

Statement on the Tokyo, Japan, Group of Eight Meeting *July 20, 2000*

At today's unprecedented meeting in Tokyo, G-8 leaders met with leaders from developing nations and representatives from the private sector and international development institutions. While I regret that I was unable to participate, I look forward to hearing from Secretary Summers and my G-8 colleagues about the discussion and working to ensure that everyone benefits from the global economy.

Building on last year's Cologne debt initiative, the Okinawa summit will create a framework

to fight infectious disease, increase access to basic education, and expand opportunity through information technology. Despite a stronger global economy, too many people around the world live every day without essential health care, basic literacy, or the opportunity to share in the benefits of modern technology. I am committed to continuing to work closely with America's partners in the G-8 and the developing world to address these issues, reduce poverty, fight infectious disease, and increase opportunity for all.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Budget Request for the District of Columbia *July 20, 2000*

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 202(c) of the District of Columbia Financial Management and Responsibility Assistance Act of 1995 and section 446 of the District of Columbia Self-Governmental Reorganization Act as amended in 1989, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's Fiscal Year 2001 Budget Request Act.

The proposed FY 2001 Budget reflects the major programmatic objectives of the Mayor, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority. For FY

2001, the District estimates revenue of \$5.718 billion and total expenditures of \$5.714 billion, resulting in a budget surplus of \$4.128 million.

My transmittal of the District of Columbia's budget, as required by law, does not represent an endorsement of its contents.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
July 20, 2000.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks at the National Peace Memorial Park in Okinawa, Japan *July 21, 2000*

First, let me thank the Governor and the other distinguished officials from Okinawa; the family members of those whose names are on this memorial; the distinguished veterans; ladies and gentlemen. I think I should begin by saying that in as much as we are here to talk about the future as well as the past, I think we should give another round of applause to Machika. [*Applause*] She did a fine job and was a great credit to the students of this island.

I am very honored to be the first American President to visit Okinawa in 40 years. This week our partners from the G-8 will come here to speak many words about the future. I wanted to come first to this place that speaks so powerfully in silence about the past, to remember those who lost their lives here, to honor what must have been their last wish, that no future generation ever be forced to share their experience or repeat their sacrifice.

The battle of Okinawa itself lasted more than 80 days. More than 100,000 Japanese soldiers died—or almost 100,000. More than 10,000 American soldiers. But the heaviest tragedy by far fell on the people of Okinawa themselves: One-third of the civilian population lost; 90 percent of those who survived left homeless. Every life lost was a life like yours and mine, a life with family and friends, with love and hopes and dreams, a life that in a better world would have run its full course. I thank, especially, the family members of the Okinawans who died for meeting me here at the memorial today.

The battle of Okinawa was warfare at its most tragic. But this monument built in its memory is humanity at its most inspired; for here, no grief goes unrecognized. And while most monuments remember only those who have fallen from one side, this memorial recognizes those from all sides and those who took no side. Therefore, it is more than a war memorial. It is a monument to the tragedy of all war, reminding us of our common responsibility to prevent such destruction from ever happening again.

Over the past 50 years, our two nations have come together in this spirit to meet that responsibility. The strength of our alliance is one of the great stories of the 20th century. Asia is largely at peace today because our alliance has given people throughout the region confidence that peace will be defended and preserved. That is what alliances are for, and that is why ours must endure.

Of course, Okinawa has played an especially vital role in the endurance of our alliance. I know the people of Okinawa did not ask to play this role, hosting more than 50 percent of America's forces in Japan on less than one percent of Japan's land mass. I heard what the Governor said, and we had the opportunity to discuss this as we walked through the memorial. I have tried hard to understand the concerns of the people here. Five years ago we began a process of consolidating our bases here. Together, we agreed on 27 specific steps, over half of which are already completed.

Today, Governor, I want to reaffirm to you and the people of Okinawa, we will keep all our commitments, and we will continue to do what we can to reduce our footprint on this island. We take seriously our responsibility to be good neighbors, and it is unacceptable to the United States when we do not meet that responsibility.

