

this epidemic of violence, people around the country have joined me in calling on Congress to pass this important legislation.

Earlier this year, the Senate passed my legislation, which, if enacted, would strengthen current law by making it easier to prosecute crimes based on race, color, religion, and national origin and by expanding coverage to include crimes based on sexual orientation, gender, and disability.

Congress has the opportunity to complete work on that legislation and to send it to me for signature. I call on Congress to do the right thing and enact hate crime legislation before the end of this session. The Nation cannot afford to wait.

Statement on the Military Coup d'Etat in Pakistan

October 13, 1999

The events in Pakistan this week represent another setback to Pakistani democracy. Pakistan's interests would be served by a prompt return to civilian rule and restoration of the democratic process. I urge that Pakistan move quickly in that direction.

I am sending my Ambassador back to Islamabad to underscore my view directly to the military authorities and to hear their intentions. I will also be consulting closely with all concerned nations about maintaining peace and stability in South Asia.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Telecommunications Payments to Cuba

October 13, 1999

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, Public Law 104-114, 110 Stat. 785, I transmit herewith a semiannual report "detailing payments made

to Cuba . . . as a result of the provision of telecommunications services" pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 13, 1999.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Food Aid Convention 1999 With Documentation

October 13, 1999

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Food Aid Convention 1999, which was open for signature at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, from May 1 through June 30, 1999. The Convention was signed by the United States June 16, 1999. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Convention.

The Food Aid Convention 1999 replaces the Food Aid Convention 1995. Donor members continue to make minimum annual commitments that can be expressed either in the quantity or, under the new Convention, the value of the food aid they will provide to developing countries.

As the United States has done in the past, it is participating provisionally in the Food Aid Committee. The Committee granted the United States (and other countries) a 1-year extension of time, until June 30, 2000, in which to deposit its instrument of ratification.

It is my hope that the Senate will give prompt and favorable consideration to this Convention, and give its advice and consent to ratification by the United States at the earliest possible date.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 13, 1999.