

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 9, 1997.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 10.

### **Statement on the New Television Rating System**

*July 10, 1997*

Two years ago, Vice President Gore and I challenged Congress and the television industry to give parents new tools to control the television children watch. We were pleased with their response. Last year, Congress passed legislation giving American families the V-chip and the industry developed a voluntary system of ratings for television programs. Today these tools are being made stronger. The television industry, working with parents, has strengthened its original rating system by agreeing to assign new ratings that will better help families choose appropriate television programming for their children.

When Vice President Gore asked parents to tell us how the original rating system was working—where it was succeeding, and where it could be improved—parents told us that age-based ratings are helpful, but that they needed to know more about the specific programming content. The new system gives parents more information about the images and language contained in programs and more power to screen out violence and objectionable content.

I applaud the industry and parent groups who have worked so hard to reach common ground. As with any new system, we should now give this solution—together with the V-chip—a chance to work.

### **Statement on the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Decision To Stop Using the Joe Camel Character in Tobacco Advertisements**

*July 10, 1997*

I welcome R.J. Reynolds' decision today to stop using Joe Camel in its advertisements. This step is long overdue. As I said last year when we announced the FDA rule to protect youth from tobacco, we must put tobacco ads like Joe Camel out of our children's reach forever. I am glad RJR has finally taken this step today, and I hope other companies will follow suit. In the months ahead, I will keep fighting until the days of marketing tobacco to our children are over.

### **Remarks to the Citizens of Warsaw, Poland**

*July 10, 1997*

Thank you. Mr. President, Mr. Mayor, Major Kuklelka, Lieutenant Blazeusz, to the people of Warsaw and the people of Poland. I am proud to speak to you and to welcome you, along with the people of Hungary and the Czech Republic, as the next members of NATO and the next allies of the United States of America.

If my interpreter will forgive me, I want to depart from the text to say that our American delegation are all proud to be here. But there are two here for whom this day has special meaning, and I would like to ask them to stand. The first is our Secretary of State, who was born in the Czech Republic and driven out by the troubles that so grieved the Poles in the last 50 years, Madeleine Albright. The second is one of the most distinguished Members of the United States Congress—both of her grandfathers were Polish immigrants—Senator Barbara Mikulski, from Maryland.

We gather to celebrate this moment of promises kept and of promise redeemed. Here, in the twilight of the 20th century, we set our sights on a new century, a century in which finally we fulfill Poland's destiny as a free nation at the heart of a free Europe,

a new Europe undivided, democratic, and at peace.

Three years ago this week, I came to this great city and made this pledge: Nothing about you without you. *Nic o was bez was*. Now Poland is joining NATO. Poland is taking its place in the community of democracies. Never again will your fate be decided by others. Never again will the birthright of freedom be denied you. Poland is coming home.

Freedom burned brightly in Poland 200 years ago. Then you gave Europe its first written constitution and the world's second written constitution after America's own. That solemn pact gave strength and hope to your ancestors, even as Poland fell victim again and again to tyranny. But this week, its words and those who revered them speak to us across the centuries: "We do solemnly establish this constitution, willing to profit by the present circumstances of Europe and by the favorable moment which has restored us to ourselves."

People of Poland, this favorable moment has restored you to yourselves. It is a moment that you have made. Just as freedom was born here 200 years ago, it was reborn here 8 years ago when you changed the course of history. And now together we have restored Poland to Europe and to the destiny you deserve. From this day forward, what Poland builds in peace, Poland will keep in security.

To the citizens of my own country I say, this land where I speak has known the worst wars of the 20th century. By expanding NATO, we will help to prevent another war involving Poland, another war in Europe, another war that also claims the lives of Americans.

We come to this moment grateful for its blessings but conscious of the grave responsibility it carries. Through the power of its example and the example of its power, our NATO alliance has kept Western Europe, Canada, and the United States secure for nearly half a century. Not once has a NATO member been attacked. Not once has NATO ever lashed out in aggression.

Now we must adapt our alliance to a new time. Our common enemy of Communist oppression has vanished, but common dangers

have not. Too many people still fear change because they have not yet felt its benefits. They remain vulnerable to the poisoned appeal of extreme nationalism to ethnic, racial, and religious hatreds. Rogue states seek to undermine the community of democracies. Terrorists, international criminals, drug traffickers show no regard for borders. These are our common dangers, and we must defeat them together.

