

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel *January 3, 2001*

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, with a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, subject to an understanding and a reservation, the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel adopted by the United Nations General Assembly by consensus on December 9, 1994, and signed on behalf of the United States of America on December 19, 1994. The report of the Department of State with respect to the Convention is also transmitted for the information of the Senate.

Military peacekeepers, civilian police, and others associated with United Nations operations are often subject to attack by persons who perceive political benefits from directing violence against United Nations operations. The world has witnessed a serious escalation of such attacks, resulting in numerous deaths and casualties. This Convention is designed to provide a measure of deterrence against these attacks, by creating a regime of universal criminal jurisdiction for offenses of this type. Specifically, the Convention creates a legal mechanism that requires submission for prosecution or extradition of persons alleged to have committed attacks and other offenses listed under the Convention against United Nations and associated personnel.

This Convention provides a direct benefit to United States Armed Forces and to U.S. civilians participating in peacekeeping activities by including within its coverage a number of types of operations pursuant to United Nations mandates in which the United States and U.S. military and civilians have participated in the past. If the United States were to participate in operations under similar conditions in the future, its forces and civilians would receive the benefits created by this instrument. The Convention cov-

ers not only forces under U.N. command, but associated forces under national command or multinational forces present pursuant to a United Nations mandate. In situations such as we have seen in Somalia, the former Yugoslavia, and Haiti, certain attacks on these associated forces would now be recognized as criminal acts, subjecting the attackers to prosecution in or extradition by any State that is a party to the Convention. As a result, the international community has taken a significant practical step to redress these incidents. In doing so, we recognize the fact that attacks on peacekeepers who represent the international community are violations of law and cannot be condoned.

By creating obligations and procedures that increase the likelihood of prosecution of those who attack peacekeeping personnel, this Convention fulfills an important objective under my Directive for Reforming Multilateral Peace Operations of May 1994, which directs that the United States seek additional legal protections for United States peacekeeping personnel.

The recommended legislation, necessary to implement the Convention, will be submitted to the Congress separately.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Convention subject to the understanding and reservation that are described in the accompanying report of the Department of State, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
January 3, 2001.

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

Remarks at a Swearing-In Reception for Senator Hillary Clinton *January 3, 2001*

Thank you. First of all, Senator Schumer has got to go to New York, and one of the things

that I did not completely solve as President was the minor congestion we sometimes have at our

airports. [Laughter] So let's give Senator Schumer a big hand, because he's got to go. [Applause] Thank you.

Well, I want to thank Walter and Thelma and Cathy. Thank you, all of you who worked on this wonderful party for Hillary tonight. I want to thank the people of New York for being so good to my wife and to me and Al Gore for 8 years.

This is a special day for Hillary's mother and her brothers and my family, but especially for Chelsea and me. We were in the Senate gallery today at noon, Chelsea and I were, holding hands, trying to keep from laughing out loud and embarrassing Senator Clinton. [Laughter] I resisted all temptation. I didn't take one of those little Kodak cameras in there. [Laughter] I did everything I could to avoid spoiling what was, for me, one of the truly wonderful moments in my life and our family's life. So, for all of you who helped Hillary over this last almost year and a half, I want you to know I am profoundly grateful to you.

You also have taken a huge load off my mind. [Laughter] Because, you know, for 30 years, I've been guilt-ridden that I, when Hillary came to Arkansas and married me, that I kept her out of a career in politics that she should have had. So I don't have to feel bad about it anymore. [Laughter] And I really thank all of you for doing that. I say it laughingly, but I'm dead serious about it. I have always felt that Hillary had the best combination of mind and heart and passion and strength about the issues that we have always cared about than anyone I ever knew.

And I also believe that the American people understand now that there really is a connection between the ideas you have and the level of

commitment you have to implementing them, and what happens out there in the country. And if you have any doubt, you're about to find out. [Laughter] Because—[applause]—wait a minute—I say that in all seriousness. There were, in this election, which was so closely fought out in so many places, there are real differences between the way we view the world. And they are honest and heartfelt. But at least our ideas have been tested for 8 years, and most of them have worked pretty well.

Quite apart from the enormous personal pride I have in Hillary and the enormous gratitude I feel and the incredible—just sheer happiness that we all felt today, I am gratified to know that when my term of service as President ends, there will be one more magnificent voice sticking up for the folks that are too often forgotten and the causes that have too often been left behind.

I'll leave you with this thought. Public service, like a political campaign, is a team sport. It's not like tennis; it's not something you play by yourself. It's a team sport. And even if you get to be quarterback, no matter how good you are, you'll lose if you don't have a good team. I have been blessed to have supporters like you, people like you, all over this country. Don't ever forget it's a team sport. You stick with Hillary, and you guys will do great things for America.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:43 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Mayflower Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to reception hosts Walter and Thelma Kaye and their daughter, Cathy. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Senator Clinton.

Remarks at a Memorial Service for Jack McAuliffe in Syracuse, New York January 4, 2001

Millie; John, Joe, Tom, Terry; all the family and the grandchildren; reverend clergy. I want to thank the people who came with us today: our leader, Dick Gephardt, and his wife, Jane, and Senator Dodd and Congressman Coelho.

Hillary and I are here because we really liked Jack McAuliffe. And I know most people will

say, "Well, the President came because Terry did so much for him." Truth is, I came for Joe. I thought we ought to have an Irish-Protestant support group here in this church. [Laughter]

One wonderful nun reached over to me during communion and said, "Thank you so much