

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 28, 1996.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: The March 21 edition of the New York Times reported the U.S. and NATO are being urged to keep our forces in Bosnia after the end of the year. International civilian and military authorities are alleged to be pressing for continued NATO presence beyond our scheduled departure.

To keep American troops in Bosnia past the announced date of departure at the end of 1996 would be a major mistake. First, it flies in the face of a clear statement by Secretary of State Warren Christopher: "This is not a permanent commitment. This is approximately a one-year commitment. . . . If it can't be done in a year, perhaps it can't be done in a longer period of time." Second, it breaks faith with our American troops who are presently stationed in Bosnia, who expect to return to their families in nine months. Third, it contradicts what the American people were told about the duration of the mission.

American forces are facing a difficult and challenging assignment in the NATO peacekeeping mission. The one-year deployment was intended to provide an opportunity for peace, not a guarantee of it. The people of Bosnia must assume the responsibility of ensuring their own peace.

Already, American and NATO peacekeepers are being diverted from their original mission to the task of rebuilding Bosnia. This assignment shifts the focus of our military forces from peacekeeping to assisting in civil projects.

Further, by several accounts, a cornerstone of the Dayton agreement—the continuance of the Muslim-Croat Federation—appears severely weakened. The U.S. and NATO could well be in a quandary if that alliance should crumble.

The push to keep U.S. and NATO forces in Bosnia, the expansion of mission assignments and the possible disintegration of the Muslim-Croat Federation could compel us to extend our commitment in Bosnia. We are on a slippery slope toward a lengthy deployment of five or even ten additional years.

I commend Major General William L. Nash, Commander of the American sector of NATO forces in Bosnia, who stressed his determination to withdraw on schedule. He properly stated that the burden for peace is "on the shoulders of those folk that live here."

Mr. President, if the people of Bosnia truly want peace, one year is more than enough time to get it started.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Member of Congress.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, April 22, 1996.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR IKE: Thank you for your letter expressing concerns about American troops remaining in Bosnia beyond the end of 1996. I fully agree with you that we and the rest of the international community can only provide the people of Bosnia the opportunity for peace. The Bosnian people themselves must assume the responsibility of ensuring a stable future.

Our policy remains that IFOR should be able to complete its mission in about one year. The major military tasks have already been accomplished. In the coming months, IFOR will help provide a secure environment so that civilian implementation efforts can

get firmly established, refugees can begin to return, and free elections can be held under OSCE supervision. It is our view that, with these efforts on track, there will not be a need for a robust, NATO-led force beyond a year.

IFOR Commanders have the authority to support civilian tasks, including provision of assistance to the War Crimes Tribunal and other international organizations in their humanitarian missions. IFOR has provided such support since its arrival, and it will continue to do so, within the limits of its resources and its primary mission of implementing the military aspects of the Dayton accords. For example, IFOR will provide training and support for civilian determining efforts, in tandem with mine-clearance aimed at ensuring IFOR's own safety. In this respect, military and civilian efforts complement one another.

Regarding the Federation, the parties recently signed an agreement that outlines concrete steps with specific deadlines that will strengthen the Federation and get its institutions up and running. The main provisions include abolition of customs duties, measures to facilitate return of refugees and sanctions against local officials who refuse to comply. The Bosnians and Croats have also agreed on a flag and coat of arms for the Federation. The Federation agreement, combined with Congressional approval of the \$200 million supplemental and new steps by the parties to cooperate with the War Crimes Tribunal, demonstrate new momentum in the civil implementation of the Dayton accords.

As I have said before, all of these efforts underpin my commitment to complete IFOR's mission in about a year. Once again, I thank you for your support for our efforts to help the people of Bosnia achieve a lasting peace.

Sincerely,

BILL.

GOOD NEWS ON BOSNIA

(Mr. MONTGOMERY asked and was given permission to address the House 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Missouri for what he said today. I have been very concerned, Mr. Speaker, that we will not get those Americans in Bosnia out within year, and the gentleman from Missouri has been following up on that and that is good news.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MONTGOMERY. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I became quite concerned over this as a result of the New York Times article, and I subsequently wrote the President because the Secretary of State clearly said that we are not guaranteeing peace over there, that the 1 year of the IFOR and the American forces would give the warring parties the opportunity for peace, and the President in his letter dated April 22, which I received today, clearly states the administration's policy that they will be about a year. It gives the opportunity, though we are not guaranteeing it.

That of course is good news for the families of all the Americans.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I appreciate the gentleman's remarks.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I was in Bosnia. We have a wonderful Army over there, wonderful Air Force, Navy and Marines. They are all doing a good job, and especially the total forces working with the Reserves, the National Guard and active duty carrying on.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 26, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Friday, April 26th at 1:07 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he notifies and transmits a copy of a suspension under the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, House of Representatives.

1996 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Committee on Banking and Financial Services, Committee on Commerce, Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Committee on International Relations, Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on National Security, Committee on Resources, Committee on Science, Committee on Small Business, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Committee on Ways and Means:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress the 1996 National Drug Control Strategy. This Strategy carries forward the policies and principles of the 1994 and 1995 Strategies. It describes new directions and initiatives to confront the ever-changing challenges of drug abuse and trafficking.

This past March I convened the White House Leadership Conference on Youth, Drug Use, and Violence in order to focus the Nation's attention on two major health problems faced by young people today—drug use and violence. The conference brought together over 300 young people, parents, clergy, community and business leaders, judges,

prosecutors, police, entertainers, media executives, researchers, and treatment and prevention specialists from across America to examine solutions and keep us moving forward with proven strategies. The Vice President, General Barry McCaffrey, and I met with the participants in a series of roundtable discussions, discussing how to strengthen the efforts of families, the media, communities, schools, businesses, and government to reduce drug use and violence. Participants left with new energy and new ideas, determined to return home and begin implementing the solutions and strategies discussed that day.

