

**NLWJC - KAGAN**

**WHORM - BOX 003 - FOLDER 024**

**TA004-09      242363SS**

# FOIA MARKER

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**Collection/Record Group:** Clinton Presidential Records  
**Subgroup/Office of Origin:** Records Management - SUBJECT FILE  
**Series/Staff Member:**  
**Subseries:**

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**OA/ID Number:** 14058  
**Scan ID:** 242363SS  
**Document Number:**

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**Folder Title:**  
TA004-09

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>S</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

11-14-97 242363 SS

TADD4-D9

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 13, 1997

'97 NOV 13 PM5:21

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: CHARLES F.C. RUFF  
ELENA KAGAN

SUBJECT: Importation of Modified Semiautomatic Assault Type Rifles

As you requested, attached is a redraft of the directive. The directive now includes a more detailed discussion of the predicate for the actions to be taken by the Secretary. We have also separated the action of suspending existing permits from the discussion regarding the review process and pending applications.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 14, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

SUBJECT: Importation of Modified Semiautomatic  
Assault-Type Rifles

The Gun Control Act of 1968 restricts the importation of firearms unless they are determined to be particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes. In 1989, the Department of the Treasury (the Department) conducted a review of existing criteria for applying the statutory test based on changing patterns of gun use. As a result of that review, 43 assault-type rifles were specifically banned from importation. However, manufacturers have modified many of those weapons banned in 1989 to remove certain military features without changing their essential operational mechanism. Examples of such weapons are the Galil and the Uzi.

In recent weeks Members of Congress have strongly urged that it is again necessary to review the manner in which the Department is applying the sporting purposes test, in order to ensure that the agency's practice is consistent with the statute and current patterns of gun use. A letter signed by 30 Senators strongly urged that modified assault-type weapons are not properly importable under the statute and that I should use my authority to suspend temporarily their importation while the Department conducts an intensive, expedited review. A recent letter from Senator Dianne Feinstein emphasized again that weapons of this type are designed not for sporting purposes but for the commission of crime. In addition, 34 Members of the House of Representatives signed a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu requesting that he intervene to stop all sales of Galils and Uzis into the United States. These concerns have caused the Government of Israel to announce a temporary moratorium on the exportation of Galils and Uzis so that the United States can review the importability of these weapons under the Gun Control Act.

*sgnd./dtd./announced: 11-14-97  
orig. to mailroom for dispatch via receipt. With courier: 11/17/97*

*EG*

The number of weapons at issue underscores the potential threat to the public health and safety that necessitates immediate action. Firearms importers have obtained permits to import nearly 600,000 modified assault-type rifles. In addition, there are pending before the Department applications to import more than 1 million additional such weapons. The number of rifles covered by outstanding permits is comparable to that which existed in 1989 when the Bush Administration temporarily suspended import permits for assault-type rifles. The number of weapons for which permits for importation are being sought through pending applications is approximately 10 times greater than in 1989. The number of such firearms for which import applications have been filed has skyrocketed from 10,000 on October 9, 1997, to more than 1 million today.

My Administration is committed to enforcing the statutory restrictions on importation of firearms that do not meet the sporting purposes test. It is necessary that we ensure that the statute is being correctly applied and that the current use of these modified weapons is consistent with the statute's criteria for importability. This review should be conducted at once on an expedited basis. The review is directed to weapons such as the Uzi and Galil that failed to meet the sporting purposes test in 1989, but were later found importable when certain military features were removed. The results of this review should be applied to all pending and future applications.

The existence of outstanding permits for nearly 600,000 modified assault-type rifles threatens to defeat the purpose of the expedited review unless, as in 1989, the Department temporarily suspends such permits. Importers typically obtain authorization to import firearms in far greater numbers than are actually imported into the United States. However, gun importers could effectively negate the impact of any Department determination by simply importing weapons to the maximum amount allowed by their permits. The public health and safety require that the only firearms allowed into the United States are those that meet the criteria of the statute.

Accordingly, as we discussed, you will:

- 1) Conduct an immediate expedited review not to exceed 120 days in length to determine whether modified semiautomatic assault-type rifles are properly importable under the statutory sporting purposes test. The results of this review will govern action on pending and future applications for import permits, which shall not be acted upon until the completion of this review.

2) Suspend outstanding permits for importation of modified semiautomatic assault-type rifles for the duration of the 120-day review period. The temporary suspension does not constitute a permanent revocation of any license. Permits will be revoked only if and to the extent that you determine that a particular weapon does not satisfy the statutory test for importation, and only after an affected importer has an opportunity to make its case to the Department.

William J. Cristen

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 14, 1997

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(OVER)

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WILLIAM J. CLINTON

# # #

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE CLERK  
TRACKING SHEET FOR PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

TITLE: IMPORTATION OF UZI AND GALIL FIREARMS

TYPE DOCUMENT:

PROCLAMATION

LETTER(S)

EXECUTIVE ORDER

MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS/SENATE

MEMORANDUM

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

DECISION MEMORANDUM

SIGNING STATEMENT

DETERMINATION (numbered)

TREATY/CONVENTION/AGREEMENT, etc.

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED: (Advance: 10/21/97 Time: 3:50 a.m. (p.m.)  
In final: 11/12/97 Time: 8 a.m. (p.m.)

