

More than 430 million people could benefit from this effort. In Bolivia, for example, debt relief could help the Government nearly double the people's access to clean water by 2004. In Uganda, it could allow health and education spending to increase by 15 percent between 1998 and 2001—50 percent, excuse me. Rural development expenditures there would more than double. That's why we all must provide our fair share of financing to global debt relief.

Last week, to make good on America's commitment, I amended my budget request to Congress and asked for nearly \$1 billion over 4 years for this purpose. We must keep adequate assistance flowing to the developing countries, especially through the International Development Association. I'm encouraged by the financial commitments made by some of the other donor countries this past week. And I call on our Congress to respond to the moral and economic urgency of this issue and see to it that America does its part. I have asked for the money and shown how it would be paid for, and I ask the Congress to keep our country shouldering its fair share of the responsibility.

Now, let me make one final commitment. Today I am directing my administration to make it possible to forgive 100 percent of the debt these countries owe to the United States when—and this is quite important—when needed to help them finance basic human needs and when the money will be used to do so. In this context, we will work closely with other countries to maximize the benefits of the debt reduction initiative.

We believe the agreements reached this weekend will make it possible for three-quarters of the highly indebted poorest countries, committed to implementing poverty and growth strategies, to start receiving benefits sometime next year, actually receiving the benefits sometime next year.

If we do these things as nations, as international institutions, as a global community, then we can build a trading system that strengthens our economy and supports our values. We can build a global economy and a global society that leaves no one behind, that carries all countries into a new century that we hope will be marked by greater peace and greater prosperity for all people.

We have before us perhaps as great an opportunity as the people of the world have ever seen. We will be judged by our children and grandchildren by whether we seize that opportunity. I hope and believe that we all will do so.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:07 p.m. in the main ballroom at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to James D. Wolfensohn, President, World Bank Group; Mahesh Acharya, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Michel Camdessus, Managing Director, Cheikh Ibrahima Fall, Vice President and Corporate Secretary, and Shailendra J. Anjaria, Secretary, International Monetary Fund; and Pope John Paul II.

Statement on Signing the Extension of the Airport Improvement Program Act

September 29, 1999

I am pleased to sign S. 1637, the "Extension of the Airport Improvement Program Act," releasing the final \$290 million of FY99 funds for the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program (AIP). These funds will help communities across the country finance critical projects to enhance airport safety and capacity and reduce noise. Some \$71 million of the AIP funds will go to help lessen the growing problem of airport-related noise, by in-

sulating nearby schools and residential neighborhoods and other noise mitigation efforts. These and other efforts by the Federal Government will mean that, by next year, only 600,000 Americans will be adversely affected by aircraft noise, compared to the 2.3 million Americans who faced that problem in 1995. A significant portion of the funds released today will go to help smaller airports, which have fewer financial resources and are more dependent on Federal assistance

to meet their capital requirements than are larger airports.

NOTE: S. 1637, approved September 29, was assigned Public Law No. 106–59.

Statement on Signing the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2000 *September 29, 1999*

Today I signed H.R. 2490, “Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2000”, a bill that contains several important improvements in family planning and child care. This bipartisan bill will give people who work for the Federal Government access to more affordable child care and flexibility in family planning. It will require health plans participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) that provide prescription drug coverage to provide prescription contraceptive cov-

erage as well, while providing an exception for plans that object to this requirement on religious grounds. The bill also gives Government agencies new flexibility that will allow them to make child care more affordable for lower income Federal employees. While this bill is not perfect, it does show that we can make progress when we work in a bipartisan fashion.

NOTE: H.R. 2490, approved September 29, was assigned Public Law No. 106–58.

Statement on Signing the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2000 *September 29, 1999*

I have signed into law today H.R. 2490, the “Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2000,” which provides \$13.7 billion in discretionary budget authority for programs in the Department of the Treasury, the United States Postal Service, the General Services Administration, the Office of Personnel Management, the Executive Office of the President, and several smaller agencies. I commend the Congress for producing a bipartisan bill that allows us to continue the IRS reform effort and the national youth anti-drug media campaign and to fund important law enforcement efforts and other programs.

The bill provides \$12.4 billion for the Department of the Treasury, including \$132 million for violent crime reduction programs. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is funded at \$8.2 billion. I believe that these funds will strengthen the IRS’s ability to provide timely and accurate data for American taxpayers. The bill also includes \$144 million for the Earned Income Tax Credit compliance initiative and \$250 million for Year 2000 conversion requirements for IRS

computer systems. Law enforcement bureaus within the Department of the Treasury are funded at \$3.4 billion. I am pleased that the Congress has fully funded my request for the expansion of the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative.

The bill provides \$185 million for the Office of National Drug Control Policy’s (ONDCP) national youth anti-drug media campaign. This money will enable ONDCP’s national media campaign to continue its effort to change youth attitudes about drug use and its consequences. The campaign is a model public-private partnership, exposing 90 percent of all 9- to 17-year-olds to anti-drug messages at least four times a week.

I am pleased that the enrolled bill requires health plans participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program that provide prescription drug coverage to provide prescription contraceptive coverage as well. I am also pleased that the enrolled bill allows agencies to use appropriated funds to support day care centers at Federal facilities. This provision