in our communities and our country.

If we love our children, then we must do everything we can to help when they are in harm's way. Every one of us must take responsibility to do what they can to help find our missing children. Please look twice at the photos of missing children you see in the mail, on your milk cartons, and now, in Federal buildings across the country. Everyone can make a difference, and everyone has an obligation to try.

Memorandum on Missing Persons and Missing Children *January 19, 1996*

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Missing Persons or Children Notices in Federal Facilities

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to provide for the posting of missing persons or children notices in buildings owned or controlled by the Federal Government, I hereby direct as follows:

Section 1. Posting of Missing Persons or Children Notices in Federal Facilities. Executive departments and agencies possessing custody or control over buildings or facilities occupied by Federal employees shall take such actions as are reasonable, necessary, and appropriate to provide for the posting of missing persons or children notices in public and other appropriate areas of such domestic buildings or facilities, as determined by the Federal official having pri-

mary responsibility for management and operation of the building or facility involved.

Sec. 2. Duties of Federal Official. Such official shall maintain, or shall designate a representative to maintain, the physical area upon which missing persons or children notices may be placed. The official or the designated representative shall give priority and special prominence to notices involving missing children who are believed to have been abducted by non-family members or otherwise are in imminent physical danger.

Sec. 3. Exceptions. Nothing in this memorandum shall require an executive department or agency to provide public access to its buildings or facilities if such access could impede

or disrupt the performance of official duties by government employees or potentially be harmful to the national security.

Sec. 4. Consultation. Executive departments and agencies shall consult with the Department of Justice and the General Services Administration in carrying out the purposes of this memorandum.

Sec. 5. Judicial Review. This memorandum is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government, and is not intended, and should not be construed, to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or its employees.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Message on the Observance of Ramadan

January 19, 1996

Greetings to everyone observing the holy month of Ramadan.

As the crescent moon signals the approach of this most sacred time in the Islamic year, Muslims the world over commemorate the revelation of the Koran to Muhammad. For Muslims, this marks a time of quiet reflection and religious devotion through fasting, self-examination, and intensive study of the teachings of Islam. Encouraging gratitude for our blessings and compassion for those in need, Ramadan cleanses the heart and lifts the soul.

During this time of unprecedented movement toward peace in the Middle East, Muslims and

people of all faiths have the opportunity to join together in creating a new world of harmony. Ramadan, with its promise of renewal, helps to nourish the spirit of brotherhood in us all. In this season of hope, let us resolve to work together for a better, brighter future—a future in which children of every religion can live together in peace.

Hillary and I offer best wishes to Muslims everywhere for a memorable observance.

BILL CLINTON

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 20.

The President's Radio Address

January 20, 1996

Good morning. Before I speak with you this morning about our budget, I want to take just a moment to remember someone very special, a national treasure our Nation lost this week, former Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, the first African-American woman elected to Congress from the South.

In her years in public service, she gave voice to our national conscience and brought reasoned thought and eloquence to even the most emotional debates. After she left the Congress, she went home to Texas to teach at the University of Texas and to continue her work in public service. I appointed her to chair the United States Commission on Immigration Reform. And