

## Statement on the Death of McGeorge Bundy *September 16, 1996*

Hillary and I were saddened to learn of the death of former National Security Adviser McGeorge Bundy. During a career that joined public service and scholarship, McGeorge Bundy was a central figure in the postwar history of our Nation. He served Presidents Kennedy and Johnson with great distinction through difficult times, including the Cuban missile crisis and the early days of the war in Vietnam. After leaving Government, he continued to dedicate

himself to strengthening our Nation through his long stewardship of the Ford Foundation. In books and articles published over five decades, McGeorge Bundy brought a compelling intelligence to some of the most important issues of our times—foremost among them, reducing the danger of nuclear weapons. At this time of sorrow, our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

## Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to UNITA *September 16, 1996*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (“UNITA”) is to continue in effect beyond September 26, 1996, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

The circumstances that led to the declaration on September 26, 1993, of a national emergency have not been resolved. The actions and policies of UNITA pose a continuing unusual and ex-

traordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. United Nations Security Council Resolution 864 (1993) continues to oblige all Member States to maintain sanctions. Discontinuation of the sanctions would have a prejudicial effect on the Angolan peace process. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the broad authorities necessary to apply economic pressure to UNITA to reduce its ability to pursue its aggressive policies of territorial acquisition.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
September 16, 1996.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Statement on Signing the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 1997 *September 16, 1996*

I have today signed into law today H.R. 3517, the “Military Construction Appropriations Act, 1997,” which provides funding for military construction and family housing programs of the Department of Defense.

The Act provides my full request for the vast majority of military construction projects, the military family housing program, other quality of life facilities for our military personnel and

their families, and the Department of Defense base closure and realignment program.

But I am disappointed that the Act provides more funding than I requested. Specifically, I am concerned that the Congress has chosen to spend \$154 million on projects that the Department of Defense has not identified as priorities and that will not improve the quality of life for our service members. These projects are clear examples of spending that is neither warranted nor justified, and is funded at the expense of higher-priority domestic programs.

Indeed, this Act is part of an overall approach by the Congress to provide more funds than necessary for nonpriority items through the Defense budget at the expense of important domestic priorities in education and training, the environment, science and technology, law enforcement, and other key priorities. At a time

of scarce resources, we should not squander funds on items that we don't need while underfunding the very priorities that will help improve living standards and the quality of life of average Americans—both now and in the future.

I urge the Congress to complete action on the remaining 1997 appropriations bills as quickly as possible, and to send them to me in an acceptable form.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
September 16, 1996.

NOTE: H.R. 3517, approved September 16, was assigned Public Law No. 104–196. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 17.

## Statement on Signing the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1997 *September 16, 1996*

I have today signed into law H.R. 3754, the “Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1997.”

The Act provides fiscal year 1997 appropriations for the Congress, the Congressional Budget Office, the Architect of the Capitol, the General Accounting Office, the Government Printing Office, and the Library of Congress.

I am especially pleased to sign into law a provision that will allow blind and visually impaired persons to get earlier access to books and other reading matter. As a result of an agreement between the publishing industry and advocates for people with disabilities, books can now be converted into alternative formats such as Braille as soon as they appear in print. Prior to this change, the Library of Congress and other organizations that sought to provide these materials had to obtain permission from copyright holders on a case by case basis, leading to lengthy delays in access to all types of reading material. This law will help us reach our goal of full inclusion of people with disabilities.

I am also pleased with the provision that encourages the Senate to transfer excess or surplus computers and other educationally useful equipment to public schools at the lowest possible cost. This complements our initiative to encour-

age Federal agencies to do the same to help integrate technology into school curriculums, and ensure that all students have the skills they will need to succeed in the information-intensive 21st century.

I am disappointed, however, that the Congress has passed up yet another opportunity to establish a drug testing policy for those who work in the legislative branch. The Congress should follow the example of the White House and the other executive branch agencies and establish a comprehensive testing program for illegal drug use.

I urge the Congress to complete action on the remaining regular FY 1997 appropriations bills and to send them to me in an acceptable form.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
September 16, 1996.

NOTE: H.R. 3754, approved September 16, was assigned Public Law No. 104–197. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 17.