

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on United States Activities in the United Nations

September 13, 1999

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit herewith a report of the activities of the United Nations and of the participation of the United States therein during the calendar year 1998. The report is

required by the United Nations Participation Act (Public Law 79-264; 22 U.S.C. 287b).

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
September 13, 1999.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Slovenia-United States Tax Convention

September 13, 1999

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith for Senate advice and consent to ratification the Convention Between the United States of America and the Republic of Slovenia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed at Ljubljana on June 21, 1999. Also transmitted is the report of the Department of State concerning the Convention.

This Convention, which is similar to tax treaties between the United States and OECD nations, provides maximum rates of tax to be applied to various types of income and protection

from double taxation of income. This Convention also provides for resolution of disputes and sets forth rules making its benefits unavailable to residents who are engaged in treaty-shopping or with respect to certain abusive transactions.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Convention and that the Senate give its advice and consent to ratification.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
September 13, 1999.

Letter to Members of Congress on Campaign Finance Reform Legislation

September 13, 1999

Dear _____:

This week, the House of Representatives will have an historic opportunity to strengthen our democracy when it considers legislation to reform our campaign finance system. I write to you today to urge the passage of the bipartisan campaign finance reform bill offered by Representatives Christopher Shays and Martin Meehan.

The Shays-Meehan legislation represents real, comprehensive reform. It would ban the raising of unregulated "soft money" by both parties, address backdoor campaign spending by outside

organizations, and strengthen public disclosure. It would revitalize the political process by curbing the role of special interests, giving voters a louder voice, and treating incumbents and challengers of both parties fairly.

For nearly four years I have challenged Congress to pass the Shays-Meehan bill. As you know, it was approved by the House last year, only to be blocked by a minority of the Senate. Today, I ask Members of the House to pass it—without unnecessary amendments that would undermine its intent and reach.

Sept. 13 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1999

We have had enough talk about reform; the House of Representatives now has a rare and fleeting opportunity to act. The American people know the system needs to be fixed—but many have come to doubt Congress's will to fix it. I urge you to make this the year that Congress

proves the cynics wrong, and passes bipartisan, comprehensive campaign finance reform.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON

NOTE: Letters were sent to every Member of the House of Representatives.

Remarks on the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit and an Exchange With Reporters in Auckland September 14, 1999

The President. Good morning. I believe we've had a very successful meeting here with our Asia-Pacific partners. I want to begin by thanking Prime Minister Shipley and the people of Auckland and New Zealand for giving us quite a wonderful visit to a place that most of us have never been before.

Our 19 APEC members pledged to strengthen the world economy and advance our common prosperity. We also came together on East Timor. We unanimously resolved to strengthen the world trading system by opening more markets and agriculture services and industrial products. In November we'll go to Seattle to launch a new world trade round, determined to make this APEC agenda the world's agenda.

We can make trade even more beneficial if China joins the WTO on commercially viable terms. I had a good meeting here with President Jiang, resuming progress in our relationship on issues from the WTO to security matters like preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Our negotiators have now resumed substantive WTO talks.

APEC's members also reaffirmed the importance of continuing reforms in the global financial system. Asia's recovery is clearly underway. We want to keep it going, and to do so, we have to keep up the pace of reform.

At the same time, we stood together against the violence in East Timor. Indonesia's leaders agreed to reverse course. Now we and our partners are working rapidly to deploy an effective international security force to protect the people as they make their transition to independence. Again, let me say how grateful I am for the leadership of Australia and New Zealand in this endeavor.

This will be overwhelmingly an Asian force. But the United States is ready to provide airlift, communications, intelligence, and related capabilities. We are working out the details in consultation with Congress.

I hope the force can be ready to deploy within days. We are working with the U.N. today to bring that about. Until the international peacekeeping force deploys, it is essential that Indonesia works to prevent further violence. It must facilitate efforts to quickly bring humanitarian assistance to the people who have suffered so very greatly. The United Nations is ready to deliver food and medical supplies.

Let me say, finally, this week we made progress on another crucial security issue, building peace and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula. Following talks in Berlin, we understand and expect that North Korea will refrain from testing long-range missiles of any kind, while our discussions continue. It's an important initial step in addressing our concerns about North Korea's missile program.

We're, in turn, considering measures to ease sanctions and move toward normalizing economic relations with North Korea. The work we've done in the past few days will help to build a more secure, more prosperous, more integrated Asia-Pacific region. It will give our citizens, all our citizens, all the way from New Zealand back to Washington, better lives in the 21st century.

Thank you very much.

Congressional Support for a Mission to East Timor

Q. [Inaudible]