Editor's Note: The Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents is also available on the Internet on the GPO Access service at http://www.gpo.gov/nara/nara003.html.
Proclamation 7389—To Extend Nondiscriminatory Treatment (Normal Trade Relations Treatment) to the Products of the Republic of Georgia
December 29, 2000

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. The Republic of Georgia (Georgia) has made progress, since its emergence from communism, toward democratic rule and the creation of a free market economy. Georgia has also made considerable progress toward respecting fundamental human rights consistent with the objectives of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 (the “Trade Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2431, et seq.). Further, I have found Georgia to be in full compliance with the freedom of emigration requirements under the Trade Act. In 1993, Georgia concluded a bilateral trade agreement with the United States and in 1994 concluded a bilateral investment treaty with the United States. Georgia acceded to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on June 14, 2000. The extension of unconditional normal trade relations treatment to the products of Georgia will permit the United States to avail itself of all rights under the WTO with respect to Georgia.

2. Pursuant to section 3002 of Public Law 106–476, 114 Stat. 2101, 2175, and having due regard for the findings of the Congress in section 3001 of that law, I hereby determine that title IV of the Trade Act should no longer apply to Georgia.

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, including but not limited to section 3002 of Public Law 106–476, do hereby proclaim that:

(1) Nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) shall be extended to the products of Georgia; and

(2) The extension of nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of Georgia shall be effective as of the date of signature of this proclamation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of December, 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, 12:32 p.m., January 2, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the Federal Register on January 3. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President’s Radio Address
December 30, 2000

Good morning. The year 2000 is drawing to a close at a moment of great progress, prosperity, and peace for America. But while we have many reasons to be thankful, good weather is not one of them. Terrible ice storms in the Southern Plains States have left more than a dozen people dead and thousands without heat and electricity. Two days ago I declared that an emergency exists in Arkansas and Oklahoma so that Federal aid can be made immediately available to help families in those States. Now a major snowstorm is rolling into the Northeast, and weather experts tell us that this November and December are shaping up to be among the coldest on record. All this, along with the increased demand for energy that has accompanied unparalleled economic growth, is putting enormous pressure on the energy supplies Americans need to heat their homes and businesses.
Fortunately, we’re far better prepared for this winter energy challenge because of actions we took this fall and the new steps I am taking to ensure that we remain prepared. In late September, I directed the Department of Energy to exchange 30 million barrels of crude oil from the Federal Government’s Strategic Petroleum Reserve. This was a step to prevent a supply crisis that would have had a particularly harsh effect on heating oil inventories in the Northeast.

At the time, many said that using the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to help Americans heat their homes was a terrible idea, that it would never work. Well, now we have the results. I’m pleased to report that inventories of crude oil are up and prices have dropped substantially, from $37 to $26 a barrel. Home heating oil prices also have fallen in recent weeks, and supply shortfalls have been cut by more than half.

But even though heating oil prices have begun to ease, the cost of heating a home still is too high, especially for families on low and fixed incomes. That’s why I’m releasing $300 million in funds from our Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Along with similar funds I released earlier this fall, we’ve now devoted more than $850 million to assist families who can least afford to bear the burden of high energy prices this winter.

The simple lesson we’ve learned again and again is that the best way to meet challenges is to stay ahead of them. So I am taking some new steps to prepare for more cold weather this winter. First, I’m directing the Departments of Energy and Transportation to make extra efforts to keep navigation lanes in U.S. harbors free of ice for ships bringing in heating oil. I’m also asking them to work with States to relieve bottlenecks on our Nation’s roads, rivers, and pipelines.

Second, in the Northwest, which is experiencing tight electricity supplies, I am asking all Federal facilities to join those in California that are already reducing their electricity consumption during peak hours. This will help to keep lights and heat on in homes and businesses across the West.

Third, Energy Secretary Richardson has extended an emergency order to powerplants providing electricity to California to keep the power flowing in that hard-hit State.

Fourth, I am asking the Small Business Administration to reach out to small businesses with high energy costs to make them aware of special SBA loans that will allow them to stretch out their energy payments. That could be a big help for businesses trying to get through this cold winter.

None of us can control the weather. But all of us are responsible for how we respond to and prepare for it. With the actions I am taking, the Federal Government is fulfilling its responsibility. Across the Nation, Americans are doing their part: snowplow drivers are working late into the night; emergency shelter workers are offering a warm place to sleep for families whose homes are without power; younger neighbors are bringing hot food to their older neighbors and shoveling their walkways.

The worst weather always seems to bring out the best in the American people. If we continue to work together and bring out the best in each other, we’ll get through this cold weather just fine and usher in a new year of unlimited promise for our great Nation.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 4:50 p.m. on December 29 in the Map Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 30. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 29 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Memorandum on Potential Electricity Shortages in Western States

December 30, 2000

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Potential Electricity Shortages in Western States

Increased demand for electricity during cold winter weather can make it a challenge for electric utilities to meet the demand of their customers and keep lights on and their homes and businesses warm. Currently, the supply of electric power is tight on the West Coast due to record demand for electricity. The region faces the possibility of electricity
shortages in some areas, which would put both consumers and businesses at risk.

