

I can also tell you that I personally was very impressed by the way, the manner, and the substance of their conversation today with me. And so we all said we needed to continue to change the dynamics of the process to try to increase the likelihood of completion. We made significant progress on the path to peace, and I think we could finish it in mid-October, and I certainly hope we do.

Q. Mr. President—

Q. You promised me the question. Please. There was today—Mr. President—

Q. Could we hear from Chairman Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu—

Q. Mr. President, today there was a terror attack in Hebron, a shooting, and an Israeli woman was injured. The Israelis are saying that Arafat, Mr. President, Arafat is not fighting terrorism. Did you get any answers from Mr. Arafat concerning the implementation of the reciprocity principle? Is Mr. Arafat willing to stick to his commitments according to the Hebron accords and Oslo accords to fight terrorism?

*President Clinton.* Perhaps I should let him answer that. But he certainly affirmed that to us. And keep in mind, that's a part of the whole peace process, those kinds of agreements, and that's one of the things that the Prime Minister, representing the people of Israel, would raise, and something that has to be talked through.

But if either one of these gentlemen want to say—

Q. Chairman Arafat, what's your assessment of the talks today?

*Chairman Arafat.* What he has mentioned is covering everything—and instead of saying the same thing—

Q. —Palestinian state today in—

Q. Mr. President, where has there been progress in the peace process—

Q. —Mr. President.

Q. Chairman Arafat, are you convinced—

*President Clinton.* I believe there's been progress in all major areas. I think we're closer together on virtually—on every major issue that either Chairman Arafat has mentioned to me or that Prime Minister Netanyahu has mentioned to me than there was before. But we have an operating agreement here that we will all say that nothing has been agreed to until everything has been agreed to. I think that is a good operating agreement. If they ever decide to change it, then I will honor their decision. Otherwise, our position is that you cannot conclude that anything has been agreed to until everything has been agreed to.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:45 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## Message on the Observance of Yom Kippur, 1998

September 28, 1998

Warm greetings to all those observing Yom Kippur.

On the Day of Atonement, Jews across America and around the world fervently seek the blessing of forgiveness and reconciliation. The most solemn of Jewish holy days, Yom Kippur is a time of profound prayer, fasting, and self-examination.

Amid the clamor and distraction of everyday life, Yom Kippur is a call for silence and reflection, a summons for believers to remember and

repair their fundamental relationships with God and with their fellow human beings. It is a challenge to Jews and a reminder to Americans of all faiths to live our lives according to our beliefs: to have faith in God's mercy and to have the humility and strength of spirit to begin again.

Best wishes for a blessed and meaningful Yom Kippur.

BILL CLINTON