

effort all along the way; General Colin Powell supports it; President Bush is working for it; his National Security Adviser is working for it; the Joint Chiefs of Staff are working for it, but bitter partisan debate has broken out in the last few days and has threatened to derail this treaty. I want you to be protected from the dangers of poison gas insofar as we can humanly do it, and I ask you to join with me in asking the Senate to resolve the remaining questions, put partisanship aside, and put America on the side of a safer world without poison gas being exposed to our citizens or our soldiers. Will you help me build that bridge to the 21st century? [Applause]

Now, before I go, let me just ask you to remember what I said about the community colleges. Don't you want a country in which we're coming together, instead of being divided?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Don't you want a country in which we all roll up our sleeves and say, "We're going to work together to give each other the chance to make the most of our lives?"

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Don't you think my wife was right when she said it takes a village to raise a child?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Don't you think that we're far better off building a bridge to the future than a bridge to the past?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. I want you to think about this. Just look around this crowd today. Look around this crowd. When I represented the United States at the opening of the Olympics and I watched all the teams come in, it was thrilling to me that there were people from 197 different nations there. And then I remembered I was looking at our own team, when Hillary and

Chelsea and I went to visit with them, and I thought, you know, if the people from America, if they didn't have the American outfits on, you wouldn't have a clue where they were from. If you herded the American team up, you could say, "Well, that one's from Africa; that one's from Scandinavia; that one's from the Middle East; this one's from Asia; this one's from India." They were from everywhere.

There were 197 nations represented at the Olympics. In Los Angeles County there are people from 150 of those 197 places. And I want you to think about that, not only today, not only for the next 8 weeks, but for the rest of your life. This is a country founded 220 years ago by people who said, "We believe all people are created equal."

We didn't behave that way then. We don't behave that way perfectly today, but that's what we believe. And we have to stand up and say to everybody, "If you believe in the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, if you're willing to show up tomorrow and be a good citizen and work hard, you're our kind of American. We don't need to know anything else about you. You're part of our American community." Will you help me build a bridge that all Americans can walk across to the 21st century? [Applause]

Keep your spirits up, keep your determination up, and keep your eye on the future. Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:10 p.m. at Chaffey Community College. In his remarks, he referred to Jerry Young, president, and Kerri Matthews, student body president, Chaffey Community College; Mayor William J. Alexander of Rancho Cucamonga; Art Torres, chairman, California Democratic Party; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Statement on Counterterrorism Initiatives September 12, 1996

I have sent to the Congress \$1.097 billion in proposals to strengthen our antiterrorism, counterterrorism, and security efforts in this country and abroad.

These proposals include fiscal 1996 supplemental appropriations for the Department of Defense as well as fiscal 1997 budget amendments to my appropriations requests now pending before the Congress.

On July 29, I met with the bipartisan leadership of the Congress to discuss an appropriate Federal response to the threat of terrorism, adding to the strong antiterrorism initiatives my administration had already taken. This package of budget proposals is the product of an inter-agency review that I ordered, subsequent to that meeting, in the wake of recent acts of domestic and international terrorism. It is a comprehensive, balanced program to address this urgent requirement, and I urge the Congress to act expeditiously on it.

Over the past year, the danger to U.S. forces and installations from international terrorism has grown. At my direction, the Department of Defense and the intelligence community identified measures to enhance programs to deter and thwart terrorism. My requests for 1996 supplemental appropriations will fund the most urgent of them. These requests total \$353 million for various antiterrorism activities to increase physical security at overseas installations and to improve intelligence capabilities to detect and combat terrorist activity.

We have already begun to address the problems resulting from heightened terrorist activity. Last month, I approved the relocation of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf region to lower threat areas. Though the Saudi Arabian government agreed to cover some costs to support this relocation, our forces have had to redirect funds from ongoing operations. Thus, to limit the adverse effects to the Department of Defense operations and provide sufficient funds for these critical antiterrorism measures, I urge the Congress to act upon these supplemental requests as soon as possible.

The rest of the \$1.097 billion in proposals is comprised of \$728 million in 1997 budget

amendments for my antiterrorism, counterterrorism, and security proposals as well as requests for contingent emergency funding.

It includes \$207 million for the Department of Justice, \$154 million of which would go to the FBI for additional positions and antiterrorism support; \$201 million for the Department of Transportation, \$198 million of which would go to the Federal Aviation Administration to purchase explosives detection devices and perform passenger profiling and screening; and \$147 million for the Department of the Treasury, \$66 million of which would go to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to enhance its ability to respond to terrorist threats and investigate crimes involving explosives, and \$60 million of which would go to the U.S. Customs Service to increase its capacity to screen passengers and detect dangerous materials.

This package of proposals reflects my comprehensive strategy to fight terrorism on three fronts: (1) beyond our borders, to work more closely with our friends and allies; (2) at home, giving law enforcement the most powerful counterterrorism tools available; and, (3) in our airports, by increasing aviation security.

Congressional spending levels for defense contain substantial increases over my budget request—in particular, for certain procurement and research and development projects that are not contained in the Department of Defense's long-term planning requirements. I believe that we can provide for our military readiness, antiterrorism activities, and for other important national needs in the context of an agreement with the Congress on FY 1997 spending levels.

I strongly urge the Congress to enact this package as quickly as possible.

Remarks at a Democratic Dinner in Beverly Hills, California September 12, 1996

Thank you very much. Thank you, Hillary. I'm glad you had a good day. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank all of you for being here, but let me say a special word of thanks to Ron and to Jan Burkle for opening their home to us. We've made a lot of jokes about it tonight, but this place is a national treasure, and it's

a great honor for us to be here. And I'm grateful for their friendship. Thank you, Ron, so much for everything.

Thank you, David Geffen, for telling us the story of your mother, for living the dreams of your parents, and for being not only a great citizen but an honest and true friend—always