

Statement on the Observance of World Food Day *October 16, 2000*

Today, as we observe World Food Day and resolve to continue our work to combat hunger worldwide, I urge Congress to enact my budget proposal to help those here at home by ensuring that legal immigrants have access to critical nutrition and health assistance. Vice President Gore and I believe that legal immigrants should have the same economic opportunity and bear the same responsibility as other members of society. Upon signing the welfare reform law, I made a commitment to reverse unnecessary cuts in benefits to legal immigrants that had nothing to do with the law's goal of moving people from welfare to work.

In 1997 and 1998, I joined Congress in taking steps to restore eligibility for many vulnerable immigrants. Now it is time to restore benefits to other legal immigrants who are working hard and playing by the rules but are in need of assistance. This action would be an important step toward making sure this country does its part to reduce hunger. Congress must also act now to restore State options to extend Medicaid and SCHIP coverage to vulnerable legal immigrant women and children. I look forward to working with Members of Congress in these final days of the budget negotiations to increase access to nutrition assistance and health benefits for legal immigrants.

Joint Remarks With President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt at the Conclusion of the Middle East Summit in Sharm al-Sheikh *October 17, 2000*

President Mubarak. In the name of God Almighty; to His Excellency, Bill Clinton; His Highness, King Abdullah, son of Hussein; His Excellency, Prime Minister Barak; Mr. Chairman Arafat; U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan; Mr. Javier Solana, High Representative of the European Union: We spent the past 2 days since we started our summit in constructive discussions and extensive dialog about all the aspects of the escalating situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, discussions aimed at restoring the situation back to normal, through withdrawing the occupying forces, lifting the blockade, putting an end to violent acts, taking measures aiming at restoring trust and confidence to the two Palestinian and Israeli sides, with a view to resuming the peace efforts after the situation is stabilized in the region.

Before I give the floor to His Excellency, President Bill Clinton, the President of the United States of America, in his capacity as the key sponsor of the peace process, to present his report on the outcome of our relentless efforts over the 2 days, I would like to stress a number of key points that we should take into account in the stage to come.

First, the outcome we have reached in this summit may not meet the expectations of all peoples. However, they constitute at the same time a basis on which we can build on if we have good intentions and if the real desire to achieve peace is there.

Secondly, the most important thing in the vision of all peoples in the days to come is the extent to which the two parties are committed to implement what has been agreed upon precisely and how far they are willing to push the peace process forward. Hence, the following days will witness redeployment of the Israeli forces, lift the blockade imposed on 3 million Palestinian people, reopening airports, ports, crossing points in order to pacify the Palestinian streets and bring matters back to normal.

Number three, our ultimate objective must and will be reaching a just and comprehensive peace. We do appreciate the leading role assumed by the United States of America, the key sponsor of the peace process, and the sponsorship of Mr. Bill Clinton. And we highly commend the role he assumed including his strenuous efforts he exerted during this summit, which were crowned in reaching an agreement.