The Federal Government is among the largest consumers of electricity in Western States. It is important that the Federal Government lead by example in taking energy conserving steps to reduce the risk and severity of power outages. Therefore, I direct that:

- All managers of all Federal buildings in Washington and Oregon join those in California and take steps to reduce consumption of power to the maximum extent practicable consistent with public health and welfare, and that of employees; and
- Federal agencies coordinate with other State and local government agencies to minimize the use of electricity in all government buildings in Washington, Oregon, and California.

When the Federal Government, State governments, businesses, and consumers work together to use electricity wisely, we can reduce the risk of power shortages in the short term and keep the power on.

William J. Clinton

Memorandum on Keeping the Heating Fuel Distribution System Open
December 30, 2000

Memorandum for the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Transportation, Commandant of the United States Coast Guard

Subject: Keeping the Heating Fuel Distribution System Open

When inclement weather strikes and the demand for heating fuel rises, the distribution system through which fuel is delivered is often placed at great strain. Freezing harbors delay the delivery of critical fuel supplies, and the demand for heating fuel deliveries rises, increasing workload of drivers who deliver fuel to homes and businesses. Last winter, for example, critical deliveries of heating oil were delayed as harbors froze and barges were unable to reach their docks.

In order to minimize the likelihood of bottlenecks in the heating fuel distribution system, I direct the Secretaries of Energy and Transportation to work together and take all reasonable measures to keep the harbors open and the delivery trucks on the roads. If shipping channels freeze, the Coast Guard shall be prepared to keep them open to the extent possible. The Department of Transportation shall inform State and local governments and private companies as appropriate about the criteria and procedures for obtaining waivers from hours of service regulations in order to increase trucking capacity for emergency fuel deliveries and shall respond to such requests as quickly as possible.

Finally, the Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Emergencies shall coordinate closely with the Department of Transportation’s Emergency Transportation Representative to address any other transportation problems as they arise in order to keep heating fuel moving through the distribution system to the consumer.

William J. Clinton

Memorandum on Providing Loans to Small Businesses Facing High Energy Costs
December 30, 2000

Memorandum for the Administrator of the Small Business Administration

Subject: Providing Loans to Small Businesses Facing High Energy Costs

Increased demand for energy and a colder than normal winter has led to higher than normal energy costs. Because many small businesses lack significant capital reserves, they may lack the resources or cash flow to meet higher energy bills.

In order to assist such businesses, I am directing you to begin aggressive outreach programs to potential borrowers, SBA lenders, and other partners to make them aware of the SBA lending and technical assistance programs that are available to assist small businesses that may need assistance in meeting energy bills. SBA-guaranteed loans offer eligible small businesses sufficient cash to continue to meet their immediate energy needs and will allow them to spread their energy payments over a longer period than...
the payment period typically provided by their vendors.

William J. Clinton

Statement on the Rome Treaty on the International Criminal Court
December 31, 2000

The United States is today signing the 1998 Rome Treaty on the International Criminal Court. In taking this action, we join more than 130 other countries that have signed by the December 31, 2000, deadline established in the treaty. We do so to reaffirm our strong support for international accountability and for bringing to justice perpetrators of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. We do so as well because we wish to remain engaged in making the ICC an instrument of impartial and effective justice in the years to come.

The United States has a long history of commitment to the principle of accountability, from our involvement in the Nuremberg tribunals that brought Nazi war criminals to justice, to our leadership in the effort to establish the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Our action today sustains that tradition of moral leadership.

Under the Rome Treaty, the International Criminal Court (ICC) will come into being with the ratification of 60 governments and will have jurisdiction over the most heinous abuses that result from international conflict, such as war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. The treaty requires that the ICC not supersede or interfere with functioning national judicial systems; that is, the ICC prosecutor is authorized to take action against a suspect only if the country of nationality is unwilling or unable to investigate allegations of egregious crimes by their national. The U.S. delegation to the Rome Conference worked hard to achieve these limitations, which we believe are essential to the international credibility and success of the ICC.

In signing, however, we are not abandoning our concerns about significant flaws in the treaty. In particular, we are concerned that when the court comes into existence, it will not only exercise authority over personnel of states that have ratified the treaty but also claim jurisdiction over personnel of states that have not. With signature, however, we will be in a position to influence the evolution of the court. Without signature, we will not.

Signature will enhance our ability to further protect U.S. officials from unfounded charges and to achieve the human rights and accountability objectives of the ICC. In fact, in negotiations following the Rome Conference, we have worked effectively to develop procedures that limit the likelihood of politicized prosecutions. For example, U.S. civilian and military negotiators helped to ensure greater precision in the definitions of crimes within the court’s jurisdiction.

But more must be done. Court jurisdiction over U.S. personnel should come only with U.S. ratification of the treaty. The United States should have the chance to observe and assess the functioning of the court, over time, before choosing to become subject to its jurisdiction. Given these concerns, I will not, and do not recommend that my successor submit the treaty to the Senate for advice and consent until our fundamental concerns are satisfied.

Nonetheless, signature is the right action to take at this point. I believe that a properly constituted and structured International Criminal Court would make a profound contribution in deterring egregious human rights abuses worldwide and that signature increases the chances for productive discussions with other governments to advance these goals in the months and years ahead.