SENT TO CORRESPONDENCE FOR TYPING IN FINAL:

(Advance: 10/21/97 Time: 4:15 a.m. (p.m.)  
In final: 11/12/97 Time: 8 a.m. (p.m.)

TO TODD STERN'S OFFICE:

(For staffing: 10/21/97 Time: 5:20 a.m. (p.m.)  
In final: 11/13/97 Time: 11:30 a.m. (p.m.)

\*INFO, INCLUDING STENCIL AND DISC, TO PRESS OFFICE:

Date: 11/14/97 Time: 5:00 a.m. (p.m.)  
POSTED: 11/17/97 Time: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. (p.m.)

NOTIFICATIONS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Person/time) NSC, when appropriate -- Desk Officer;  
W.H. Situation Room -- x6-9425.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Person/time) (Other)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Person/time) (Other)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Person/time) (Other)

OTHER INFORMATION:

*(per Phil, probably for Thursday - Friday)*

✓  
W.H. G.  
10-22-97

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
*ORM OPTICAL DISK NETWORK*

ID# 24236355

Hardcopy pages are in poor condition (too light or too dark).

Remainder of case not scanned.

Oversize attachment not scanned.

Report not scanned.

Enclosure(s) not scanned.

Proclamation not scanned.

Incoming letter(s) not scanned.

Proposal not scanned.

Statement not scanned.

Duplicate letters attached - not scanned.

Only table of contents scanned.

No incoming letter attached.

Only tracking sheet scanned.

Photo(s) not scanned.

Bill not scanned.

Resolution not scanned.

Comments:

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 14, 1997

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William J. Cramer

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 14, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

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WASHINGTON

November 14, 1997

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than <sup>1</sup>one million additional such weapons. The number of rifles covered by outstanding permits is comparable to that which existed in 1989 when the Bush Administration temporarily suspended import permits for assault-type rifles. The number of weapons for which permits for importation are being sought through pending applications is approximately 10 times greater than in 1989. The number of such firearms for which import applications have been filed has skyrocketed from 10,000 on October 9, 1997, to more than one million today.

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SUBJECT: Importation of Modified Semiautomatic Assault-Type Rifles

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 14, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

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Assault-Type Rifles

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In recent weeks Members of Congress have strongly urged that it is again necessary to review the manner in which the Department is applying the sporting purposes test, to ensure that the agency's practice is consistent with the statute and current patterns of gun use. A letter signed by 30 ~~Members of the Senate~~ strongly urged that modified assault-type weapons are not properly importable under the statute and that I should use my authority to suspend temporarily their importation while the Department conducts an intensive, expedited review. A recent letter from Senator <sup>D. Ginsberg</sup> ~~Weinstein~~ emphasized again that weapons of this type are designed not for sporting purposes but for the commission of crime. In addition, 34 Members of the House of Representatives signed a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu requesting that he intervene to stop all sales of Galils and Uzis into the United States. These concerns have caused the Government of Israel to announce a temporary moratorium on the exportation of Galils and Uzis so that the United States can review the importability of these weapons under the Gun Control Act.

The number of weapons at issue underscores the potential threat to the public health and safety that necessitates immediate action. Firearms importers have obtained permits to import nearly 600,000 modified assault-type rifles. In addition, there are pending before the Department applications to import more

than <sup>1</sup>one million additional such weapons. The number of rifles covered by outstanding permits is comparable to that which existed in 1989 when the Bush Administration temporarily suspended import permits for assault-type rifles. The number of weapons for which permits for importation are being sought through pending applications is approximately 10 times greater than in 1989. The number of such firearms for which import applications have been filed has skyrocketed from 10,000 on October 9, 1997, to more than one million today.

My Administration is committed to enforcing the statutory restrictions on importation of firearms that do not meet the sporting-purposes test. It is necessary that we ensure that the statute is being correctly applied and that the current use of these modified weapons is consistent with the statute's criteria for importability. This review should be conducted at once on an expedited basis. The review is directed to weapons such as the Uzi and Galil that failed to meet the sporting-purposes test in 1989, but were later found importable when certain military features were removed. The results of this review should be applied to all pending and future applications.

The existence of outstanding permits for nearly 600,000 modified assault-type rifles threatens to defeat the purpose of the expedited review unless, as in 1989, the Department temporarily suspends such permits. Importers typically obtain authorization to import firearms in far greater numbers than are actually imported into the United States. However, gun importers could effectively negate the impact of any Department determination by simply importing weapons to the maximum amount allowed by their permits. The public health and safety require that the only firearms allowed into the United States are those that meet the criteria of the statute.

Accordingly, as we discussed, you will:

1) Conduct an immediate expedited review not to exceed 120 days in length to determine whether modified semiautomatic assault-type rifles are properly importable under the statutory sporting-purposes test. The results of this review will govern action on pending and future applications for import permits, which shall not be acted upon until the completion of this review.

2) Suspend outstanding permits for importation of modified semiautomatic assault-type rifles for the duration of the 120-day review period. The temporary suspension does not constitute a permanent revocation of any license. Permits will be revoked only if and to the extent that you determine that a particular weapon does not satisfy the statutory test for importation, and only after an affected importer has an opportunity to make its case to the Department.

