

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Austria-United States Extradition Treaty With Documentation

June 11, 1998

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Extradition Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Austria, signed at Washington on January 8, 1998.

In addition, I transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty. As the report explains, the Treaty will not require implementing legislation.

This Treaty will, upon entry into force, enhance cooperation between the law enforcement communities of both countries. It will thereby make a significant contribution to international law enforcement efforts. This Treaty will super-

sede and significantly improve upon the Treaty between the Government of the United States and the Government of Austria for the extradition of fugitives from justice, signed at Vienna on January 31, 1930, and the Supplementary Extradition Convention signed at Vienna on May 19, 1934.

The provisions in this Treaty follow generally the form and content of extradition treaties recently concluded by the United States.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
June 11, 1998.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption

June 11, 1998

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, adopted and opened for signature at the conclusion of the Seventeenth Session of the Hague Conference on Private International Law on May 29, 1993. Thirty-two countries, including the United States, have signed the Convention, 17 countries have ratified it, and one country has acceded to it. The provisions of the Convention are fully explained in the report of the Department of State that accompanies this message.

The Convention sets out norms and procedures to safeguard children involved in intercountry adoptions and to protect the interests of their birth and adoptive parents. These safeguards are designed to discourage trafficking in children and to ensure that intercountry adoptions are made in the best interest of the children involved. Cooperation between Contracting

States will be facilitated by the establishment in each Contracting State of a central authority with programmatic and case-specific functions. The Convention also provides for the recognition of adoptions that fall within its scope in all other Contracting States.

The Convention leaves the details of its implementation up to each Contracting State. Implementing legislation prepared by the Administration will soon be transmitted for introduction in the Senate and the House of Representatives. Once implementing legislation is enacted, some further time would be required to put the necessary regulations and institutional mechanisms in place. We would expect to deposit the U.S. instrument of ratification and bring the Convention into force for the United States as soon as we are able to carry out all of the obligations of the Convention.

It is estimated that U.S. citizens annually adopt as many children from abroad as all other countries combined (13,621 children in Fiscal

Year 1997). The Convention is intended to ensure that intercountry adoptions take place in the best interests of the children and parents involved, and to establish a system of cooperation among Contracting States to prevent abduction of, and trafficking in children. We have worked closely with U.S. adoption interests and the legal community in negotiating the provisions of the Convention and in preparing the necessary implementing legislation.

I recommend that the Senate give its advice and consent to ratification of this Convention, subject to the declaration described in the accompanying report of the Department of State.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
June 11, 1998.

Remarks to the National Oceans Conference in Monterey, California *June 12, 1998*

Thank you. Please be seated. Thank you for the wonderful welcome. Let me begin by saying how great it was to see and hear the Watsonville Marching Band again and my good friends there. You're always welcome back at the White House. And I like those uniforms. I liked them then; I like them now.

I want to thank Secretary Daley and Secretary Dalton for sponsoring this conference. I thank Secretary Slater and Secretary Babbitt, who was here; Administrator Browner, Dr. Baker, Katie McGinty. And I'd also like to say a special word of appreciation to the Commandant of the Coast Guard and all the Coast Guard personnel and the Vice Chief of Naval Operations and all the Navy personnel for what they have done to help this be a success.

I thank all the Members of Congress. The Vice President has introduced them, but I am delighted to see them here, and I'm very proud of them. I thank the mayor of Monterey and all the State and city and county officials who are here. And I also want to say, it's good to see our old friend, citizen Panetta here. *[Laughter]* Leon and Sylvia have earned the right to come home, and after spending the day here, I don't know why they ever left. *[Laughter]* But I'm very grateful that they did. He made us a better administration.

Let me say a special word of appreciation to the award winners here today: My good friend Ted Danson, the president of American Oceans Campaign—*[applause]*—thank you. He has to go to a middle school graduation, but I think he may still be here. Dr. Sylvia Earle of National Geographic, Jean-Michel Cousteau,

Bob Talbot, and Moss Landing Marine Lab, thank you all for your wonderful work and congratulations on your awards.

I owe a lot of whatever good we have been able to do in this position on the environment to my wife, who has always cared about this and expanded my horizons, and to the Vice President. I was sitting there listening to him talk, and my mind wandered back—no offense, Mr. Vice President, I was gripped by your speech. *[Laughter]* But my mind wandered back to the conversation we had when I asked him if he would join me on the ticket in 1992.

And I was remembering that, fittingly enough, when I called him to ask if he would come talk to me, he was at Rio, at the wonderful conference there on climate change, biodiversity. And I was thinking how influenced I had been already by his writings and his speeches. Even though we were neighbors, we didn't know each other particularly well. I knew him more through his work and the stands that he had taken. And I have to tell you, I was thinking again today as he stood up here, that's one of the two or three best decisions I ever made in my life.

Sometimes I think Presidents like to pretend their jobs are more special and unique and their insights more impenetrable by others than they may be. But I'll tell you, there is one subject on which I think perhaps only Presidents can really know the truth. And I can tell you that the scope, the depth, and the quality of the influence in a positive way that Al Gore has exercised on this country in the last 5½ years literally dwarfs that of any other Vice President