

Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his wife, Carolyn; former Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher; former Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance; Gen. Colin Powell, USA (Ret.), former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Ambassadors to the United States Eliahu Ben-Elissar of Israel, Marwan Jamil

Muashir of Jordan, and Ahmed Maher al-Sayed of Egypt; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of Israel. The Rabin Foundation and the Peres Foundation jointly established the Man of Peace Award.

## Statement on the Korean Peninsula Peace Process

*November 21, 1997*

I am pleased with the agreement reached today in New York to begin plenary talks on December 9 in Geneva to achieve a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. It carries forward the four-party peace initiative President Kim Yong-sam and I launched in April 1996. In Geneva, the four parties—the United States, the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's

Republic of Korea, and the People's Republic of China—will together discuss how we can secure a stable and permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. There is a lot of hard work ahead. But this is an important first step and the United States is prepared to be a full partner in helping the Korean people build a future of peace.

## The President's Radio Address

*November 22, 1997*

Good morning. Today I'd like to speak to you about a breakthrough for education, our agreement to move forward with national tests to make sure every schoolchild masters the basics. The best way to give our children the world-class education they need to thrive in the 21st century is by setting high standards of academic achievement. When we fail to encourage our children and expect a lot of them, we in fact encourage them to fail. That's why I've called upon America to join me in raising educational standards and adopting national exams to measure our progress at meeting the standards.

We've now taken a significant step forward in this effort. Last week I signed an education bill that supports the high national standards and the development of the first-ever voluntary tests of fourth graders in reading and eighth graders in math. And as I had recommended to Congress, we put control of the tests in the hands of the independent, bipartisan National Assessment Governing Board, often called NAGB. Congress created NAGB a decade ago;

it includes Governors and legislators of both parties, business leaders, parents, and teachers.

I'm pleased to be joined in the White House by the NAGB board members, who have just convened for the first time since taking on their new responsibilities, and they've just presented me with their plan for developing the national tests, including a pilot test next fall. Several new members have been appointed to help, including Diane Ravitch, an Assistant Secretary of Education under President Bush; Lynn Marmer, the president of the Cincinnati school board; and Jo Ann Pottorff, a member of the Kansas Legislature. I'm grateful they've agreed to take on this important role.

I'm confident the board will ensure that the new tests measure what they should, the basics—nothing more, nothing less. These tests will be national, not Federal. And as Diane Ravitch has said, they'll be a yardstick, not a harness. They're a vital measuring tool to help parents, teachers, and school officials demand accountability and excellence.

This is a landmark step toward putting high standards in the classroom and keeping politics

out. It builds on what is clearly the best year for American education in more than a generation.

This year, we have made great progress on our pledge to ensure that every 8-year-old can read, every 12-year-old can log on to the Internet, every 18-year-old can go on to college. In the bill I signed last week, we helped to build a citizen army of reading tutors; nearly doubled our investment in education technology; we expanded public school choice and competition; and we provided the largest increase in Pell grant scholarships in two decades.

As we raise standards for our children, we're also providing them with the tools they need to meet the challenge and seize the opportunities of the 21st century. Working together, we're lifting our children's sights, raising their hopes, and honoring our obligation to improve education today so that they can meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:30 p.m. on November 21 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 22.

## Remarks on Arrival and an Exchange With Reporters in Denver, Colorado *November 22, 1997*

*The President.* Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to make a few remarks about the conference that I'm about to leave for, of Asia-Pacific leaders in Vancouver. But before I do, I'd like to say a couple of words about a topic the people of Denver is very much focused on now.

Recently, this wonderful city has witnessed several vicious, violent crimes. The Justice Department has opened a civil rights investigation into at least one of those cases; therefore, I cannot comment specifically on it. But I can say this: We must not, and I know the people of Denver will not, tolerate acts of violence that are fed by hate against people of another color. And we must not tolerate violence and hatred targeted against police officers, the people who put their lives on the line for us every day. And finally, we must honor and support the efforts of our fellow Americans, like the courageous woman here in Denver, who act to prevent or mitigate such violence.

These tragic incidents are painful illustrations of why our recent White House Conference on Hate Crimes and our race initiative are so important and why we have to do more to combat acts like this and to prevent them, by removing the poison that breeds them from all our hearts.

Let me also say it is wonderful to be back in Denver. I appreciate Governor Romer and Congressman Skaggs and Congresswoman DeGette for flying out here with me. And I was glad to be greeted by Mrs. Webb and a

number of other officials. I want to thank the people of Denver again for the wonderful job they did in hosting the Summit of the Eight this summer. I'd also like to say a special word of appreciation to Congressman Skaggs, as he leaves his career in Congress, for all that he has done.

Now, as you all know, I'm on my way to Vancouver for a summit of leaders of the Asia-Pacific region, to continue our efforts to build a community of Asia-Pacific nations dedicated to working together for security, prosperity, and peace.

America is and must remain a Pacific power as we enter the 21st century. Our security demands it. We fought 3 wars in Asia in this century; 37,000 American troops still stand guard for freedom in Korea; a profound transition is underway in China, the most populous nation in the world. Our prosperity requires it because Asia buys nearly a third of what we sell abroad, supporting millions of high-paying American jobs. More than ever, America's future and Asia's future are joined.

With such deep stakes in the region, our security and our economic interests must go hand in hand, including strengthening our security alliances in the region with Japan and other nations; building a constructive relationship with China; promoting peace on the Korean Peninsula, where I am very pleased that we have a glimmer of hope in the initiation next month