Statement on Judicial Vacancies
January 3, 2001

The most fundamental right of American democracy is the right to equal justice under the law. Whenever our citizens knock on the door of justice, they have a right to expect a judge to answer. Unfortunately, too many courts around the country are in a state of emergency because of judicial vacancies. In these places justice is being delayed. The people’s appeals are not being heard. That is simply unacceptable. That’s why today I
renominated eight highly qualified appellate court nominees for vacancies that are considered by the U.S. Judicial Conference to be judicial emergencies.

They are Roger Gregory of Virginia, nominated to fill a vacancy on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit; Judge James Wynn of North Carolina, nominated for the fourth circuit; Enrique Moreno of Texas, nominated for the fifth circuit; Judge Helene White of Michigan, nominated for the sixth circuit—the longest waiting nominee; Kathleen McCree Lewis of Michigan, nominated for the sixth circuit; Bonnie Campbell of Iowa, nominated for the eighth circuit; Barry Goode of California, nominated for the ninth circuit; and James Duffy of Hawaii, nominated for the ninth circuit. Together, these nominees have waited a total of 4,757 days for Senate action—that’s more than 13 years combined. Only one of them has even received a hearing. And two—the nominees from Hawaii and North Carolina—are from States with no current representation on the appellate court, even though under Federal law every State should have such representation.

It is my sincere hope that we can work with the Senate in a bipartisan spirit to get these nominees confirmed. The qualifications of these nominees are not in question. All of them are highly rated and respected. They also represent the kind of diversity that we all know enhances fairness and confidence in our courts.

In a nation that prides itself in the fair and expeditious rule of law, the people have a right to expect that judicial emergencies are treated with the urgency they demand. So, I urge the new Senate to give these nominees the simple up or down vote they deserve without further delay.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel With Documentation**

**January 3, 2001**

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, with a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, subject to an understanding and a reservation, the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel adopted by the United Nations General Assembly by consensus on December 9, 1994, and signed on behalf of the United States of America on December 19, 1994. The report of the Department of State with respect to the Convention is also transmitted for the information of the Senate.

Military peacekeepers, civilian police, and others associated with United Nations operations are often subject to attack by persons who perceive political benefits from directing violence against United Nations operations. The world has witnessed a serious escalation of such attacks, resulting in numerous deaths and casualties. This Convention is designed to provide a measure of deterrence against these attacks, by creating a regime of universal criminal jurisdiction for offenses of this type. Specifically, the Convention creates a legal mechanism that requires submission for prosecution or extradition of persons alleged to have committed attacks and other offenses listed under the Convention against United Nations and associated personnel.

This Convention provides a direct benefit to United States Armed Forces and to U.S. civilians participating in peacekeeping activities by including within its coverage a number of types of operations pursuant to United Nations mandates in which the United States and U.S. military and civilians have participated in the past. If the United States were to participate in operations under similar conditions in the future, its forces and civilians would receive the benefits created by this instrument. The Convention covers not only forces under U.N. command, but associated forces under national command or multinational forces present pursuant to a United Nations mandate. In situations such as we have seen in Somalia, the former Yugoslavia, and Haiti, certain attacks on these associated forces would now be recognized as criminal acts, subjecting the attackers to prosecution in or extradition by any State that is a party to the Convention. As a result, the international community has taken a significant practical step to redress these incidents. In doing so, we recognize the fact that attacks
on peacekeepers who represent the international community are violations of law and cannot be condoned.

By creating obligations and procedures that increase the likelihood of prosecution of those who attack peacekeeping personnel, this Convention fulfills an important objective under my Directive for Reforming Multilateral Peace Operations of May 1994, which directs that the United States seek additional legal protections for United States peacekeeping personnel.

The recommended legislation, necessary to implement the Convention, will be submitted to the Congress separately.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Convention subject to the understanding and reservation that are described in the accompanying report of the Department of State, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks at a Swearing-In Reception Honoring Senator Hillary Clinton January 3, 2001

Thank you. First of all, Senator Schumer has got to go to New York, and one of the things that I did not completely solve as President was the minor congestion we sometimes have at our airports. [Laughter] So let’s give Senator Schumer a big hand, because he’s got to go. [Applause] Thank you.

Well, I want to thank Walter and Thelma and Cathy. Thank you, all of you who worked on this wonderful party for Hillary tonight. I want to thank the people of New York for being so good to my wife and to me and Al Gore for 8 years.

This is a special day for Hillary’s mother and her brothers and my family, but especially for Chelsea and me. We were in the Senate gallery today at noon, Chelsea and I were, holding hands, trying to keep from laughing out loud and embarrassing Senator Clinton. [Laughter] I resisted all temptation. I didn’t take one of those little Kodak cameras in there. [Laughter] I did everything I could to avoid spoiling what was, for me, one of the truly wonderful moments in my life and our family’s life. So, for all of you who helped Hillary over this last almost year and a half, I want you to know I am profoundly grateful to you.

