

Proclamation 7414—Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy, 2001

March 5, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our democratic system of government traces its earliest roots back to ancient Greece. The leaders of the Revolution and the Framers of the Constitution often drew inspiration from Athenian lawgivers and philosophers and called the Greek example to mind as they sought to build the new nation on the foundations of representative government and free political discourse. The Greeks of 1821 drew inspiration, in turn, from the ideals and institutions of the fledgling United States as they waged their own struggle for liberty. In 2001, a vibrant Greek democracy serves once again as an inspiration to its neighbors and the world.

Our two countries have stood together as friends and allies from the time America embraced modern Greece's struggle for independence 180 years ago. We fought together in every major war of the last century: World War I through the Persian Gulf. For more than 50 years, we have worked together in NATO: first to keep the peace in Europe and now to build peace and stability in the Balkans. We look forward to continued cooperation as we celebrate the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad together in Athens in 2004. Our alliance with Greece remains strong, and its future is promising.

Greeks and Americans share a love of freedom, liberty, and individual rights. The friendship between our two Nations is based on mutual respect, a commitment to common goals, and the sharing of fundamental values. Ties of blood and kinship also unite us: the modern community of approximately 3 million Greek Americans has established a natural and enduring bridge between our nations. Today, we take special note of those citizens and thank them for their innumerable contributions to our Nation's cultural, economic, and political heritage.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 25, 2001, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy." I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 7, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 8.

Memorandum on Delegation of Authority

March 5, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Delegation of Authority Under Section 1307 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3 of the United States Code, I hereby delegate to the Secretary of Defense the authority vested in me under section 1307 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-398).

The authority delegated by this memorandum may be redelegated not lower than the Assistant Secretary level.

Any reference in this memorandum to the provision of any Act shall be deemed to include references to any hereafter-enacted provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as such provision.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:46 a.m., March 9, 2001]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on March 12.

Exchange With Reporters Following a Meeting With Mayor Richard M. Daley in Chicago, Illinois

March 6, 2001

President's Visit to Chicago

Q. Why don't you tell us what's on the conversation table?

Mayor Daley. [*Inaudible*]*—*a wonderful book on Chicago, the great past, present, and future of this city. So I'm very honored and pleased to be here at luncheon with the President.

The President. I just got a lesson in Chicago politics. [*Laughter*]

Q. What is that lesson, Mr. President?

The President. [*Inaudible*]*—*for the second time in 6 months. [*Laughter*]

Mayor Daley. I told him we both have great brothers. [*Laughter*]

The President. That if you run for President, make sure you get the mayor on your side. [*Laughter*]

I respect Mayor Daley. I don't know if you remember, but every time I came to Illinois I always made a point of saying that I wish the mayor were on my side, because he'll make a huge difference for people he backs. More importantly, he's made a huge difference for the people of this city. He's one of the Nation's really good mayors.

We had a long-ranging discussion, and I came just to introduce myself so he got to know me. And he now knows he can pick up the phone and call the White House anytime he needs to.

Q. Can you give us a bit of insight into what you all talked about?

The President. We talked about just about everything. We talked politics, of course, and we talked about issues that face Chicago. He gave me a lot of good advice—want to pay attention to the big-city mayors. And I told him we've got a lot in common; we're both problem solvers, the kind of people that when we identify a problem, we try to work hard to solve it. And that's what the

mayor's reputation has been. I also thanked him for the good work he's done on education reform here in Chicago.

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. How about selling him on the budget and tax cuts?

The President. We didn't spend a lot of time on the budget. I'm going to spend a little more time downstairs on the budget. The mayor gave me some interesting advice on tax relief that—as you know, he made—well, he can speak for himself, but he talked about the earned-income tax credit and the need for the good citizens of this city who are eligible for the EITC to go out and find it.

Vice President Dick Cheney

Q. How's the Vice President?

The President. I haven't talked to him. I talked to him late yesterday afternoon. He sounded great. He told me he'd be back to work soon.

Q. Should he cut back on workload?

The President. No, he shouldn't.

Q. Why not? Is the job—

The President. Well, because he's needed. This country needs his wisdom and judgment. And he's the kind of man who listens carefully to his body, and he is not going to put himself in a position where he gets very sick. Anytime there's any doubt as to whether or not he needs to see a doctor, he'll see a doctor. And he's plenty strong and plenty capable of carrying the workload that he's been working in the past.

Keep in mind, I'm not his doctor. It's going to be up to his doctor and his wife and his family to make the decision. But I don't think he needs to cut back on his work.

Q. What advice did you offer—[*inaudible*]?²

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—*job of Vice President, with all it currently entails, too stressful for him?

The President. Not at all.

Ann [Ann Compton, ABC News], good to see you.

NOTE: The exchange began at 1:45 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.