

at the same time. By saving the bald eagle and bringing it back home to the Nation's Capital, these young people have honored our past. They have also imagined a future in which we give all of our children a chance to get a good education and to have a good income and a thriving economy where we no longer destroy our natural resources but, instead, build them up. It is the past, and it must be the future.

Thank you very, very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:22 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Eagle Corps member Levar Simms, and Al Louis Cecere, founder and president, National Foundation to Protect America's Eagles, who handled the eagle.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea and an Exchange With Reporters July 2, 1999

President Clinton. Let me begin by welcoming President Kim and his delegation to the United States. He is a remarkable leader and a person that all of us very much admire, and in the last year, we have seen an astonishing turnaround in the Korean economy, going from a period of contraction to a period of quite robust growth, in ways that no one could have predicted. It's a great, great success story, and I congratulated President Kim on that, and then we talked some, and we will talk more in our meeting after this of our security partnership.

Northern Ireland Peace Process

The second thing I would like to say very briefly is I think all of you know that the British and Irish Prime Ministers have issued their proposal for the way forward on the Irish peace process, and I think this is a very welcome development. It gives us a chance to fulfill the Good Friday accords. It gives the people of Northern Ireland, both Protestant and Catholic, a chance to shape their destiny and govern themselves. It gives us a chance to put an end to guns and violence forever. And the United States intends to support their efforts and to hold all the parties to their commitments. I think that is very, very important.

This is a major opportunity to resolve that difficult problem forever, in ways that are good for all the people there. So it's good news.

South Korean Military Technology

Q. Mr. President, do you plan to support the South Koreans' bid to make a long-range missile—develop a long-range missile that could possibly hit their northern neighbor?

President Clinton. Well, we're going to have our security discussion after this, and I think that we should talk about it before I make a public comment.

Northern Ireland Peace Process

Q. Sir, to those who are dissatisfied with the proposals outlined by the Prime Ministers today, what would you say?

President Clinton. I would say, first of all, let's look at how far we've come. All the parties to the Good Friday accord and large majorities in Northern Ireland agree on the commitments that everyone has and how it should look at the end.

This whole argument has been over the sequencing of how do you stand up the government? How do you get on with decommissioning? No one disputes the fact that everything has to be done by next May, on the decommissioning, for example. No one disputes the fact that everyone who got a certain percentage of the vote in the last election is entitled to be part of the executive.

And so I would say to those who are dissatisfied, first of all, everybody's got to comply with everything. One of the things this proposal does is to reaffirm that. So who can be dissatisfied with that?

Secondly, if you are afraid that the decommissioning won't occur, therefore, you don't want to stand up the government, my answer to that is that the Prime Ministers have offered to pass a bill through the British Parliament, which will make it clear that if General de Chastelain's

commission's timetable is not kept, that the whole thing can be brought down.

So I would say to those who are skeptical, there are guarantees here. No one is going to get something for nothing. Everybody's going to have to fulfill the word of the Good Friday accord. And so don't let this thing come apart now.

Would you like to make a statement, Mr. President?

South Korea-U.S. Relations

President Kim. This is my third meeting with President Clinton, and our third meeting in less than 2 years, and this clearly demonstrates the closeness of the bilateral relations between Korea and the United States. And I do hope that these close ties of cooperation will continue to be further strengthened.

I am extremely satisfied with the present state of relations between the two countries. We are meeting in close coordination on all issues, on

economic issues as well as security issues. And I do hope that this close cooperation sends a clear message to North Korea.

Thank you very much.

Q. Thank you.

President Clinton. Thank you all.

President's Plans for the Fourth of July

Q. What are you doing for the Fourth of July?

President Clinton. We're going to be around here, watch the fireworks on The Mall.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:18 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland; and Canadian Defense Forces Gen. John de Chastelain (Ret.), chair, Independent International Commission on Decommissioning. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Death of Catholicos Karekin I

July 2, 1999

Hillary and I were saddened to learn of the death of His Holiness Karekin I, Catholicos of the Armenian Apostolic Church. I have sent my condolences to the Vicar General at the Holy See of Echmiadzin.

His Holiness was widely respected for his deep scholarship, his deep sense of principle, and his sincere devotion to the broadest possible

ecumenical dialog. To all who followed his inspired leadership in Armenia, the United States, and around the world, I offer heartfelt sympathy and condolences on behalf of myself and the American people. All the members of the Armenian Apostolic Church are in our thoughts and our prayers.

Memorandum on the Federal Worker 2000 Presidential Initiative

July 2, 1999

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Federal Worker 2000 Presidential Initiative

Each year, Federal employees suffer over 160,000 injuries or illnesses in the course of their employment. The Federal Government's bill for medical treatment and wage loss compensation costs exceeds \$1.9 billion each year.

Even more disturbing is the pain and suffering of employees and their families that is caused by these injuries and illnesses and the fact that many of such injuries and illnesses are preventable.

The Federal workforce is a valuable asset to our healthy economy. We need to do more to protect our dedicated public servants from preventable injuries and illnesses. From this point