VP

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 13, 1997

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: CHARLES F.C. RUFF  
ELENA KAGAN

SUBJECT: Importation of Modified Semiautomatic Assault Type Rifles

As you requested, attached is a redraft of the directive. The directive now includes a more detailed discussion of the predicate for the actions to be taken by the Secretary. We have also separated the action of suspending existing permits from the discussion regarding the review process and pending applications.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 14, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

SUBJECT: Importation of Modified Semiautomatic Assault-Type Rifles

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 14, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

SUBJECT: Importation of Modified Semiautomatic Assault-Type Rifles

The Gun Control Act of 1968 restricts the importation of firearms unless they are determined to be particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes. In 1989, the Treasury Department conducted a review of existing criteria for applying the statutory test based on changing patterns of gun use. As a result of that review 43 assault-type rifles were specifically banned from importation. However, manufacturers have modified many of those weapons banned in 1989 to remove certain military features without changing their essential operational mechanism. Examples of such weapons are the Galil and the Uzi.

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GUNS (auto/semi-auto)

President's position: See Background Briefing by Senior Administration Official on 5/15/89. Updates the 3/14/89, Treasury import ban on certain assault weapons, and goes on to define President's proposals to combat violent crime, drug crimes using these weapons.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 14, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

SUBJECT: Importation of Modified Semiautomatic Assault Type Rifles

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### Statement on the Implementation of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993

September 12, 1994

This law creates the opportunity to include millions of Americans in the political process who have previously been excluded because of difficult and confusing voting rules. I urge all Americans of all political parties to register to vote, and I urge the voter registration groups to continue and expand their efforts to ensure as many of our citizens as possible are registered.

NOTE: This statement was included in a White House statement announcing that the President signed Executive Order 12926—Implementation of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

### Executive Order 12926—Implementation of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993

September 12, 1994

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in order to ensure, as required by section 7(b) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg) ("the Act"), that departments, agencies, and other entities of the executive branch of the Federal Government cooperate with the States in carrying out the Act's requirements, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1. Assistance to States.** To the greatest extent practicable, departments, agencies, and other entities of the executive branch of the Federal Government that provide, in whole or in part, funding, grants, or assistance for, or with respect to the administration of, any program of public assistance or services to persons with disabilities within the meaning of section 7(a) of the Act shall: (a) provide, to State agencies administering any such program, guidance for the implementation of the requirements of section 7 of the Act, including guidance for use and distribution of voter registration forms in connection with applications for service;

(b) assist each such State agency administering any such program with the costs of implementation of the Act, consistent with legal authority and the availability of funds, and promptly indicate to each State agency the extent to which such assistance will be made available; and

(c) designate an office or staff to be available to provide technical assistance to such State agencies.

**Sec. 2. Armed Forces Recruitment Offices.** The Secretary of Defense is directed to work with the appropriate State elections authorities in each State to develop procedures for persons to apply to register to vote at Armed Forces recruitment offices as required by section 7(c) of the Act.

**Sec. 3. Acceptance of Designation.** To the greatest extent practicable, departments, agencies, or other entities of the executive branch of the Federal Government, if requested to be designated as a voter registration agency pursuant to section 7(a)(3)(B)(ii) of the Act, shall: (a) agree to such a designation if agreement is consistent with the department's, agency's, or entity's legal authority and availability of funds; and

(b) ensure that all of its offices that are located in a particular State will have available to the public at least one of the national voter registration forms that are required under the Act to be available in that State.

William Jefferson Clinton

The White House,  
September 12, 1994.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:21 a.m., September 13, 1994]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on September 14.

### Remarks on Signing the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994

September 13, 1994

I think we ought to give the Vice President a hand for all the work that he has done. [Applause] Thank you, Mr. Vice President, for your introduction and for your labors on this bill.

Most of the introductions have been made, but I want to join what has been said. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet, General Reno and Secretary Bentsen and all the others who worked so hard on this. I want to thank all these mayors here, Mayor Giuliani, Mayor Webb, Mayor Rice, Mayor Daley, Mayor James. Mayor Rendell all the other mayors. I'd like to ask—and there are some county officials here—I'd like to ask all the local leaders who are here to please stand up; they didn't all stand—I'd like to ask them all to stand and be recognized. Mayor Golding, Susan, good to see you. Mayor Schmoke, Mayor Helmke, Mayor Abramson who got cauliflower ear from making his phone calls. [Laughter] I'd also like to ask, even though many of them have been introduced, I would like to ask the people without whom we would not be here today, all the Members of the Congress who are here, Republicans and Democrats, to please stand and be acknowledged; every one of them, I'd like for them to stand up. Thank you.

And let me say to all the representatives of the victims groups and the citizens groups how grateful we are to you; to all the leaders of the law enforcement groups; to all the rank-and-file folks who worked so hard; to all the leaders of the community groups of people who wanted to give our kids something to say yes to and to prevent crime before it occurs; to all the ministers—to all of you, I thank you for being here and for making this day possible.

