

Sept. 15 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1999

President Clinton. Well, first of all, I think, on balance, this has been quite a good week for the United States in Asia, in the Asia-Pacific region. I did have a good meeting with President Jiang; we talked about things other than trade. One of our common interests, North Korea and avoiding the missile launch, appears to be headed in the right direction. We had progress in East Timor, and with the Prime Minister's leadership, we made the right commitments here at APEC. So I think this is good.

Now, on the Chinese-WTO talks, we have reengaged, and each side will now do whatever it thinks is right. You know, I don't totally control the timetable there, but I'm neither optimistic nor pessimistic about it. I am satisfied that we have reengaged, and we will do the best we can to just deal with this on the merits. We only had one or two issues before us when we couldn't quite get there in Washington. I

still think it would be a better thing for China and a better thing for the world if they were in the WTO, but that is, of course, ultimately a decision that they have to make, not me. But we're talking; we're working; and I feel good about it.

Prime Minister Shipley. Thank you very much.

President Clinton. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's 180th news conference began at 3:30 p.m. in the courtyard at the Sign of the Takahe, a historic landmark and restaurant. In his remarks, the President referred to Mike Moore, Director General, World Trade Organization; Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Gov. Roy E. Barnes of Georgia; and President Jiang Zemin of China. He also referred to Pacific 5 (P5), a proposed free trade area, which would include Australia, Chile, New Zealand, Singapore, and the United States.

Statement on House Action on Campaign Finance Reform Legislation *September 15, 1999*

I am heartened that the House of Representatives rejected the politics of business as usual by passing real, bipartisan campaign finance reform. Passage of the Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform legislation is a victory for the American people. Now I urge the Senate Re-

publican leadership to let a majority rule by allowing the Senate to take an up-or-down vote on this historic legislation. The time has come for Congress to redeem the public's faith in the health of our democracy.

Statement on United Nations Security Council Action on East Timor *September 15, 1999*

Late last night the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved Resolution 1264, which authorizes a multinational force to restore stability in East Timor, at the invitation of the Indonesian Government. Now we must move with purpose and dispatch to protect the innocent people whose lives are still threatened by those seeking to overturn the results of a fair vote. I welcome the passage of Resolution 1264 and look forward to working with the Govern-

ment of Australia and others in the international community to put together an effective force. I have just been briefed by Admiral Blair of CINCPAC on our close cooperation with Australia, and I hope the force can deploy in a matter of days. The United States is prepared to contribute to this operation, and we are discussing with our Australian allies and the Congress an appropriate U.S. role.