

and build on promising existing efforts to create an effective, national registry.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: The National Adoption Month proclamation of October 29 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Radio Remarks on Disaster Relief for Central America

November 25, 1998

Throughout this week, families in the United States are coming together to give thanks for the blessings we enjoy. As we celebrate, we must remember our neighbors, particularly the people in Central America whose lives were devastated by Hurricane Mitch a month ago.

The Americas are also a family, and many relatives of our own citizens live in the nations hardest hit by the hurricane: Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador. The United States has already pledged \$263 million to the relief effort, offering food, loans, and vital health services. Our Armed Forces are on the scene transporting supplies, rebuilding roads and com-

munities. The First Lady and Tipper Gore visited the region and renewed our pledge to do all we can to help.

So this Thanksgiving I ask you to keep the hurricane victims in your thoughts and prayers and to continue your generous donation to relief organizations. In this season of need, we will not let down our fellow Americans.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at approximately 5:40 p.m. on November 23 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast on November 25. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 25.

Statement on the Murder of Russian Parliamentarian Galina Starovoytova

November 25, 1998

Americans everywhere join people across Russia in mourning the murder of Russian parliamentarian Galina Starovoytova. Through her work as a deputy in the State Duma, as an adviser to President Yeltsin, and as an early advocate of political change in Soviet times, Ms. Starovoytova made an immeasurable contribution to the development of democratic values and institutions throughout Russia. This tragic crime represents an assault on the Russian people's aspirations to build a society that is peaceful, tolerant, and governed by the rule of law. It is a terrible loss for friends of democracy around the world.

In recent days, the outpouring of grief in Ms. Starovoytova's beloved St. Petersburg and throughout Russia has testified to the enduring strength of the values she championed throughout her career. In mourning her loss, Russians and Americans are reminded of the importance of sustaining democracy and civility even at the most difficult times. Indeed, we are troubled by recent expressions of anti-Semitism and extremism in Russia, and we will continue to stand with those who, like Ms. Starovoytova, have been leading Russia toward a more pluralistic, more tolerant future. Our thoughts and prayers go to her family and friends.