

kind covered by section 8072 sooner than 15 days after notification, section 8072 shall be construed in a manner consistent with my constitutional duty as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

Provisos in section 8098 of the Act purport to limit during fiscal year 2002 the number of Department of Defense military and civilian personnel assigned to legislative affairs or legislative liaison functions and to mandate the percentage distribution of such personnel among various offices of the Department. While limitation of the number of Department of Defense personnel assigned to legislative affairs and legislative liaison functions is a laudable goal, the executive branch shall construe section 8098 in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the executive branch and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. In particular, section 8098 cannot constitutionally restrict the authority of the President to control the activities of members of the armed forces, including whether and how many members of the Armed Forces assigned to the office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the combatant commands, or any other element of the Department of Defense shall perform legislative affairs or legislative liaison functions.

Section 8173 prohibits the use of appropriated funds for assistance or other support to the International Criminal Court (ICC). While section 8173 clearly reflects that the Congress agrees with my Administration that it is not in the interests of the United States to become a party to the ICC treaty, I must note that this provision must be applied consistent with my constitutional authority in the area of foreign affairs, which, among other things, will enable me to take actions to protect U.S. nationals from the purported jurisdiction of the treaty.

Sections 911 and 912 in Division B of the Act provide for assistance by executive departments and agencies, including the Armed Forces, to the U.S. Capitol Police in the performance of its duties. Safeguarding the Congress and its ability to carry out its constitutional role is vital to the continuity of our constitutional Government, and the executive branch will assist as needed and appropriate. In carrying out these sections, it is

important to ensure proper respect for the separate constitutional roles and authorities of the executive and legislative branches. With the aim of ensuring that respect within the executive branch, the Attorney General shall serve as the single point of contact within the executive branch for requests from the legislative branch, including the U.S. Capitol Police, for assistance under sections 911 and 912, and the District of Columbia National Guard and Federal law enforcement authorities shall enter into an agreement under section 912 only with the prior approval of the Attorney General.

Section 208 of Division B makes a technical correction to subsection 626(c) of Public Law 107-77 (the FY 2002 Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies Appropriations Act), but does nothing to alter the effect of that provision or any other provision of law. Since the enactment of subsection 626(c) and consistent with it, the executive branch has encouraged the courts to act, and will continue to encourage the courts to act, in a manner consistent with the obligations of the United States under the Algiers Accords that achieved the release of U.S. hostages in 1981.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 10, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 3338, approved January 10, was assigned Public Law No. 107-117.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Constandinos Simitis of Greece

January 10, 2002

President Bush. Well, thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. Listen, we're so honored you're here. Thank you so much for coming to America. There is a huge number of Greek-Americans who live in our country who have still got great fondness for their—for your country.

I am most appreciative, sir, of your strong stand against terror. You have been a friend in our mutual concerns about routing out terror around the world, and I want to thank you for that very much.

I'm also very appreciative of your administration's working with Turkey. Relations have improved with Turkey, and as a result, the world is better off. And I want to thank you for your vision, for your foreign ministry's hard work to do what is right for the world, to make the world more peaceful.

We've got a lot in common with your country; we've got a lot of interests in common. I look forward to discussing those with you. I also look forward to the Olympics. Thank you for your invitation. It's going to be a magnificent moment for the sporting world to have the Olympics return to Athens. I'm confident your country will do a fine job.

So welcome to the White House; we're so glad you're here.

Prime Minister Simitis. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I'm so very glad to be here and have the possibility to discuss with you the problems—the subjects are interesting for us.

We are totally committed to the fight against international terrorism. And as you know, we take part in the Afghanistan effort. We will be part also in the international peace corps in Afghanistan. And I think it's necessary to cooperate in order to fight terrorism all over the world, because there are also, for example, in the Balkans, group terrorists, groups in all the Balkan countries, and we think that this must be controlled.

Thank you also for your appreciation for our effort concerning the Greek-Turkish relations. We make—we want more peace and stability in the region, and this is our main principle, how—apply international laws that we have a southeastern Europe that is really peaceful.

As you know, I showed you the coins of the new euro.

President Bush. Yes.

Prime Minister Simitis. This means—this means a big banking change for Europe, because the whole environment will change. There will be a new feeling about the possibilities of Europe, and there will be new discussions on the new European structures, on the necessity of new cooperation, and also of the necessity, I hope, of a closer cooperation with the United States in order to solve the common problems.

So this is a new era, and I'm very glad to be here to greet the new year.

President Bush. Well, thank you, sir. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. Welcome.

Thank you, all.

Q. You don't want to take a question?

President Bush. I took them all this morning; you just were in the wrong pool.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:17 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002

January 10, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2506, the "Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002." The Act provides the funds needed to support U.S. foreign policy objectives abroad and reflects the restraint on spending that has been a key goal of my Administration.

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. It abides by the agreed upon aggregate funding level for Fiscal Year 2002 of \$686 billion. The Act will provide \$15.4 billion, largely along the lines of my request, and includes essential funding to support America's war on terrorism. The Act supports such key Administration initiatives as the campaign against HIV/AIDS, with up to \$100 million available for the global fund to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis and an additional \$100 million is also provided by the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

I also welcome the additional flexibility that the Act provides through the reduction in earmarks and added waiver authorities, including the changes to the annual counter-narcotics certification process and the waiver provision allowing me the flexibility to provide additional assistance to Azerbaijan. This flexibility will allow my Administration to meet the diplomatic requirements stemming from the September 11th attacks, as well as