

is to reform the INS. Let's give him time to do so. He hasn't been there that long, but he now has got another wake-up call. The first wake-up call was from me: This agency needs to be reformed. And secondly, he got another one with this embarrassing disclosure today that, as I mentioned, got the President's attention this morning. I could barely get my coffee down when I opened up my local newspaper—well, a newspaper. [Laughter]

U.N. Security Council Resolution

Q. Mr. President, back on the Middle East, sir, can you tell us what was behind the timing of pursuing a U.N. resolution at this point regarding a future Palestinian state?

The President. Well, there was a—sometimes these resolutions just get a life of their own. And sometimes we have to veto them, and sometimes we can help—help the message. This time, we felt like we were able to make the message a clear message that we agreed with. If it was a message that tried to isolate or condemn our friend, I'd have vetoed it. In this case, it was a universal message that could lead to a more peaceful—a peaceful world. And so we supported it. As a matter of fact, we helped engineer it; we were a part of the process.

And as to the timing, I don't know the timing. All I know is the things start showing up on my desk. And—

Q. When did it start showing up on your radar screen, sir?

The President. Well, desk or radar screen, same thing. About 24 hours ago. And I heard from the Secretary of State and Condoleezza Rice that there was a little movement afoot there at the Security Council. And so we made a decision, a conscious decision to try to send a statement that it was a hopeful statement. It turned out to be a good statement, by the way. It was one of those statements that was embraced by all the parties except for one that couldn't bring themselves to vote for it, Syria.

But again, we are working hard to create the conditions for a security arrangement that will then enable the Mitchell process to kick in. I know you all are tired of hearing me say that. But unlike other parts of the

world, in this part of the world, Tenet and Mitchell have been agreed to by both parties, which means there is a hopeful process if we can get people into the process. And so our mission is to do that. And that's why Zinni is over there.

Listen, I want to thank you very much. I've enjoyed this press conference. I hope you have as well. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 4 p.m. in the James S. Brady Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia; U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); Mohamed Atta and Marwan Al-Shehhi, terrorists involved in the September 11 attacks; Edward Cardinal Egan, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York; Bernard Cardinal Law, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, MA; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Crown Prince Abdullah and Minister of Foreign Affairs Saud al-Faysal al Saud of Saudi Arabia; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe; Mike Moore, Mississippi attorney general; Frank W. Hunger, Al Gore's brother-in-law; and former Governor William Winters of Mississippi. The President also referred to the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001; the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and H.R. 1885, the "Section 245(i) Extension Act of 2001."

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

March 12, 2002

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 prepared by my Administration detailing payments made to Cuba by United States persons as a result

of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 12, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 14.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting the Australia-United
States Social Security Agreement**
March 12, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95–216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia on Social Security, which consists of two separate instruments: a principal agreement and an administrative arrangement along with a paragraph-by-paragraph explanation of each provision. The Agreement was signed at Canberra on September 27, 2001.

The United States-Australia Agreement is similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries. The United States-Australia Agreement contains all provisions mandated by section 233 and other provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4).

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report prepared by the Social Security Administration explaining the key points of the Agreement. Annexed to this re-

port is the report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, a report on the effect of the Agreement on income and expenditures of the U.S. Social Security program and the number of individuals affected by the Agreement. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreement and related documents to me.

I commend the United States-Australia Social Security Agreement and related documents.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 12, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 14.

**Remarks at the Inter-American
Development Bank**
March 14, 2002

Thank you all. *Sientese. Gracias*, Enrique. It's about time you invited a President here. [*Laughter*] It's about time one accepted.

Thank you for the energy and leadership you bring to the challenge of global development. I'm honored to be at the Inter-American Development Bank, which has done a lot of good in our hemisphere over the last 40 years. I appreciate your work, and I'm proud of your accomplishments.

Along with many of you, I'll be in Monterrey, Mexico, next week as leaders from around the world focus on the important work of reducing global poverty.

I'm here today to announce a major new commitment by the United States to bring hope and opportunity to the world's poorest people. Along with significant new resources to fight world poverty, we will insist on the reforms necessary to make this a fight we can win.

As you can see, I'm traveling in some pretty good company today: Bono. [*Laughter*] We just had a great visit in the Oval Office. Here's what I know about him: First, he's a good musician; secondly, he is willing to use his position in a responsible way. He is willing to lead, to achieve what his heart tells him, and that is nobody—nobody—should be