

the disadvantaged, and creating opportunity, enforcing responsibility, building community. I think that's what "Clintonism" is about. And I think it will get us to the 21st century.

*Mr. Siegel.* Mr. President, thank you very much for talking with us.

*The President.* Thank you.

*Mr. Siegel.* I'd like to tell our listeners that the entire transcript as well as audio of this interview will be available later this evening on our website, which is [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org). And once again, thank you very much.

*The President.* Thank you.

NOTE: The interview began at 5:08 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House and was broadcast live on National Public Radio stations nationwide. During the interview, the President referred to Ambassador Dennis B. Ross, Special Middle East Coordinator; and the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM). Mr. Siegel referred to Linda R. Tripp, witness in Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's expanded investigation.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Terrorists Who Threaten To Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process

*January 21, 1998*

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

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to grave acts of violence committed by foreign terrorists that disrupt the Middle East peace process is to continue in effect beyond January 23, 1998, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The first notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on January 22, 1996.

The crisis with respect to the grave acts of violence committed by foreign terrorists that threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that led to the declaration of a national

emergency, on January 23, 1995, has not been resolved. Terrorist groups continue to engage in activities with the purpose or effect of threatening the Middle East peace process, and which are hostile to U.S. interests in the region. Such actions threaten vital interests of the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the broad authorities necessary to deny any financial support from the United States for foreign terrorists that threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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 at the White House Endowment Dinner

*January 21, 1998*

Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention please? This will be a brief program, because we want you to have a wonderful time

tonight at the White House. We thank you for doing so much to support the White House Endowment Fund and for your commitment to

*Jan. 21 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1998*

ensuring that this house, the people's house, remains the pride of our people well into the next millennium.

No one has been more committed to making sure that this house is for all of our people than the First Lady. Over the past 5 years, Hillary has worked so hard to showcase the talent and creativity of all Americans in each of these grand and historic rooms, from refurbishing the Blue Room to securing the first painting by an African-American, or the first painting by Georgia O'Keefe for the White House's permanent collection. Her contributions to this house will remain a long time after we're gone from Washington.

Let me say it was in no small part because of her dedication that the 1.5 million visitors who walk through the White House every single year have been able to enjoy the richness and diversity of America's cultural heritage. I thank her for her leadership and for making this house on all floors a more wonderful and truly historic place to live.

And now, in reverse of the usual order, it is my pleasure and honor to introduce the First Lady of the United States.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:05 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the Emigration Policies and Trade Status of Albania

*January 21, 1998*

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

I am submitting an updated report to the Congress concerning the emigration laws and policies of Albania. The report indicates continued Albanian compliance with U.S. and international standards in the area of emigration. In fact, Albania has imposed no emigration restrictions, including exit visa requirements, on its population since 1991.

On December 5, 1997, I determined and reported to the Congress that Albania was in full compliance with the freedom of emigration criteria of sections 402 and 409 of the Trade Act of 1974. That action allowed for the continuation

of most-favored-nation (MFN) status for Albania and certain other activities without the requirement of an annual waiver. This semiannual report is submitted as required by law pursuant to the determination of December 5, 1997.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 22.

## Remarks Prior to Discussions With Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority and an Exchange With Reporters

*January 22, 1998*

*Middle East Peace Process*

*The President.* Let me say before we begin that I am very pleased to welcome Chairman Arafat back to the United States as our partner in the peace process. As I did with Prime Minister Netanyahu, I want to emphasize what a

critical time this is in the process and the importance of both parties meeting their obligations.

I also would like to take just a second to underline the principles of the peace process: mutual obligations and the concept of land for peace, so that Israelis can live in security, recognized by all their neighbors, and the Palestinians can realize their aspirations to live as a free