

training, without a new commitment to the security of our families and our children, I think we're going to be in good shape.

And lastly, let me say I very, very much hope that this will be a bipartisan effort, that Democrats and Republicans will be working together and that we will resolve in the new year not to further a partisan interest but to further the interest of the people who sent us all here.

Thank you very much.

Health Care Reform

Q. Mr. President, how much are you willing to compromise in view of—on this plan itself, in view of the strong opposition in many quarters and, of course, on the Hill?

The President. Well, I think, first of all, we are going to see a fleshing out of all the alternatives, something that hasn't happened yet. The burden has been borne almost entirely by our plan, which is something I was willing to do. But now we need to look at the cost of the status quo and the cost and the consequences of the other plans and do what is best.

I have said all along what my bottom line is: That we have to have comprehensive benefits that can never be taken away. That we cannot go on being the only country in the world with an advanced economy that cannot figure out how to guarantee health care security to all our people. Now, that leaves a whole lot of room for working out the details. We should emphasize preventive and primary care; we ought to emphasize efficiencies; we ought to reduce the bureaucracy; and we ought to do it in a way that will lower the rate in which these costs have been going up. But the main thing we have to do is to finally solve the riddle of providing health care security to all Americans.

Whitewater Development Corp.

Q. Mr. President, do you support the idea of naming a special prosecutor to investigate the Whitewater affair?

The President. I have nothing to say about that. I've said we'd turn the records over. There is nothing else for me to say about that.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Loan Guarantees to Israel

January 3, 1994

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

Enclosed is an unclassified report on the Loan Guarantees to Israel Program as required by section 226(k) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (Public Law 87-195).

I hope this report will be useful to you.
Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

Remarks to Central Intelligence Agency Employees in Langley, Virginia

January 4, 1994

Thank you very much, Mr. Woolsey. Tony Lake and I are glad to be here—and always seemed to me I ought to visit the CIA on a snowy day. [Laughter] Thank you for that warm welcome.

I wanted to come here today for two reasons: First, to meet you and to thank you, those of you who work for the Central Intelligence Agency who devote your lives and your skills to the service of our country; the second thing I wanted to do is to commemorate those who have given their lives in the service of the country through the Central Intelligence Agency.

Intelligence is a unique mission. Nobody knows that better than those of us who have the honor to serve in the Oval Office. When President Truman autographed the photo of himself that hangs in this building, he wrote, "To the CIA, a necessity to the President of the United States from one who knows."

Every morning the President begins the day asking, "What happened overnight? What do we know? How do we know it?" Like my predecessors, I have to look to the intelligence community for the answers to those questions. I look to you to warn me and, through me, our Nation of the threats, to spotlight the important trends in the

world, to describe dynamics that could affect our interests around the world.

Those activities are particularly important now. The end of the cold war increases our security in many ways. You helped to win that cold war, and it is fitting that a piece of the Berlin Wall stands here on these grounds. But even now, this new world remains dangerous and, in many ways, more complex and more difficult to fathom. We need to understand more than we do about the challenges of ethnic conflict, militant nationalism, terrorism, and the proliferation of all kinds of weapons. Accurate, reliable intelligence is the key to understanding each of these challenges. And without it, it is difficult to make good decisions in a crisis or in the long-term.

I know that working in the intelligence community places special demands on each and every one of you. It means you can't talk freely about much of your work with your family and your friends. For some, it means spending a lot of time far away from home. For others, it's meant serving in situations of significant personal danger. While much of your work is sensitive and cannot be discussed publicly, I know what you do. I value it, and I respect you for doing it. And I wanted to come here to say thank you.

The 56 stars carved into the wall here in this lobby remind each who passes by this place of the ultimate risks of intelligence work. Each star memorializes a vibrant life given in the service of our Nation. Each star reminds us of freedom's high price and how the high share some must bear that all the rest of us must respect. My heart goes out to the families and to the friends of each of those whose sacrifices are represented here.

Two of the stars added just this year commemorate two devoted agency professionals who were slain last January entering this compound, Dr. Lansing Bennett and Frank Darling. All of us were shocked and saddened when they were killed and others were seriously injured. The First Lady represented me here at the memorial service, but I want to say again personally how much I admire the service that they gave, the sorrow and anger we all felt and continue to feel about this outrageous act.

The CIA was established over 45 years ago to help confront the challenges to democracy. These stars remind us that the battle lines of freedom need not be thousands of miles away, but can be right here in the midst of our communities with our families and friends. Jim Woolsey and I know that all of you here today are called to a very special kind of public service.

I celebrate your commitment. I appreciate your contributions. As President, I will do my best to learn from you, to help you to do your work, and to stand by you. And on behalf of the American people, let me say again, I thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:12 a.m. in the lobby of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers of The Netherlands

January 4, 1994

The President. It's a great honor for me to welcome Prime Minister Lubbers here today. As I'm sure all of you know, he is one of the senior statesmen in Europe, and he has been a great ally of the United States. We've worked together very closely on issues of international security, issues of European security, trade, and economic issues. His nation is one of our larger trading partners—has had a very constructive attitude about that, and of course, I think the third biggest investor in the United States. So, our relationship with The Netherlands is very, very important, and I'm glad to have him here today, and I look forward to the visit we're about to start.

Eastern Europe and NATO

Q. Mr. President, why do you seem to be having trouble generating enthusiasm for the Partnership For Peace among Eastern European nations?

The President. As you remember, when they all came here, all the leaders of the Eastern European countries came here for the dedication of the Holocaust Museum, they were looking for ways to become more identified economically and militarily or at least in terms of security issues with the West, and