

by all Canadians. Hillary joins me in offering the condolences of the American people to his two sons and to the people of Canada.

## Statement on Deferring Deportation of Liberian Refugees *September 28, 2000*

Today I directed the Attorney General and the Immigration and Naturalization Service to defer for one year from September 29 the deportation of certain Liberians who are present in the United States on that date. This action is aimed at promoting stability in Liberia and West Africa. In particular, I am concerned that a decision by our Government to deport Liberians who have enjoyed the protection of our

country for many years could cause the involuntary repatriation of many thousands of Liberian refugees from other nations in West Africa. This would severely burden Liberia and cause instability in Liberia and in the region. I understand that Congress is actively considering a legislative fix for this problem, and I would welcome any solution that would provide relief for Liberians with longstanding ties to the United States.

## Memorandum on Measures Regarding Certain Liberians in the United States *September 28, 2000*

*Memorandum for the Attorney General*

*Subject:* Measures Regarding Certain Liberians in the United States

Over the past 10 years, many Liberians were forced to flee their country due to civil war and widespread violence. From 1991 through 1999, we provided Liberians in the United States with Temporary Protected Status because of these difficulties. Although the civil war in Liberia ended in 1996 and conditions improved such that a further extension of Temporary Protected Status was no longer warranted, the political and economic situation continued to be fragile. On September 27, 1999, based on compelling foreign policy reasons, I directed you to defer enforced departure of certain Liberians in the United States for 1 year from September 29, 1999.

There continue to be compelling foreign policy reasons not to deport these Liberians at this time. In particular, there is a significant risk that such a decision would cause the involuntary repatriation of many thousands of Liberian refugees in West Africa, causing instability in Liberia and the region.

Pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct the foreign relations of the United States, I have determined that it is in the foreign policy interest of the United States to defer for 1 year the deportation of any Liberian national who is present in the United States as of September 29, 2000, except for the categories of individuals listed below.

Accordingly, I now direct you to take the necessary steps to implement for these Liberians:

1. deferral of enforced departure from the United States for 1 year from September 29, 2000; and
2. authorization for employment for 1 year from September 29, 2000.

This directive shall not apply to any Liberian national: (1) who is ineligible for Temporary Protected Status for the reasons provided in section 244(c)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act; (2) whose removal you determine is in the interest of the United States; (3) whose presence or activities in the United States the Secretary of State has reasonable grounds to believe would have potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States;

(4) who voluntarily returned or returns to Liberia or his or her country of last habitual residence outside the United States; (5) who was deported, excluded, or removed prior to the

date of this memorandum; or (6) who is subject to extradition.

These measures shall be taken as of the date of this memorandum.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

## Remarks at a Reception for Representative Richard E. Neal September 28, 2000

Thank you. First of all, after what Richard Neal said, if I had any sense, I would just shut up and sit down. *[Laughter]* I'm delighted to be here with you and Maureen and the whole clan of your family. And thank you, Senator Kennedy, for what you said.

I want you to know one thing about Ted Kennedy. He's a good friend of mine. I think, in a lot of ways that I could never even describe, he's been there for me and for Hillary, and he's just been wonderful. And I've just got 4 months to be President, right? Every single time, for 8 long years, I have seen him, he says hello; he is polite; he says hello—*[laughter]*—then, within 30 seconds I get a card like this. *[Laughter]* And this card tells me what I haven't done as President that I should have done and that, if I would just do these things, the whole world would be a much better place. *[Laughter]*

I have all these cards. *[Laughter]* I must have done 90 things in the last 8 years on Ted Kennedy's wish list, and I'm still getting it. *[Laughter]* That ought to tell you something. He's been there a long time, but he's not tired of the job. He is still doing a great job, and I'm very proud of him. And you should be proud of him.

I'd like to thank Father Leahy, the president of Boston College, for being here. You know, I'm going to be unemployed after January, and I'm looking for somebody to ask me to come give a talk every now and then. *[Laughter]* They say I'll get lost on the way for 3 or 4 months because nobody will play a song when I walk in a room anymore. *[Laughter]* But I'm interested in it.

I'm glad that our FAA Administrator, Jane Garvey, has come here in support of you, Congressman Neal. And your colleague, Lloyd Doggett, from Texas, is either here or was here.

He and his wife, Libby, they represent Austin, Texas, and that's a long way from Springfield, Massachusetts, but it's a great place.

And I want to thank Peter King for coming. I always wonder whether every time I appear with Peter King, how long he can use Ireland as an excuse to keep from being thrown out of the Republican caucus. *[Laughter]* But I want to tell you, I love this guy and his family and his mother. And these two men have been anchors for America's role in the Irish peace process and the support I've gotten in the House of Representatives. And of course, so has Senator Kennedy, Senator Dodd, and others in the Senate.

But it was, to put it mildly, a sea change in American foreign policy when I took the position I did and we got involved in the Irish peace process, and I was mildly unpopular in Great Britain for a day or two. And there are all kinds of crazy theories about it. And finally, I told the British Prime Minister, whom I actually like very much, "Mr. Major," who was Mr. Blair's predecessor, I said, "you know, this is going to be good for you because you just can't have this thing going on forever, and there are 44 million Irish-Americans, Catholic and Protestant. It's the big diaspora. And we can help Ireland if they can make peace. And you should be glad we did this. In the end, it will be good."

I think now most people in Great Britain would tell you that it was a good thing the United States got involved and tried to bring about some, first, movement and then reconciliation. We're not entirely there yet. They're having a few minor arguments about the details of the Patton report. But for those of you who care about it, you should be very grateful to the people on this stage, including your representative in Congress, Richard Neal. They