

May 5 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1998

they heighten it. Because today's possibilities are not tomorrow's guarantees, we must remain true to the commitment to lead that every American leader of both parties, especially Ronald Reagan and Woodrow Wilson, so clearly articulated in this 20th century.

For 50 years we fought for a Europe undivided and free. Last week the United States Senate took a profoundly important step toward that goal by welcoming Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic into NATO, an achievement I believe that would make Ronald Reagan proud. The alliance that helped to keep the peace for a half century now brings us closer than ever to that dream of a Europe united, democratic, and at peace.

Now Congress has other opportunities to fulfill the spirit and honor the legacy of the man whose name we affix to this building today. Congress has the opportunity to maintain our leadership by paying for our support to the IMF and settling our dues to the United Nations. I hope they will do it.

President Reagan once said we had made what he called an unbreakable commitment to the IMF, one that was unbreakable because, in this age of economic interdependence, an investment in the IMF is simply an investment in American prosperity. And we fought for 50 years for peace and security as part of the United Nations. In 1985, Ronald Reagan said the U.N. stands as the symbol of the hopes of all mankind for a more peaceful and productive world. "We must not," he said, "disappoint those hopes." We still must not disappoint those hopes.

President Reagan understood so clearly that America could not stand passively in the face of great change. He understood we had to em-

brace the obligations of leadership to build a better future for all. The commerce that will be conducted in this great building will be a testament to the opportunities in a truly global economy America has done so much to create. The academic and cultural activities that will be generated from people who work here will bring us closer together as well. Because the Agency for International Development will be here, we will never forget that the spark of enterprise and opportunity should be brought to the smallest, poorest villages in the world, for there, too, there are people of energy, intelligence, and hunger for freedom.

This is a great day for our country. This is a day of honoring the legacy of President Reagan, remembering the service of President Wilson, and rededicating ourselves to the often difficult but, ultimately, always rewarding work of America.

As I stand within the Reagan Building, I am confident that we will again make the right choices for America, that we will take up where President Reagan left off, to lead freedom's march boldly into the 21st century.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:36 p.m. in the atrium of the Ronald Reagan Building. In his remarks, he referred to former First Lady Nancy Reagan; General Services Administrator David J. Barram; former Senator Bob Dole; Mayor Marion S. Barry, Jr., of Washington, DC; former Secretary of State George P. Shultz; former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Colin Powell, USA (Ret.), chairman, America's Promise—The Alliance For Youth; Maureen Reagan, daughter of former President Ronald Reagan; and architect James I. Freed.

## Statement on the Annie E. Casey Foundation Report on Child Care

May 5, 1998

I want to commend the Annie E. Casey Foundation for its *KIDS COUNT Data Book* which highlights the need for safe and affordable child care for millions of America's working families. The report, released today, provides important evidence of the child care challenges facing families, businesses, and the economy.

*KIDS COUNT* reports that every day parents of 29 million children struggle to find safe and affordable child care so that they can go to work. The challenge is especially great for the working parents of 10 million children in low-income families. The report tells us that this need continues to grow; that child care is

unaffordable for many families, consuming 25 percent of income for many low-income families; that quality is uneven and often poor; and that inadequate care can have a dramatic impact on children's development.

This report provides further evidence of the urgency for Congress to act on child care legislation. Too many American families are struggling to find and afford child care to meet their obligations as workers and their more important

responsibility as parents. My child care initiative will help working families pay for child care, build a good supply of after-school programs, improve the safety and quality of care, and promote early learning. Today I again call on Congress to act, and I look forward to working with Members in both parties to enact comprehensive bipartisan child care legislation that meets the needs of children and families.

## Statement on Senate Action on Job Training Reform Legislation

*May 5, 1998*

More than 3 years ago, I proposed my "GI bill" for America's workers to reform our employment and training system for the 21st-century economy. Today I am very pleased that the Senate passed—with overwhelming bipartisan support—legislation that incorporates the principles articulated in my original proposal. This legislation reforms our job training system so that it works better for America's workers and is more responsive to today's rapidly changing economy. I particularly thank Senators Jeffords, Kennedy, DeWine, and Wellstone for their hard work at getting this legislation passed.

This legislation will fundamentally reform our workforce development system by empowering Americans to gain new skills with a simple skill grant. It also consolidates the tangle of training programs; creates a network of One-Stop Career Centers; increases accountability to ensure results; allows States and communities to tailor programs to locally determined needs; and en-

sures that business, labor, and community organizations are full partners in system design and quality assurance. It targets vocational and adult education funds to educational agencies and institutions with the greatest need and to activities that promote program quality. It improves the vocational rehabilitation program by streamlining eligibility determination, improving State planning, and strengthening program accountability. And it includes the Youth Opportunity Areas initiative—which was funded in last year's appropriations process—that will create jobs and opportunity for out-of-school youth in high-poverty areas.

While I have outstanding concerns with both the Senate- and House-passed versions of this legislation, I am confident our differences can be resolved quickly in conference. I urge Congress to continue to work in a bipartisan manner and finish the job of reforming our job training system by early this summer.

## Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the Pemigewasset River

*May 5, 1998*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I take pleasure in transmitting the enclosed report for the Pemigewasset River in New Hampshire. The report and my recommendations are in response to the provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law 90-542, as amended. The Pemigewasset River study was authorized by Public Law 101-357.

The study was conducted by the National Park Service with assistance from a local study committee. The National Park Service determined that the 32.5-mile study segment is eligible for designation based upon its free-flowing character and outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fishery, and botanic values. However, in deference to the wishes of local adjoining