

have personally intervened with Prime Minister Mori. We also joined 14 other governments in making a high-level demarche to the Japanese Government to protest its decision to issue the permits. In September, we canceled a bilateral fisheries meeting that we have been holding annually for more than a decade. We also declined to participate in a ministerial meeting on environmental issues in August hosted by Japan. We have also actively supported the selection of a country other than Japan to host the next intersessional meeting of the IWC. As a result, the IWC voted 17–10 to hold the meeting in Monaco instead of Tokyo.

The United States has intensified its serious engagement on these issues with Japan. In November, we held bilateral consultations with Japan in Tokyo on scientific research on whales. At that meeting, we appreciated receiving the news that Japan is preparing to conduct two nonlethal scientific whale programs in the next 12 months. This is a very encouraging sign. We expect our bilateral meeting will lead to an IWC Scientific Committee workshop on methods for whale research. I view this meeting as a positive but limited step. Our goal remains that Japan substitute nonlethal techniques for its program. We will vigorously pursue this objective in conjunction with our partners in the IWC.

We are concerned that the presence of these additional species of whales in the Japanese market could increase the risk of derivatives of whale products entering international commerce. To this end, we have raised these matters within the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, and an interagency team continues to consider additional measures to enforce international and national prohibitions on trade in whale products. If warranted, the Secretaries of Commerce and the Treasury will take appropriate additional measures.

In sum, I remain deeply concerned by Japan's unilateral actions. For this reason, I have directed the Departments of State, Commerce, the Interior, and the Treasury, as well as the Office of the United States Trade Representative, to keep this matter under active review. I will also direct these agencies to further examine the relationship

between Japanese companies that both manufacture whaling equipment and export products to the U.S. market. I would consider actions regarding any imports from whaling equipment manufacturers, as well as actions regarding a broader range of imported products, should they be warranted by lack of progress from our bilateral and multilateral efforts; however, I do not believe that import prohibitions would further our objectives at this time. We are committed to a sustained effort in order to bring about positive movement in Japan's whaling policies.

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.

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.

December 23

In the morning, the President met with participants in the Middle East peace process in the Cabinet Room.

December 27

The President announced the recess appointment of Judith A. Winston as Under Secretary at the Department of Education.

The President announced the recess appointment of Toni G. Fay as a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The President announced the recess appointment of Barbara J. Sapin as Vice Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

December 28

The President announced the recess appointment of Allan I. Mendelowitz as Chair and member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Housing Finance Board.

The President declared an emergency in Arkansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the areas struck by a severe winter ice storm on December 12 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Oklahoma and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the areas struck by a severe winter ice storm on December 25 and continuing.

December 29

The President announced the recess appointment of Timothy Earl Jones as a member of the United States Parole Commission.

The President announced the recess appointment of Marilyn Mason as a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

The President announced the recess appointment of Geoff Bacino as a member of the National Credit Union Administration.

The President announced the recess appointments of Nina Archabal, Betty Bengtson, Ron Chew, Bill Duke, Donald Fixico, Henry Glassie, Mary Hubbard, Naomi Shihab Nye, Vicki Ruiz, and Isabel Stewart as members of the National Council on the Humanities.

The President announced the recess appointment of James F. Dobbins as Assistant Secretary of European Affairs at the Department of State.

The President announced the recess appointment of Paulette H. Holahan as a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

The President announced the recess appointment of Donald L. Robinson as a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

The President announced the recess appointment of Peter F. Romero as Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs.

The President the recess appointment of Islam (Isi) A. Siddiqui as Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs at the Department of Agriculture.

The President the recess appointment of Dennis P. Walsh as a member of the National Labor Relations Board.

The President declared a major disaster in North Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms and tornadoes on November 1–20.

The President declared a major disaster in Arkansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter ice storm beginning on December 12 and continuing.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: The Congress having adjourned *sine die* on Friday, December 15, 2000, no nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 23

Transcript of a telephone press briefing by Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo on home loans and public housing*

Transcript of a press briefing by Assistant Press Secretary for Foreign Affairs P.J. Crowley on the President's morning meeting with participants in the Middle East peace process

Released December 28

Statement by the Press Secretary on Haitian elections

* This item was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 22 but was embargoed for release until 10:06 a.m., December 23.