

May 15 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1998

Statement on the Situation in Indonesia

May 15, 1998

I am deeply concerned about the upsurge in violence in Indonesia. I intend to discuss my concerns today with my other colleagues.

The recent deaths in Indonesia are tragic, and I call on the Indonesian Government and the security forces to avoid violence and exercise maximum restraint.

I strongly urge the Indonesian Government to initiate quickly a dialog on reform with its citizens. Giving the people of Indonesia a real

voice in the country's political affairs can make a real contribution to restoring political order and stability based on human rights and the rule of law.

We are working closely with our friends and allies to help the Indonesian people meet their humanitarian needs. I believe that if the Government of Indonesia pursues the needed economic and political reforms, Indonesia can return to the path of recovery and growth.

Statement on the Death of Frank Sinatra

May 15, 1998

Hillary and I were deeply saddened to hear of the death of a musical legend and an American icon—Frank Sinatra. Early in his long career, fans dubbed him “The Voice.” And that was the first thing America noticed about Frank Sinatra: that miraculous voice, strong and subtle, wisecracking and wistful, streetwise, but defiantly sweet. In time, he became so much more. Sinatra was a spellbinding performer, on stage or on screen, in musicals, comedies, and dramas. He built one of the world's most important record companies. He won countless awards, from the Grammy—nine times—to the Academy Award, to the Presidential Medal of Freedom. And he dedicated himself to humanitarian causes.

When I became President, I had never met Frank Sinatra, although I was an enormous admirer of his. I had the opportunity after I became President to get to know him a little, to have dinner with him, to appreciate on a personal level what fans around the world, including me, appreciated from afar.

Frank Sinatra will be missed profoundly by millions around the world. But his music and movies will ensure that “Ol’ Blue Eyes” is never forgotten. Today I think every American would have to smile and say he really did do it his way.

Hillary and I would like to offer our condolences to Frank's wife, Barbara, and to his children, Nancy, Frank, Jr., and Tina. Our hearts are with them today.

United States-Japan Joint Statement on Electronic Commerce

May 15, 1998

Electronic commerce will be an engine of economic growth in the Twenty-first Century, with the potential to invigorate economies by enhancing productivity, streamlining distribution, and revamping corporate structures.

Electronic commerce will enhance the standard of living of citizens in the United States and Japan, as well as the rest of the globe,

by creating new, high-paying jobs and opportunities. Small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular, will benefit from new opportunities to sell their products to a worldwide market.

The Governments of the United States and Japan recognize the importance of working together to promote global electronic commerce.