The American people have been waiting a long time for this day. In the last 25 years, half a million Americans have been killed by other Americans. For 25 years, crime has been a hot political issue, used too often to divide us while the system makes excuses for not punishing criminals and doing the job. Instead of being used to unite us to prevent crime, punish criminals, and restore a sense of safety and security to the American people.

For the last 6 years, children have become the most likely victims of violent crime and its most likely perpetrators. And for 6 years, Washington debated a crime bill without action while more and more children died and more and more children became criminals

and foreclosed a productive life for themselves.

In the last 2 years, Meghan Sposato lost a mother she had only begun to know; Polly Klaas lost her life to a felon who should never have been back on the streets; and James Darby wrote his President a letter because he was so afraid, only to lose his life walking home before anybody could erase his fears. And still, some people in this town tried to keep this day from happening. But today, at last, the waiting ends.

Today the bickering stops, the era of excuses is over, the law-abiding citizens of our country have made their voices heard. Never again should Washington put politics and party above law and order.

From this day forward, let us put partisanship behind us, and let us go forward—Democrats, Republicans and independents, law enforcement, community leaders, ordinary citizens—let us roll up our sleeves to roll back this awful tide of violence and reduce crime in our country. We have the tools now. Let us get about the business of using them.

One of the reasons that I sought this office is to get this bill because if the American people do not feel safe on their streets, in their schools, in their homes, in their places of work and worship, then it is difficult to say that the American people are free.

Not so long ago, kids grew up knowing they'd have to pay if they broke a neighbor's window playing ball. I know; I did it once. [Laughter] They knew they'd be in trouble if they lied or stole because their parents and teachers and neighbors cared enough to set them straight. And everybody knew that anybody who committed a serious crime would be caught and convicted and would serve their time in jail. The rules were simple, the results were predictable, and we lived better because of it. Punishment was swift and certain for people who didn't follow the rules, and the rewards of America were considerable for those who did.

Now, too many kids don't have parents who care. Gangs and drugs have taken over our streets and undermined our schools. Every day we read about somebody else who has literally gotten away with murder. But the American people haven't forgotten the

difference between right and wrong. The system has. The American people haven't stopped wanting to raise their children in lives of safety and dignity, but they've got a lot of obstacles in their way.

When I sign this crime bill, we together are taking a big step toward bringing the laws of our land back into line with the values of our people and beginning to restore the line between right and wrong. There must be no doubt about whose side we're on. People who commit crimes should be caught, convicted, and punished. This bill puts Government on the side of those who abide by the law, not those who break it; on the side of the victims, not their attackers; on the side of the brave men and women who put their lives on the line for us every day, not the criminals or those who would turn away from law enforcement. That's why police and prosecutors and preachers fought so hard for this bill and why I am so proud to sign it into law today.

When this bill is law, "three strikes and you're out" will be the law of the land; the penalty for killing a law enforcement officer will be death; we will have a significant—[*applause*—]—we will have the means by which we can say punishment will be more certain. We will cut the Federal work force over a period of years by 270,000 positions to its lowest level in 30 years and take all that money to pay for this crime bill. The savings will be used to put 100,000 police officers on the street, a 20 percent increase. It will be used to build prisons to keep 100,000 violent criminals off the street. It will be used to give our young people something to say yes to, places where they can go after school where they are safe, where they can do constructive things that will help them to build their lives, where teachers replace gang leaders as role models. All of these things should be done and will be done.

This bill makes it illegal for juveniles to own handguns and, yes, without eroding the rights of sports men and women in this country, we will finally ban these assault weapons from our street that have no purpose other than to kill.

But my friends, let us be frank with each other: Even this great law, the toughest and smartest crime bill in our history, cannot do

the job alone. By its own words, it is still a law. It must be implemented by you, and it must be supplemented by you. Even when we put a new police officer on your block, the officer can't make you safe unless you come out of your home and help the officer do his or her job. Even when we keep our schools open late and give our children an alternative to drugs and gangs, your children won't learn the difference between right and wrong unless you teach them and they're in those schools when they're open. Our country will not truly be safe again until all Americans take personal responsibility for themselves, their families, and their communities. This day is the beginning, not the end, of our effort to restore safety and security to the people of this country.

Here in Washington there is more that we can do. Today I am naming Vice President Gore, whose reinventing Government report first proposed the cuts in the bureaucracy that will pay for this bill, to head the President's Prevention Council. I want him to work with every Department to make this a coherent and cost-effective effort to give communities the tools they need to prevent crime from occurring in the first place. In a few weeks I will name the head of our program to put 100,000 new police on the street. And early next month, the Justice Department will award grants to put new police on the street in 150 more cities and towns that applied last year.

Last Sunday, I was in Maryland, and Senator Sarbanes told me that already one of our community policing grants had resulted in the capture of a serious felon in a community in his State. This will make a difference. And I want to commend the Attorney General and the Justice Department for being determined to do this right, to get this money out to the grassroots so that we can hire the police and get on with the job.

Thirdly, in the coming months the Vice President and I will hold forums on crime and violence all across our country, with all kinds of people from all walks of life, leading up here to a meeting at the White House next year to launch a national effort at the grassroots level in each and every community to implement the crime bill properly, to enshrine the values and common sense the

crime bill represents, and to do something about this terrible scourge of violence that is especially gripping our children and robbing them of their future. We intend to continue the fight, and we want you to keep working with us.

