

the other American troops didn't retreat although they could have. Some 90 of them formed a perimeter around the helicopter, and they held that ground under intensely heavy fire. They stayed with their comrades. That's the kind of soldiers they are. That's the kind of people we are.

So let us finish the work we set out to do. Let us demonstrate to the world, as generations of Americans have done before us, that when Americans take on a challenge, they do the job right.

Let me express my thanks and my gratitude and my profound sympathy to the families of the young Americans who were killed in Somalia. My message to you is, your country is grateful, and so is the rest of the world, and so are the vast majority of the Somali people. Our mission from this day forward is to increase our strength, do our job, bring our soldiers out, and bring them home.

Thank you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:02 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks at a White House Dinner Honoring Arts and Humanities Award Recipients

October 7, 1993

Ladies and gentlemen, let me welcome you all to the White House and thank you for coming and for each of your contributions to the rich cultural life of our great Nation. I want to say a special word of appreciation again to the honorees from this afternoon. I had a wonderful time with all of you this afternoon. So many of you have forgiven my ad-lib jokes, I might ask you back again next week. *[Laughter]* I may have you tell my daughter I'm funny after all.

I want you to know, that to all of you who have been honored and to all of the distinguished artists who are here as our guests tonight who didn't join us this afternoon, we are all very much in your debt. You have, each in your own way, enriched our lives and helped us to learn more and feel more deeply and to become more of the people God meant for us to be. We applaud your work. We honor your contributions, and I ask you now that all of us together raise our glasses

in toast to the artists, the writers, the humanitarians who have made America the place it is today.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 8:30 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House.

Message to the Congress on Naval Petroleum Reserves

October 7, 1993

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 201(3) of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (10 U.S.C. 7422(c)(2)), I am informing you of my decision to extend the period of maximum efficient rate production of the naval petroleum reserves for 3 years from April 5, 1994, the expiration date of the currently authorized production period.

The report investigating the necessity of continued production of the reserves as required by section 201(3)(c)(2)(B) of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 is attached. Based on the report's findings, I hereby certify that continued production from the naval petroleum reserves is in the national interest.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 7, 1993.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Meeting With Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara

October 7, 1993

The President met with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara this afternoon. They had a constructive discussion about recent developments in the Middle East peace process and next steps in that process.

President Clinton expressed his commitment to achieving a comprehensive peace between Israel and all its Arab neighbors. He

reiterated his belief that the recent agreement between Israel and the Palestinians could serve as a catalyst for process on the other tracks.

The Syrian Foreign Minister expressed President Assad's commitment to the peace progress and Syria's desire to make progress toward a comprehensive settlement with Israel.

The meeting lasted about 20 minutes.

Proclamation 6606—Country Music Month, 1993

October 7, 1993

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Country music is one of America's unique musical forms. Our immigrant ancestors from Great Britain and Ireland brought their tunes and melodies with them, and those songs were reshaped by life and landscape in our new Nation. In Appalachia, the Piedmonts, the Ozarks, the Mississippi Delta, and the Pine Barrens, those songs and ballads were forged from the spirit of working men and women, farmers and field laborers, miners and railroad workers, and pioneers crossing the Great Plains.

They blended with songs of African Americans, Mexican Americans, and Cajuns. Out of this wellspring came Western swing, honky-tonk, blues, gospel, and shape note music, creating a family of many musical cousins. Country music is not one voice, but many, irresistible to the ear and to any heart that likes to sing. The instruments that accompany the songs are also from our ancestors of many lands—the dulcimer from Germany, the fiddle from all of Europe, the banjo from Africa.

Country music is about the American story. It fuses the traditions of many cultures and celebrates what makes us Americans. Country lyrics tell tales of life and love, joy and heartbreak, toil and celebration. From early folk singers like Woody Guthrie to such legends as Roy Acuff, Hank Williams, and Patsy Cline to today's bright stars—the singers all let loose the soulful music inside their

hearts. In its rhythms and words, we can hear the lonesome sound, as well as the festive spirit, of our beloved land.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 102, has designated the month of October as "Country Music Month." I urge all Americans to join me in recognizing the role that country music has played in shaping our cultural heritage.

Country Music Month is a time to recognize the contributions of singers, songwriters, musicians, and all in the industry who work to bring us the very best of country music and dance. Throughout the month of October, let us celebrate country music in our homes and towns across the United States.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 1993 as Country Music Month.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:54 p.m., October 8, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 8, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 13.

Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Breakfast

October 8, 1993

Thank you. Thank you very much for that wonderful welcome. This is the first time we've all been together since the day after the Inauguration at the White House. What a happy day that was. But this is a happy day, too. And in some ways a more meaningful one because, thanks to you and with your help, we have begun to fulfill the promise of the long campaign of 1992 and the commitment of our party to change America for the better.