

## *Foreword*

During the second half of 1994, America continued to move forward to help strengthen the American Dream of prosperity here at home and help spread peace and democracy around the world.

The American people saw the rewards that grew out of our efforts in the first 18 months of my Administration. Economic growth increased in strength, and the number of new jobs created during my Administration rose to 4.7 million. After 6 years of delay, the American people had a Crime Bill, which will put 100,000 police officers on our streets and take 19 deadly assault weapons off the street. We saw our National Service initiative become a reality as I swore in the first 20,000 AmeriCorps members, giving them the opportunity to serve their country and to earn money for their education. I signed the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994, which will make capital available to Americans who have been denied access to basic banking services for far too long.

As we gave our citizens the means to make America stronger at home, we also continued our efforts to assert American leadership in the world. The Congress passed and I signed the implementing legislation for the Uruguay Round Agreement of the GATT, the most comprehensive international trade agreement in history. It helped to put in place expanded export opportunities for American products that will create more jobs and produce higher incomes for our people for years to come. I travelled to Indonesia for a meeting of the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in order to expand free trade with the world's most dynamic economies. In December, at the Summit of the Americas in Miami, the leaders of the 34 democratically elected countries in this hemisphere agreed to negotiate on a free trade area for the Americas by 2005, to work together to preserve our natural resources, and to advance democracy and social justice, holding out promise of greater prosperity throughout the hemisphere.

The United States also continued to help bring an end to ancient disputes around the world. We actively supported the efforts of the people of Northern Ireland to work toward a peaceful resolution after many years of conflict. Building on our work to bring peace to the Middle East, I had the great privilege to witness the signing of an historic peace treaty between Israel and Jordan. And closer to home, in our own hemisphere, America took active steps to promote democracy. Our Armed Forces again proved their strength, flexibility, and devotion to freedom as they helped give a second chance to the long-suffering people of Haiti, and renewed hope to freedom-loving people throughout the world.

*William Clinton*