

Townsend of Maryland; Gov. Roy Barnes of Georgia; Gov. Mel Carnahan of Missouri; Gov. Thomas R. Carper of Delaware; Gov. Tom Vilsack of Iowa; Mayor Kurt Schmoke of Baltimore; Maryland State Senate President Thomas V. (Mike) Miller, Jr., and House Speaker Casper R. Taylor, Jr.; civil rights leader Jesse Jackson; Mayor Debra Powell of East St. Louis, IL; Mayor Kirk Watson of Austin, TX; Mayor Donald T. Cunningham, Jr., of Bethlehem, PA; Minnesota State Senator Ember Reichgott Junge; Georgia State Labor Commissioner Michael L. Thurmond; and Hiram Eastland, founding member, Mississippi Democratic Leadership Council.

### **Statement on the Proposed “African Growth and Opportunity Act”**

*July 14, 1999*

This week Congress has a chance to pass a bill that can transform our relationship with an entire continent for the better. The “African Growth and Opportunity Act” promises a new partnership with Africa based on mutual respect and mutual responsibility.

Last week African nations signed two significant documents—a cease-fire in Congo and a peace agreement ending the war in Sierra Leone. With these agreements, and with democratic government in Nigeria and a new leadership in South Africa, we have an historic opportunity. The United States must do everything we can right now to support the efforts Africans are making to build democracy and respect for human rights, advance peace, and lay the foundation for prosperity and growth.

This bill supports education and job creation so that all of Africa’s children can grow up educated and productive. It supports better health care and the flow of ideas and technology that will help Africa’s doctors save more lives.

This bill has strong bipartisan support in Congress, nearly unanimous support from the nations of Africa, and brings together a broad group of concerned citizens on both continents—from Jack Kemp and Andrew Young to the African Association of Women Entrepreneurs. It represents an effort to build a partnership with African nations that involves listening and working with them. It serves America’s national interests in creating new markets for American goods and serv-

ices; in building strong, reliable, and democratic partners overseas; and in creating a more prosperous and stable world. I urge Congress to seize this opportunity by passing the “African Growth and Opportunity Act.”

### **Statement on the Deutch-Specter Commission Report**

*July 14, 1999*

I welcome the report of the Commission To Assess the Organization of the Federal Government To Combat the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (the Deutch-Specter Commission).

The Chairman, John Deutch, the Vice Chairman, Senator Specter, and other commissioners have provided a comprehensive study of how we should organize the U.S. Government to deal with the threat of proliferation, which poses one of the most serious challenges to national and international security that we face.

The Commission’s report contains a number of interesting recommendations and observations that deserve serious consideration. I have asked my National Security Adviser, Samuel Berger, to coordinate an interagency review and assessment of the Commission’s recommendations and report back to me within 60 days with advice on specific steps.

### **Executive Order 13130—National Infrastructure Assurance Council**

*July 14, 1999*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), and in order to support a coordinated effort by both government and private sector entities to address threats to our Nation’s critical infrastructure, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1. Establishment.** (a) There is established the National Infrastructure Assurance Council (NIAC). The NIAC shall be composed of not more than 30 members appointed by the President. The members of the NIAC shall be selected from the private

sector, including private sector entities representing the critical infrastructures identified in Executive Order 13010, and from State and local government. The members of the NIAC shall have expertise relevant to the functions of the NIAC and shall not be full-time officials or employees of the executive branch of the Federal Government.

(b) The President shall designate a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from among the members of the NIAC.

(c) The National Coordinator for Security, Infrastructure Protection and Counter-Terrorism at the National Security Council (National Coordinator) will serve as the Executive Director of the NIAC.

(d) The Senior Director for Critical Infrastructure Protection at the National Security Council will serve as the NIAC's liaison to other agencies.

(e) Individuals appointed by the President will serve for a period of 2 years. Service shall be limited to no more than 3 consecutive terms.

**Section 2. Functions.** (a) The NIAC will meet periodically to:

(1) enhance the partnership of the public and private sectors in protecting our critical infrastructure and provide reports on this issue to the President as appropriate;

(2) propose and develop ways to encourage private industry to perform periodic risk assessments of critical processes, including information and telecommunications systems; and

(3) monitor the development of Private Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (PSISACs) and provide recommendations to the National Coordinator and the National Economic Council on how these organizations can best foster improved cooperation among the PSISACs, the National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC), and other Federal Government entities.