Today we remember the thousands of officers who gave their lives to make our Nation safer, whose names are inscribed in a stone memorial just a mile away from here. We remember the innocent victims whose lives were lost and whose families were shattered by the scourge of violent crime. We remember three, James Darby, Polly Klaas, and Jody Sposato, whose deaths literally galvanized this Nation and shamed our political system into action. It is in their memories that I dedicate this bill. I hope this law will always be remembered in their names. And I hope, too, that we will remember what the Vice President said, "The ultimate victory of this law will be in the salvation of the children whose names we will never know."

Early in 1992, I was walking through one of the countless kitchens of a hotel lobby in New York on my way to a dinner when a waiter working there came up to me and grabbed me, and he said, "Mr. President"—he didn't call me Governor then—he said, "My 10-year-old boy is studying this election in school, and he says I should vote for you." But he said, "I want to tell you something first, I came here as an immigrant, and the place where I lived was very poor, and we were very poor. But at least we were free. Now we live here, and we have more money, but we are not free. We are not free because my boy can't walk across the street and play in the park unless I am with him. We are not free because my boy cannot walk to school unless I am with him. Make my boy free."

On the day after the crime bill was signed, I received a letter carefully typed from a young man who is the son of a member of our administration. It was so eloquent. He said, "I live in a good neighborhood. I go to a nice school. You wouldn't think people like me would care about this crime bill, but I have been keeping up with it every day because every time I go out with my friends at night to a movie or to a game, I think

someone might shoot me before I get home. Now I feel so much better."

My fellow Americans, this is about freedom. Without responsibility, without order, without lawfulness, there is no freedom. Today the will of the American people has triumphed over a generation of division and paralysis. We've won a chance to work together.

So in that spirit, let us rededicate ourselves today to making this law become the life of our country, to restoring the sense of right and wrong that built our country, and to make it safe, not in words but in fact, in the lifeblood of every child and every citizen of this country who believes in the promise of America. Let us make it real.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:48 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mayors Rudolph Giuliani of New York City; Wellington E. Webb of Denver, CO; Norman Rice of Seattle, WA; Richard M. Daley of Chicago, IL; Sharpe James of Newark, NJ; Edward Rendell of Philadelphia, PA; Susan Golding of San Diego, CA; Kurt Schmoke of Baltimore, MD; Paul Helmke of Fort Wayne, IN; and Jerry Abramson of Louisville, KY. H.R. 3355, approved September 13, was assigned Public Law No. 103-322.

### **Memorandum on the Ounce of Prevention Council**

*September 13, 1994*

*Memorandum for the Vice President, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Education, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Director of National Drug Control Policy, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy*

*Subject: The Ounce of Prevention Council*

The Federal Government must administer its programs and deliver services to the American people in the most efficient, effective, and economical ways possible. To that end, this Administration is committed to

— DRAFT —  
(10/17/97...6pm)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Subject: Importation of Uzi and Galil Firearms

The historic Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 banned 19 specific assault weapons, duplicates of those 19 firearms, and certain other semiautomatic weapons possessing various military-style features. The Administration and Congress worked to ban these deadly firearms because -- as the weapon of choice for gangs and drug dealers -- they were being recovered at numerous crime scenes and resulting in criminals being better armed than some of the nation's law enforcement officers. Last year, in part as a result of the ban on assault weapons, fewer police officers were slain in the line of duty than in any year since 1960, and fewer law enforcement officers were killed by assault weapons.

In addition to the prohibitions contained in the 1994 ban on assault weapons, the 1968 Gun Control Act further restricts the importation of firearms unless they are determined to be particularly suitable for or readily adaptable for sporting purposes. To enforce this law, the Treasury Department has developed a factoring system to determine whether handguns meet this sporting purposes test and are thus importable. The Department also determined that semiautomatic assault-type rifles do not meet the sporting purposes test and are not importable.

I am now informed that 2 of the 19 assault weapons that were specifically banned from importation in 1989, the Galil and the Uzi, have been redesigned in order to circumvent the ban. The Galil and Uzi, which are manufactured by Israel Military Industries, were banned because -- in their military configurations -- they were found to have no legitimate sporting purpose. It is now appropriate to determine whether the redesigned weapons would have legitimate sporting purposes in this country and are suitable for continued importation under the provisions of the Gun Control Act of 1968.

My Administration <sup>continues to</sup> aggressively enforced all applicable laws to keep non-sporting firearms and other munitions posing a threat to public safety from entering the country. Therefore, I direct you to:

- 1) Take the necessary steps to reexamine and determine whether the sporting purposes test should be modified with respect to the importation of the Galil, Uzi, and any other firearms that have been similarly adapted or re-engineered since the 1989 ban on the importation of semiautomatic assault rifles or the 1994 ban on semiautomatic assault weapons; *qtd*
- 2) Effective immediately, suspend action on pending and future applications to import these weapons until this review is complete.

Nothing herein shall be construed to require actions contrary to applicable provisions of law.