In the meantime, there is more that we can do together to bring the benefits of peace and prosperity to this part of Japan. I want the world to see Okinawa not just as a battle in the past but as *bankoku shinryo*, a bridge between nations; appropriately, the very name of the conference center in which we are meeting this week.

Five centuries ago, during the golden age of the Sho dynasty, this land served as a crossroads for all trade that flowed through Asia. In the information age of the 21st century, Okinawa again can be a crossroads and a gateway between Japan and the rest of the world. In the past year, three American Fortune 500 companies have followed more than 20 Japanese information technology companies in opening operations here.

So here I say, because we have our friends from the media here, to people in the United States, in Europe, and all over the world, who will see this magnificent place on television tonight: Okinawa is a good place; come here and help the people build the future.

I am especially pleased to be here in the same year that Ryukyu University celebrates its 50th anniversary, proud that the United States played a leading role in its creation, equally proud that so many young Okinawans studied in the United States through the Garioa and Fulbright programs. In that great tradition, it is my honor to announce today that the United States and Japan will create a new scholarship program to send young Okinawan graduate students to the prestigious East-West Center in Hawaii. And we dedicate this program to the memory of my good friend, your late Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi. May it add to the friendship and understanding between our nations that he worked so hard to advance.

This week Prime Minister Mori is bringing the partners of the G-8 to Okinawa to find ways to close the gap between the wealthiest and poorest nations of the world and, within nations, between the wealthiest and poorest areas. The message of hope and reconciliation embodied in this beautiful memorial and the remarkable friendship forged by the United States and Japan give us hope that we can build bridges over all the troubled waters of the new century that still keep too many people from the joys and possibilities that should be everyone's birthright.

In 1879 Sho Tai, the last King of the Ryukyus, left Shuri Castle for the last time. One of his final acts as king was to read a poem that summed up his hope for the future. Today, his words speak to us across the generations: *Ikusa-yun sumachi. Miruku-un yagate*. "The time for wars is ending. The time for peace is not far away. Do not despair. Life itself is a treasure." May Sho Tai's words guide our friendship and our work in the months and years to come.

Governor, I thank you for your remarks and your leadership here. In the end, the words

of Sho Tai, if we can make them real in our time, is the very highest tribute we can pay to all those people whose names are on this magnificent memorial.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. at the Cornerstone of Peace in the park. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Keiichi Inamine of Okinawa; Machika Kawamitsu, student, who introduced the President; and Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori of Japan.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Vladimir Putin of Russia in Okinawa

July 21, 2000

Middle East Peace Summit

Q. Mr. President, are you more optimistic today about the prospects for a Middle East peace settlement?

The President. All I can tell you is that they're still talking, and consistent with our rules, I'm still not talking. [*Laughter*] But I'm hopeful.

National Missile Defense System

Q. Mr. President, are the two of you going to be talking about missile defense here today?

The President. I'm sure we will. We talked about it last month in Moscow, and I'm sure we'll talk about it.

NOTE: The exchange began at 6:20 p.m. at the Busena Terrace Hotel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Russia-United States Joint Statement on Cooperation on Strategic Stability

July 21, 2000

The United States and Russia underscore that continued strengthening of global stability and international security is one of the most important tasks today. The Joint Statement on Principles of Strategic Stability, adopted in Moscow on June 4, 2000, establishes a constructive basis for progress in further reducing nuclear weapons arsenals, preserving and strengthening the ABM Treaty and confronting new challenges to international security.

The United States and Russia have begun intensified discussions on the earliest entry into force of the START II Treaty, on further reductions in strategic forces within the framework of a future START III Treaty and on ABM issues.

The United States and Russia are dedicated to the search for new ways of cooperation to control the spread of missiles and missile technology. They will work together on a new mechanism to supplement the Missile Technology Control Regime. This mechanism would integrate the Russian proposal for a Global Monitoring System, the U.S. proposal for a missile code of conduct, as well as the mechanisms of the Missile Technology Control Regime, which the United States and Russia will continue to strengthen. They are prepared to expand their discussions of issues related to the threat of proliferation of missiles and missile technology.