

Now, that means that our job around here is a lot more difficult, because whenever anybody thinks it does not matter whether we overspend, we are going to be confronted with the sobering fact that we had better not be looking to the President's budget for guidance or advice because it will just make matters worse.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, March 3, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,528,586,832,076.70 (Five trillion, five hundred twenty-eight billion, five hundred eighty-six million, eight hundred thirty-two thousand, seventy-six dollars and seventy cents).

One year ago, March 3, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,358,957,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-eight billion, nine hundred fifty-seven million).

Five years ago, March 3, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,197,838,000,000 (Four trillion, one hundred ninety-seven billion, eight hundred thirty-eight million).

Ten years ago, March 3, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,492,076,000,000 (Two trillion, four hundred ninety-two billion, seventy-six million).

Fifteen years ago, March 3, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,219,388,000,000 (One trillion, two hundred nineteen billion, three hundred eighty-eight million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,309,198,832,076.70 (Four trillion, three hundred nine billion, one hundred ninety-eight million, eight hundred thirty-two thousand, seventy-six dollars and seventy cents) during the past 15 years.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

##### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### REPORT CONCERNING NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS WITH RESPECT TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 105

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I hereby certify that the continued presence of U.S. armed forces, after

June 30, 1998, in Bosnia and Herzegovina is required in order to meet the national security interests of the United States, and that it is the policy of the United States that U.S. armed forces will not serve as, or be used as, civil police in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This certification is presented pursuant to section 1203 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998, Public Law 105-85, and section 8132 of the National Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1998, Public Law 105-56. The information required under these sections is in the report that accompanies this certification. The supplemental appropriations request required under these sections is being forwarded under separate cover.

America has major national interests in peace in Bosnia. We have learned from hard experience in this turbulent century that America's security and Europe's stability are intimately linked. The Bosnian war saw the worst fighting—and the most profound humanitarian disaster—on that continent since the end of the Second World War. The conflict could easily have spread through the region, endangering old Allies and new democracies alike. A larger conflict would have cast doubt on the viability of the NATO alliance itself and crippled prospects for our larger goal of a democratic, undivided, and peaceful Europe.

The Dayton framework is the key to changing the conditions that made Bosnia a fuse in a regional powder keg. It is decisively in American interests to see Dayton implemented as rapidly as feasible, so that peace becomes self-sustaining. U.S. leadership is as essential to sustaining progress as it has been to ending the war and laying the foundation for peace.

I expect the size of the overall NATO force in Bosnia and Herzegovina will remain similar to that of the current SFOR. However, the U.S. contribution would decline by about 20 percent, as our Allies and partners continue to shoulder an increasing share of the burden.

Although I do not propose a fixed end-date for this presence, it is by no means open-ended. Instead, the goal of the military presence is to establish the conditions under which Dayton implementation can continue without the support of a major NATO-led military force. To achieve this goal, we have established concrete and achievable benchmarks, such as the reform of police and media, the elimination of illegal pre-Dayton institutions, the conduct of elections according to democratic norms, elimination of cross-entity barriers to commerce, and a framework for the phased and orderly return of refugees. NATO and U.S. forces will be reduced progressively as achievement of these benchmarks improves conditions, enabling the international community to rely largely on traditional diplomacy, international civil personnel, economic incentives

and disincentives, confidence-building measures, and negotiation to continue implementing the Dayton Accords over the longer term.

In fact, great strides already have been made towards fulfilling these aims, especially in the last ten months since the United States re-energized the Dayton process. Since Dayton, a stable military environment has been created; over 300,000 troops returned to civilian life and 6,600 heavy weapons have been destroyed. Public security is improving through the restructuring, retraining, and reintegration of local police. Democratic elections have been held at all levels of government and hard-line nationalists—especially the Republika Srpska—are increasingly marginalized. Independent media and political pluralism are expanding. Over 400,000 refugees and displaced persons have returned home—110,000 in 1997. One third of the publicly-indicted war criminals have been taken into custody.

Progress has been particularly dramatic since the installation of a pro-Dayton, pro-democracy Government in Republika Srpska in December. Already, the capital of Republika Srpska has been moved from Pale to Banja Luka; media are being restructured along democratic lines; civil police are generally cooperating with the reform process; war criminals are surrendering; and Republika Srpska is working directly with counterparts in the Federation to prepare key cities in both entities for major returns of refugees and displaced persons.

At the same time, long-standing obstacles to inter-entity cooperation also are being broken down: a common flag now flies over Bosnian institutions, a common currency is being printed, a common automobile license plate is being manufactured, and mail is being delivered and trains are running across the inter-entity boundary line.

Although progress has been tangible, many of these achievements still are reversible and a robust international military presence still is required at the present time to sustain the progress. I am convinced that the NATO-led force—and U.S. participation in it—can be progressively reduced as conditions continue to improve, until the implementation process is capable of sustaining itself without a major international military presence.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 3, 1998.

#### REPORT ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS PAYMENTS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA FROM U.S. PERSONS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 106

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

This report is submitted pursuant to 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6) (the "CDA"), as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, Public Law 104-114 (March 12, 1996), 110 Stat. 785, 22 U.S.C. 6021-91 (the "LIBERTAD Act"), which requires that I report to the Congress on a semiannual basis detailing payments made to Cuba by any United States person as a result of the provision of telecommunications services authorized by this subsection.

