

June 29 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1996

and resources necessary to produce early, significant progress on missing-person cases. It will also reinforce efforts to ensure that exhumations, when necessary to identify the fate of missing persons, are conducted under international supervision and in accordance with international standards. In addition, the commission will facilitate the development of an ante mortem data base to support exhumation efforts.

In the longer term, and with the help and guidance of affected families, the commission will work to develop appropriate expressions of commemoration and tribute to the lost and the missing and to their loved ones.

Although the commission will be an international effort, the United States will make a startup contribution of \$2 million.

Statement on the United States Demining Initiative in Bosnia

June 29, 1996

I am pleased to announce a new U.S. initiative to develop an indigenous demining capability in Bosnia. Using about \$15 million in U.S. funds, we will train demobilized soldiers and fund new demining programs for former soldiers. U.S. Special Operations Forces will train and equip deminers from the former warring factions. Training by U.S. military personnel will be completed by the time IFOR leaves. No U.S. personnel will participate directly in mine clearance operations nor will U.S. forces enter active minefields.

Achieving rapid progress on demining is vital to the success of rebuilding Bosnia. Demining supports IFOR's mission, ensures that humanitarian assistance gets to places it is needed, helps create conditions for refugees to return, and enables the rapid reconstruction of infrastructure and the country's basic economy.

The United States has taken the lead in establishing the Mine Action Center (MAC) in Sarajevo, which coordinates all landmine-related activities, including collecting and disseminating landmine data, coordinating mine awareness campaigns, conducting mine surveys, and overseeing mine clearance operations. The new ini-

tiative I am announcing today builds on what we have accomplished so far.

With an estimated 3 million landmines, Bosnia is one of the five most heavily mined countries in the world. The landmine problem in Bosnia is typical of a post-conflict state: inadequate and inaccurate minefield records, little institutional memory of where mines were laid, no experience in clearing mines to humanitarian standards, and a growing need for large numbers of people to move about.

Returning refugees and displaced persons are vulnerable and the risks to children are enormous. Children often "play war," but in Bosnia the toys available to them are real; bunkers and fighting positions are often stocked with weapons caches, landmines, grenades, and other forms of dangerous materials found in a battlefield.

We must all work together to accelerate demining activity in Bosnia so that economic reconstruction can proceed, assistance reaches those most in need, our soldiers in IFOR can go about their job without fear of accident, and above all, the people of Bosnia can get on with their daily lives.

Statement on the Bosnian Women's Initiative Fund

June 29, 1996

Today, I am pleased to announce an initial contribution of \$5 million to establish the Bosnian women's initiative fund. A peaceful, pros-

perous Bosnia will require the full participation of its women.

Many Bosnian women now find themselves sole providers for their families. They have lost

their husbands, fathers, sons, and brothers. Despite the hardship they have suffered, these women have displayed incredible strength, endurance, and resourcefulness, qualities that are essential to rebuilding their country.

To do this successfully they need resources. They need training. This initiative means loans for income-generating projects that women can do from home. It means loans to women-owned businesses or to companies where large numbers of women work. It means training in business management, marketing and accounting, farming techniques for those returning to agricultural communities, and in skills vital to rebuilding their country, like engineering, architecture, plumbing, and construction.

The fund will be managed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with international and national non-governmental organization as implementing partners.

Even as I am making this announcement, over 500 Bosnian women leaders are meeting in Sarajevo. They have traveled from every part of the region, crossing ethnic lines, to work together on plans to rebuild their country. These plans will be incorporated into this initiative, for it is the Bosnian women themselves who hold the key to their future.

By providing new programs focused on women's reintegration into the Bosnian economy, we will enable them to support their families, to work as full partners in society, and to promote prosperity. I believe that the enhancement of Bosnian women's economic and political participating will help foster stability in the region.

I urge our fellow members of the G-7 and other countries to join the United States in supporting this initiative and contributing funding for it.

Remarks at the Memorial Service at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, for American Servicemen Killed in Saudi Arabia

June 30, 1996

Governor Chiles, Congressman Scarborough, Lieutenant Governor MacKay, General Shalikashvili, Secretary White, Secretary Widnall, Under Secretary de Leon, General Fogleman, General Hawley, General Cranston, Colonel Dylewski, the chaplains, Chief Lowe; to those brave servicemen who were injured, we thank God for your presence here today; to the families of the 12 men who we honor today who died in the service of our Nation.

These men represented the best of America, and they gave America their best. They stepped forward to lead our mission for peace and freedom. They did so with courage, strength, and skill. As members of the Nomads, the 33d Fighter Wing, as communicators and mechanics, crew chiefs and technicians, they kept our aircraft flying, and they owned the skies. Time and again they gave up the comforts that most of us take for granted, traveling far from home and family to take up America's cause.

There is a passage in Isaiah in which God wonders, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Isaiah answers, "Here am I, Lord.

Send me." These men we honor today said to America, "Send me."

We will remember them as patriots, but they were also husbands and fathers, sons and brothers, colleagues, neighbors, and friends. Some came from families with a proud tradition of military service. Some have brothers and sisters serving our military today. Some had dreamed of joining the Air Force since they were little boys.

All of them showed by the example of their lives the same spirit of service they brought to their careers. They were always among the first to lend a hand when someone was in need. They served as soccer coaches and Sunday school teachers. They helped the victims of hurricanes and volunteered as firemen. They loved their cars, their sports, their families, and their mission. One of them was on his third tour in Saudi Arabia. Another volunteered so a man with larger family obligations could stay home.

They were all very different, as I saw when I met with their families. They came from different regions, different ethnic groups, different