

spokesperson Ed McMahon; National Rifle Association executive vice president Wayne LaPierre; and Republican Vice Presidential candidate Dick Cheney.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Mexico-United States Treaty on the Western Gulf of Mexico Continental Shelf

July 27, 2000

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States on the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf in the Western Gulf of Mexico beyond 200 nautical miles. The Treaty was signed at Washington on June 9, 2000. The report of the Department of State is also enclosed for the information of the Senate.

The purpose of the Treaty is to establish a continental shelf boundary in the western Gulf of Mexico beyond the outer limits of the two countries' exclusive economic zones where those limits do not overlap. The approximately 135-nautical-mile continental shelf boundary runs in a general east-west direction. The boundary defines the limit within which the United States and Mexico may exercise continental shelf jurisdiction, particularly oil and gas exploration and exploitation.

The Treaty also establishes procedures for addressing the possibility of oil and gas reservoirs that extend across the continental shelf boundary.

I believe this Treaty to be fully in the interest of the United States. Ratification of the Treaty will facilitate the United States proceeding with leasing an area of continental shelf with oil and gas potential that has interested the U.S. oil and gas industry for several years.

The Treaty also reflects the tradition of cooperation and close ties with Mexico. The location of the boundary has not been in dispute.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
July 27, 2000.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 28.

Remarks on the National Economy and an Exchange With Reporters in Providence, Rhode Island

July 28, 2000

The President. Let me say, first of all, I'm delighted to be back in Rhode Island with Senator Reed and Congressman Kennedy—and Senator Kennedy here showing good family support.

I have some good news to report. Today we learned that our economy grew at a vigorous 5.2 percent during the last quarter. This is a credit to the hard work of the American people and further confirmation that we are on the right economic path, with stronger and steadier growth than at any time since the 1960's, with

22 million new jobs, and the lowest unemployment rate in over 30 years. Growth over the past 7½ years has now averaged 4 percent. That's the best growth rate America has had since the Kennedy-Johnson years. Unemployment here in Rhode Island has been cut in half since 1993 to 4 percent. The growth in the last quarter has been driven by extraordinary levels of private sector investment and increased productivity on the part of the American people. This has been the trend now for 7 years, thanks to the strategy of fiscal