

forth a tiny ripple of hope. And crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

That is still true today. For those in AmeriCorps, I thank you for sending forth those ripples of hope. I thank you for bringing out the best in yourselves and others.

For those who could still yet serve, I ask you to join the rest of your fellow citizens in building that bridge to the 21st century that all can walk across, arm in arm, to the best days of America.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:34 p.m. in Richie Coliseum at the University of Maryland. In his remarks, he referred to AmeriCorps volunteers Stephen Hellinger, Leslie Mayo, Justin Ward, and Susan (Pepe) Carrasco; Gov. Parris N. Glendening and Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend of Maryland; Thomas V. (Mike) Miller, Jr., president, Maryland State Senate; Mayor Michael J. Jacobs of College Park; Carson Daly, host, MTV Live; Avery Straw, student government president, and C.D. Mote, Jr., president, University of Maryland, College Park; and the President's brother-in-law, Hugh Rodham.

## Message on the Observance of the Lunar New Year, 1999

*February 11, 1999*

Warm greetings to everyone observing the Lunar New Year.

This annual festival, rooted in the ancient religious and cultural traditions of Asia, is a joyous celebration of family and community, of hope and new beginnings. Each year during the first month of the lunar calendar, millions of families across America and around the world gather to welcome the imminent arrival of spring by honoring their ancestors, visiting friends, sharing delicious food, and enjoying a profusion of fireworks, colorful decorations, parades, music, and dancing.

The celebration of the Lunar New Year is also a reminder of how much our national life has been enriched by the customs, culture, and achievements of Asian Americans. In every field of endeavor, from business to the arts, from government to academia, Asian Americans are making vital contributions to our country's progress and prosperity.

Hillary joins me in extending best wishes to all for a wonderful celebration and for a new year of health, happiness, and peace.

BILL CLINTON

## Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the Emigration Policies and Trade Status of Mongolia

*February 11, 1999*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

On September 4, 1996, I determined and reported to the Congress that Mongolia was not in violation of the freedom of emigration criteria of sections 402(a) and 409(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended. This action allowed for the continuation of normal trade relations status for Mongolia and certain other activities without the requirement of an annual waiver.

As required by law, I am submitting an updated report to the Congress concerning the emigration laws and policies of Mongolia. The report indicates continued Mongolian compliance with U.S. and international standards in the area of emigration.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
February 11, 1999.