

law, provide administrative support and funding for the Commission.

(b) Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but while engaged in the work of the Commission, members appointed from among private citizens of the United States shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in the Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707) to the extent funds are available for such purposes.

(c) The functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, except that of reporting to the Congress, that are applicable to the Commission, shall be performed by the Department of Education in accordance with the guidelines that have been issued by the Administrator of General Services.

(d) The chairperson (or chairpersons) may from time to time prescribe such rules, procedures, and policies relating to the activities of the Commission as are not inconsistent with law or with the provisions of this order.

(e) The Commission shall terminate 30 days after submitting its final report, unless extended by the President.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
January 15, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 18, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on January 19.

Memorandum on Delegation of Authority Under Sections of the Immigration and Nationality Act
January 15, 2001

Memorandum for the Attorney General

Subject: Delegation of Authority Under Sections 212(f) and 215(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 212(f) and 215(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended (8 U.S.C.

1182(f) and 1185(a)(1)), and in light of Proclamation 4865 of September 29, 1981, I hereby delegate to the Attorney General the authority to:

- (a) maintain custody, at any location she deems appropriate, and conduct any screening she deems appropriate in her unreviewable discretion, of any undocumented person she has reason to believe is seeking to enter the United States and who is encountered in a vessel interdicted on the high seas through December 31, 2001; and,
- (b) any other appropriate actions with respect to such aliens permitted by law.

This memorandum is not intended to create, and should not be construed to create, any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, legally enforceable by any party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, officers, employees, or any other person, or to require any procedures to determine whether a person is a refugee.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

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

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Funding for the Trade and Development Agency With Respect to China
January 13, 2001

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

I hereby transmit a report including my reasons for determining, pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 902 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (Public Law 101–246), that it is in the national interest of the United States to terminate the suspension on the obligation of funds for any new activities of the Trade and Development Agency with respect to the People's Republic of China.

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 January 16.

Proclamation 7391—Religious Freedom Day, 2001

January 15, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Each year we commemorate the anniversary of the religious freedom statute adopted by the Virginia legislature in 1786. This statute, which reflects the wisdom and foresight of its author, Thomas Jefferson, and its cosponsor, James Madison, became the model for the First Amendment to our Constitution, and it has had enormous and far-reaching consequences for the life of our Nation.

Just a few weeks ago, we saw how much that freedom means to all of us, as we celebrated Christmas, Hanukkah, and the Eid Al-Fitr within the same week. These holidays belonging to the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths were observed freely and in peace by millions of people across our country—an occurrence unimaginable in some regions of the world, where people suffer persecution and even death for worshipping according to their conscience. Because of religious freedom, Americans have been spared much of the violence, bitterness, and conflict that have scarred so many other societies, and our Nation has benefited immeasurably from the many contributions of generations of men and women who emigrated to America because their right to worship was protected by the Constitution and the courts and respected by their fellow citizens.

But religious freedom is not a right we enjoy solely by virtue of being Americans; it is a fundamental human right that should be honored in every Nation around the globe. That is why I have sought to make it an integral part of U.S. foreign policy and to raise international awareness that many countries continue to engage in or tolerate egregious violations of their citizens' right to worship. I am proud that we have expanded reporting on religious freedom in every country, and that through our Ambassador at

Large for International Religious Freedom, we have strived to promote religious freedom where it is threatened or denied and to intervene on behalf of those who are suffering because of their religious beliefs and practices.

More than 2 centuries ago, our founders sought to protect the religious freedom that inherently belongs to every human being. Now the responsibility falls to our generation, not only to preserve that right, but also to work together for the day when all people can worship freely and in peace.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2001, as Religious Freedom Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs, and I urge all Americans to reaffirm their devotion to the fundamental principles of religious freedom and tolerance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, 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, 9:12 a.m., January 18, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 16, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on January 22.

Remarks on Presenting the Medal of Honor

January 16, 2001

The President. Good morning, and please be seated. I would like to first thank Chaplain General Hicks for his invocation and welcome the distinguished delegation from the Pentagon who are here—Secretary Cohen, General Shelton, Deputy Secretary de Leon. I thank the Members of Congress who are here: Senator Dorgan, Senator Durbin, Representatives Buyer, King, Skelton, Weller, and Whitfield; former Representatives Lazio