

## *Foreword*

During the second half of 1993, the American people continued to confront vast changes around the world and here at home. We found the courage to move forward as a Nation, striving to build better lives for ourselves and our children and to chart America's course into the 21st century.

As these papers document, we continued to make the changes necessary to empower the American people to move ahead with confidence. The Congress enacted our Administration's economic plan, providing the largest cut in the Federal budget deficit in history and increasing investments to help hardworking Americans meet the challenges of the world economy. After a vigorous debate, the Congress enacted the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico, forging ties among our countries that will help us all compete and win around the world.

As business responded favorably to the changes in our country's economic policy, we strove to change the way our government does the people's business as well. Following Vice President Gore's recommendations in the National Performance Review, we began to reinvent our government to make it more efficient and more effective for the American people, streamlining the Federal workforce, giving more responsibility to frontline workers, and making the regulatory process less costly, more accountable, and more efficient.

We recognized, too, that government can only do so much. The greatest responsibility for renewing the American Dream and restoring our spirit of community belongs to the American people themselves. In signing legislation creating a new national service program, AmeriCorps, I asked all Americans to seize the opportunity "to reach beyond themselves and to reach out to others and to make things better." In the final analysis, the most lasting changes must come from the individual acts of all Americans. At the Church of God in Christ in Memphis, Tennessee, where the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., had delivered the last speech of his lifetime, I asked our fellow citizens to remember that, without spiritual renewal, "none of the things we seek to do will ever take us where we need to go."

We all were reminded of the hopeful possibilities of our times when we witnessed an historic act of reconciliation that American diplomacy helped foster. The Prime Minister of Israel and the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization came to the White House for a handshake of hope and a declaration of principles to put an end to their ancient conflict. America and the world saw how much we can all accomplish when we decide to move forward together.

*William Clinton*