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inviting Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary to join NATO and making clear that the door is open for others to follow.

We have taken a giant stride in our efforts to create a Europe that is undivided, democratic, and at peace literally for the first time since the rise of the nation-state on the European continent. There has never been a time when the entire continent was not divided, was democratic, and was at peace. All three conditions have never prevailed on this continent at the same time. We have a chance to make it so now. It's a result of hard work by all the members of the alliance. This is not an American achievement; this is a NATO achievement. Every country had its say. The statement we released today and the decision we made was a genuine consensus effort. And I am profoundly grateful to all of my fellow world leaders who are part of NATO.

I also would say to the people of Poland and Hungary and the Czech Republic, your heroism made this day possible. Through long years of darkness, you kept alive the hope of freedom. I still remember the Hungarian Uprising of 1956, the Prague Spring of 1968, the Gdansk Shipyards in 1981. But we also appreciate the fact that when these three nations threw off the shackles of tyranny, they embraced democracy and tolerance. They devoted themselves to reforming their economies and their societies, to settling age-old disputes with their neighbors. They have done the hard work of freedom now for over 7 years, and they have proved that they are ready to share in the full responsibility of NATO membership.

They have also set an extraordinary example for the other new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe. From the northwest to the southeast corner of Europe, we see other countries now engaged in partnerships with us through the Partnership For Peace, also interested in being considered for NATO membership. These three nations have paved the way for others to follow. They have paved the way by showing that with a long-term commitment to strengthening democracy and reforming an economy, to settling ancient quarrels, a nation can become a full partner in that free, peaceful, undivided Europe. And I am very grateful.

We actually did three things here. First, we made NATO stronger by taking in new members and making clear that others will be allowed to come in the future. And we will continue to work to make sure we can meet the challenges of tomorrow. Second, we're working to adapt NATO internally to meet the new challenges of tomorrow, not the old ones of yesterday. And there will be more responsibility for Europeans in a separate security defense initiative. The third thing we're doing is reaching out to have more partners. You know we signed this historic agreement with Russia. Tomorrow there will be another historic signing with Ukraine. We have over two dozen countries in the Partnership For Peace that are working with us in Bosnia and in other ways, and they will be permitted to have a political arm through a partnership council that will give them a greater say over decisions that they will be expected to participate in.

This is a very great day, not only for Europe and the United States, not simply for NATO but, indeed, for the cause of freedom in the aftermath of the cold war. And every one of you who had anything to do with it, and every one of you who has a child with a big stake in it, should be very happy and very proud.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:05 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Ambassador to Spain Richard N. Gardner and his wife, Danielle; and U.S. Ambassador to NATO Robert E. Hunter.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Cyprus

July 8, 1997

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with Public Law 95–384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question. The previous submission covered progress through March 31, 1997. The current submission covers the period April 1, 1997, through May 31, 1997.

During this reporting period, I was particularly pleased by the decisions taken by the Governments of Cyprus and Turkey to observe moratoriums on flights over Cyprus.

In April, the Government of Cyprus announced that it would not invite Greek aircraft to overfly Cyprus during a joint military exercise in May. It also indicated no other overflights are planned at this time. Turkey, later, decided to refrain from overflying Cyprus as long as Greece does not. As I noted in my last letter to you, these actions should help lessen regional tensions and contribute to a proper climate for negotiations.

I was also encouraged by the effective action taken against extremists on both sides of the island when they attempted to disrupt a concert in May. The event proceeded without incident and the two communities mixed freely together in a very positive atmosphere.

Finally, although it did not occur during this reporting period, the appointment June 4 of Richard Holbrooke as my Special Presidential Emissary for Cyprus reflects our strong and continued commitment to promoting Cyprus reconciliation efforts. The Special Presidential Emissary will lead our Cyprus diplomacy and I will inform you of his activities in upcoming reports.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 9.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Luxembourg-United States Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty and Documentation

July 8, 1997

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Washington on March 13, 1997, and a related exchange of notes. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties that the United States is negotiating in order to counter criminal activity more effectively. The Treaty should be an effective tool to assist in the prosecution of a wide variety of modern criminals, including those involved in drug trafficking, terrorism, other violent crime, and money laundering, fiscal fraud, and other ''white-collar'' crime. The Treaty is self-executing.

The treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Mutual assistance available under the Treaty includes: taking testimony or statements of persons; providing documents, records, and articles of evidence; transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; locating or identifying persons and items; serving documents; executing requests for searches and seizures; immobilizing assets; assisting in proceedings related to forfeiture and restitution; and rendering any other form of assistance not prohibited by the laws of the Requested State.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 8, 1997.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 9.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Luxembourg-United States Extradition Treaty

July 8, 1997

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Extradition Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, signed at Washington on October 1, 1996.

In addition, I transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty. As the