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(xiii) To improve the availability of information to support participation in infrastructure investment by the widest possible range of companies, including by small and medium-sized enterprises, both on a solicited and unsolicited basis.

(xiv) To foster effective consultations to ensure that planned infrastructure meets our communities' needs.

We direct the relevant Ministers to take the necessary measures to make good these declarations of intent with the express purpose of substantially and measurably increasing the participation of the private sector in infrastructure development in the APEC region and promoting infrastructure development in support of overall economic growth and development goals.

## Executive Order 13068—Closing of Government Departments and Agencies on Friday, December 26, 1997

*November 25, 1997*

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

***Section 1.*** All executive departments and agencies shall be closed and their employees excused from duty on Friday, December 26, 1997, the day following Christmas Day, except as provided in section 2 below.

***Sec. 2.*** The heads of executive departments and agencies may determine that certain offices and installations of their organizations, or parts thereof, must remain open and that certain employees must report for duty on December 26, 1997, for reasons of national security or defense or for other public reasons.

***Sec. 3.*** Friday, December 26, 1997, shall be considered as falling within the scope of Executive Order 11582 and of 5 U.S.C. 5546 and 6103(b) and other similar statutes insofar as they relate to the pay and leave of employees of the United States.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,
November 25, 1997.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:50 p.m., November 25, 1997]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 28.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on Iran

*November 25, 1997*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

I hereby report to the Congress on developments since the last Presidential report of May 13, 1997, concerning the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979. This report is submitted pursuant to section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c) (IEEPA). This report covers events through September 30, 1997. My last report, dated May 13, 1997, covered events through March 31, 1997.

1. The Iranian Assets Control Regulations, 31 CFR Part 535 (IACR), were amended on August 25, 1997. General reporting, record keeping, licensing, and other procedural regulations were moved from the IACR to a separate part (31 CFR Part 501) dealing solely with such procedural matters (62 *Fed. Reg.* 45098, August 25, 1997). No substantive changes to the IACR were made. A copy of the amendment is attached.

2. The Iran-United States Claims Tribunal (the ''Tribunal''), established at The Hague pursuant to the Algiers Accords, continues to make progress in arbitrating the claims before it. Since the period covered in my last report, the Tribunal has rendered five awards. This brings the total number of awards rendered by the Tribunal to 584, the majority of which have been in favor of U.S. claimants. As of September 30, 1997, the value of awards to successful U.S. claimants from the Security Account held by the NV Settlement Bank was $2,480,897,381.53.

Since my last report, Iran has failed to replenish the Security Account established by the Algiers Accords to ensure payment of awards to successful U.S. claimants. Thus, since November 5, 1992, the Security Account has continuously remained below the $500 million balance required by the Algiers