The CDA, which provides that telecommunications services are permitted between the United States and Cuba, specifically authorizes the President to provide for payments to Cuba by license. The CDA states that licenses may be issued for full or partial settlement of telecommunications services with Cuba, but may not require any withdrawal from a blocked account. Following enactment of the CDA on October 23, 1992, a number of U.S. telecommunications companies successfully negotiated agreements to provide telecommunications services between the United States and Cuba consistent with policy guidelines developed by the Department of State and the Federal Communications Commission.

Subsequent to enactment of the CDA, the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) amended the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 515 (the "CACR"), to provide for specific licensing on a case-by-case basis for certain transactions incident to the receipt or transmission of telecommunications between the United States and Cuba, 31 C.F.R. 515.542(c), including settlement of charges under traffic agreements.

The OFAC has issued eight licenses authorizing transactions incident to the receipt or transmission of telecommunications between the United States and Cuba since the enactment of the CDA. None of these licenses permits payments to the Government of Cuba from a blocked account. For the period July 1 through December 31, 1997, OFAC-licensed U.S. carriers reported payments to the Government of Cuba in settlement of charges under telecommunications traffic agreements as follows:

	<i>Amount</i>
AT&T Corporation (formerly, American Telephone and Telegraph Company) .....	\$11,991,715
AT&T de Puerto Rico .....	298,916
Global One (formerly, Sprint Incorporated) .....	3,180,886
IDB WorldCom Services, Inc. (formerly, IDB Communications, Inc.) .....	4,128,371
MCI International, Inc. (formerly, MCI Communications Corporation) ...	4,893,699
Telefonica Larga Distancia de Puerto Rico, Inc. ....	105,848
WilTel, Inc. (formerly, WilTel Underseas Cable, Inc.) .....	5,608,751

	<i>Amount</i>
WorldCom, Inc. (formerly, LDDS Communications, Inc.) .....	2,887,684
	33,095,870

I shall continue to report semiannually on telecommunications payments to the Government of Cuba from United States persons.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 4, 1998.

REPORT OF THE NOTICE OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE IRAN EMERGENCY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 107

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To The Congress of the United States:

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 national emergency declared with respect to Iran on March 15, 1995, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706) is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 1998, to the *Federal Register* for publication. This emergency is separate from that declared on November 14, 1979, in connection with the Iranian hostage crisis and therefore requires separate renewal of emergency authorities.

The factors that led me to declare a national emergency with respect to Iran on March 15, 1995, have not been resolved. The actions and policies of the Government of Iran, including support for international terrorism, its efforts to undermine the Middle East peace process, and its acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, continue to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Accordingly, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the broad programs I have authorized pursuant to the March 15, 1995, declaration of emergency.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 4, 1998.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 347. An act to designate the Federal building located at 100 Alabama Street, N.W., in Atlanta, Georgia, as the "Sam Nunn Federal Center."

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 114(b) of Public Law 100-458 (2 U.S.C. 1103), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Board of Trustees for the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development to fill the existing vacancy thereon, the term to expire on September 27, 1999; Mr. PICKERING of Mississippi.

The message further announced that House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 217. An act to amend title IV of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act to consolidate the Federal programs for housing assistance for the homeless into a block grant program that ensures that States and communities are provided sufficient flexibility to use assistance amounts effectively.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 517(e)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1131), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following participants on the part of the House to the National Summit on Retirement Savings: Ms. Meredith Bagby of New York, Mr. James E. Bayne of Texas, Mr. Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. of South Carolina, Ms. Joyce Campbell of Washington, D.C., Ms. Hilda Cannon of Georgia, Mr. Christopher W. Clement of Arizona, Mr. Benjamin Tanner Domenech of Virginia, Mr. Clinton A. Demetriou of Georgia, Mr. Pete du Pont of Delaware, Mr. Adam Dubitsky of Washington, D.C., Ms. Lynn D. Dudley of Washington, D.C., Mr. Ric Edelman of Virginia, Mr. John N. Erlenborn of Maryland, Ms. Shannon Evans of Nevada, Mr. Harris W. Fawell of Illinois, Mr. Peter J. Ferrara of Virginia, Mr. Ray Gaydos of Washington, D.C., Mr. Craig Ghloston of Texas, Mr. Arthur Glatfelter of Pennsylvania, Mr. Dylan Glenn of Georgia, Mr. James T. Gordon of Georgia, Mr. Brian H. Graff of Virginia, Mr. Matthew Greenwald of Washington, D.C., Mr. Brent R. Harris of California, Mr. Donald K. Hill of Georgia, Ms. Amy M. Holmes of Washington, D.C., Ms. Karen A. Jordan of Arkansas, Mr. John Kimpel of Massachusetts, Mrs. Beth Kobliner of New York, Mr. Gerald Letendre of New Hampshire, Mr. Ronald Lyons of Ohio, Mrs. Patricia De L. Marvil of Virginia, Mr. Philip Matthews of Connecticut, Mr. Thomas J. McInerney of Connecticut, Mr. Kevin M. McRaith of New Mexico, Ms. Rita D. Metras of New York, Ms. Lena Moore of Washington, D.C., Ms. Dana Muir of Michigan, Ms. Heather Nauert of Washington, D.C., Mr. Jeffrey M. Pollock of New Hampshire, Ms. Pati Robinson of Washington, Ms. Andrea Batista Schlesinger of New York, Mr. Eugene Schweikert of South Carolina, Mr. Charles Schwab of California, Ms. Victoria L. Swaja of Arizona, Mr.