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GPO

Nathaniel Nash
Leonard Pieroni
Captain Timothy Schafer
John Scoville
I. Donald Terner
P. Stuart Tholan
Technical Sergeant Cheryl Ann Turnage
Naomi Warbasse
Robert Al Whittaker

Today we bring their bodies back home to America, but their souls are surely at home with God. We welcome them home. We miss them. We ask God to be with them and their families.

God bless you all, and God bless our beloved Nation. Amen.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:20 p.m. in Hangar 706 at Dover Air Force Base.

Proclamation 6879—National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, 1996

April 5, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout our history, America's Armed Forces have stood proudly in defense of the United States and of freedom everywhere. Countless courageous service men and women have given their lives for our Nation, and many others have sacrificed their own freedom as prisoners of war so that the cause of liberty might prevail.

Enduring with patience and determination, prisoners of war are a powerful reminder that the indomitable spirit of the American soldier cannot be broken, even by brutal treatment in violation of international law and morality. In Nazi Germany, Japan, North Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq, prisoners of war repeatedly demonstrated their devotion to duty, honor, and country, despite the often terrible suffering inflicted upon them by their captors.

On this day and throughout the year, let us honor all who have borne the indignities of captivity in service to our country, remember the brave soldiers who died as prisoners in foreign lands during our Nation's past struggles, and recognize those at home who anxiously awaited their loved ones' return. Their faith in God, love of family, and trust in our Nation are an inspiration to all Americans, and we will always remember their sacrifices.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 9, 1996, as National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. I ask all Americans to join me in honoring former American prisoners of war who suffered at the hands of our enemies, and I call upon Federal, State, and local officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:26 p.m., April 8, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 8, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on April 9.

Remarks at the Annual Easter Egg Roll

April 8, 1996

Where is Bernie? Is he behind me? Oh, here you go.

Well, let me say I always look forward to this every year. And the forecast today, believe it or not, was for snow. But we knew that the Easter Egg Roll wouldn't be spoiled, and just look what a wonderful day we have.

So let me say I want to join Hillary in thanking all of you who have contributed to make this Egg Roll successful. I want to thank all of you for coming and all of those who will come. This is a wonderful day for all the children who come here, and it really belongs to the children. And I love looking out and seeing all these smiling faces of par-

ents with their children. I sometimes think the parents have more fun than the children do, but it really is for the children, so all of you like me, who like this, try to restrain yourselves so that the kids can stay front and center.

It is a great honor for us to be a part of this. It is one of the things that we are really thankful for, the opportunity to live in the White House, to do, because it gives America's children a chance to come here and be a part of this. I hope you have a wonderful, wonderful day, and I think it is time to start. So I want Bernie to come up here and blow the whistle to start the Egg Roll. He has been doing this every year for a few years—[*laughter*]—and we are honored to have him again. He is as much an institution of this Egg Roll as anything else we do. So let's give him a big hand and let's begin. Bernie Fairbanks, come on.

All right, we've got one track here and one track here. And I'm going to blow the whistle, and both of you start at the same time, okay? All right, one, two, three.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:50 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Memorandum on Cooperation With Mexico on Drug Control

April 8, 1996

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Strengthening Drug Control Cooperation with Mexico

This memorandum is to direct actions that will be taken by executive departments and agencies to improve the effectiveness of United States-Mexico drug control cooperation.

The Seriousness of the Drug Trafficking Threat to the United States and Mexico:

Drug abuse and drug trafficking pose enormous threats to the American and Mexican people. The health of our youth and the safety of our neighborhoods are at stake. The powers of our democratic institutions and of our law enforcement organizations are challenged by international criminal organizations that operate seamlessly across our borders. Multi-ton quantities of cocaine, marijuana, heroin, and now methamphetamine, find their way to American streets far from our borders, much of it having come across our common border.

A Joint United States-Mexico Commitment to Confront Drug Trafficking:

On March 1, I certified to the Congress that the Government of Mexico cooperated fully to comply with the objectives of the 1988 United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. President Zedillo and I have agreed to mount a sustained offensive against drug use, production, and trafficking organizations. We will arrest and bring drug traffickers to justice. We will make it more difficult for illegal profits to be laundered, and we will seize drug assets at every opportunity. We will work together to stop the illegal diversion of chemicals for drug manufacturing, and improve our capabilities to stop drugs at our border. To coordinate our efforts, Mexico and the United States formed a High Level Contact Group on Drug Control, which met for the first time March 27 in Mexico City. That group will continue indefinitely. It will meet next at the end of June in the United States, and thereafter in December, in Mexico.

A United States Plan of Action for Increased Cooperation With Mexico:

This directive prescribes specific measures that will be taken to accomplish these shared objectives; measures that will increase the effectiveness of the counter-drug cooperation between our two governments.

1. *Quantifying the Drug Trafficking Threat to Our Two Nations*

A prerequisite for more effective bilateral action is a shared and objective assessment of the level of drug production, trafficking activities, and the threat of corruption in both countries.

In order to establish a common view of the problem, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) will coordinate other United States Government agencies in order to work effectively with officials designated by President Zedillo to produce a white paper that comprehensively describes the threat posed by cultivation, production, and trafficking of drugs such as cocaine, her-