This conference took place at an important juncture in America's ongoing fight against drug abuse. In the last few years our nation has made significant progress against drug use and related crime. The number of Americans who use cocaine has been reduced by 30 percent since 1992. The amount of money Americans spend on illicit drugs has declined from an estimated \$64 billion five years ago to about \$49 billion in 1993—a 23 percent drop. We are finally gaining ground against overall crime: drug-related murders are down 12 percent since 1989; robberies are down 10 percent since 1991.

At the same time, we have dealt serious blows to the international criminal networks that import drugs into America. Many powerful drug lords, including leaders of Colombia's notorious Cali cartel, have been arrested. A multinational air interdiction program has disrupted the principal air route for smugglers between Peru and Colombia. The close cooperation between the United States, Peru, and other governments in the region has disrupted the cocaine economy in several areas. Our efforts have decreased overall cocaine production and have made coca planting less attractive to the farmers who initiate the cocaine production process. And I have taken the serious step of cutting off all non-humanitarian aid to certain drug producing and trafficking nations that have not cooperated with the United States in narcotics control. Further, I have ordered that we vote against their requests for loans from the World Bank and other multilateral development banks. This clearly underscores the unwavering commitment of the United States to stand against drug production and trafficking.

Here at home, we have achieved major successes in arresting, prosecuting, and dismantling criminal drug networks. In Miami, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Program, through its operational task forces, successfully concluded a major operation that resulted in the indictments of 252 individuals for drug trafficking and other drug-related crimes. Operations conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration's Mobile Enforcement Teams program (MET), a highly successful federal tool for assisting local law enforcement, have resulted in more

than 1,500 arrests of violent and predatory drug criminals in more than 50 communities across the nation.

But as the White House Leadership Conference on Youth, Drug Use, and Violence showed, now is the time to press forward. We must not let up for a moment in our efforts against drug abuse, and drug abuse by young people, particularly.

There are many reasons why young people do continue to use drugs. Chief among these are ignorance of the facts about addiction and the potency of drugs, and complacency about the danger of drugs. Unfortunately, all too often we see signs of complacency about the dangers of drug use: diminished attention to the drug problem by the national media; the glamorization and legitimization of drug use in the entertainment industry; the coddling of professional athletes who are habitual drug-users; avoidance of the issue by parents and other adults; calls for drug-legalization; and the marketing of products to young people that legitimize and elevate the use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs.

All Americans must accept responsibility to teach young people that drugs are illegal and they are deadly. They may land you in jail; they may cost you your life. We must renew our commitment to the drug prevention strategies that deter first-time drug use and stop the progression from alcohol and tobacco use to marijuana and harder drugs.

The National Drug Control Strategy is designed to prevent a new drug use epidemic through an aggressive and comprehensive full-court press that harnesses the energies of committed individuals from every sector of our society. As I said in the State of the Union, we must step up our attack against criminal youth gangs that deal in illicit drugs. We will improve the effectiveness of our cooperative efforts among U.S. defense and law enforcement agencies, as well as with other nations, to disrupt the flow of drugs coming into the country. We will seek to expand the availability and improve the quality of drug treatment. And we will continue to oppose resolutely calls for the legalization of illicit drugs. We will increase efforts to prevent drug use by all Americans, particularly young people.

The tragedy of drug abuse and drug-related crime affects us all. The National Drug Control Strategy requires commitment and resources from many individuals and organizations, and from all levels of government. For the strategy to succeed, each of us must do our part.

We ask the Congress to be a bipartisan partner and provide the resources we need at the federal level to get the job done. I challenge state and local governments to focus on drug abuse as a top priority. We ask the media and the advertising and entertainment industries to work with us to educate our youth, and all Americans, about the

dangers of drug use. Finally, we invite every American—every parent, every teacher, every law enforcement officer, every faith leader, every young person, and every community leader—to join our national campaign to save our youth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 29, 1996.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

NIKE IS A WORLD-CLASS AMERICAN COMPANY AND A GOOD CORPORATE CITIZEN IN OREGON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. FURSE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, just prior to the April recess, my colleague from Ohio, Ms. KAPTUR, took to the House floor and criticized the operations of Nike, an important Oregon-based company headquartered in my district. I fundamentally disagree with her assessment of Nike and rise today to set the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD straight. Simply stated, the company that my colleague from Ohio portrayed in her statement is not the company that I have been working with for the last 3½ years and which has been headquartered in my district for the last quarter century. In my view, Nike is a world-class American company, providing good American jobs, and has been and continues to be a good corporate citizen in Oregon.

I find it most unfortunate that the Congresswoman, nor her staff, nor anyone from the jobs and fair trade caucus, took the time to check with Nike, to understand their side of the story before the statement was given, neither did they check with me. So in the name of fairness, let's look at the allegations and then the facts, one by one, to get to the bottom of what this company is really about.

First, it is alleged that Nike has downsized its work force and shut down all of its U.S. production. The fact is that currently, Nike directly employs over 5,500 employees in the United States, 3,500 of whom are based in Oregon. This makes Nike one of Oregon's leading private sector employers. The majority of these U.S. jobs are professional, technical, design, or managerial positions—highly skilled jobs that command high wages. It is interesting to note that on average, Nike employees in Oregon make over \$45,000 per year. That compares very favorably with the average Oregon private sector income of roughly \$25,000 per year.

The remainder of Nike's U.S. jobs include customer service, distribution, sales, retail and yes, manufacturing. With a U.S. production force of nearly