

of terrorism. And we have not forgotten their families. On behalf of the American people, we remember your loss today. We draw strength from your dignity and your courage. You are not alone in your determination to see that the perpetrators of this evil deed are brought to justice. Your country stands with you and shares your continuing grief.

The sponsors of terrorism hope that with the passing of time the world will forget their crimes. We will not forget. Time has not diminished our outrage, and it never will. We are determined to see that those who committed these murders are brought to justice. That is

why we continue to demand the extradition of the two Libyans who have been indicted for this vicious offense to stand trial in the U.S. or U.K. It is also why we have pushed for and secured tough international sanctions against Libya that we strengthened further with legislation in 1996. We will not rest until this case is closed and justice is done.

NOTE: This statement was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 20, but it was embargoed for release until December 21, the anniversary date of the bombing.

## **The President's Radio Address** *December 21, 1996*

In just a few days we celebrate the miracle of Christmas, the gift of light and hope that has lasted for nearly 2,000 years. I'd like to talk about how we can share that gift by shining the light of literacy on millions of precious children and families.

Literacy is about reading, but it's about much more, too. It's about opportunity, giving people the tools to make the most of their God-given potential. It's about preparing people for the 21st century, when a fully literate work force will be crucial to our strength as a nation. Without literacy, the history books and job manuals are closed, the Internet is turned off, and the promise of America is much harder to reach.

To achieve our full potential as a nation, we must make sure everyone can read, adults as well as children. I'm proud that we're increasing the assistance we give to States for adult education and literacy by more than 50 percent, the largest increase in more than 30 years. This will help hundreds of thousands of adults to rise to the obligations of family and community and to make the most of their own lives.

When it comes to children, the first teachers must always be their parents. Hillary and I still talk about the books we read to Chelsea when we were so tired we could hardly stay awake. I urge all of America's parents, make sure there are books beneath your Christmas tree. Share the joy of reading as a family.

Of course, parents can't do it alone. Our country has outstanding teachers and educators on the frontlines of the literacy crusade, but all the rest of us must work with them to make sure that every child and every adult can read.

This summer in Wyandotte, Michigan, I announced a national literacy campaign called America Reads that begins with a clear national goal: Every American child should be able to read on his or her own by the third grade. I proposed to meet that goal by using 30,000 reading specialists and volunteer coordinators to mobilize a million volunteer reading tutors all across America. This week I announced that my Domestic Policy Adviser, Carol Rasco, will move to the Education Department with Secretary Riley to head this effort, to make absolutely sure we have the highest level attention to get the job done.

We know that individualized tutoring works. Here in the Nation's Capital there are many remarkable tutoring programs, such as the St. Ann's Infant Home; Growing Together, which helps public school children to double their rate of learning; and the Academy of Hope, which teaches adults to read.

Yesterday some of these students joined me for my annual reading of "Twas the night before Christmas," and they're here with me now. If more Americans could see their joy in reading and learning, we'd have our one million volunteers overnight.

Today we're taking the next major step in our America Reads campaign, to build our army of reading tutors on college campuses all across America. This fall, at my request, Congress created over 200,000 new work-study jobs on America's college campuses. Work-study helps young people to work their way through college, often by serving their school. I want a large portion of work-study to be devoted to community service and especially to teaching our children to read.

Today I'm happy to announce that 20 of our Nation's leading college presidents, from San Francisco to Texas to southern Illinois, are unleashing the energy and enthusiasm of their students to help every 8-year-old learn to read. As members of a new America Reads college presidents steering committee, they will each dedicate half of their new work-study slots to students who work as reading tutors. Right away this should give us thousands of new tutors, a downpayment toward our goal of enlisting 100,000 work-study students to help America read.

The steering committee members will also recruit at least five more college presidents to join the effort. To help them I am making an important change in the work-study program. If a student works as a reading tutor, colleges will no longer be required to pay one-quarter

of that student's work-study costs. With today's actions by these college presidents and with the steps we are taking to help them, college students can now work their way through school by teaching our children to read. That is how we will take more responsibility, create more opportunity, and build a stronger, more united community for all Americans.

These students will create a whole new culture of service, working alongside our AmeriCorps volunteers who will be doing the same, inspiring hundreds of thousands of Americans to tutor not just children but adult learners as well.

There is simply no better way to serve your country and your community than by helping children and adults to read. And there is no better time to start than Christmas, the season of enlightenment. By reading to your own children, by giving your time so that others might learn to read, you can light a spark that keeps the spirit of Christmas burning every day of the year.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 5:36 p.m. on December 20 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 21.

## Christmas Greeting to the Nation December 23, 1996

*The President.* Hillary and I wish all of you the peace and joy of the holiday season, a time for us to rejoice in each other's company and in the spirit of the season, a spirit of sharing and giving and making peace.

I want to send a special greeting to all the peacemakers among us, especially to our brave men and women in uniform who are away from home. You're on a mission of peace. I join with all Americans to thank you for your service and to pray for your safe return.

*The First Lady.* Christmas is an opportunity for all of us to give thanks for the blessings we share as families, friends, and Americans. But most important, it is a time for children, and I hope that during this holiday season we

will remember our Nation's neediest children and extend the spirit of giving to them with our love, our prayers, and our generosity.

*The President.* May the spirit of Christmas and the magic of the wonderful season be with you and your loved ones throughout the holidays and in the new year to come. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The greeting was videotaped at 11 a.m. on December 9 in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House for later broadcast, and it was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 23.