

Statement on Action Against Terrorist Organizations October 8, 1997

Last year I signed into law the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act. It authorizes the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, to designate an organization that engages in terrorist activity a foreign terrorist organization if it threatens the national security of the United States. The law prevents any fundraising or other financial transactions by these groups in the U.S. Heavy criminal penalties will also be levied against individuals in the United States who provide material support or resources to these terrorist organizations. Together, these provisions will help deprive terrorist groups of the resources they need to finance their acts of destruction.

Today Secretary Albright has designated 30 foreign organizations as terrorist groups. Now we will work to uncover those who raise money

for them in America and encourage our friends and allies to do the same within their own borders.

The Secretary's designations are part of our ongoing fight against those who would undermine freedom and prosperity by violent acts. Just as we must reward and encourage the builders of peace and democracy, we must give no quarter to the enemies of these aspirations. Today's action sends a clear message: The path to change is through dialog and open deliberation, not violence and hatred. The United States is committed to fight against those who speak the language of terror.

NOTE: The designation of foreign terrorist organizations was published in the *Federal Register* on October 8 (62 FR 52650).

Statement on Signing the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1998 October 8, 1997

I have today signed into law H.R. 2266, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1998.

This bill provides for a strong national defense, maintains high military readiness, funds investment programs necessary to modernize the equipment that our combat forces use, and supports our commitments to a better quality of life for our service personnel and their families. By providing the necessary support for our armed forces, this bill ensures continuing American global leadership.

As President, I have a solemn obligation to provide for the defense of our country. My Administration has designed a coherent strategy to provide the necessary military forces to deter and prevail over the threats we may face.

I remain deeply concerned, however, that the funding provided in this bill is excessive. The bill provides \$4.2 billion more than I requested in my 1998 budget, and \$1.2 billion more than the levels that my Administration believes was agreed to in the Bipartisan Budget Agreement.

Further, section 8080 of the Act contains certain reporting requirements that could materially interfere with or impede this country's ability to provide necessary support to another nation or international organization in connection with peacekeeping or humanitarian assistance activities otherwise authorized by law. I will interpret this provision consistent with my constitutional authority to conduct the foreign relations of the United States and my responsibilities as Commander in Chief.

My Administration is continuing discussions with the Congress on the remaining 1998 spending bills in order to protect important priorities in education and training, the environment, science and technology, law enforcement, and international affairs. Over the past several days, we have made progress in good-faith discussions with the leadership of the House and the Senate