

millions now living in poverty. In addition, the WTO meeting affirmed the commitment of all nations to help end the scourge of health pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria by highlighting rules governing access to lifesaving medicines.

I also commend the historic decision to welcome into the WTO the People's Republic of China and Taiwan, united in their commitment to expand shared rules and opportunity to all members. I thank Ambassador Zoellick, Secretary Veneman, and Secretary Evans for their skill in helping WTO members reach this accord, as well as the select corps of U.S. Government negotiators who assisted them.

The WTO leadership, particularly Director-General Moore, did a superb job of laying the groundwork for the ministerial. I also thank the Government of Qatar, the WTO Ministerial chairman Finance Minister Kamal, and the people of Qatar for being model hosts and doing so much to achieve this successful outcome.

NOTE: The statement referred to WTO Director-General Mike Moore; and Finance Minister Youssef Hussein Kamal of Qatar.

Proclamation 7502—To Provide for the Termination of Action Taken With Regard to Imports of Lamb Meat

November 14, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Proclamation 7208 issued July 7, 1999, implemented action of a type described in section 203(a)(3) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2253(a)(3)) (the "Trade Act"), with respect to imports of fresh, chilled, or frozen lamb meat, provided for in subheadings 0204.10.00, 0204.22.20, 0204.23.20, 0204.30.00, 0204.42.20, and 0204.43.20 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS). Proclamation 7208 took effect on July 22, 1999.

2. Section 204(a)(1) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2254(a)(1)) requires the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) to

monitor developments with respect to the domestic industry while action taken under section 203 remains in effect. If the initial period of such action exceeds 3 years, then the Commission must submit to the President a report on the results of such monitoring not later than the date that is the midpoint of the initial period of the action. The USITC report in Investigation Number TA-204-2, issued on January 22, 2001, has been submitted.

3. Section 204(b)(1)(A) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2254(b)(1)(A)) authorizes the President to reduce, modify, or terminate a safeguard action if, after taking into account any report or advice submitted by the USITC and after seeking the advice of the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Labor, the President determines that changed circumstances warrant such reduction, modification, or termination. The President's determination may be made, *inter alia*, on the basis that the effectiveness of the action taken under section 203 has been impaired by changed economic circumstances.

4. In view of the information provided in the USITC's report, and having sought advice from the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Labor, I determine that the effectiveness of the action taken under section 203 with respect to lamb imports has been impaired by changed economic circumstances. Accordingly, I have determined, pursuant to section 204(b)(1)(A) of the Trade Act, that termination of the action taken under section 203 with respect to lamb meat imports is warranted.

5. Section 604 of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the 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 but not limited to sections 204 and 604 of the Trade Act, do proclaim that:

(1) The HTS is modified as provided in the Annex to this proclamation.

(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 to the HTS made by this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, after the close of November 14, 2001.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of November, 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., November 16, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation and the attached annex were published in the *Federal Register* on November 19.

Remarks on the Rescue of Humanitarian Aid Workers Imprisoned in Afghanistan and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford

November 14, 2001

The President. Good evening. Today we've got incredibly good news. Our United States military rescued eight humanitarian workers who had been in prison in Afghanistan.

I'm really proud of our Armed Forces, and I'm also thankful for the folks in Afghanistan who helped with this rescue. There have been a lot of people praying for the eight—eight innocent folks. Particularly interesting for me, since I'm here in Crawford and the two Americans were from Waco. And I know a lot of the Waco citizens have been in deep prayer that they be rescued, and their prayers were answered.

I'm thankful they're safe. I am pleased with the way our military has conducted its operations, and I am glad to report to the American people this chapter of the Afghan

theater has ended in a very positive and constructive way.

Q. Sir, did the rescuers encounter any resistance?

The President. You're going to have to talk to the Secretary of Defense about that.

Q. Were they rescued or turned over by the Taliban?

The President. Well, I think Secretary Rumsfeld will be making a statement. We're calling it a rescue. They have been helped by—I know the International Red Cross have been involved, and they were flown to safety by U.S. troops.

Q. Where are they now?

The President. In Pakistan.

Q. Sir, is it your understanding that this was an operation where our forces had to go in and extricate them?

The President. No, I don't think it was a mission of that—it was set up, as I understand it. In other words, there was—people on the ground were—facilitated the ability of our troops to move in and put them on a chopper and bring them to safety.

I have been—I had spent a lot of time worrying about all eight, particularly the two young ladies. I was worried that—about the reports that perhaps the enemy would put them in a house and then, for whatever reason, would encourage that house to get bombed. I was worried for their safety. We had thought of different ways in which we could extricate them from the prison they were in. And there were some people on the ground that helped, including the International Red Cross, and our military responded. And it's great—

Q. How soon will you be able to speak to them or see them, sir?

The President. I'm not sure. The good news is they'll be home for Thanksgiving. And I would obviously—if they come back to the States or are in a position where I can call, I'd love to call them, and most of all, tell their parents that I can imagine how they feel, how thrilled they are that their daughters are safe.

Q. Other than the Red Cross, who else—

The President. I'm not sure yet, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]. I think we