

measures to improve the efficiency of the WTO, and to boost overall public support for the organization. We should also seek agreement by all members on the separate review of WTO dispute settlement procedures, including measures to enhance transparency.

The US and EU are committed to maximizing the benefits developing countries gain from being in the WTO. We agreed to take forward a preferential market access initiative for least developed WTO members, initially with our Quad partners. We will work with other WTO Members to establish as soon as possible a new, revitalized program for capacity building and technical assistance undertaken by the WTO, beginning with the Integrated Framework established in 1996, and in cooperation with other international institutions. We also agreed to consider what we would do to address the concerns of a number of developing countries with implementation of existing multilateral trade agreements.

On issues of interest to our civil societies, we agreed that changes to global economy have brought new challenges to the trading system. Nowhere is that evident than the debate that is now joined regarding the relationship between trade and labor. The US and EU are committed to working with our partners to engage the WTO and ILO in a constructive dialogue, including consideration of the relationship between core labor standards, further liberalization, trade policy and social development, in order to foster understanding and consensus. And on trade and environment, we will work together to ensure that trade rules support and do not undermine the ability of governments to establish and achieve high levels of environmental protection.

The cooperative relationship between the US and the EU has been crucial to the development of the multilateral trading system over the past 50 years. We recognize our shared responsibilities to continue this work, but also the need to involve all our WTO partners more directly. This will pave the way for continued prosperity, sustainable development, and long-term growth for the 21st century.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 11

In the morning, the President traveled to Fort Lauderdale, FL.

In the evening, the President traveled to Miami, FL, and later, he returned to Washington, DC., arriving after midnight.

December 12

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton attended the annual "Christmas in Washington" celebration at the National Building Museum.

December 14

In the afternoon, the President met with Filipino veterans of World War II at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

The President announced his intention to appoint Gus Weill as a member of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

December 15

In the morning, the President met separately with Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel and Minister of Foreign Affairs Farouk al-Shara of Syria in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to appoint Amanda Aguirre, Jeffrey Brandon, Carlos Rene Gonzales, Rosemarie Marshall Johnson, Laurance N. Nickey, Blair Sadler, Catherine Torres, and Paul Villas as members of the U.S. section of the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission.

December 16

In the morning, the President had an interview with Peter Jennings of ABC News in the Diplomatic Reception Room.

In the afternoon, the President met separately with Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel and Minister of Foreign Affairs Farouk al-Shara of Syria in the Oval Office.

December 17

In the evening, the President attended a Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee dinner at a private residence.

The President announced his intention to appoint Paul LeClerc as a member of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

The President announced the recess appointment of Sarah M. Fox as a member of the National Labor Relations Board.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 11

Statement by the Press Secretary: Official Delegation for Panama Canal Turnover

Released December 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Council on Environmental Quality Chairman George Frampton and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt on expansion of the national park system

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Released December 15

Transcripts of press briefings by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Stuart Eizenstat on action by Germany to compensate Nazi victims of forced labor

Released December 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on the Israel-Syria peace talks

Released December 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Transcript of a press briefing by NSC Senior Director for European Affairs Antony J. Blinken on the United States-European Union Summit

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved December 12

S. 335 / Public Law 106-168
To amend chapter 30 of title 39, United States Code, to provide for the nonmailability of certain deceptive matter relating to sweepstakes, skill contests, facsimile checks, administrative procedures, orders, and civil penalties relating to such matter, and for other purposes

Approved December 14

H.R. 3443 / Public Law 106-169
Foster Care Independence Act of 1999

Approved December 17

H.R. 1180 / Public Law 106-170
Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999