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Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the National Endowment for the Arts

July 11, 1997

To the Congress of the United States:

It is my pleasure to transmit the Annual Report of the National Endowment for the Arts for 1996.

One measure of a great nation is the vitality of its culture, the dedication of its people to nurturing a climate where creativity can flourish. By supporting our museums and theaters, our dance companies and symphony orchestras, our writers and our artists, the National Endowment for the Arts provides such a climate. Look through this report and you will find many reasons to be proud of our Nation's cultural life at the end of the 20th century and what it portends for Americans and the world in the years ahead.

Despite cutbacks in its budget, the Endowment was able to fund thousands of projects all across America—a museum in Sitka, Alaska; a dance company in Miami, Florida; a production of a Eugene O'Neill play in New York City; a Whistler exhibition in Chicago; and artists in schools in all 50 States. Millions of Americans were able to see plays, hear concerts, and participate in the arts in their hometowns, thanks to the work of this small agency.

As we set our priorities for the coming years, let's not forget the vital role the National Endowment for the Arts must continue to play in our national life. The Endowment shows the world that we take pride in American culture here and abroad. It is a beacon, not only of creativity, but of freedom. And let us keep that lamp brightly burning now and for all time.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 11, 1997.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 5

The President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Palma de Mallorca, Spain, where they were greeted by King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia of Spain and toured Bellver Castle.

In the evening, they toured the cathedral.

July 7

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Madrid, Spain.

In the evening, the President met with NATO Secretary General Javier Solana in the Miguel Angel Hotel.

Later, the President and Hillary Clinton attended an informal dinner for NATO leaders and their spouses hosted by Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar of Spain in the Garden of the Official Residence at Moncloa Palace. Following the dinner, the President met with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom at the Miguel Angel Hotel.

The President declared a major disaster in Texas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe thunderstorms and flooding beginning June 21 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Wisconsin and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding June 21–23.

July 8

In the morning and afternoon, the President attended NATO Summit sessions in the Palacio Municipal de Congresos. In the late afternoon, he met with President Jacques Chirac of France.

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton attended a dinner for NATO leaders and their spouses hosted by King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia at the Royal Palace.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donna Jean Hrinak as Ambassador to Bolivia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard Dale Kauzlarich to be Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

July 9

In the morning, the President met with President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine in the Palacio Municipal de Congresos. Later in the morning, he attended the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council meeting and, in the afternoon, a Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council luncheon in the Palacio Municipal de Congresos.

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Granada, Spain, where they toured the Alhambra castle with King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia. After midnight, they returned to Madrid.

The President announced his intention to nominate John C. Angell as Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate I. Miley Gonzales as Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics at the Department of Agriculture.

July 10

In the morning, the President traveled to Warsaw, Poland.

In the afternoon, following an arrival ceremony, he met with President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland in the White Room of the Presidential Palace.

In the evening, the President met with former President Lech Walesa in the Royal Castle.

The President announced his intention to nominate Edward M. Gramlich and Roger W. Ferguson, Jr., to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

The President announced his nomination of August Schumacher, Jr., as Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, Department of Agriculture.

July 11

In the morning, the President traveled to Bucharest, Romania.

In the afternoon, he attended a reception hosted by President Emil Constantinescu of Romania in the Cotroceni Palace, during which he met with Romanian political and opposition leaders. Later, he addressed the citizens of Bucharest at the Piata Universitatii.

In the evening, the President greeted the U.S. Embassy community at the Ambassador's residence. He then traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark.

The President announced his intention to nominate Timothy F. Geithner to be Assistant Secretary for International Affairs at the Department of the Treasury.

The President announced his intention to nominate John J. Hamre as Deputy Secretary of Defense.

The President announced his intention to appoint Attorney General Janet Reno, Donald Gips, and Brig. Gen. Donald Kerrick to serve as members of the Steering Committee of the President's Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection.

The President declared a major disaster in Michigan and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on July 2.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 8

Donna Jean Hrinak,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Bolivia.

Richard Dale Kauzlarich,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Pleni-