



WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

October 9, 2009

Dear Prince Karl,

It's great, as always, to hear from you. Before I go any further, let me clarify one thing. I believe you misheard me during our last phone conversation. I said the United States was now Obama's nation, not an abomination. I have full confidence that the President will soon get this big deficit under control and turn the economy around, making it every bit as strong as when I left office.

To answer your first question, it brings me great pleasure that President Obama, my wife's boss (or is that my boss's boss?) was honoured by the Nobel Peace Prize committee. He deserves it, and I asked Hilary to pass on my congratulations next time she's briefed on how to support all his extraordinary diplomatic efforts. Barack's a real peacemaker, as he showed when he went back on those things that were said by his campaign team about me being a racist and about Hilary's foreign policy credentials being exaggerated. The extraordinariness of his efforts are beyond question. He did more in his first two weeks in the Oval Office than I did in two terms. It took me eight years to cut our nuclear warheads by a third. My biggest multilateral accomplishment was a ban on nuclear arms testing - and that was with jolly old Boris Yeltsin on the other side of the negotiating table. Boris loved a drink and a laugh. In contrast, Obama plans to rid the world of nukes and he's going to do it by disputin' Putin, and disarmin' Ahmadinejad. If that ain't extraordinary, I don't know what is. In recognition of the extraordinary goals he set himself, it's proper that the Nobel committee give him some extraordinary encouragement up front, meaning the award of the Nobel Prize so early in Barack's Presidency is not extraordinary at all, but really very ordinary.

Admit it, Karl, your second question is a little cheeky. No, I don't feel left out. Jimmy Carter proved he's a nut for diplomacy, and Al Gore turned a boring Powerpoint presentation into one heck of a popcorn movie. I can tell you I've seen Al's film twice and I didn't fall asleep on either occasion, whereas I normally read Al's books in bed for precisely the opposite effect. I don't deserve an award. All I ever did was help free some journalists in North Korea, sent the US military into former Yugoslavia because Blair and the Europeans couldn't stop the genocide by themselves, was the first President to visit Vietnam since the war and tried to bring peace between the Palestinians and Israelis with the Oslo Accords. So no, I don't think that Friday's announcement in Oslo by the Norwegian Nobel Committee means they've forgotten what I did. You can't assume that just because you're a Democrat and a President that the Nobel prize is a foregone conclusion. The Norwegians are obviously thinking ahead to the lasting peace that Obama is sure to deliver in the Middle East, and the hope and inspiration he brings to everyone in Africa. I got my ass kicked when those Somalis shot down our Black Hawks, so I'm guessing Obama's family ties will be the magic ingredient necessary to foster reconciliation all over his dad's continent. Let's hope Nobel runner-up Morgan Tsvangirai is equally inspired by the example of Obama's tireless self-sacrifice. Poor Morgan lost his wife and grandson in those unfortunate accidents earlier this year, but I'm sure he was cheered up when Barack talked about how the Obama family had helped to put this relatively unimportant award into perspective.

Yup, it's not easy to spread peace in this world. I tried my best, but too many people objected to how I did it. To my mind, peace and loving must go together. Thing was, people said that when it came to the loving, I was a bit too hands-on!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.