

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

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forward, I want to make the safety and health of every Federal worker a central value in each operation performed in Federal workplaces. I ask all Federal agencies to help make Federal Government workplaces safe and productive. Furthermore, we need to ensure that, when injuries do occur, Federal employees are given the best possible care and are returned to work as quickly as possible.

To this end I direct the Secretary of Labor to lead an initiative focusing on the Federal workplace. This initiative will have a duration of 5 years, and will establish 3 measurable goals:

- reducing the overall occurrence of injuries by 3 percent per year, while improving the timeliness of reporting of injuries and illnesses by agencies to the Department of Labor by 5 percent per year;
- for those work sites with the highest rates of serious injuries, reducing the occurrence

of such injuries by 10 percent per year; and

- reducing the rate of lost production days (i.e. the number of days employees spend away from work) by 2 percent per year.

I also direct the Secretary to report to me each year on the progress made to reduce work-related injuries and illnesses, to provide timely services, and to reduce the number of days injured workers are away from their jobs.

I am convinced that this new focus on safety and health in the Federal Government will result in fewer injured workers, significant cost reductions, and an enhanced ability to serve the American public.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

The President's Radio Address

July 3, 1999

Good morning. This Independence Day at backyard barbecues and picnics in local parks, Americans celebrate the spirit of patriotism that has strengthened our Nation for 223 years now. Today I want to talk about what we must do to ensure that the food we serve at those gatherings is as safe as we can possibly make it, to keep our Nation growing healthy as well as strong.

Our food supply is the most bountiful in the world, and for 6½ years, our administration has been committed to making it the safest in the world, from establishing a nationwide early warning system for foodborne illness to expanding food safety research and public education programs to increasing inspections of food at every point in the chain of production.

Last year I established the Joint Institute for Food Safety Research and appointed the first-ever President's Council on Food Safety to coordinate and expand food safety efforts at every level of the Federal Government. I'm proud of the progress we're making, but when it comes to keeping our families safe, we can always do more, and we must.

Today, Americans eat more imported food than ever before, and they have more choices than ever. Think of it: Thirty years ago, just a dozen kinds of fruits and vegetables were available year-round. Today, you could buy a different kind of fruit or vegetable every day of the year, and many were grown on the other side of the world. There's no evidence that these fruits and vegetables are less safe than those grown here in the United States. But some recent outbreaks of foodborne illness have been traced to imported foods.

Our import laws are very clear. We will not allow unsafe food to enter the United States. But a recent GAO report showed that some importers are sidestepping our laws and getting contaminated food across our borders and onto our kitchen tables. While most importers comply with our regulations, it only takes one bad apple to spoil the whole bunch, only one shipment of contaminated food to threaten hundreds, even thousands of Americans.

That is why today, consistent with our international obligations, I'm directing the Treasury Department and the Health and Human Services Department to take immediate action to