

in the armies of compassion right here in Auburn. She goes to Auburn United Methodist. She decided she was going to start a food pantry with members of her church. They now feed 30 hungry families. It's this act and thousands of acts like it which define the true character of our country.

You know, it's interesting about what happened on September the 11th. A lot of our citizens have taken a step back. They wonder what life is all about. The most vivid example of the new American spirit took place on Flight 93, people flying across the country. They heard the plane was being used as a weapon. They were on their cell phones to their loved ones. They said goodbye. They said, "I love you." They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." And they drove the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves.

You've got to understand that patriotism—patriotism or the American spirit can be served all kinds of ways. It is more than just putting your hand over your heart. It is serving a great nation. And you can do so by helping somebody who hurts, somebody in need.

No, the enemy hit us. They had no idea who they were hitting. There's no doubt in my mind that this great nation can lead the world to peace. There's no doubt in my mind that we can have a more compassionate tomorrow for everybody who lives in this country because, my fellow Americans, we're citizens of the greatest country, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:33 p.m. at Hitchcock Field at the Plainsman Park Baseball Stadium. In his remarks, he referred to William F. Walker, president, and Steven Renfroe, head baseball coach, Auburn University; gubernatorial candidate Bob Riley and his wife, Patsy; Mike Rogers, candidate for Alabama's Third Congressional District, and his wife, Beth; Jo Bonner, candidate for Alabama's First Congressional District; President Jiang Zemin of China; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan.

Statement on Apprehension of Suspects in the Washington Area Sniper Attacks

October 24, 2002

The entire Nation is grateful to all of the local, State, and Federal law enforcement officials who have worked with such great urgency and with so little rest to solve the sniper case. Their efforts resulted in the apprehension of those considered suspects in the sniper shootings. We are also grateful to the citizens who kept their eyes open and provided information to the police. We will keep the victims and their families and friends in our thoughts and prayers. The hunt for a merciless killer has been difficult—and America greatly appreciates all the good men and women who fight crime and uphold justice across this great country.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

October 24, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with section 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period August 1, 2002, through September 30, 2002. The previous submission covered events from June 1, 2002, through July 31, 2002.

Direct talks on the island between Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash continue under United Nations auspices. As in the past reporting periods, Special Cyprus Coordinator Thomas G. Weston provided diplomatic support to the process. Our new Ambassador to Cyprus, Michael Klosson, provided similar support when he assumed his post in August. The United States remains committed to the United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

The President's News Conference With President Jiang Zemin of China in Crawford, Texas

October 25, 2002

President Bush. I want to welcome the President of China to our ranch and to Texas.

I want to start off by saying how sad Laura and I are about the sudden and tragic death of United States Senator Paul Wellstone, his wife, and one of his children, as well as the death of others on that private airplane. Our prayers and heartfelt sympathy goes to their sons, their loved ones, their friends, and the people of Minnesota. Paul Wellstone was a man of deep convictions, a plain-spoken fellow who did his best for his State and for his country. May the good Lord bless those who grieve.

This is the third meeting of the President and me, and our personal relations and the relations between our two countries are strong. In our meeting, we discussed the threat posed by the Iraqi regime. China supports Iraq's strict compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions. And today we discussed and I urged President Jiang to support a new Security Council resolution demanding Iraq fully disarm itself of weapons of mass destruction.

The President and I also discussed and expressed concern about the acknowledgment of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of a program to enrich uranium. We agreed that peace and stability in northeast Asia must be maintained. Both sides will continue to work towards a nuclear-weapons-free Korean Peninsula and a peaceful resolution of this issue.

The United States and China are also allies in the fight against global terror, and our two countries are deepening our economic relations. It is inevitable that nations the size of the United States and China will have differences, but the President and I agree that we need to resolve our differences through mutual understanding and respect.

On human rights, I emphasized that no nation's efforts to counter terrorism should be used to justify suppressing minorities or silencing peaceful dissent. I shared with the President my views on the importance of China freeing prisoners of conscience, giving fair treatment to peoples of faith, and preserving the rights of Hong Kong citizens. I also spoke of the importance of respecting human rights in Tibet and encouraged more dialog with Tibetan leaders.

On proliferation, I expressed our continuing concerns about transfers of sensitive technologies.

On Taiwan, I emphasized to the President that our "one China" policy, based on the three communiques in the Taiwan Relations Act, remains unchanged. I stressed the need for dialog between China and Taiwan that leads to a peaceful resolution of their differences.

The United States seeks and is building a relationship with China that is candid, constructive, and cooperative. We will continue building this relationship through contacts at many levels in months to come, including a new dialog on security issues.

I'm pleased to announce that Vice President Cheney will visit China next spring. The United States and China believe that a strong relationship between our nations will help to build a more peaceful world.

Thank you for coming, President Jiang.

President Jiang. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I just learned that one plane crashed. I would like to express my deep condolences for the loss of the Senate. And also I would like to express my condolences to the bereaved family.

I'm very pleased to visit President Bush at his ranch. I would like to thank President Bush and Mrs. Bush for the warm hospitality accorded to us. President Bush and I had a very good conversation. We exchanged views on some important issues of mutual interest. The meeting has been constructive and productive.

We all agree that China and the U.S. are two great nations sharing extensive and important common interests. The two sides should increase exchanges and cooperation in economic, trade, cultural, educational and