You also have taken a huge load off my mind. [Laughter] Because, you know, for 30 years, I’ve been guilt-ridden that I, when Hillary came to Arkansas and married me, that I kept her out of a career in politics that she should have had. So I don’t have to feel bad about it anymore. [Laughter] And I really thank all of you for doing that. I say it laughingly, but I’m dead serious about it. I have always felt that Hillary had the best combination of mind and heart and passion and strength about the issues that we have always cared about than anyone I ever knew.

And I also believe that the American people understand now that there really is a connection between the ideas you have and the level of commitment you have to implementing them, and what happens out there in the country. And if you have any doubt, you’re about to find out. [Laughter] Because—[applause]—I say that in all seriousness. There were, in this election, which was so closely fought out in so many places, there are real differences between the way we view the world. And they are honest and heartfelt. But at least our ideas have been tested for 8 years, and most of them have worked pretty well.

Quite apart from the enormous personal pride I have in Hillary, and the enormous gratitude I feel and the incredible—just sheer happiness that we all felt today, I am gratified to know that when my term of service as President ends, there will be one more magnificent voice sticking up for the folks that are too often forgotten and the causes that have too often been left behind.

I’ll leave you with this thought. Public service, like a political campaign, is a team sport. It’s not like tennis; it’s not something you play by yourself. It’s a team sport. And even if you get to be quarterback, no matter how good you are, you’ll lose if you don’t have a good team. I have been blessed to
have supporters like you, people like you, all over this country. Don't ever forget it's a team sport. You stick with Hillary, and you guys will do great things for America. Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:43 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Mayflower Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to reception hosts Walter and Thelma Kave. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Senator Clinton.

Remarks at a Memorial Service for Jack McAuliffe in Syracuse, New York
January 4, 2001

Millie; John, Joe, Tom, Terry; all the family and the grandchildren; reverend clergy. I want to thank the people who came with us today: our leader, Dick Gephardt, and his wife, Jane, and Senator Dodd and Congressman Coelho.

Hillary and I are here because we really liked Jack McAuliffe. And I know most people will say, "Well, the President came because Terry did so much for him." Truth is, I came for Joe. I thought we ought to have an Irish-Protestant support group here in this church. [Laughter]

One wonderful nun reached over to me during communion and said, "Thank you so much for what you did for Ireland." I said, "I had to do it. It's about time we started getting along."

I want to say just a few things. I spent quite a bit of time thinking about what I would say in my couple of minutes. Most of what I wanted to say has been said. But you know, when a great human being passes away, people search around in their minds for some part of the Scripture that captures that person. We talked about it a lot already today. Proverbs says, "A happy heart doeth good like medicine, but a broken spirit drieth the bone"—that God loves a cheerful giver. That's what Jack McAuliffe was. He knew it was more blessed to give than to receive. But nothing is more distasteful than someone who's out there doing good and wants you to know it every minute of the day.

Jack McAuliffe was a cheerful giver. Whether it was in risking his life in the Pacific or leading campaigns here to build a church for his neighbors or schools for the kids or cheering and giving to Notre Dame or the Democratic Party or spending time imparting all the lessons to his children that you heard about or just buying a round at the local bar, he was a cheerful giver.

And every time I was around him, I felt better. And so did you, and that's why you're here today. He gave more to us than any of us outside his family gave to him. And we showed up to say, "You gave us a lesson in life. We loved you for it, and we're grateful."

I have to say a little something about his ties to the Democratic Party. He was the county Democratic treasurer here for decades. And he started Terry out as a political fundraiser when he was 6 years old. I've heard this story—no matter how many times, I never get tired of it.

When Terry was 6, on the night of the Onondaga County Democratic dinner, his dad sat him down at a card table outside the ballroom at the Hotel Syracuse and said, "Don't let anybody in who hasn't paid." [Laughter] Terry immediately found his true calling in life. [Laughter] And you know, when he got up here, the first words out of his mouth were that his Republican brother paid. [Laughter] So thanks, Jack, you did good.

I'll always be grateful because Jack showed me something about going through life and staying young by never losing your enthusiasm. You know, he didn't take—he was very proud of Terry's role in politics, but he didn't think it meant that he was now too good to do the basic work of politics. He was out there putting up yard signs for Hillary in this campaign when he was 83 years old. And I think he was pretty pleased at the way things came out.

I also like the fact that he didn't lose his spirit when it didn't all work the way he thought it should. I mean, he thought Notre Dame should never lose, and he had what in this year turned out to be a bizarre idea: He thought all votes should actually be counted. [Laughter]
But he just kept chugging along, you know? And he made me even feel better about all of that.

Terry, of all the things you've done for me, turns out none of them was better than the chance you gave me to be your father's friend. His memory will always bring a smile to the face of all of us who knew him, and we'll always miss him. But I rejoice in the fact that Jack, the cheerful giver, is in his rightful place, where the road is always rising and the wind is always at his back, and he is always in the hollow of God's hand.

Thank you, Jack.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. In his remarks, he referred to Jack McAuliffe's widow, Millie, and their children, John E., Jr., Joseph R., Thomas J., and Terence McAuliffe; and former Congressman Tony Coelho.