*to distribute evidence that*

*what about...  
should...  
firearms?*

(Same version as we were earlier given)

Option #1

Option 1

October 31, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Subject: Importation of Uzi and Galil Firearms ? the

The historic Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 banned 19 specific assault weapons, duplicates of those 19 firearms and certain other semiautomatic weapons possessing various military style features. The Administration and Congress worked to ban these deadly firearms because -- as the weapon of choice for gangs and drug dealers -- they were being recovered at numerous crime scenes and resulting in criminals being better armed than some of the nation's law enforcement officers. Last year, in part as a result of the ban on assault weapons, fewer police officers were slain in the line of duty than in any year since 1960, and fewer law enforcement officers were killed by assault weapons.

In addition to the prohibitions contained in the 1994 ban on assault weapons, the 1968 Gun Control Act further restricts the importation of firearms unless they are determined to be particularly suitable for or readily adaptable for sporting purposes. To enforce this law, the Treasury Department has developed a factoring system to determine whether handguns meet this sporting purposes test and are thus importable. The Department also determined that semiautomatic assault type rifles do not meet the sporting purposes test and are not importable.

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My Administration has aggressively enforced all applicable laws to keep non-sporting firearms and other munitions posing a threat to public safety from entering the country. Therefore, I direct you to:

- 1) Take the necessary steps to reexamine and determine whether the sporting purposes test should be modified with respect to the importation of the Galil, Uzi and any other firearms that have been similarly adapted or re-engineered since the 1989 ban on the importation of semiautomatic assault rifles or the 1994 ban on semiautomatic assault weapons; and
- 2) Effective immediately, suspend action on pending and future applications to import these weapons until this review is complete.

Nothing herein shall be construed to require actions contrary to applicable provisions of law.

Option  
2

Option  
#2

October 31, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Subject: Importation of Modified Assault-Type Weapons

The historic Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 banned 19 specific assault weapons, duplicates of those 19 firearms and certain other semiautomatic weapons possessing various military style features. The Administration and Congress worked to ban these deadly firearms because -- as the weapon of choice for gangs and drug dealers -- they were being recovered at numerous crime scenes and resulting in criminals being better armed than some of the nation's law enforcement officers. Last year, in part as a result of the ban on assault weapons, fewer police officers were slain in the line of duty than in any year since 1960, and fewer law enforcement officers were killed by assault weapons.

In addition to the prohibitions contained in the 1994 ban on assault weapons, the 1968 Gun Control Act further restricts the importation of firearms unless they are determined to be particularly suitable for or readily adaptable for sporting purposes. To enforce this law, the Treasury Department has developed a factoring system to determine whether handguns meet this sporting purposes test and are thus importable. The Department also determined that semiautomatic assault type rifles do not meet the sporting purposes test and are not importable.

I am now informed that 2 of the 19 assault weapons that were specifically banned from importation in 1989, the Galil and the Uzi, have been redesigned in order to circumvent the ban. The Galil and Uzi, which are manufactured by Israel Military Industries, were banned because -- in their military configurations -- they were found to have no legitimate sporting purpose. It is now appropriate to determine whether the redesigned weapons would have legitimate sporting purposes in this country and are suitable for continued importation under the provisions of the Gun Control Act of 1968.

My Administration has aggressively enforced all applicable laws to keep non-sporting firearms and other munitions posing a threat to public safety from entering the country. Therefore, I direct you to:

- 1) Take the necessary steps to reexamine and determine whether the sporting purposes test should be modified with respect to the importation of the Galil, Uzi and any other firearms that have been similarly adapted or re-engineered since the 1989 ban on the importation of semiautomatic assault rifles or the 1994 ban on semiautomatic assault weapons;

Effective immediately, suspend action on pending and future applications to import these weapons until this review is complete; and

- 3) During this review period, closely monitor the continued importation and criminal use of these modified assault-type weapons, and -- if you determine that circumstances warrant additional action -- take any other appropriate action including the suspension of existing permits.

Nothing herein shall be construed to require actions contrary to applicable provisions of law.

October 31, 1997

Ophon  
#3

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Subject: Importation of Modified Assault Weapons ?

The historic Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 banned 19 specific assault weapons, duplicates of those 19 firearms and certain other semiautomatic weapons possessing various military style features. The Administration and Congress worked to ban these deadly firearms because -- as the weapon of choice for gangs and drug dealers -- they were being recovered at numerous crime scenes and resulting in criminals being better armed than some of the nation's law enforcement officers. Last year, in part as a result of the ban on assault weapons, fewer police officers were slain in the line of duty than in any year since 1960, and fewer law enforcement officers were killed by assault weapons.

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I am now informed that 2 of the 19 assault weapons that were specifically banned from importation in 1989, the Galil and the Uzi, have been redesigned in order to circumvent the ban. The Galil and Uzi, which are manufactured by Israel Military Industries, were banned because -- in their military configurations -- they were found to have no legitimate sporting purpose. It is now appropriate to determine whether the redesigned weapons would have legitimate sporting purposes in this country and are suitable for continued importation under the provisions of the Gun Control Act of 1968.

My Administration has aggressively enforced all applicable laws to keep non-sporting firearms and other munitions posing a threat to public safety from entering the country. Therefore, I direct you to:

- 1) Take the necessary steps to reexamine and determine whether the sporting purposes test should be modified with respect to the importation of the Galil, Uzi and any other firearms that have been similarly adapted or re-engineered since the 1989 ban on the importation of semiautomatic assault rifles or the 1994 ban on semiautomatic assault weapons;

- 2) Effective immediately, suspend all existing permits and action on pending ~~and future~~ applications for permits to import these weapons until this review is complete.

