

America's missing and our unwavering determination to account for them, will be flown over the White House, the U.S. Capitol, the Departments of State, Defense, and Veterans Affairs, the Selective Service System Headquarters, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, national cemeteries, and other locations across our country.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 17, 1999, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. I ask all Americans to join me in honoring former American prisoners of war and those whose fate is still undetermined. I also encourage the American people to remember with compassion and concern the courageous families who persevere in their quest to know the fate of their missing loved ones. Finally, I urge Federal, State, and local officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of September in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 17, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 20.

Executive Order 13137—Further Amendment to Executive Order 12975, as Amended, National Bioethics Advisory Commission
September 15, 1999

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to more accurately describe the expertise requirements for members selected for the National Bioethics Advisory Commission, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 12975,

as amended ("Order"), is further amended as follows:

Section 1. Section 3 of the order shall read as follows: "*Sec. 3. Establishment of National Bioethics Advisory Commission.* There is established in the Department of Health and Human Services a National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC). The NBAC shall be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.)."

Sec. 2. A new section 4 shall be added to the order to read: "*Sec. 4. Structure.* (a) The National Bioethics Advisory Commission shall be composed of not more than 18 non-government members appointed by the President. At least one member shall be selected from each of the following categories of primary expertise: (1) philosophy/theology; (2) social/behavioral science; (3) law; (4) medicine/allied health professions; and (5) biological research. At least three members shall be selected from the general public, bringing to the Commission expertise other than that listed. The membership shall be approximately evenly balanced between scientists and non-scientists. Close attention will be given to equitable geographic distribution and to ethnic and gender representation.

(b) Members of the Commission will serve for terms of 2 years and may continue to serve after the expiration of their term until a successor is appointed. A member appointed to fill an unexpired term will be appointed to the remainder of such term.

(c) The President shall designate a Chairperson from among the members of the NBAC."

Sec. 3. (a) "[S]ection 5" in the third sentence of section 1(b) of the order shall be deleted and "section 6" shall be inserted in lieu thereof.

(b) Current sections 4 through 7 of Executive Order 12975 shall be renumbered sections 5 through 8.

(c) New section 8(b) is amended by deleting "October 3, 1999" and inserting "October 3, 2001" in lieu thereof.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 15, 1999.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 17, 1999]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 16, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 20.

Remarks on Departure for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and an Exchange With Reporters

September 16, 1999

The President. Before I depart for the FEMA Operations Center, I'd like to say just a few words about East Timor and the terrible murders in Texas last night.

East Timor

First, I'm pleased that the U.N. Security Council has approved the creation of a multinational force to be led by Australia, to deploy as soon as possible to end violence, restore order, and support the results of the August 30 referendum, where the people of East Timor voted overwhelmingly for independence.

After consulting closely with Congress and with the Government of Australia on the best way for the United States to support this operation, and on the recommendation of Secretary Cohen and my national security team, I have decided to contribute to the force in a limited but essential way, including communications and logistical aid, intelligence, air lifts of personnel and material, and coordination of the humanitarian response to the tragedy.

We will deploy about 200 people, about half of whom will serve on the ground in East Timor. In addition, elements of the Pacific Fleet will provide support. I am especially encouraged that Asian nations will be taking the primary responsibility. The overall force will contain about 7,500 people, roughly half will be Australian, and I understand that Thailand and many other Asian nations will contribute, as well as governments from outside the region.

This mission is in America's interest for several reasons. Indonesia's future is important to us, not only because of its resources

and its sea lanes but for its potential as a leader in the region and the world. It is the fourth most populous nation in the world; the largest Muslim nation in the world. All Asians and Americans have an interest in a stable, democratic, prosperous Indonesia.

Our fundamental values are also at stake in East Timor. The election on August 30th was conducted fairly, under the leadership of the U.N., with the agreement of the Indonesian Government. It produced a clear mandate for independence. The violence since is abhorrent to all of us who care about human dignity and democracy.

Of course, on any mission like this, there are dangers and risks of casualties. There remains a great deal of work ahead, but this force is well equipped for the job, and it is a job that is in the interests of peace and stability.

Wedgewood Baptist Church Attack

Last night, in the Wedgewood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, during a prayer service for teenagers, a gunman killed seven worshipers, wounded seven others and killed himself. Yet again, we have seen a sanctuary violated by gun violence, taking children brimming with faith and promise and hope before their time. Our Nation's support and prayers are with the families of the victims, those still suffering in the hospital, and the entire Fort Worth community.

Federal law enforcement officials are now working with State officials and local authorities to find all the answers. But we know we have to redouble our efforts to protect our children. We know we have to act as if it were our own children being targeted by gun violence.

We know that there is nothing we can do to assure that this will never happen, but there is a lot more we can do to assure that it will happen more rarely. And I can only hope that the shock of this event will spur that kind of action.

Thank you very much.

Consultation With Congressional Leaders on East Timor

Q. Mr. President, did you consult the leaders? You say you consulted the leaders on the force, this very small force?