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rise against tyranny. A child born of war, he has given his entire life to the cause of peace. Our ability to be here tonight celebrating NATO's enlargement is due in no small measure to his visionary leadership in helping to create the Partnership For Peace. The American people and the President in particular, are very proud of the service of this son of Poland, John Shalikashvili. Thank you, sir.

The Poles have a tradition of sending their finest sons to fight for others' freedom. I have been told of the Polish phrase that describes this tradition, a phrase that also represents our new alliance through NATO. It goes, "For your freedom and ours," I believe: *Za wolnosc wasza i nasza.*

Nothing is more precious, nothing more noble, nothing more right. It is the spirit of Poland, the spirit of America, the spirit of NATO, to which this great nation is joining its strength fully, finally, forever.

I now ask you to join me in raising a glass to the President, the distinguished leaders here present, the people of Poland, the enduring friendship between our nations and the future we will create in the new century.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 8:30 p.m. at the Presidential Palace. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Emil Constantinescu of Romania in Bucharest

July 11, 1997

Romania

Q. Mr. President, are you going to tell the Romanian President when Romania will be taken into NATO? [*Laughter*]

The President. She's been doing this quite a long while. She's better at it than we are. [*Laughter*]

Q. What do you think of your reception, Mr. President?

The President. It was wonderful seeing all the people in the streets, and we're very, very glad to be here. It's quite impressive what they have accomplished here in Romania in such a short time. And I think you see it from the spirit of the people in the streets, their devotion to freedom. It's a great tribute to the President and the Government, and I'm looking forward to this.

Mars Pathfinder Spacecraft

Q. What do you hear from Mars? [*Laughter*]

The President. Going okay.

Bosnia

Q. Mr. President, is the situation in Bosnia calm? I mean, have you any reports?

The President. So far, yes. We have no reports to the contrary.

Q. Are you sorry they didn't get the big guys?

The President. Well, I think what was done was appropriate and within the SFOR mandate. The people were under sealed indictment and they came in regular contact with the SFOR forces there. And that's plainly within the mandate. The British sector, they were prepared to do that and we helped them to remove the people who were arrested to the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague and I think it was the right thing to do.

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:48 p.m. at the Cotroceni Palace. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Study on the Operation and Effect of the North American Free Trade Agreement

July 11, 1997

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the Study on the Operation and Effect of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), as required by section 512 of the NAFTA Implementation Act (Public Law 103–182; 107 Stat. 2155; 19 U.S.C. 3462). The Congress and the Administration are right to be proud of this historic agreement. This report provides solid evidence that NAFTA has already proved its worth to the United States during the 3 years it has been in effect. We can look

forward to realizing NAFTA's full benefits in the years ahead.

NAFTA has also contributed to the prosperity and stability of our closest neighbors and two of our most important trading partners. NAFTA aided Mexico's rapid recovery from a severe economic recession, even as that country carried forward a democratic transformation of historic proportions.

NAFTA is an integral part of a broader growth strategy that has produced the strongest U.S. economy in a generation. This strategy rests on three mutually supportive pillars: deficit reduction, investing in our people through education and training, and opening foreign markets to allow America to compete in the global economy. The success of that strategy can be seen in the strength of the American economy, which continues to experience strong investment, low unemployment, healthy job creation, and subdued inflation.

Export growth has been central to America's economic expansion. NAFTA, together with the Uruguay Round Agreement, the Information Technology Agreement, the WTO Telecommunications Agreement, 22 sectoral trade agreements with Japan, and over 170 other trade agreements, has contributed to overall U.S. real export growth of 37 percent since 1993. Exports have contributed nearly one-third of our economic growth—and have grown three times faster than overall income.

Workers, business executives, small business owners, and farmers across America have contributed to the resurgence in American competitiveness. The ability and determination of working people across America to rise to the challenges of rapidly changing technologies and global economic competition is a great source of strength for this Nation.

Cooperation between the Administration and the Congress on a bipartisan basis has been critical in our efforts to reduce the deficit, to conclude trade agreements that level the global playing field for America, to secure peace and prosperity along America's borders, and to help prepare all Americans to benefit from expanded economic opportunities. I hope we can continue working together to advance these vital goals in the years to come.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 11, 1997.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the District of Columbia Fiscal Year 1998 Budget Request

July 11, 1997

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 202(c)(5)(C)(ii) of the Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act of 1995 (''the FRMA Act''), I am transmitting the Council of the District of Columbia's ''Fiscal Year 1998 Budget Request Act of 1997.''

The Council's proposed Fiscal Year 1998 Budget was disapproved by the Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority (the ''Authority'') on June 12. Under the FRMA Act, if the Authority disapproves the Council's financial plan and budget, the Mayor must submit that budget to the President to be transmitted to the Congress. My transmittal of the District Council's budget, as required by law, does not represent an endorsement of its contents. The budget also does not reflect the effect of my proposed Fiscal Year 1998 District of Columbia revitalization plan.

The Authority is required to transmit separately to the Mayor, the Council, the President, and the Congress a financial plan and budget. The Authority sent its financial plan and budget to the Congress on June 15.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 11, 1997.