

We know the best solutions to the problem of youth violence come when everyone at the local level works together—students, parents, teachers, police officers, local judges, counselors, religious and community leaders. That's why I asked the Departments of Education, Justice, and Health and Human Services to develop the Safe Schools/Healthy Schools initiative to help communities coordinate their efforts to identify troubled young people, prevent them from acting violently, and respond when violence does occur.

As part of this new program, we launched a national competition to find and fund the best ideas to reduce youth violence. Hundreds of communities applied. Today I'm pleased to announce that 54 communities with the best plans will receive more than \$100 million in safe schools grants. These communities will use the funds in a variety of ways proven to reduce youth violence—from hiring more school resource officers to improving mental health services, to modernizing school security systems, to expanding after-school and mentoring programs. Best of all, they engage the entire community to meet the challenge of building safer schools.

I'm particularly glad that two of these grants are going to communities that have suffered much—one to Jonesboro, Arkansas, in my home State, whose plan includes in-home counseling for at-risk families; and one to Springfield, Oregon, whose plan will build on the strong partnership the schools developed with law enforcement after the tragic shooting there last year.

In the face of terrible loss, the good people of these towns have pulled together to protect their children, and they're an inspiration for all of us. All over America, people are doing their part to fight youth violence. But there are some things only Congress can do. I have called repeatedly on Congress to pass a commonsense juvenile crime bill to prevent youth violence and keep guns out of the wrong hands, with measures that include provisions to require child safety locks on guns, to ban the import of large-ammunition clips, and to really close the gun show loophole.

For months now, the American people have waited for Congress to act. Meanwhile,

our children have returned to school in ever greater numbers. So I say again, it shouldn't take another tragedy to make this a priority. It's time for Congress to put politics aside and send me a bill that puts our children's safety first. Let's make this school year the safest yet.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:28 p.m. on September 9 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 11. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 10 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

### **Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Jiang Zemin of China in Auckland, New Zealand**

*September 11, 1999*

#### ***Situation in East Timor***

**Q.** Mr. President, on East Timor, what's the next step for the U.S. and the international community, now that Indonesia seems to be failing to stop the violence there?

**President Clinton.** Well, today we suspended all military sales and continue to work to try to persuade the Indonesians to support the United Nations' operation to go in and help to end the violence and secure the safety of the people there. And that's what we have to continue to do.

I think the United Nations will support such an endeavor if the Indonesians will request it. And I think it is imperative that they do so. And I think we're making headway.

**Q.** Is there any time frame for that? Is there any kind of deadline on that?

**President Clinton.** Well, I think you'll see a development here in the next couple of days. I think something will happen. I'll be surprised if it doesn't. We're working—not just the United States, people all over the world are working very hard on it. And I think people in Asia are very concerned about it.

#### ***China-U.S. Relations***

**Q.** Mr. President, how are U.S.-Chinese relations now?

**President Clinton.** Well, I don't want to speak for President Jiang, but from my point of view, I'm eager to get on with it and have this meeting. [Laughter]

**Q.** Will you be able to get a WTO deal, sir?

**President Clinton.** Certainly hope so.

### **Taiwan**

**Q.** Mr. President, what's your message when it comes to Taiwan?

**President Clinton.** My message is that our policy has not and will not change. We favor one China. We favor a peaceful approach to working out the differences. We favor the cross-strait dialog. Our policy has not changed, and it will not change.

**Q.** President Jiang, are you sticking with your threat to use military force against Taiwan, sir?

**President Jiang.** Our policy on Taiwan is a consistent one. That is, one, peaceful unification, one country-two systems. However, if there were to be any foreign intervention, or if there were to be Taiwan independence, then we would not undertake to renounce the use of force.

NOTE: The exchange began at 5:18 p.m. in the Drawing Room at the Government House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

### **Remarks to American and Asian Business Leaders in Auckland**

*September 12, 1999*

Thank you very much, and good morning. Ambassador Bolger, thank you for the fine introduction and for the years of friendship and cooperation we have enjoyed. Prime Minister Shipley, thank you for being here today and for making my family and me and our American group feel so welcome in New Zealand.

Since this is the sort of economic engine of APEC, all of you, I do want to note that my mother-in-law and my daughter and I did our part to support the New Zealand economy yesterday, and we got some nice free press for doing it, in the newspaper. I appreciate that.

I'd like to thank Jack Smith, who is up here with us, the CEO of General Motors, for his leadership, and those of the other American business leaders—John Maasland, the CEO of APEC; Ambassador Beeman. I'd also like to thank the American team who is here with me—our Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright; our Trade Representative, Charlene Barshefsky; National Security Adviser Sandy Berger; and National Economic Adviser Gene Sperling.

I am delighted to be here in Auckland for the last gathering of Asia-Pacific leaders in the 20th century. We primarily deal with economic issues, but today, if you'll forgive me, I'd like to begin with a few comments about security issues, because the eyes of the world today, not just in Asia but throughout the globe, are on East Timor, where the people voted overwhelmingly for independence, where, I believe, Indonesia's Government did the right thing in supporting the vote, just as it did the right thing in holding its own free elections earlier this year.

Now it is clear, however, that the Indonesian military has aided and abetted militia violence in East Timor, in violation of the commitment of its leaders to the international community. This has allowed the militias to murder innocent people, to send thousands fleeing for their lives, to attack the United Nations compound.

The United States has suspended all military cooperation, assistance, and sales to Indonesia. I have made clear that my willingness to support future economic assistance from the international community will depend upon how Indonesia handles the situation from today forward. We are carefully reviewing all our own economic and commercial programs there. The present course of action is imperiling Indonesia's future, as well as that of the individual East Timorese.

The Indonesian Government and military must not only stop what they are doing but reverse course. They must halt the violence not just in Dili but throughout the nation. They must permit humanitarian assistance and let the U.N. mission do its job. They must allow the East Timorese who have been pushed from their homes to return safely.