

July 26 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 2000

Senate Committee on Appropriations; Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, House Committee on International Relations; C.W. Bill Young, chairman, House Committee on Appropriations; and Floyd

Spence, chairman, House Committee on Armed Services. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 26.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Deployment of Military Forces for Stabilization of Areas of the Former Yugoslavia

July 25, 2000

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

In my report to the Congress of January 25, 2000, I provided further information on the deployment of combat-equipped U.S. Armed Forces to Bosnia and Herzegovina and other states in the region in order to participate in and support the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-led Stabilization Force (SFOR), which began its mission and assumed authority from the NATO-led Implementation Force on December 20, 1996. I am providing this supplemental report, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, to help ensure that the Congress is kept fully informed on continued U.S. contributions in support of peacekeeping efforts in the former Yugoslavia.

In Resolution 1305 of June 21, 2000, the U.N. Security Council authorized member states to continue SFOR for a period of 12 months. The mission of SFOR is to provide a continued military presence in order to deter hostilities, stabilize and consolidate the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, contribute to a secure environment and provide, within its means and capabilities, selective support to key areas and key civil implementation organizations.

The U.S. force contribution to SFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been reduced from approximately 6,200 to 4,600 personnel since my last report. United States personnel comprise 19 percent of the total SFOR force. In the first half of 2000, 18 NATO nations and 16 others, including Russia and Ukraine, have provided military personnel or other support to SFOR.

Most U.S. forces are assigned to Multinational Division, North, centered around the city of Tuzla. In addition, U.S. military personnel are deployed to other countries in the region in support of those efforts. Specifically, approximately 1,000 U.S. military personnel are presently deployed to Hungary, Croatia, and Italy in order to provide logistical and other support to SFOR. The U.S. forces continue to support SFOR efforts to apprehend persons indicted for war crimes. In the last 6 months, U.S. forces have sustained no combat-related fatalities.

I have directed the participation of U.S. Armed Forces in these operations pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive, and in accordance with various statutory authorities.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed about developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and other states in the region. I will continue to consult closely with the Congress regarding our efforts to foster peace and stability in the former Yugoslavia.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Strom Thurmond, President pro tempore of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 26.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting the Report on Peacekeeping Operations July 25, 2000

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to transmit herewith the 1999 Annual Report to the Congress on Peacekeeping required by section 4 of the United Nations Participation Act (Public Law 79-264), as amended.

United Nations and other peacekeeping operations helped us protect our interests before they were directly threatened, and ensured that other nations shared with us the risks and costs of maintaining international stability.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that peacekeeping remains a viable option for dealing with international conflicts.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; John W. Warner, chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Ted Stevens, chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, House Committee on International Relations; C.W. Bill Young, chairman, House Committee on Appropriations; and Floyd Spence, chairman, House Committee on Armed Services. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 26.

Remarks on the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act July 26, 2000

Thank you very much. And thank you, Justin, for all you said, all you've done; how you've been a conscience to me and to Hillary and to the Vice President and our entire administration and to the country.

I want to thank all the Members of Congress who are here, especially, obviously, Senator Harkin and Senator Hatch. But thank you, Senator Kennedy, Senator Specter, Senator Jeffords. Senator Metzenbaum, it's good to see you back. I'd like to thank Representative Morella and former Representative Bartlett. And Secretary Mineta, former Representative Mineta, thank you for what you did on this; and recognize that Tony Coelho—I'm not sure that he's here—but for all he did, along with—and I thank all the members of the administration who are here: Secretary Herman, Secretary Goyer, and Commissioner Apfel, Director Lachance, the EEO Chairwoman, Ida Castro, and many others over there.

But I'd like to especially thank the people that Justin Dart recognized, the Americans with disabilities who have made our administration the most diverse in America, and I think the best, because of their contributions in terms of

reflecting America's values. Thank you, Paul Miller, Bob Williams, Marca Bristo, Judy Heumann. Thank you, Becky Ogle, and all the others who are here for what you did for our administration.

I finally think I've carried this too far. There is an article in the Washington Post this morning on Becky Ogle. If you haven't seen it, you ought to. I've been here 8 years, and I have never gotten that good of press in the Washington Post. *[Laughter]* It was amazing, so we're really making progress.

I'd also like to thank young Beth Gray from my home State of Arkansas for singing the national anthem. Didn't she do a wonderful job? *[Applause]* I thought she was really terrific—and all the other young people that are here.

One of the things that Tom Harkin didn't tell you about his brother, Frank, is that when we celebrated the first anniversary of the ADA, that I had a chance to celebrate as President in 1993, we made the first—Tom and I did—made the first and ever phone call from the White House to the nationwide relay service which allows people who are deaf to use the phone. We called Frank at home in Cumming,