

Statement on the Release of School Accountability Funds July 6, 2000

I am pleased that the Education Department announced today the release of the first \$100 million from the Title I School Accountability Fund to help States and school districts turn around low-performing schools. Over the last 7 years we have followed a commonsense reform strategy: invest more in our schools and demand more in return. The funds announced today will support local communities in 31 States and the District of Columbia implement strategies that work to turn around their worst performing schools by implementing a tougher curriculum, helping teachers get the skills and training they need, and, if necessary, closing down a failing school and reopening it under new leadership or as a public charter school.

Today I call on Congress again to enact my budget proposal, which would double the ac-

countability fund to \$250 million; fulfill our commitment to hire 100,000 high-quality teachers to reduce class size in the early grades; build and modernize public schools; and ensure after-school help for every child in a failing school. I also urge Congress to pass my education accountability act, which will enhance the efforts of States, districts, and schools to ensure all of America's children can achieve high standards by focusing on results.

NOTE: The statement referred to the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Title I) (Public Law 103-382), which amended the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-10).

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Generalized System of Preferences July 6, 2000

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I hereby transmit a Proclamation in which I have determined that it is appropriate to suspend preferential treatment for Belarus as a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) because Belarus has not taken and is not taking steps to afford workers in Belarus internationally recognized worker rights. The Proclamation also determines that Malta, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Slovenia meet the definition of a "high income" country as defined by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Develop-

ment and that therefore they will be graduated from the GSP, effective January 1, 2002.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. The proclamation of July 6 amending the Generalized System of Preferences is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

July 7 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 2000

Memorandum on FY 2001 Refugee Admissions Consultations *July 6, 2000*

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: FY 2001 Refugee Admissions Consultations

In accordance with section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), you are authorized to consult with the appropriate committees of the Congress concerning refugee admissions as follows:

1. The authorization of 80,000 refugee admissions, 76,000 of which are funded, during FY 2001, which would be allocated by specific region as follows: 20,000 for Africa; 6,000 for East Asia (including Amerasians); 3,000 for Latin America and the Caribbean; 10,000 for the Near East and South Asia; 37,000 for Europe (including 20,000 for the former Yugoslavia and 17,000 for the former Soviet Union); and 4,000 for the unallocated reserve. The recommended level of funded admissions is equal to the

level assumed in the FY 2001 budget request (76,000).

2. The authorization of an additional 10,000 refugee admission numbers to be made available for the adjustment to permanent resident status of persons who have been granted asylum in the United States.
3. The designation, pursuant to section 101(a)(42)(B) of the INA, of persons in Cuba, Vietnam, and the former Soviet Union, who, if they otherwise qualify for admission as refugees, may be considered refugees under the INA even though they are still within their country of nationality or habitual residence.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

cc: The Attorney General
The Secretary of Health and Human Services

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 7.

Remarks Dedicating the President Lincoln and Soldiers' Home National Monument *July 7, 2000*

Well, thank you very much. Hello, everyone, and welcome to what most people call the Old Soldiers' Home, the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, on this historic day.

I want to begin by thanking General Hilbert for his leadership here. And I want to thank Bill Woods for speaking on behalf of all the residents at the home. He said to me, "You know, I stumble a little. I'm not used to doing this." I thought he did a fine job.

He told you one of the things that I wanted to say, which is that the people who live in this home open amazing volumes of mail—1.9 million pieces since he's been at it. A lot of that mail is mail that very young children send to Socks and to Buddy. And you may know that Hillary actually did a book on the best letters that children wrote to the White House asking questions of our pets. And it would have

been impossible to do that book, and it would be impossible to respond to those children with the staff we have at the White House, if it weren't for the veteran volunteers here who do this and so many other things to help the White House work.

I hope one of the things that will come out of this today is that the people who have retired after distinguished careers in military service will finally get some of the credit they deserve for helping the White House to operate every single day of the year. And we thank them all.

I also think we brought Buddy and Socks out here today to play. I hope I get them back before the end of the day.

I would like to say a special word of appreciation to Secretary West for his work with our veterans. And because of what we're doing today, I want to say again how indebted I feel