NATO is doing its part, taking in new members, taking on new missions, working with new partners. Like Poland, we have reached out to Ukraine to help forge stability in Europe, and we are working with a new Russia as our partner in building a Europe in which every nation is free and every free nation joins in securing peace and stability for all.

Now, as your President has said, you must continue to do your part. Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic will now become full members of our alliance, with the full responsibilities of membership: the responsibility to nurture and strengthen and defend your democracies because, as we in America know, after more than 200 years the struggle for democracy is never over, it must be fought every day; the responsibility to continue the remarkable transformation of your economies because, having known poverty, you know the true value of the prosperity you have only begun to achieve; the responsibility to reach out to all your neighbors, to the East as well as the West, including the people of Russia—you must continue to build in tolerance what others destroyed in hate; the responsibility to meet NATO's high military standards and to help to bear its cost, because true security requires strength and readiness. We know you are ready to share the burdens of defending freedom because you know the price of losing freedom.

Other nations are counting on you to show the contributions new members can make. You did not walk through NATO's door to see it shut behind you; that door will stay open. Eight years ago you led the way to freedom. Now we ask you to be pathfinders again.

People of Warsaw, people of Poland, the American people know from the hard lessons of this century that your fate and our future

are joined. After World War I, America turned away from the world and freedom's flickering torch was engulfed by Europe's darkened night. After World War II, we and our allies continued to hold liberty's beacon high but it could only light half the continent.

Now, we come here to celebrate history's most precious gift: a second chance, a second chance to redeem the sacrifice of those who fought for our liberty from the beaches of Normandy to the streets of Warsaw, a second chance finally to unite Europe not by the force of arms but by the power of peace.

One week ago was the Fourth of July, America's Independence Day. More than 200 years ago, you sent your sons to help to secure our future. America has never forgotten. Now together we will work to secure the future of an undivided Europe for your freedom and ours.

That is the promise that brings us together today. That is the promise that will keep us together in a new Europe for a new century. That is our promise to all the young people here today and to generations yet to come: security for 100 years. *Sto lat*. Democracy for 100 years. Freedom for 100 years.

God bless America, and God bless Poland. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:30 p.m. at Castle Square in Warsaw. In his remarks, he referred to President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland; Mayor Marcin Swieicki of Warsaw; Maj. Boleslaw Kuklelka, Polish World War II veteran; and 2d Lt. Piotr Blazeusz, Polish Air Force officer who studied in the United States.

**Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by  
President Aleksander Kwasniewski  
of Poland in Warsaw**  
*July 10, 1997*

I and all of our American colleagues are honored to be here in Warsaw today, grateful that you have received us so warmly, proud to share in such an historic occasion for Poland, Europe, and the United States.

This week in Madrid, the old dividing lines of Europe were wiped away forever, and in their place we are building a framework of a Europe whole and free for the first time since nation states arose on the Continent.

NATO's decision to welcome Poland into the alliance is both a tribute and a challenge: a tribute to the people of this great nation who were the first to unleash the force of freedom from behind the Iron Curtain; who pioneered the difficult transition to an open society and an open market; who took the lead in reaching out to your neighbors in the Baltics, Russia, and the Ukraine, who sent your troops to give the people of Bosnia a chance to rebuild their broken land.

It is a challenge to all of us to ensure that this moment of possibility fulfills its promise by meeting the solemn responsibilities that NATO membership entails, by living up to the shared ideals NATO represents, by continuing to support Europe's new democracies in their quest to be full partners in an undivided Europe, by making the defense of peace and freedom our common goal and commitment. I am confident we will meet these challenges because the love of liberty we share has been forged on the anvil of history.

In the park by the White House is a statue of Kosciusko, beloved son of Poland, adopted son of the United States. Moved by the ideals of our revolution, Kosciusko traveled to Philadelphia to enlist in freedom's cause. He was the first foreign soldier in America's army. He distinguished himself at Saratoga and West Point where American cadets later built a monument in tribute to his role in forging our freedom. He returned to Poland to help defend his homeland against a foreign invasion. And though he did not succeed, he inspired the world with his courage and the force of his ideals.

Thomas Jefferson said of his Polish friend, "He was as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known and of that liberty which is to go to all, not to the few and rich alone."

In the more than 200 years since Kosciusko came to us, Poland has given us many sons and daughters of liberty. I want to say a special word about one—adopted son of the United States and pure son of liberty, the Chairman of our Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest ranking American in the United States military, General John Shalikashvili, who is here with us tonight.

He was born here in Poland. He witnessed the destruction of Warsaw. He saw its heroic