

National Economy

Q. Sorry to ask another one, but did you mean to say just now that we are in a recession? You said, “It looks to me like we’ve got all three.”

The President. No, I said—well, I said—let me put it this way—tough economic times. There’s no question it’s tough times. And Ron, I don’t have all the numbers, but let me just say this: I can pick up all the statistics, but make no mistake about it, this has affected our economy in a big way. Now, I’ve still got faith that we’ll recover. The strength of the American economy has always been our entrepreneurial spirit and our workers, and that’s still prevalent. But you’ve seen the statistics on the airlines—they’re beginning to lay off people. Big airline manufacturing companies responding. And this government will respond.

Now, I don’t have—don’t get me wrong—I don’t have all the numbers at my disposal because they have to start counting them up, but this has shocked our economy. And we’re going to respond. And that’s exactly what this leadership and I have been talking about.

Support From Pakistan

Q. Mr. President, do you feel like you’ve got the full support of President Musharraf? And how hard is it going to be for him to live up to his pledges, given his domestic situation?

The President. Well, there’s no question that President Musharraf has taken a bold position, which is to say he will work to the extent he can with America and our allies as we deal with the prime suspect in the case. And we appreciate so very much his statement of support. I said we’ll give the President a chance to perform, and I believe he has done—done so. We will work and consult closely with Pakistan and India to make sure that that part of the world is as stable as can possibly be stable.

Let me say that, in terms of foreign policy and in terms of the world, this horrible strategy has provided us with an interesting opportunity. One of the opportunities is in the Middle East. I’m pleased with the fact that Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Sharon have taken positive steps toward bringing peace to the region. I think we have an op-

portunity to refashion the thinking between Pakistan and India. I think there’s some interesting opportunities to shake terrorism loose from sponsor states.

And this Government, working with Congress, are going to seize the moment. Out of our tears I said I see opportunity, and we will seek opportunity, positive developments from this horrible tragedy that has befallen our Nation.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:39 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7468—To Modify Duty-Free Treatment Under the Generalized System of Preferences

September 19, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Section 503(c)(2)(C) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “1974 Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(C)), provides that a country that is no longer treated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to an eligible article for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) because imports of the article from that country exceeded the competitive need limitations in section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)) may be redesignated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to the article if imports of the article from that country did not exceed those limitations during the preceding calendar year.

2. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(C) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that Indonesia should be redesignated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to certain eligible articles that previously had been imported in quantities exceeding the competitive need limitations of section 503(c)(2)(A).

3. Section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2483), 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, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including title V and section 604 of the 1974 Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to provide that Indonesia, which has not been treated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to certain eligible articles, should be redesignated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to those articles for purposes of the GSP:

(a) general note 4(d) to the HTS is modified as provided in paragraph (1) of the Annex to this proclamation; and

(b) the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for each of the HTS subheadings enumerated in paragraph (2) of the Annex to this proclamation is modified as provided in such paragraph.

(2) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(3) The modifications made by the Annex to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the date of publication of this proclamation in the *Federal Register*.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 21, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation and the attached annex were published in the *Federal Register* on September 24.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Iran**

September 19, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 19, 2001.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on
Telecommunications Payments to
Cuba**

September 19, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), I transmit herewith a semiannual report detailing payments made to Cuba by United States persons as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of Treasury specific licenses.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 19, 2001.