

strength, like yours, comes from the fact that we are many peoples striving to work as one.

Mr. President, the hope we celebrate this evening owes much to you, for you have twice answered the call to restore civilian government. The United States will stand by a nation, any nation, and especially Nigeria, that faces its responsibility as bravely as the people of this nation have in the last few years.

We outlined today our commitments, and we will keep them, to help you economically, educationally, in the struggles against AIDS and other public health problems and the struggle to rebuild your infrastructure in our common cause to restore peace in Sierra Leone and to support Nigeria as a leader for peace throughout the continent. And we look forward to fulfilling those commitments.

I listened again to the case you made tonight, a case that I also heard from your legislative leaders this afternoon and first in our meeting this morning and, of course even earlier when you and I first met. I will do my best to help Nigeria succeed economically. You must do so.

When Nigeria became independent in late 1960, almost 40 years ago now, the American people were also quite happy, because it was a time of great hope for us at home and around the world. We felt it in the new beginnings of President Kennedy's election and the progress of the civil rights struggle in our own country and with the crumbling of colonialism here and around the world.

We were proud that some of your early independence leaders, like Nnamdi Azikiwe, studied in America. In 1959 this is what he told an American audience. He said, "We struggle toward the same ultimate objective: to revive the stature of man so that man's inhumanity to man shall cease. Your success shall be our success, and your failure shall be our failure."

Since he said those words to Americans, there have been great achievements and profound setbacks in both our nations. But those words are as true today as they were when they were spoken. And today, we have the best chance since the early 1960's to make them come true.

And so tonight Mr. President and all our distinguished Nigerian friends, let me repeat

your hero's words back to you: Now and forever, your success shall be our success.

I ask you to join me in a toast to the President of Nigeria and to the people of Nigeria, to the success of the democratic experiment here, to the friendship between our peoples, and to our common commitment to seize the future together.

[At this point, the President offered a toast.]

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 8:30 p.m. at the International Conference Center. In his remarks, he referred to President Mamadou Tandja of Niger. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Olusegun Obasanjo. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Addition of Nigeria Under the Generalized System of Preferences

August 24, 2000

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

I am writing to inform you of my intent to add Nigeria to the list of beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). The GSP program, which offers duty-free access to the U.S. market, was originally authorized by the Trade Act of 1974.

I have carefully considered the criteria identified in sections 501 and 502 of the Trade Act of 1974. In light of these criteria, I have determined that it is appropriate to extend GSP benefits to Nigeria.

This notice is submitted in accordance with section 502(f)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 27.

**Proclamation 7335—To Modify
Duty-Free Treatment Under the
Generalized System of Preferences**

August 27, 2000

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

1. Pursuant to sections 501 and 502 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “1974 Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2461 and 2462), the President is authorized to designate countries as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

2. Pursuant to sections 501 and 502 of the 1974 Act, and having due regard for the eligibility criteria set forth therein, I have determined that it is appropriate to designate Nigeria as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

3. Section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including but not limited to title V and section 604 of the 1974 Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to reflect in the HTS the addition of Nigeria as a beneficiary country under the GSP, general note 4(a) to the HTS is modified by adding “Nigeria” to the list of independent countries, effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the date of signature of this proclamation.

(2) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of August,

in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:04 p.m., August 29, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on August 30.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting an Amendment of the
Generalized System of Preferences**
August 27, 2000

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

I hereby transmit a Proclamation in which I have determined that it is appropriate to grant preferential treatment for Nigeria as a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). GSP benefits must be granted to Nigeria before that nation can receive further trade benefits under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (Public Law 106–200).

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

**Remarks to the Community in
Ushafa, Nigeria**
August 27, 2000

Well, thank you very much. Let me say, first of all, I want to thank your chief for making me feel so welcome, and all the elected officials. I want to thank the people who danced for us and played for us. They were very good, yes? *[Applause]* And I want to thank all those who made the gifts you gave me and my daughter and our family. And I want to thank the schoolchildren who walked down here with me and sang the beautiful songs.

I came to Nigeria to express the support of the people of the United States. We support your democracy. We want to help you build your economy, educate your children,