

*Nov. 2 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1999*

Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; King Abdullah II of Jordan; and Eric Lander, director, Whitehead Institute/MIT Center for Genome Research.

## Statement on the Cyclone in India

*November 2, 1999*

On behalf of all Americans, Hillary and I offer our deepest condolences to the families who lost loved ones to the devastating cyclone that struck eastern India Friday and Saturday. It is gradually becoming clear just how much destruction was wrought along the seacoast and inland in those terrifying hours. There are reports that thousands of lives were lost and hundreds of thousands of homes were destroyed. It is truly a national calamity.

Our hearts go out to the Indian people, and we are prepared to do what we can to help. The Government of India has an immense task ahead in providing assistance to the people who were affected by this tragedy. The United States Government is providing more than \$2 million worth of food and \$100,000 worth of tents and plastic sheeting to help alleviate the hunger and immediate suffering. I also encourage the American people to help through charities involved in international relief.

## Statement on House Action on Proposed Legislation To Provide Assistance to African, Caribbean, and Central American Nations

*November 2, 1999*

Today's vote is an important milestone in our effort to build a new economic relationship with sub-Saharan Africa and deepen ties with our Caribbean and Central American neighbors. This legislation will help increase trade, enhance

opportunity, and boost economic growth in America and nations in Africa, the Caribbean, and Central America. I urge the Senate to pass this bill as soon as possible.

## Statement on Senate Action on Appropriations Legislation for the District of Columbia and Labor, Health, and Education Programs

*November 2, 1999*

Today, by a narrow margin, Congress completed action on a deeply flawed spending bill that I will veto. This bill is a catalog of missed opportunities, misguided priorities, and mindless cuts. It forces America's schoolchildren to pay the price for Congress' failure to make responsible choices. I will not let it become law.

The bill, which includes the Labor/Health and Human Services/Education appropriations measure, makes a blind, across-the-board cut that will hurt everything from national defense to

veterans' programs, from education to the environment. It reneges on last year's bipartisan commitment to fund 100,000 teachers and reduce class size in the early grades, replacing this proven approach with a risky block grant that opens the door to private school vouchers. It fails to include a key accountability initiative to help turn around failing schools. And it short-changes many other priorities, including efforts to enhance worker safety, expand child care,