with respect to Israel, to provide through the
close of December 31, 2001, access into the
United States customs territory for specified
quantities of certain agricultural products of
Israel free of duty or certain fees or other
import charges.

5. Section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974
(19 U.S.C. 2483) ("the 1974 Act"), authorizes
the President to embody in the Harmonized
Tariff Schedule of the United States ("HTS")
the substance of the relevant provisions of
that Act, and of other acts affecting import
treatment, and actions thereunder, including
the removal, modification, continuance, or
imposition of any rate of duty or other import
restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,
President of the United States of America,
acting under the authority vested in me by
the Constitution and the laws of the United
States, including but not limited to section
4 of the FTA Act and section 604 of the 1974
Act, do hereby proclaim:

(1) In order to implement aspects of the
1996 Agreement with the Government of Is-
rael concerning certain aspects of trade in
agricultural products, the HTS is modified
as provided in the Annex to this procla-
mination.

(2) Any provisions of previous proclama-
tions and Executive orders that are inconsist-
ent with the actions taken in this proclama-
tion are superseded to the extent of such in-
consistency.

(3) The modifications to the HTS made
by the Annex to this proclamation shall be
effective with respect to goods entered, or
withdrawn from warehouse for consumption,
on or after the dates set forth in such Annex,
and the tariff treatment set forth therein shall
be effective as provided in such Annex
through December 31, 2001.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand this second day of December, in
the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and
ninety-six, and of the Independence of the
United States of America the two hundred
and twenty-first.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
8:45 a.m., December 4, 1996]
Part of the U.S. assistance to the region has been helping locate groups of refugees and displaced persons to ascertain their movement and condition. The United States has used aircraft and other means in an effort to gain accurate and complete information. Although there has been sporadic fire from unknown sources at aircraft over-flying the Great Lakes region, including U.S. Navy aircraft, it is not clear that this fire was intentionally directed at U.S. personnel. This past weekend the United States also deployed an AC-130U aircraft to the area to facilitate this effort through the use of aerial surveys. Although its primary mission is aerial surveys, the aircraft is fully mission-capable and will be available for search and rescue or other force-protection missions, if required. The aircraft will be based in Entebbe Airfield, Uganda, and will conduct aerial surveys throughout the Great Lakes region. The aircraft will remain in the area as long as aerial survey efforts are required by relief efforts.

The United States recognizes that the return of peace and security to the region will ultimately rest on the resolution of long-standing political and social differences and an end to the fighting. The United States is actively supporting the United Nations and the international community to achieve those ends. Humanitarian concerns, however, require that the United States take immediate action to relieve the suffering of innocent victims of the regional instability until those long-term political and social differences can be resolved.

I have taken this action pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct the foreign relations of the United States and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I am providing this report in accordance with my desire that the Congress be fully informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution. I appreciate the support of the Congress in this action to assist the international community in its humanitarian relief efforts in Central Africa.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Strom Thurmond, President pro tempore of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 3.