

from this opportunity will not create a single job. No one suggests we should throw up greater barriers in our own marketplace. Walking away from this opportunity will only leave the inequalities that are there now, that do not work to the advantage of either American businesses or American workers. Backing away from this responsibility will not make the environment better. It won't clean up a single toxic waste site. Turning away from the effort will not expand our economy, enhance our competitiveness, or empower our workers.

I say again, the global economy is on a very fast track to the 21st century. The question is whether we are going to lead the way or follow. Today, this country is at the pinnacle of its influence. Our economy is the strongest in the world. We have been very, very blessed. This is not the time to shrink from the future. This

is the time to lead to the future. We have a special responsibility because we are doing so well now—a responsibility to think of how our children will do, a responsibility to think of how others around the world will do, a responsibility to think of how this world ought to look like and ought to work like in 20 or 30 years.

So I say, the future will not wait for us, but we can shape it. I do not intend to sit on the sidelines, and I'll bet you, when the time for counting comes, the Congress won't either.

Thank you very much, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:28 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Eugene Lang, corn and soybean farmer from Grinnell, IA; and Susan Corrales-Diaz, president and chief executive officer, Systems Integrated, Inc.

## Message to the Congress Reporting on Telecommunications Services Payments to Cuba *September 10, 1997*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

This report is submitted pursuant to 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6) (the "CDA"), as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, Public Law 104-114 (March 12, 1996), 110 Stat. 785, 22 U.S.C. 6021-91 (the "LIBERTAD Act"), which requires that I report to the Congress on a semiannual basis detailing payments made to Cuba by any United States person as a result of the provision of telecommunications services authorized by this subsection.

The CDA, which provides that telecommunications services are permitted between the United States and Cuba, specifically authorizes the President to provide for payments to Cuba by license. The CDA states that licenses may be issued for full or partial settlement of telecommunications services with Cuba, but may not require any withdrawal from a blocked account. Following enactment of the CDA on October 23, 1992, a number of U.S. telecommunications companies successfully negotiated agreements to provide telecommunications services

between the United States and Cuba consistent with policy guidelines developed by the Department of State and the Federal Communications Commission.

Subsequent to enactment of the CDA, the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) amended the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 515 (the "CACR"), to provide for specific licensing on a case-by-case basis for certain transactions incident to the receipt or transmission of telecommunications between the United States and Cuba, 31 C.F.R. 515.542(c), including settlement of charges under traffic agreements.

The OFAC has issued eight licenses authorizing transactions incident to the receipt or transmission of telecommunications between the United States and Cuba since the enactment of the CDA. None of these licenses permits payments to the Government of Cuba from a blocked account. For the period January 1 through June 30, 1997, OFAC-licensed U.S. carriers reported payments to the Government of Cuba in settlement of charges under telecommunications traffic agreements as follows:

AT&T Corporation (formally, American Telephone and Telegraph Company)	\$13,997,179	WilTel, Inc. (formerly, WilTel Underseas Cable, Inc.)	5,032,250
AT&T de Puerto Rico	274,470	WorldCom, Inc. (formerly, LDDS Communications, Inc.)	1,378,502
Global One (formerly, Sprint Incorporated)	4,857,205		\$31,143,432
IDB WorldCom Services, Inc. (formerly, IDB Communications, Inc.)	1,427,078	I shall continue to report semiannually on telecommunications payments to the Government of Cuba from United States persons.	
MCI International, Inc. (formerly, MCI Communications Corporation)	4,066,925	WILLIAM J. CLINTON	
Telefonica Larga Distancia de Puerto Rico, Inc.	113,668	The White House, September 10, 1997.	

## Remarks Announcing the American Heritage Rivers Initiative September 11, 1997

Thank you, Jose. I think we should send him around the country to organize other young people, don't you? *[Laughter]* Thank you, Mr. Carlino; to the members of the administration who are here, and the Senators and Members of the House and all the rest of you.

We did not intend to regale you today with the natural splendor and riverfront aura of Room 450—*[laughter]*—of the Old Executive Office Building. I can't really take responsibility for the weather. I wanted to welcome you to Mount Vernon. The Vice President suggested I blame it on climate change. *[Laughter]* But we haven't had time to have the requisite number of studies done. *[Laughter]* So we're here to make the best of it.

Before I start and make remarks about this subject, I do want to say that something has occurred in the United States Senate this morning about which I am personally very pleased and for which I am grateful. I have been working, as everyone knows, since the day I became President to allow all our people to participate in the opportunities that this country offers and will offer in the new century. I think clearly the most important way to do that is to guarantee a world-class education to every young person. Just this morning, an overwhelming bipartisan majority in the Senate, 88 Senators, voted to move forward with the plan that I have advocated to establish national standards of learning in reading and mathematics, and to

test our children in the fourth and eighth grades by 1999.

They have voted to make sure that these examinations would be written by a truly independent, nonpartisan board, and the measure that they have embraced will help parents to ensure that their children will master the basics of reading and math and to help measure the performance of the schools and teachers involved. This is another example of what can happen when people of good will of both parties get together and look to the future and not the past. And thank you, Senators, and I think this is very, very good news.

And what we're here today to talk about is also very good news and profoundly important. If you think about the stories of Pittsburgh and Chicago—I don't know how many of you have been to Pittsburgh to see the rivers there and see the changes in the community that are truly astonishing, in all the other little communities outlying Pittsburgh in southwest Pennsylvania. As you know—I think all of you know, Hillary is from Chicago, so I spent a lot of time in Chicago, and I've spent a lot of nights and days looking at the Chicago River.

And I think it's very important to remember that many of our greatest cities became what they are because they were built on rivers. And now if we want them to be even greater as we move into a totally new era and where their economies are changing, we have to make sure that the rivers that run through them are good,