January 4, 2001

Thank you very much. Well, first, I think we all should thank Tonia again for coming all the way from Oklahoma, where it's been hazardous even to drive around, if you've been seeing—[laughter]. Oklahoma and my native State of Arkansas have been one big icicle for the last several days. And she came all the way up here to try to make sure that no other woman ever has to go through what she has, and I think she did a terrific job.

I'd also like to thank Senator Clinton—God, what a kick—[laughter]—this is the first time I've been able to say that; I'm still getting used to saying that; I kind of like it, you know—who has been such a vital part of all the progress we've made in women and children's health here in the United States and throughout the world and who will continue to lead on these issues in the United States Senate.

I thank, as Hillary did, Secretary Shalala for all she has done, right up until the 11th hour. Just a few days ago, we were announcing our medical privacy regulations, which I think are profoundly important, and I thank her.

And as Hillary said, Janice Lachance, at the Office of Personnel Management, has kept us on the forefront of employers, in setting a good example. And she, in the 11th hour—even later—announced that we were going to have parity for mental health, something that Tipper Gore has worked so hard for and something that you have made real for the Federal employees and their families. And I thank you for that.

I'd also like to thank someone who never gets mentioned, but has literally done virtually—is responsible for virtually everything I have done on health care for 8 years, Mr. Chris Jennings. Thank you, Chris, wherever you may be. Thank you.

I, too, want to thank our friends Anna Eshoo, Louise Slaughter, Sherrod Brown, Rosa DeLauro for joining us today, and for all those who worked with them on this important legislation and for all the things that they have tried to do. Hillary mentioned the genetic discrimination law. I think that's very important. And there's lots of interests arrayed against Louise and the others who are trying to pass this bill. And I won't be around to help you, but we've got a better distribution in the Congress for people who would like to pass that. And I'll say more about this at the end of my remarks.

But as I imagine, what we want people to find out about themselves and their conditions and what we can do to lengthen life and improve the quality of life, it's only going to work if we have some protection against discrimination. When you find out something that you really need to know but somebody will use against you, you wind up having more people in the same shape Tonia was in, if we permit genetic discrimination. Instead of lengthening life, we're going to cut short work lives and a lot of other problems if we don't pass it. So I urge you all to please hang in there with this vast group and try to pass a bill against genetic discrimination so that we can move on to the next chapter of this grand struggle.

Now, mostly what we're here to do today is to mark the progress that we’ve made in women’s and children’s health—thanks to the dramatic increase in funding for research
and the provision of more health care options for women and children; thanks to your stand against discrimination and violence directed at women and for a woman's right to choose. So many of you, advocates for women and children, women's health, breast and cervical cancer groups, have never stopped fighting since—certainly since the day I got here. [Laughter] I thought I had a lot of energy until I met all of you. [Laughter] And you have, on occasion, worn me out. [Laughter]

But in the bill we come to particularly talk about today, you have proved once again that when Americans put the people of this country first, when they look at the human dimensions of a challenge, there are literally no limits to what we can achieve together. And so again, I want to thank all of you for what you've done and what we'll go on to do.

With regard to breast and cervical cancer, I just wanted to reemphasize that we know what works: early detection, prompt treatment, and a commitment to research until a cure is found. And we have to stay on all three approaches.

More than 180,000 women will be diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer this year in the United States. Too many Americans still will lose a sister, a daughter, a friend, or a mother. And too many women will be unable to pay for health care that will dramatically improve or even save their lives. Everybody who knows anything about this disease knows this delay can be fatal, literally. And still, too many uninsured women face a curious patchwork of care or inadequate care or no care at all. We know that women who are uninsured—listen to this—are 40 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than women with insurance. I know the worst licking I took in the last 8 years was when I tried to provide health insurance to everybody. But when I hear a statistic like that, I still think we need to keep going until everybody's got health insurance.

Now, there's more than one way to do it. The Children's Health Insurance Program—when we tried in '94, the budget was in deficit and the economy was still not fully recovered. We could neither raise the money nor require employers to come up with it. That's fundamentally what happened. We didn't have the economic circumstances to create a comprehensive network. But the Children's Health Insurance Program, alone, as it's being implemented, has led us to the first reduction in the number of people without health insurance in a dozen years, and that's good.

Now, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act, which built on the previous work we did to provide preventive screenings under Medicare and to include more women in clinical trials, both of which were also quite important for the long run issues—this allows States to extend full Medicaid benefits to women who are diagnosed with these cancers but don't have insurance. Every year it will help to get prompt and quality care to thousands who might otherwise not receive care or be bankrupted by the cost of it.

Today we're taking two new steps to help bring down these barriers earlier. First, we are releasing new guidelines for States to explain their options under the Breast and Cervical Treatment Act. I don't want to have the same kind of take-up time with this we had with the Children's Health Insurance Program. We need to move on this in a hurry, and you can help with that.

These guidelines will explain how to get Federal matching dollars to fund care. When women are diagnosed with cancer through federally funded screening programs, States may now enroll them in Medicaid right away. Doctors and hospitals may start providing care immediately, even before the paperwork is processed. It's very important. And we hope that these guidelines will free more State funds for breast cancer screening. If all this happens and it happens in a hurry, we will save a lot of lives every year.