(b) the NIAC will report to the President through the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, who shall assure appropriate coordination with the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy.

(c) The NIAC will advise the lead agencies with critical infrastructure responsibilities, sector coordinators, the NIPC, the PSISACs

and the National Coordinator on the subjects of the NIAC's function in whatever manner the Chair of the NIAC, the National Coordinator, and the head of the affected entity deem appropriate.

(d) Senior Federal Government officials will participate in the meetings of the NIAC as appropriate.

(e) The Department of Commerce shall perform the functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act for the NIAC, except that of reporting to the Congress, in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services.

**Section 3. Administration.** To the extent permitted by law:

(a) The NIAC may hold open and closed hearings, conduct inquiries, and establish subcommittees as necessary.

(b) All executive departments and agencies shall cooperate with the NIAC and provide such assistance, information, and advice to the NIAC as it may request, as appropriate.

(c) Members of the NIAC shall serve without compensation for their work on the NIAC. While engaged in the work of the Council, members will be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in the Government service.

(d) To the extent permitted by law, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Department of Commerce, through the Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office, shall provide the NIAC with administrative services, staff, and other support services, and such funds as may be necessary for the performance of its functions.

(e) The Council shall terminate 2 years from the date of this order, unless extended by the President prior to that date.

**Section 4. Judicial Review.** This order is not intended to create any right, benefit, trust, or responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
July 14, 1999.

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

## Remarks to the College Democrats of America

July 14, 1999

Thank you. I ought to quit while I'm ahead. [*Laughter*] Harold, you ought to be giving that speech for yourself some day. That was pretty great. I was definitely impressed. Thank you.

Thank you for your wonderful welcome. I want to thank all the College Democrat officers: your national chair, Reta Lewis, who used to be in the White House with me; Vice President Brendan Tully; Executive Director Jeff Schulman; National Field Director Lisa Kohnke; and all the people who helped to organize this, your largest meeting ever.

Let me say a special word of welcome or greetings on behalf of the Vice President. Eleven years ago he almost single-handedly brought the College Democrats of America back. And I'm glad you came back. We have needed you.

My administration has been, in large measure, about giving the young people of America a better America in the 21st century, an America where there is opportunity for every responsible citizen and where we are coming together as a community across all the lines that divide us.

When I ran for President in 1992, I was infuriated that I had seen election after election after election, and then Washington in between, use rhetoric to divide us and to create a majority based on not being "them." I didn't think it was good for America then; I don't think it's good for America today. I have done everything I could do to get all of us to see that what we have in common is much more important than what divides us.

I must say that the young people of America, who increasingly live more and more together with those who are at least superficially different from themselves, are going to have to lead America to that future. The work that you have done, the registration ef-

forts that you have done—in 1996, under the leadership of your former executive director, Susan Blad Seldin, CDA helped to register over a million young people—that is very, very important.

I want to say something serious tonight. This is—we've got a very festive atmosphere, and I know the fire marshal is concerned about how many people we've crammed in this room—[*laughter*]—but I want to say something really serious to you. I'm not running for anything anymore. I'm not on the ballot in 2000. I'm telling you this because I'm still concerned about tomorrow. Ideas make a difference in politics.

I was, earlier today, at the Democratic Leadership Council's meeting. Many of the ideas that we've been working on there for 14 years are now the focus of debate not only in the United States but in other countries around the world, where new parties—sort of like where the Democrats have been in the last 6½ years—have won elections in England, in France, in Germany, and Brazil and The Netherlands and many other countries, with the kind of debates that we have tried to provoke about how do you create opportunity for everyone; how do you really promote greater responsibility among citizens; how do you build a community in an increasingly diverse society; what are our responsibilities to the rest of the world? Those kinds of debates are going on all over the world today, based on ideas. Ideas have consequences.

I know that images have a lot to do, rhetoric has a lot to do with elections. But what I want you to understand is that we must stay the course that is the course of new ideas rooted in these basic values that have produced such good results for America. It is not an accident—I used to say, coin that old—quote that old country saying in the '96 election, when you find a turtle on a fencepost, the chances are it didn't get there by accident. [*Laughter*] Ideas have consequences.

All these things that your president just recited about the strength of the economy—and I might say, we now have almost 19 million new jobs—almost 19 million. And we have the lowest minority unemployment rates ever recorded since we started taking