Nothing herein shall be construed to require actions contrary to applicable provisions of law.

and future

Per  
Phil

10/21/97

S.188

Bill,  
Take a quick look;  
then return to me.  
T.M.  
T.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

SUBJECT: Importation of Uzi and Galil Firearms

OK PL. 103-322

The historic Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 banned 19 specific assault weapons, duplicates of those 19 firearms, and certain other semiautomatic weapons possessing various military-style features. My Administration and the Congress worked to ban these deadly firearms because -- as the weapon of choice for gangs and drug dealers -- they were being recovered at numerous crime scenes, ~~and resulting in~~ *disturbing evidence that* ~~criminals~~ *being* better armed than some of the Nation's law enforcement officers. Last year, in part as a result of the ban on assault weapons, fewer police officers were slain in the line of duty than in any year since 1960, and fewer law enforcement officers were killed by assault weapons.

In addition to the prohibitions contained in the 1994 ban on assault weapons, the 1968 Gun Control Act restricts the importation of firearms unless they are determined to be particularly suitable for or readily adaptable for sporting purposes. To enforce this law, the Department of the Treasury has developed a factoring system to determine whether handguns meet this sporting purposes test and are thus importable. The Department also has determined that semiautomatic assault type rifles do not meet the sporting purposes test and are not importable.

(PL 90-618)

(1968), (1994)?

I am now informed that 2 of the 19 assault weapons that were specifically banned from importation in 1989, the Galil and the Uzi, have been redesigned in order to circumvent the ban. The Galil and Uzi, which are manufactured by Israel Military Industries, were banned because -- in their military configurations -- they were found to have no legitimate sporting purpose. It is now appropriate to determine whether the redesigned weapons would have legitimate sporting purposes in this country and are suitable for continued importation under the provisions of the Gun Control Act of 1968.

W.M.C.B.  
10-22-97

16-00000

2  
continues to

My Administration [has] aggressively enforced all applicable laws to keep non sporting firearms and other munitions posing a threat to public safety from [entering] the country. Therefore, I direct you to:

*domestic!*

*being imported into*

- ?
- (1) Take the necessary steps to reexamine and determine whether the sporting purposes test should be modified with respect to the importation of the Galil, Uzi, and any other firearms that have been similarly adapted or re-engineered since the 1989 ban on the importation of semiautomatic assault rifles or the 1994 ban on semiautomatic assault weapons; and
  - (2) Effective immediately, suspend action on pending and future applications to import these weapons until this review is complete.

Nothing herein shall be construed to require actions contrary to applicable provisions of law.

-- DRAFT --  
(10/17/97...6pm)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Subject: Importation of Uzi and Galil Firearms

*disturbing evidence that*

The historic Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 banned 19 specific assault weapons, duplicates of those 19 firearms, and certain other semiautomatic weapons possessing various military-style features. The Administration and Congress worked to ban these deadly firearms because -- as the weapon of choice for gangs and drug dealers -- they were being recovered at numerous crime scenes, and resulting in criminals being better armed than some of the nation's law enforcement officers. Last year, in part as a result of the ban on assault weapons, fewer police officers were slain in the line of duty than in any year since 1960, and fewer law enforcement officers were killed by assault weapons.

*of the*

In addition to the prohibitions contained in the 1994 ban on assault weapons, the 1968 Gun Control Act further restricts the importation of firearms unless they are determined to be particularly suitable for or readily adaptable for sporting purposes. To enforce this law, the *Department* Treasury Department has developed a factoring system to determine whether handguns meet this sporting purposes test and are thus importable. The Department also determined that semiautomatic assault-type rifles do not meet the sporting purposes test and are not importable.

I am now informed that 2 of the 19 assault weapons that were specifically banned from importation in 1989, the Galil and the Uzi, have been redesigned in order to circumvent the ban. The Galil and Uzi, which are manufactured by Israel Military Industries, were banned because -- in their military configurations -- they were found to have no legitimate sporting purpose. It is now appropriate to determine whether the redesigned weapons would have legitimate sporting purposes in this country and are suitable for continued importation under the provisions of the Gun Control Act of 1968.

*what about law enforcement produced firearms?*

My Administration *continues to* has aggressively enforced all applicable laws to keep non-sporting firearms and other munitions posing a threat to public safety from *being imported into* entering the country. Therefore, I direct you to:

- 1) Take the necessary steps to reexamine and determine whether the sporting purposes test should be modified with respect to the importation of the Galil, Uzi, and any other firearms that have been similarly adapted or re-engineered since the 1989 ban on the importation of semiautomatic assault rifles or the 1994 ban on semiautomatic assault weapons; and
- 2) Effective immediately, suspend action on pending and future applications to import these weapons until this review is complete.

Nothing herein shall be construed to require actions contrary to applicable provisions of law.

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**Phillip Caplan**

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10/21/97 03:37:00 PM

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Record Type: Record

To: G. Timothy Saunders/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Directive on Modified Assault Weapons -- Uzi and Galil

Could you have this put in typing and then brought over. I'd like to circulate it as soon as possible.  
Thanks.

