

All of the requests in this transmittal are for the purpose of fulfilling a known and urgent FY 2002 requirement and are unable to reasonably be met through the use of existing agency funds.

The details of these requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

### **Interview With TCS**

*March 20, 2002*

#### ***El Salvador-U.S. Relations***

**Q.** Ten years after the peace agreement in El Salvador, how do you evaluate the current relationship between the U.S. and my country?

**The President.** *Muy fuerte.* I've got, first of all, a good personal relationship with *El Presidente de su país*. He's a very good man. He's a young, strong leader, and I'm impressed by him. And everybody in America who's met him is impressed by him.

Secondly, I believe we've got some great opportunities. There's a lot of people from your country living here in America, and so we get a better sense of your country from them—hard-working, good people. Secondly, obviously we've had a chance to cooperate during some of the unbelievable natural disasters that affected El Salvador—Hurricane Mitch. And our country was very glad to help. We—sorry it happened, but then it happened, glad to help.

And I'm going to go down and talk about trade and the ability for us to work together to put together a free trade agreement with Central American nations. I think it's a great opportunity. I'm really looking forward to the trip. I can't wait to go to El Salvador. It's going to be—it's an honor to go.

#### ***Central American-U.S. Free Trade Agreement***

**Q.** Mr. President, do you consider that the free trade agreement between the U.S. and the Central American countries will indeed benefit the poorest people in our region?

**The President.** *Por cierto, por cierto.* That's why I'm so anxious to do so. The best way to develop jobs, the best way to develop hope and opportunity is through trade. A country which trades with the United States, for example, or any other country, a vibrant marketplace is going to get 8 times more benefit from that trade than they would through any foreign aid program.

Now, we're going to be generous with our foreign aid, and we'll help, but trade is really the best chance to help the poor. And that's what I'm interested in doing. I know that when somebody starts getting jobs available, there's better training. It will lead to better education; it will lead to better health care. And so we're anxious to promote prosperity, and the best way to do that is through a trade agreement.

#### ***Temporary Protected Status***

**Q.** Deeply inside you, Mr. President, have you made a decision over the future of 250,000 Salvadorans currently under TPS?

**The President.** TPS? No, but I want—first of all, I was a strong supporter of TPS the last time it came up. The TPS authorization—or the renewal—won't come up until *Septiembre*. So this summer I, of course, will look at it. I haven't made up my mind yet, but I will tell you, the last time I was a strong supporter. I thought it was the right thing to do. And one might guess, if I thought it was the right thing to do last time—but I will make up my mind this summer.

#### ***War on Terrorism***

**Q.** Does El Salvador have an important role to play in the global war against terrorism?

**The President.** Oh, of course, of course. And here it is: Al Qaida killers are trying to find places where they can move assets, train, move money. They're looking for weak spots. They found one in Afghanistan, and we're still bringing them to justice. Any country that appears weak or is welcoming to a terrorist organization is one where they're likely to go. And what El Salvador can do is continue to be strong and say, "We're not going to tolerate terrorism. We're not going to let

people come to our country or our neighborhood.” And they’ve been very strong. President Flores has been great on this subject, and I look forward to working with him.

You bet it’s very important for all of us who love freedom to stand strong against terrorist organizations, so that they can have no place to go. We’ll keep them on the run, and we’re going to keep them running. And they’re going to get tired of running. And then, when they do get tired of running, we’ll bring them to justice.

**Q.** People is very anxious, waiting for you, Mr. President, in El Salvador. *Tiene un mensaje para pueblo Salvadoreño?*

**The President.** *Si, al pueblo de El Salvador, quiero decir eso, tu país es importante para el futuro de mi país. Yo quiero decir que somos amigos, y muchos gracias para la oportunidad de viajar a este país bonita, bella. Y quiero decir que tu Presidente—su Presidente es un amigo mío.*

**Q.** Thank you very much, Mr. President.

**The President.** *Si, thank you.*

NOTE: The interview was taped at 10:54 a.m. in the Map Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Francisco Flores of El Salvador. This interview was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 22. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

### **Remarks to the United Nations Financing for Development Conference in Monterrey, Mexico**

*March 22, 2002*

Good morning. We meet at a moment of new hope in an age-old struggle, the battle against world poverty. I’m honored to be with so many distinguished leaders who are committed to this cause. I’m here today to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to bring hope and opportunity to the world’s poorest people and to call for a new compact for development defined by greater accountability for rich and poor nations alike.

I want to thank Vicente Fox, *el Presidente de Mexico*, and the people of Monterrey for such grand hospitality. I want to thank Kofi Annan for his steadfast leadership. And I

want to thank the distinguished leaders who are here for your hospitality as well.

Many here today have devoted their lives to the fight against global poverty, and you know the stakes. We fight against poverty because hope is an answer to terror. We fight against poverty because opportunity is a fundamental right to human dignity. We fight against poverty because faith requires it and conscience demands it. And we fight against poverty with a growing conviction that major progress is within our reach.

Yet, this progress will require change. For decades, the success of development aid was measured only in the resources spent, not the results achieved. Yet, pouring money into a failed status quo does little to help the poor and can actually delay the progress of reform. We must accept a higher, more difficult, more promising call. Developed nations have a duty not only to share our wealth but also to encourage sources that produce wealth: economic freedom, political liberty, the rule of law, and human rights.

The lesson of our time is clear: When nations close their markets and opportunity is hoarded by a privileged few, no amount—no amount—of development aid is ever enough. When nations respect their people, open markets, invest in better health and education, every dollar of aid, every dollar of trade revenue and domestic capital is used more effectively. We must tie greater aid to political and legal and economic reforms. And by insisting on reform, we do the work of compassion.

The United States will lead by example. I have proposed a 50-percent increase in our core development assistance over the next 3 budget years. Eventually, this will mean a \$5 billion annual increase over current levels. These new funds will go into a new Millennium Challenge Account, devoted to projects in nations that govern justly, invest in their people, and encourage economic freedom. We will promote development from the bottom up, helping citizens find the tools and training and technologies to seize the opportunities of the global economy.

I’ve asked Secretary of State Powell, Secretary of Treasury O’Neill to reach out to the world community to develop clear and