Second, because we want the Federal Government to be a model employer, I'm directing every agency to help every employee have the time to get checked for cancer and other preventable diseases every year. This is an important step for everyone and particularly for women. To take just one example, for women ages 50 to 69, regular mammograms reduce the risk of death by breast cancer by 30 percent. From now on, every one of our 1.8 million Federal employees who need it will have up to 4 hours of leave available every year for preventive
screenings. I hope this will spur other employers to take similar actions.

With these steps, as well as the Children’s Health Act of 2000 that Hillary mentioned, we’ve built a strong foundation of research and treatment for those who suffer today, and we’ve done what we could to ensure that cancer and other diseases will claim fewer victims tomorrow.

But before I close, I just want to remind you, there’s a lot of work ahead—a lot. And all the best stuff is still out there. We have to build on what we have accomplished, and we should not retreat from the advances we’ve made in reproductive health and family planning. We want to see healthy mothers and healthy fathers raising healthy children in the United States and all across the world.

We have to recognize that we have a unique situation today where we’ve gone from record deficits to record surpluses, where we can actually invest in health care and education and the other things we need to invest in, have an affordable tax cut, and continue to pay down the debt to keep interest rates low.

If anybody doubts the psychological and financial impact of lower interest rates, all you have to do is look what happened when the Federal Reserve acted yesterday. [Laughter] And the Government—those of us in political life, or those of you, now that I’m leaving—[laughter—you’ve got to remember that. If you keep the interest rates low, it’s a big old tax cut to everybody, and it keeps the budget in balance, and it provides the funds necessary to invest in these things.

But let me just say again—and this is particularly important to women, because women still have a longer life expectancy than men, and Americans who live to be 65 have the longest life expectancy of any people in the world, so we have got to modernize and upgrade Medicare and add a prescription drug benefit to it.

And another thing I think is very important, we ought to pass that tax credit for long-term care. More and more people are providing direct health care to their parents or otherwise having to pay for it. And this is going to become a bigger issue. Anybody who lives to be 65 in America today has a life expectancy of nearly 83 years. And it’s only going to go up.

I think it is profoundly important to pass the Patients’ Bill of Rights. If you look at the reaction you had to Tonia today and the reaction you had to sort of congratulating yourselves—as well you should have—for the passage of the law that we celebrate and then you imagine every other person in this country today who has got some other kind of cancer or some other kind of health problem or is going to have an accident that requires some kind of serious health care, we must rededicate ourselves now, when we are financially solvent, to the proposition that we’re going to do more to expand health care coverage for the millions of people who still don’t have it. And again, we’ve learned over the last 6 years that if we focus on discrete populations and build bipartisan support, we can get this done.

And I still believe the biggest numbers out there and the greatest need are the parents of the children who are in this Children’s Health Insurance Program, because a lot of them are getting their kids insured now, but they don’t have health insurance, and they’re not insured at work; they’re working for modest wages. And we can afford to do that. That would take about—if we did it right, we’d get rid of about 25 percent of the uninsured population, including those least able to pay.

Then I think we should focus on the people who quit work at 55 and can’t get Medicare until 65. And with a tax credit, we can enable them to buy into Medicare without bankrupting Medicare, without taking down the Trust Fund at all—it’s at a 25-year high now. And we’d really be taking some of the most generally vulnerable populations. So I hope you will continue to work on that.

And let me just say, looking ahead, we have roughly doubled spending on medical research in the last 6 years or so. We have announced this year the sequencing of the human genome. A little over a year ago, the two genetic variations that are high predictors of breast cancer were identified.

Now, what all this means is, first of all, that we’re going to be able to prevent more diseases; secondly, we’re going to have quicker treatment. I am convinced that the development of so-called nanotechnology,
which will enable us to have, for example, computer storage capacity on things the size of a teardrop that are bigger than supercomputers today and will, within a matter of a few years, allow us to go after cancers when they are only a few cells large. Our idea today about identifying a cancer early will seem like, within 5 years, identifying a cancer in very late stages.

All this is going to change everything for the better. But I will say again, we had to put these privacy rules out that we put out. We've got to pass this antidiscrimination legislation, and we have to make sure that we continue to invest in not only the research but then the distribution of the wonders through adequate care coverage.

It won't be long before the average young mother will come home with a little gene map of their baby. [Laughter] And some of them will have really scary things on there, and it will be a burden for some people. But they will also have a list of things that, if the mothers and fathers will do these things, the kids will dramatically increase their chances of living a long and healthy life. And it won't be long until the average mother will bring home a baby with a life expectancy of 90 years or more. Our bodies are actually built to last more than 100 years, if we didn't have all the problems that get in our way along life’s way.

But that means we have to reimagine all this. And it means that the role of citizen lobbyists and citizen activists will become more and more important, because we are literally just at the beginning of building the kind of health care system that will be adequate to the 21st century.

And I'm telling you, most of it is going to be really good. But it's going to change the practice of medicine. It's going to change the way the health care delivery system is organized. It's going to provide all kinds of new challenges. And we're going to have to figure out how to get people who need to know it all this stuff that's out there without letting somebody else take advantage of them, financially or otherwise.