----- Forwarded by Phillip Caplan/WHO/EOP on 10/21/97 03:36 PM -----



**Jose Cerda III**

10/21/97 03:30:00 PM

---

Record Type: Record

To: Phillip Caplan/WHO/EOP

cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

Subject: Directive on Modified Assault Weapons -- Uzi and Galil

Phil:

Attached please find a proposed directive that DPC, Treasury and WH Counsel have been working on to respond to concerns that Senator Feinstein raised to the President in a recent meeting -- and to letters from some 30 Senators and 30 Members. The directive calls on Treasury to temporarily suspend the importation of certain modified assault weapons, including the Uzis and Galils that have been highlighted in press reports. About 35,000 of these weapons have come into the country over the past 2 years. The directive also asks Treasury to re-examine whether or not these weapons meet the "sporting purposes" test in the 1968 Gun Control Act. If -- after review -- they do not, they will be permanently banned from importation. This is the same action that President Bush took with assault rifles (like the AK-47) in 1989, and that President Clinton took in 1993 with respect to assault pistols.

Rahm asked me to get this to you forthwith. You can call him if you have any timing/process questions. Leanne and I would be happy to answer any other questions you may have from a policy perspective.

Jose'



ASSAULT.D16

**Message Copied To:**

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**Michelle Crisci/WHO/EOP  
Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP  
Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP  
Karen A. Popp/WHO/EOP  
Tracey E. Thornton/WHO/EOP  
Peter G. Jacoby/WHO/EOP  
Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP**

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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Embargoed For Release  
Until 10:06 A.M. EST  
Saturday, November 15th, 1997

November 14, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

SUBJECT: Importation of Modified Semiautomatic  
Assault-Type Rifles

The Gun Control Act of 1968 restricts the importation of firearms unless they are determined to be particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes. In 1989, the Department of the Treasury (the Department) conducted a review of existing criteria for applying the statutory test based on changing patterns of gun use. As a result of that review, 43 assault-type rifles were specifically banned from importation. However, manufacturers have modified many of those weapons banned in 1989 to remove certain military features without changing their essential operational mechanism. Examples of such weapons are the Galil and the Uzi.

In recent weeks Members of Congress have strongly urged that it is again necessary to review the manner in which the Department is applying the sporting purposes test, in order to ensure that the agency's practice is consistent with the statute and current patterns of gun use. A letter signed by 30 Senators strongly urged that modified assault-type weapons are not properly importable under the statute and that I should use my authority to suspend temporarily their importation while the Department conducts an intensive, expedited review. A recent letter from Senator Dianne Feinstein emphasized again that weapons of this type are designed not for sporting purposes but for the commission of crime. In addition, 34 Members of the House of Representatives signed a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu requesting that he intervene to stop all sales of Galils and Uzis into the United States. These concerns have caused the Government of Israel to announce a temporary moratorium on the exportation of Galils and Uzis so that the United States can review the importability of these weapons under the Gun Control Act.

The number of weapons at issue underscores the potential threat to the public health and safety that necessitates immediate action. Firearms importers have obtained permits to import nearly 600,000 modified assault-type rifles. In addition, there are pending before the Department applications to import more than 1 million additional such weapons. The number of rifles covered by outstanding permits is comparable to that which existed in 1989 when the Bush Administration temporarily suspended import permits for assault-type rifles. The number of weapons for which permits for importation are being sought through pending applications is approximately 10 times greater than in 1989. The number of such firearms for which import applications have been filed has skyrocketed from 10,000 on October 9, 1997, to more than 1 million today.

more

(OVER)

My Administration is committed to enforcing the statutory restrictions on importation of firearms that do not meet the sporting purposes test. It is necessary that we ensure that the statute is being correctly applied and that the current use of these modified weapons is consistent with the statute's criteria for importability. This review should be conducted at once on an expedited basis. The review is directed to weapons such as the Uzi and Galil that failed to meet the sporting purposes test in 1989, but were later found importable when certain military features were removed. The results of this review should be applied to all pending and future applications.

The existence of outstanding permits for nearly 600,000 modified assault-type rifles threatens to defeat the purpose of the expedited review unless, as in 1989, the Department temporarily suspends such permits. Importers typically obtain authorization to import firearms in far greater numbers than are actually imported into the United States. However, gun importers could effectively negate the impact of any Department determination by simply importing weapons to the maximum amount allowed by their permits. The public health and safety require that the only firearms allowed into the United States are those that meet the criteria of the statute.

Accordingly, as we discussed, you will:

1) Conduct an immediate expedited review not to exceed 120 days in length to determine whether modified semiautomatic assault-type rifles are properly importable under the statutory sporting purposes test. The results of this review will govern action on pending and future applications for import permits, which shall not be acted upon until the completion of this review.

2) Suspend outstanding permits for importation of modified semiautomatic assault-type rifles for the duration of the 120-day review period. The temporary suspension does not constitute a permanent revocation of any license. Permits will be revoked only if and to the extent that you determine that a particular weapon does not satisfy the statutory test for importation, and only after an affected importer has an opportunity to make its case to the Department.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

# # #