

Aug. 13 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1997

Research and the prompt application of research results are the strongest weapons we have against breast cancer. Today, breast cancer remains the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women. It affects one in eight women in their lifetimes and has touched the families of nearly every American, including my own. But we are making great strides in the study of this disease. Our goal must be to find a cure and a way to prevent breast cancer in the near future.

The bill I am signing into law today builds on this Administration's long history of support

for breast cancer research and prevention. Between 1993 and 1997, funding for breast cancer research at NIH increased 75 percent. We will work to ensure that the new funds from this legislation are not used as a replacement for our current commitment. It creates another way for Americans to further support the important research that will make a difference in the lives of millions of families.

NOTE: H.R. 1585, approved August 13, was assigned Public Law No. 105-41.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979

August 13, 1997

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

On August 19, 1994, in light of the expiration of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2401 *et seq.*), I issued Executive Order 12924 declaring a national emergency and continuing the system of export regulation under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*). Under section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), the national emergency terminates on the anniversary date of its declaration unless the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice of its continuation.

I am hereby advising the Congress that I have extended the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12924. Attached is a copy of the notice of extension.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
August 13, 1997.

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Remarks in Support of the Oklahoma City Memorial

August 13, 1997

Thank you very much. Thank you, Mayor, and thank you for your extraordinary leadership in a very difficult time. I thank you, Robert Johnson, for taking on this project and seeing it through with such care and ability and love. Governor, Kathy, thank you for being here. Councilman Schwartz, Madam Attorney General, I would like to thank you and, through you and Mr. Young, all the people who worked

so hard on this from the Federal Government in the days and months and for a long time afterward. And Toby, thank you for the sapling. I will take good care of it. I have already been advised by the people who run the grounds here that I cannot run out and plant it—[laughter]—in the hot Washington summer but that we can keep it in our greenhouse, and then in October we will plant it alongside the dogwood on the

White House lawn. It is a great gift to the American people. It comes from what is a true tree of life, and that tree will always remind us of the city, the people who bent but did not break.

Hillary and I will never forget what happened on April 19, 1995, or our trips there afterward, the losses people endured, the heroism of the rescue workers, the compassion of the neighbors and the friends from around America. And I think we now know that, in spite of everything, you did not lose America. And America, I think, is very proud of the people of Oklahoma City and the entire State of Oklahoma. I think there is not a citizen in our country that didn't identify with the people in that awful moment and in the days afterward. Every one of us who ever came there and saw you wearing the pictures of your loved ones, we saw our children and our parents and our sisters and our brothers.

We owe you an enormous debt because you have given us a gift, too, of reminding us of what is truly important. I have talked to Governor Keating about this at times. You know, we went to college together, and we sort of weren't in the same political party back then either—[laughter]—and the issues that we deal with now make the ones we dealt with then seem small. But the truth is, here in this town where we do a lot of things that are very important and we argue and we debate and we ferociously struggle over things that in that awful moment were stripped of all their pretense and significance and we were reminded once again, as we are today, about the things which really count in life, the things which God has given to all of us, the things which no one can take away, and the things that perhaps we'll do a better job of never forgetting in the pressure of our daily lives when we sometimes are fooled into thinking that what we're doing now will be of some lasting benefit, more profound than the simple gift of life and the human spirit that we have been given and that it is our charge to preserve as best we can for all of our fellow citizens—that was a gift that the people of Oklahoma City gave to me, that your dignity and generosity, and yours, Mayor, and all the people gave to me, and I'm very grateful to you for it. And I think that maybe it makes all of us who were so moved by it a little more effective and a little more human day-in and day-out than we otherwise might have been. And for those of you who endured terrible losses, per-

haps at least you can know that your loved ones and what they gave up live on in all of us trying just a little harder every day to be better people and to do the right thing than we might have otherwise done.

I want to also say that I have been terrifically impressed by the design for this memorial. It is elegant. It is symbolic. It manages to focus on this act of unconscionable violence and still honor the valor of the people of the community and the lives of the victims in a setting of reflection and peace that should leave people, when they go through it, feeling stronger rather than weaker. And that is no small task. So I'm glad, Hans and Torrey, you're here, and I wish Mr. Berg was here. This is an inspired effort, and you too will give, over time, millions of people a gift that is truly priceless.

