

its agencies or instrumentalities, officers, employees, or any other person, or to require any procedures to determine whether a person is a refugee.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum, which was not received for publication in the *Federal Register*.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Funding for Trade and Development Agency Activities With Respect to China *January 13, 2001*

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I hereby transmit a report including my reasons for determining, pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 902 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (Public Law 101-246), that it is in the national interest of the United States to terminate the suspension on the obligation of funds for any new activities of the Trade and

Development Agency with respect to the People's Republic of China.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 16.

Remarks on Presenting the Medal of Honor *January 16, 2001*

The President. Good morning, and please be seated. I would like to first thank Chaplain General Hicks for his invocation and welcome the distinguished delegation from the Pentagon who are here—Secretary Cohen, General Shelton, Deputy Secretary de Leon. I thank the Members of Congress who are here: Senator Dorgan, Senator Durbin, Representatives Buyer, King, Skelton, Weller, and Whitfield; former Representatives Lazio and McHale; members of the Smith and Roosevelt families.

In 1782 George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit. It was the first medal awarded by our Nation's Armed Forces. But soon it fell into oblivion, and for decades no new medals were established. It was thought that a medal was too much like a European aristocratic title, while to fight for one's country in America was simply doing your democratic duty.

So when the Medal of Honor was instituted during the Civil War, it was agreed it would be given only for gallantry, at the risk of one's life above and beyond the call of duty. That's an extraordinarily high standard, one that precious few ever meet. The Medal of Honor is our highest military decoration, and we are here today to honor two American heroes who met that mark.

The first is Andrew Jackson Smith, United States Army. Then Corporal Smith served as a part of the 55th Massachusetts Voluntary Infantry, a black regiment that fought in the Civil War. In late 1864, they were part of a Union effort to cut off the Savannah-Charleston railroad link and keep Confederate forces from interfering with Sherman's march to the sea.

On November 30th, the 55th was one of several units that tried to take a 25-foot rise called Honey Hill, close to Boyd's Landing in South