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And I'm telling you, that is the kind of thing we have to deal with, knowing that there is no ultimate perfect answer but that we expect something that will not occur if we think we can simply advocate the ideas that are embodied in the *Brown* decision and not change our own behavior and the behavior of our country to give our kids a safe and decent and well-educated childhood to put things back together again. There is no alternative for us if we want to keep this country together and we want, 100 years from now, people to celebrate the 140th anniversary of *Brown* v. *Board of Education* in the greatest country the world has ever known, fully diverse, where everybody, all God's children, can live up to the fullest of their God-given potential.

And in order to do it, we all have to overcome a fair measure not only of fear but of resignation. There are so many of us today, and all of us in some ways at some times, who just don't believe we can tackle the big things and make a difference. But I tell you, the only thing for us to do to honor those whom we honor tonight is to tackle the big things and make a difference.

I'm proud that Elaine Jones and all the rest of you are trying to deal forthrightly with the problem of violence and the fear it produces and what it's doing to drive our people apart. I want you to think about what we can do to honor the sacrifices of those whose shoulders we stand on tonight. They did not do all this work to preside over the collapse of American society, to give people an equal opportunity to get an inferior education, to give people an equal opportunity to be unemployed, to give people an equal opportunity to stand on the street corner and be gunned down by some kid that nobody ever loved enough or disciplined enough or cared enough about to give a different way of living to.

We cannot stand chaos and destruction, but we must not embrace hatred and division. We have only one choice.

Let me read this to you in closing. It seems to me to capture the spirit of *Brown* and the spirit of America and what we have to do today, starting with what is in our heart. These are lines from Langston Hughes' wonderful poem ''Let America Be America Again'': ''Oh yes, I say it plain, America never was America to me. And yet I swear this oath, America will be.'' Let that be our oath on this 40th anniversary celebration.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:15 p.m. in the International Ballroom at the Washington Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to Elaine R. Jones, director counsel, LDEF; Rabbi David Saperstein, director, Religious Action Center, Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Vernon Jordan, dinner chairman; Dan Rather, dinner host; Cecelia Marshall, widow of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall; William T. Coleman, former Secretary of Transportation; Jack Greenberg, Columbia University law professor; Julius L. Chambers, chancellor of North Carolina Central University; Robert Bennett and Chester Davenport, dinner corporate cochairs; Ernest Green, one of the Little Rock Nine who integrated the public school system in Little Rock, AR; Thurgood Marshall, Jr., Deputy Counsel and Director of Legislative Affairs for the Vice President; and Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam.

Memorandum on Assistance to the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

May 16, 1994

Presidential Determination No. 94–25

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Drawdown of Commodities and Services to Assist the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

Pursuant to section 548(e) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1994 (Titles I–V of Public Law 103–87) (the ''Act''), I hereby:

direct that the provision of commodities and services to the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal will contribute to a just resolution of charges regarding genocide or other violations of international law in the former Yugoslavia; and

direct the drawdown of commodities and services of an aggregate value not to exceed $6 million from the inventory and resources of the Departments of State, Justice, and Defense, the Federal

Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency, and other agencies of the U.S. Government under the authority of section 552(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and, as provided in section 548(e) of the Act, without regard to the ceiling limitation contained in paragraph (2) thereof. Amounts to be drawn down from each agency shall be decided by that agency and the Department of State.

You are authorized and directed to notify the Congress of this determination and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: This item was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 17.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway

May 17, 1994

Interest Rates

Q. Mr. President, the Federal Reserve seems likely to increase interest rates today. How is that going to affect economic growth and your calculations for deficit reduction if you have to spend more to service a $4 trillion debt?

The President. Well, first of all, if it happens, it will be because we have growth. I mean, now let's get the fundamental facts out here. We have more jobs, lower inflation, and a lower deficit and expectations for high growth this year, good growth.

And so—I make it a practice generally not to comment on what the Fed does. There is clearly some room for short-term interest rates over the rate of inflation that won't slow down our economic growth. And I have every confidence that we're still going to have another good year this year and that we will be able to offset any modest increase in interest rates with increased growth. And so far—I talked to Mr. Panetta yesterday—we're well within our projections on deficit reduction.

Norway

Q. Mr. President, have you ruled out the possibility of sanctions against Norway because of whaling?

The President. We are working on this whaling issue. You know, the United States has taken a position opposed to commercial whaling, and we're working through this with Norway. The Vice President and I had a conversation about it this morning. We are working through the issue, and we feel comfortable about what we're doing. We think we're doing the right thing.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—environmental groups say you——

The President. Some environmental groups do. The most mainstream environmental groups have not joined these rather extreme claims that have been made against our country. Give us a chance to work through this. I think we'll come out in the right place.

Q. Madam Prime Minister, do you agree with the Commerce Department's opinion that your country's resumption of whaling goes against efforts to save the whale, so to speak?

Prime Minister Brundtland. No, I certainly don't. We would never have a policy which is not in accordance with international law. We would never have a policy which is not long-term sustainable development, not on this issue, not on any other.

[*At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.*]

Q. [*Inaudible*]—whaling, Mr. President?

The President. We are working—we'll work through that. I have confidence that we will be able to work through it.

Q. Mr. President, in that letter to Congress last October, you said that you're going to work with Norway to create an inspection regime for commercial whaling within scientific limits. Is that still the U.S. position?

The President. What were you going to say, Mr. Vice President?

The Vice President. I was going to say, we're opposed to commercial whaling. We have always been committed to good, sound science. And as the President said, we're working with Norway to work through this issue. We're opposed to commercial whaling. We hope that we'll also, incidentally, be able to establish a sanctuary in Antarctica. We hope Norway will support that. But we're just going to work through the issue.