I can hardly think of a more exciting time in the entire history of the health sciences. And I believe that in the lifetime of people in this room, the cure rate for breast and cervical cancer will go through the roof; the prevention rate will escalate for all kinds of major cancers; the cure rate for prostate cancer will go through the roof. And once we get the technology down, when we merge the human genome with the microtechnology necessary to identify and zap cancers when they’re just in infant stages that are presently unidentifiable, the whole world will be very different.

You can all participate in that. But these decisions do not happen by accident. People who have other things to think about have to make decisions about how to allocate public funds for research. People who are under all different kinds of pressures have to make decisions about which bills will pass and which won't, in terms of extending coverage. And you have to enter this fray with the same energy that you brought to this fight. And just remember, all the best stuff is still out there. Go get it.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:15 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to breast cancer survivor Tonia Conine, who introduced the President. H.R. 4386, approved October 24, 2000, was assigned Public Law No. 106±354. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Senator Hillary Clinton.

Memorandum on Preventive Health Services at the Federal Workplace
January 4, 2001

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies
Subject: Preventive Health Services at the Federal Workplace

Today, as we celebrate the enactment of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act that I signed into law in October of last year, I am heartened by the progress being made in expanding access to preventive care for cancer and other serious diseases. We know a great deal about screening procedures that can detect diseases early, and about behaviors, such as smoking cessation and sun avoidance, that can greatly reduce a person’s risk of disease. The challenge that remains is to ensure that all Americans
not only take advantage of the screening programs and other effective preventive measures that are available and appropriate, but that they make positive changes in their lifestyles before disease develops.

The workplace is a logical place to provide employees with health information and services to help them learn about preventive health. The Federal Government, the Nation’s largest employer, has already developed many programs to encourage preventive health care for its employees. These measures, available to Federal employees through the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program, cover a broad range of preventive health services, including screening for prostate, cervical, colorectal, and breast cancer, and screening for sickle cell anemia, blood lead level, and blood cholesterol level. The programs also provide for all recommended childhood immunizations, well child care, and adult preventive care visits.

In addition, the Federal personnel system provides employees with considerable flexibility in scheduling their hours of work and taking time off for medical needs, including routine examinations and preventive screenings. Many agencies offer creative, effective employee health programs that provide opportunities for employees to take advantage of preventive health screenings at the worksite.

There is still room for progress. Therefore, I am today directing Federal departments and agencies to review their policies and make maximum use of existing work schedule and leave flexibilities to allow Federal employees to take advantage of screening programs and other effective preventive health measures. Each department and agency should also inform its employees of the various work schedule and leave flexibilities available to them to participate in these preventive screenings and examinations. Such flexibilities include promoting alternative work schedules (flexible and compressed work schedules), which allow for a variety of working arrangements tailored to fit the needs of individual employees, granting leave under the Federal Government’s sick and annual leave programs, and granting excused absence to employees to participate in agency-sponsored preventive health activities. In the case of employees with fewer than 80 hours (two weeks) of accrued sick leave, I am directing each department and agency to establish a policy that provides up to 4 hours of excused absence each year, without loss of pay or charge to leave, for participation in preventive health screenings.

I am also directing agencies to develop or expand programs offered at the worksite to help employees understand their risks for disease, obtain preventive health services, and make healthy lifestyle choices, and to share these initiatives with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) within 120 days. The OPM will use this information to identify agency best practices. Finally, I direct the OPM to prepare guidance to assist agencies in carrying out this directive.

Agencies will carry out this policy within available appropriations, and to the extent permitted by law and consistent with the Administration’s budget priorities.

I want the Federal Government to serve as a model for the rest of the country. While Federal agencies have led the way in many instances, I want to go even further in demonstrating that preventive health care for all employees is not only desirable, but also very practical and sensible.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Statement on the Report on the National Drug Control Strategy
January 4, 2001

The 2001 Annual Report on our National Drug Control Strategy issued today by National Drug Policy Director Barry McCaffrey shows that America is making real progress in the fight against illegal drugs but that we must never give up on making our children’s futures safe and drug-free. The most recent National Household Survey on Drug Abuse found that drug use by youths aged 12 to 17 has declined 21 percent since 1997. Adolescents increasingly disapprove of illegal drugs, and a growing number are using positive peer pressure to help friends stay away from drugs. We have made similar
progress combating illegal drug organizations that traffic in these poisons. Additionally, drug-related murders are down to their lowest level in over a decade.

Despite our progress, drugs continue to exact a tremendous toll on our Nation. Studies report an increase in the use of steroids and club drugs, such as ecstasy, by youths, and too many young people are still using alcohol, tobacco, and illegal substances. In addition, one in four inmates in State prisons and more than 60 percent of Federal inmates are drug offenders. We need to continue to build on successful initiatives like our Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign so our children can make smart decisions and stay away from drugs. We must also make investments to improve after-school opportunities so our children are supervised during the hours when they are most vulnerable to drugs and crime. In addition, we have a responsibility to reduce the treatment gap as well as help close the revolving prison door of drug offenders by expanding drug courts and drug testing and treatment programs, which have been shown to cut recidivism by as much as 44 percent.

