

Nov. 19 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1999

The adaptation agreement will also open the treaty to accession by other European countries, and it will preserve NATO's ability to fulfill its post-cold-war responsibilities.

In all these ways, the adapted treaty will enhance peace, security, and stability throughout Europe. Therefore, it is in America's national interest to sign it now and to lock in the commitment of other nations to its terms. At the same time, in order to reap these benefits, we

must have confidence that there will be real compliance.

Russia has pledged that it will comply with the flank provisions of the adapted treaty by reducing its forces in the North Caucasus. This must be done as soon as possible. I will only submit this agreement to the Senate for advice and consent to ratification when Russian forces have in fact been reduced to the flank levels set forth in the adapted treaty.

Statement on the Texas A&M University Bonfire Tower Tragedy

November 19, 1999

Today I spoke with Dr. Ray Bowen, president of Texas A&M University, to extend my deepest sympathies on the tragedy that occurred at the campus. This is a heartbreaking loss. America stands with the College Station community as

it joins together during this difficult time. Hillary and I offer our thoughts and prayers to the families and friends of those who were injured or killed in this devastating incident.

Remarks on Arrival in Athens, Greece

November 19, 1999

Hello. Thank you all for coming out to greet us. My family and our American delegation are very glad to begin our visit to Greece. Thank you very much.

I have come here as a philhellene, a friend of Greece. And I look forward to experiencing that wonderful quality of Greek hospitality known to all the world as *filoxenia*.

Through this visit I want the American people to see the changing face of Greece: the powerhouse of southeast Europe with the highest growth rate in the EU, a booming stock market; a nation on a fast track to join the European Monetary Union; an old democracy that is a model for the young democracies of the Balkans; the gateway to their markets; a driving force in the effort to rebuild war-torn nations and to bring them into Europe.

We look to ancient Greece for inspiration, but we look to modern Greece for leadership and partnership. Tomorrow I want to speak with the people of Greece about what we can do together to build a Europe that is undivided, democratic, and at peace for the first time in

history and about how, together, we can overcome the remaining challenges to that vision by stabilizing the Balkans and achieving lasting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey, with resolution of all outstanding issues, including Cyprus.

Our nations have so much in common. We are allies with a shared commitment to peace and security; democracies with a long tradition of impassioned political debate about issues that affect our lives and engage our convictions. Above all, we are two nations proud of our past but focused on the future.

I look forward to that future and to our partnership with confidence and hope. And I look very much forward to our visit with you.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:02 p.m. at Ellinikon International Airport.