

Again, let me say, I'm very grateful to the support we've received in Bosnia, to the work we're doing in Guatemala. The influence that Spain has in Latin America is something that's especially important to the United States because we seek to integrate ourselves more closely into Latin America and in partnership with Spain. So we're very hopeful there.

*Q.* [Inaudible]—petition for—taking a bigger role, more important role in the NATO?

*President Clinton.* Well, the details of all that have to be worked out by the command structure. But we want Spain integrated into the structure, yes.

#### *President's Upcoming Visit to Spain*

*Q.* [Inaudible]—will you come next?

*President Clinton.* I don't know. Since I've been President, I've only been really to Madrid, and for brief periods. But 30 years ago—28

years ago this month, I had a vacation as a very young man in Spain. And I've always wanted to go back, and I've always wanted to have a chance to see it with Hillary. My daughter was able to come to Spain for an extended period a couple of years ago. So we're hoping that we can take just a couple of days off before the summit to see some more things in Spain. I'll follow the President's lead; I won't sketch out my itinerary here because I don't really have one. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:45 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Minister of Foreign Affairs Qian Qichen of China; and Javier Solana, Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## Statement on Economic Expansion and Job Creation

*April 30, 1997*

Today we have received positive news about the Nation's economy—more strong growth with moderate inflation. In the first quarter of this year, the economy grew 5.6 percent on an annualized basis—the highest in a decade. That means more jobs and better wages for American workers and stronger profits for businesses—both large and small. Our sound fiscal policies, together with the hard work of the American people, have sparked a remarkable period of economic expansion and job creation. It is im-

perative that we pass a bipartisan balanced budget agreement to continue this solid economic progress.

Just more than 4 years ago, we inherited a deficit that was nearly \$300 billion, and we have cut it by 63 percent already. While it is still too early to know for certain, our economic policies and this year's healthy growth may help us cut the deficit for the 5th straight year—for the first time in 50 years. Now, it's time to finish the job and balance the budget.

## Statement on the Senate Resolution Establishing National Erase the Hate and Eliminate Racism Day

*April 30, 1997*

I applaud the leadership of Senator Baucus, along with Senator Burns and all Members of the United States Senate who have joined together to designate today as a national day to erase the hate and eliminate racism. America is the world's most diverse democracy, and the world looks to us for leadership in building on

that diversity and showing that it is our greatest strength. Today's resolution shows that the Senate is determined to reach across party lines to help achieve that promise.

We must do all we can to fight bigotry and intolerance, in ugly words and awful violence,