I urge the 107th Congress to continue working together in the bipartisan spirit of my administration so that we may tackle these important challenges and eliminate the devastating impact of drugs on our Nation’s communities.

Notice—Continuation of Libya Emergency

January 4, 2001

On January 7, 1986, by Executive Order 12543, President Reagan declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Libya. On January 8, 1986, by Executive Order 12544, the President took additional measures to block Libyan assets in the United States. The President has transmitted a notice continuing this emergency to the Congress and the Federal Register every year since 1986.

The crisis between the United States and Libya that led to the declaration of a national emergency on January 7, 1986, has not been resolved. Despite the United Nations Security Council’s suspension of U.N. sanctions against Libya upon the Libyan government’s hand over of the Pan Am 103 bombing suspects, there are still concerns about the Libyan government’s support for terrorist activities and its noncompliance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992), and 883 (1993).

Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing the national emergency with respect to Libya. This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

William J. Clinton


[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:56 a.m., January 4, 2001]

NOTE: This notice was published in the Federal Register on January 5.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Libya

January 4, 2001

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

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Libya emergency is to continue in effect beyond January 7, 2001, to the Federal Register for publication.

The crisis between the United States and Libya that led to the declaration on January 7, 1986, of a national emergency has not been resolved.

Despite the United Nations Security Council’s suspension of U.N. sanctions
against Libya upon the Libyan government’s hand over of the Pan Am 103 bombing suspects, there are still concerns about the Libyan government’s support for terrorist activities and its noncompliance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992), and 883 (1993).

For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the actions taken and currently in effect to apply economic pressure on the Government of Libya. 

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.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders**

**Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Libya**

*January 4, 2001*

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

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order 12543 of January 7, 1986.

Sincerely, 

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

**Statement on John M. Shalikashvili’s Report on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

*January 5, 2001*

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John M. Shalikashvili and I met this morning to discuss his report concerning the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The report argues persuasively that ratifying the CTBT would increase our national security and that the security benefits of the treaty outweigh any perceived disadvantages.

The report’s recommendations address concerns raised during the October 1999 Senate debate over CTBT. I urge Congress and the incoming Bush administration to act on them.

I also hope the Senate will take up the treaty at an early date as a critical component of a bipartisan nonproliferation policy. CTBT is supported by our friends and allies overseas and designed to reduce existing nuclear dangers as well as those that might emerge in the future.

I commend General Shalikashvili for his thorough and rigorous report and his continued service to the Nation.
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 30**
The President and Hillary Clinton went to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President directed the Department of Health and Human Services to release $300 million in Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program emergency funds to all States facing substantial increases in home heating fuel prices. *

**January 1**
The President and Hillary Clinton returned to Washington, DC.

**January 2**
In the afternoon, the President met with Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority in the Oval Office.

**January 3**
In the afternoon, the President attended the swearing-in ceremony for the U.S. Senate class of 2001.

The President announced the recess appointment of James H. Atkins as Chair and member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

The President announced the recess appointment of Allen Carrier as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development.

The President announced the recess appointment of Edward Correia as a member of the National Council on Disability.

The President announced the recess appointment of Gerald S. Segal as a member of the National Council on Disability.

The President announced the recess appointment of Dennis Martin Devaney as Commissioner of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

The President announced the recess appointment Ross Edward Eisenbrey as a member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

The President announced the recess appointment of Jayne G. Fawcett as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development.

The President announced the recess appointment of Sheryl B. Marshall as a member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

The President announced the recess appointment of Yolanda Townsend Wheat as Chair of the National Credit Union Administration.

The President announced the recess appointment of Hsin-Ming Fung as a member of the National Council on the Arts.

The President announced the recess appointment of Robert M. Lyford as a member of the Board of Directors for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

**January 4**
In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Syracuse, NY, and in the afternoon, they returned to Washington, DC.

**January 5**
In the morning, the President went to Camp David, MD, and later he returned to Washington, DC, where he met with former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. John M. Shalikashvili, USA (Ret.), in the Oval Office.

In the afternoon, the President attended a Preserve America’s Forests event at the National Arboretum. Later, he traveled to Arlington, VA, where he attended an Armed Forces Presidential Tribute at Fort Myer. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to appoint Ginger Ehn Lew as a member of the Advisory Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islanders.

The President declared a major disaster in Oklahoma and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter ice storm.

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*This item was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 29 but was embargoed for release until 10:06 a.m., December 30.*
beginning on December 25, 2000, and continuing.

The White House announced that the President will present the Presidential Citizens Medal award to 28 recipients on January 8, in a ceremony at the White House.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were received by the Office of the Federal Register in time for publication in 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 January 2
Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Jake Siewert

Released January 3
Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Jake Siewert

Released January 4
Transcript of a press briefing by the Director of National Drug Control Policy Barry McCaffrey, Office of National Drug Control Policy Deputy Director Donald Vereen and Chief of Staff Janet Crist, on the national drug control strategy

Announcement of renomination for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Released January 5
Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Jake Siewert

Fact sheet: Strengthening and Supporting the Military


Announcement: President Clinton Announces Recipients of the Presidential Citizens Medal

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.