Let me say, too—Mr. Johnson talked about this, but I want to compliment the process. I have no doubt that the totally open and democratic nature of this process, the reaching out to the family members and the survivors every step of the way, was absolutely indispensable to the healing of the people who were affected by what happened. I also have no doubt that it gave you a better memorial, a more powerful, more profound, more lasting memory. I also understand that there are several people here who have made substantial financial contributions to make it possible for the groundbreaking to occur next April, and I want to thank all of them. And having been involved in matters like this in the past, I want to encourage others to help them until the full cost is met.

Let me say that there's something we should do at the national level as well. We all know that the Oklahoma City bombing was an attack not just on the people, a city, a State but the Nation and, as the mayor said, on what we stand for, how we govern ourselves, and the values we live by. The Congress is now considering legislation to make all three components of the Oklahoma City Memorial a national monument and part of our national park system. I strongly support that goal. The tragedy was a national one, and the memorial should be recognized and embraced and supported by the Nation. Thanks to the Oklahoma City Memorial Foundation and the family members and the survivors, we have now reached another crucial stage in our recovery, and we have now a memorial that

I hope will be part of our national park system—a memorial of true power and amazing grace.

I'm grateful to all of you. I look forward to the success of the legislation. And again I say, you have helped our Nation, and for that we are very grateful.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:09 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his re-

marks, he referred to Mayor Ronald J. Norick of Oklahoma City; Robert M. Johnson, chairman, Oklahoma City Memorial Foundation; Gov. Frank Keating of Oklahoma; Kathleen Treanor and Toby Thompson, relatives of bombing victims; Oklahoma City Councilman Mark Schwartz; R.L. (Buddy) Young, Region VI Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency; and memorial architects Hans-Ekkehard Butzer, Torrey Butzer, and Sven Berg.

## Remarks Announcing Guidelines on Religious Exercise and Religious Expression in the Federal Workplace *August 14, 1997*

Thank you. Thank you very much. To all the members of the coalition who are here and to those of you who brought your families, thank you very much for bringing them. Congressman Cardin, thank you for coming and for your steadfast support of this cause.

Secretary Riley, thank you for being willing to take on this difficult issue 2 years ago when a lot of people thought it was a no-win issue for you. And you did a superb job. And congratulations on persuading your wife to stay with you for 40 years. *[Laughter]* Someone suggested this morning that she should be nominated for the Presidential Medal of Freedom for that great endeavor. *[Laughter]*

Ladies and gentlemen, you all know that we are here to announce the issuance of guidelines on freedom of religious expression in the Federal workplace. Our devotion to religious freedom has shaped our identity from the beginning, as the Vice President said.

Thomas Jefferson wrote, "We have solved the great and interesting question whether freedom of religion is compatible with order in Government and obedience to the laws. And we have experienced the quiet, as well as the comfort which results from leaving everyone to profess freely and openly those principles of religion which are the inductions of his own reason and the serious convictions of his own inquiries." The Founders understood that religious freedom is a two-sided coin, and therefore our Constitution protects the free exercise of religion while at the same time prohibiting the establishment

of religion by the state. This careful balance is the genius, the enduring genius of the first amendment.

Indeed, because we are free to worship or not, according to our own conscience, as the Vice President said, Americans worship deeply and in very great numbers. Throughout our history, men and women have come to America to escape religious persecution elsewhere and secure religious freedom here.

Over time, we'd all have to admit that our own history on this has not been free from error, but over time, we have continued to do better, and more and more and more people of many different faiths have been able to put down roots and pursue their beliefs freely here. And the churches, the synagogues, the mosques, the other institutions of worship they have built not only have been their own houses of worship, they have also quite frequently become centers of service, compassion, and community life and, in so doing, have made our entire Nation stronger.

Our own experience in America has led the United States to become a leader in promoting religious rights throughout the world, as we see through the establishment last year of the Secretary of State's advisory committee on religious freedom as well as our willingness to press for religious freedom at the United Nations and in our bilateral relations with other countries across the globe. Last month, Secretary Albright released a report that underscores our commitment to helping people of all faiths worship