

Remarks to the Scientific Community in Lisbon *May 30, 2000*

Good afternoon, Mr. Prime Minister, Professor Quintanilha, Minister Gago, Dr. Vargas, ladies and gentlemen. I have just had a lot of fun touring this science center, but the meaning here of what is being done goes beyond the simple joy of learning. From the outermost reaches of space to the darkest depths of the ocean, from the mysteries of nanotechnology to the miracles of the human genome, men and women are gathering knowledge at a faster pace than ever before that will have the most profound impacts, especially on the way the young people in this audience live.

Knowledge is being more widely applied and more quickly disseminated than ever before, thanks in no small measure to the Internet. And therefore, universal education and universal access to technology are more important than ever before.

Today I applaud the scientific work being done in Portugal and the efforts of Prime Minister Guterres and Minister Gago to train the next generation of scientists, engineers, doctors, and astronauts, as well as to close the digital divide to make sure all the children of this nation have the tools they need to master the information age.

I am particularly impressed how much scientific research is being done in partnership. In my tour of the science center and its exhibits, I saw impressive examples of cutting-edge research across national boundaries, Portuguese scientists in close cooperation with Americans, Europeans, Africans, tackling some of the world's most critical health problems.

In Africa, Asia, and many parts of the world, diseases like AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis are killing not only people but hope for progress. In Africa, where 70 percent of all the world's AIDS cases exist in sub-Saharan Africa, some countries are hiring two employees for every job on the assumption that one of them will die of AIDS.

In other African countries, 30 percent of the teachers and 40 percent of the soldiers have the virus; millions suffer from strains of malaria that are increasingly resistant to any drug; and a third of the world has actually been exposed

to tuberculosis. These diseases can ruin economies and threaten the very survival of societies.

I was gratified to meet with some Portuguese scientists working on state-of-the-art malaria research, together with the U.S. Public Health Service, and to meet some of their students who were learning about it. Other Portuguese and American teams are learning together, studying the bacteria that cause TB, other new drug-resistant disease threats, and a recently discovered pathogen that can strike down those already suffering from AIDS.

I enjoyed meeting with the high school students who were using the Internet to study infectious diseases and share information with other students all across Europe. This kind of research and learning benefits both our nations. It reaches across continents to benefit people who really need it, especially in this case, in Africa.

Our challenge now is also to support prevention programs, to accelerate the creation of affordable drugs and vaccines. We have made a national commitment to do this in the United States. I've asked Congress for over \$325 million to increase our international efforts against AIDS. I've asked for a billion-dollar tax credit and a global purchase fund to speed the development by our pharmaceutical companies of vaccines for AIDS, TB, and malaria. We have committed over \$70 million to fight TB, over \$100 million to fight malaria.

And as the Prime Minister said, today we are announcing a new partnership with Portugal and São Tomé and Príncipe to study that African country's unique malarial epidemic and to develop a strategy to end it.

Tomorrow I am here also to meet with leaders of the European Union, and your Prime Minister is the President in this period. I hope we'll come out of that meeting with a common approach to the global health crisis that will increase scientific research, increase the availability of learning opportunities for our young people, and most importantly, keep more people alive in the 21st century.

We have got to make sure that today's revolution in science and technology serves all humanity, helps us to fight hunger, to mitigate natural

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disasters, to reverse the tide of global warming, to grow our economies without damaging the environment. This is profoundly important and a very great challenge, indeed.

I couldn't help thinking today that intelligence is equally distributed throughout the world, but not all the young people of the world have a chance to come together as the Portuguese young people I met today do, to study TB, to study malaria. Instead, many of them are fighting for their lives because they have it.

We have a solemn responsibility to take the benefits of the information economy, of the explosion in biomedical discoveries, and use them to give every young person in the world the chance to live up to their God-given potential and to create a safer, better, stronger, more

prosperous world for us all. That, in the end, is how these discoveries should be measured, by whether we did our part to spread them quickly to benefit everyone.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:56 p.m. at the Pavilion of Knowledge Science Center. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Antonio Guterres and Minister of Science and Technology Jose Mariano Gago of Portugal; Alexandre Quintanilha, professor, University of Porto, who introduced the President; and Rosalia Vargas, director, Pavilion of Knowledge Science Center. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a State Dinner Hosted by President Jorge Sampaio of Portugal in Lisbon

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Mr. President, Mrs. Sampaio, Mr. Prime Minister, members of the Government, members of the diplomatic corps. I would like to thank you, Mr. President, the Government, and the people of Portugal, for the welcome that I and my party have received. I'd like to thank you for the meeting we had today. It has been a pleasure for me to spend time with another President who likes to read detective novels, listen to good music, and play golf. We could have had a 2-day summit on those three topics alone. [*Laughter*] My staff suggested it so that they could go to the beaches.

Let me say that five centuries ago the vision and courage of Portugal helped Europe to find its way across the Atlantic. You were the first to set foot in South America, to sail down West Africa, to cross the Equator, to round the Cape of Good Hope, to reach India by sea from the west, to trade with China and Japan. It is little wonder then that Portuguese is now spoken by more than 200 million people in countries throughout the world. One of these nations, of course, is the United States.

Two centuries ago Portugal was the very first neutral state to recognize our independence. And as you noted yourself, Mr. President, the United States has been strengthened by the con-

tributions of Portuguese-Americans, from John Philip Sousa, who wrote the music we use to celebrate the Fourth of July, to John Dos Passos, whose voice helped to define America in the 20th century. Today, we are proud to stand with you as partners, allies, and friends.

Twenty-six years ago Portugal turned from dictatorship to democracy. Ten years ago Eastern Europe followed your lead. Today, Eastern Europe is still learning from your example. When finally we build a Europe that is undivided, democratic, and at peace for the first time in history, there will be a great debt owed by all freedom-loving people to Portugal.

Today, this nation that once brought the four corners of the world together is working with its EU allies and America to bring the world together to advance democracy and human rights. Portugal has taken a leading role in NATO and the EU. In Kosovo, nearly half the sorties that led us to victory flew out of Lajes Air Base in the Azores. In East Timor, Portugal's leadership rallied the international community. In Mozambique, our two nations are working together to lead the relief effort. From the Balkans to East Timor to Africa, our troops serve side by side to keep the peace and build a better future.