

failed. And it failed to provide for the people. And so the reforms to the marketplace are going to take time. But the reforms will yield—will yield great prosperity, in my judgment. And it's a matter of time for that to happen.

#### **Expectations of New NATO Members**

**Q.** What do the United States expect from their new Allies, from Romania and the others?

**The President.** Well, we expect friendship. We expect that concept that says, if one of us is attacked, we're all attacked. That works both ways. If Romania is attacked, the Alliance comes to Romania's defense. If another country is attacked, we all go to that country's defense. That common defense will help make the world more peaceful.

Secondly, as we develop a new strategy as to how to face the new threats of the 21st century, a new military strategy, Romania will be called upon to do its part, as will the United States. And together, the sum of our parts will be significant in terms of keeping the peace.

#### **President's Upcoming Visit to Romania**

**Q.** What is going to be the message you will deliver to the Romanian people when you meet some of the inhabitants in the city of Bucharest?

**The President.** The message is: For a long time you struggled; you're now free. And you've got a great friend in the United States of America.

**Q.** Mr. President, it's been a great honor and privilege to interview you. Thank you very much for sharing your views with our public.

**The President.** Well, I am so looking forward to coming. It's going to be an honor to be there. I have—I'm working on my speech to the Romanian people. It's going to be a powerful moment for me and my wife, to see the people and to be in the famous square and to look at the statues of people who represent freedom. And it's going to be one of the highlights of my Presidency.

**Q.** You'll be most welcome, sir.

**The President.** Thank you, sir.

**Q.** Thank you.

**The President.** Good to meet you.

**Q.** Good to meet you, sir, and I hope you'll have a very good and successful trip.

**The President.** Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 1:39 p.m. in the Library at the White House, and the transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 23. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

#### **Remarks on Receiving the Order of Vytautas the Great in Vilnius, Lithuania**

*November 23, 2002*

Mr. President, thank you very much. It's an honor to receive this award. And it's an honor to be the first United States President to come to Lithuania. Laura and I are honored to be here.

I want to thank the members of the Government who are here as well, the Prime Minister, the Speaker, other members of your Cabinet.

This is a great day for Lithuania. It shows the Lithuanians' commitment to freedom, to religious tolerance. It shows the Lithuanians' courage is being rewarded by membership in one of the greatest alliances ever formed.

The NATO Alliance will be stronger with Lithuania's presence. Not only will you help militarily, but as importantly, your presence will help lift, invigorate the spirit of the European North Atlantic Alliance. After all, Lithuania represents to me the courage of people standing in the face of tyranny and demanding freedom.

There are thousands of Americans today who rejoice at the fact that Lithuania will be joining with America in the NATO Alliance. I'm proud of your accomplishments, and my country is proud to call you friend. May God bless the people of Lithuania.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:24 a.m. at the Presidentura. In his remarks, he referred to President Valdas Adamkus and Prime Minister Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas of Lithuania. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## **The President's Radio Address**

*November 23, 2002*

Good morning. I'm speaking to you from Europe where, this week, I am meeting with NATO Allies and friends to discuss terrorism and other threats to our shared security.

It has also been an important week at home on Capitol Hill. After 2 years of achievements, which included tax relief and education reform, the last days of this session of Congress brought additional historic progress. Soon after I return from Europe, I will sign several important new laws that help secure the homeland and create jobs.

Republicans and Democrats approved a Department of Homeland Security that will unite dozens of Federal agencies and nearly 170,000 Federal workers behind a single, overriding mission, keeping Americans safe. This new Department will coordinate our response to any future emergency. It will help us know who's coming into our country and who's going out. This new Department will bring together the best intelligence information about our vulnerabilities to terrorist attack so that we can act quickly to protect America. I appreciate the Congress listening to my concerns and retaining the authority of the President to put the right people in the right place at the right time in defense of our country.

Congress also acted to protect the Nation's ports and coasts by passing port security legislation. With this law, we will add port security agents, restrict access to sensitive areas, and require ships to provide more information about the cargo, crew, and passengers they carry. These measures will help keep terrorists and their weapons out of America.

In addition, Congress passed terrorism insurance legislation to help protect our economy from any future terrorist attack. This new important law will lower insurance premiums and get many real estate and construction projects that had been put on hold moving again, creating thousands of hardhat jobs.

On my trip this week here in Europe, I'm consulting with our friends and NATO Allies about the new threats to freedom that we face together. Today, the United States is joined by more than 90 nations in a global

coalition against terrorism, sharing intelligence, cutting off terrorist finance, and pursuing the terrorists where they plot and train. The world is also uniting to answer the unique and urgent threat posed by Iraq, whose dictator has already used weapons of mass destruction to kill thousands. We must not and will not permit either terrorists or tyrants to blackmail freedom-loving nations.

Our NATO Allies are making important contributions. Sixteen NATO countries have sent military forces to the fight against terror in Afghanistan, and at this week's summit, NATO committed to build a new military response force with strong, ready forces that are prepared to deploy on short notice wherever they are needed.

NATO members also voted to invite seven of Europe's newest democracies to join our Alliance. The addition of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia will increase NATO's military strength. These nations will also bring greater clarity to NATO's purposes because they know, from the hard experience of the 20th century, that threats to freedom must be opposed, not ignored or appeased.

This week, we saw the historic expansion of NATO and historic progress by Congress. Both will make America more secure.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 12:05 p.m. on November 21 at the Ambassador's Residence in Prague, Czech Republic, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 23. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 22 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## **Remarks to the People of Lithuania in Vilnius**

*November 23, 2002*

**The President.** Thank you all very much. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for your friendship, and thank you for your leadership.

I'm also honored to be here with the Presidents of Latvia and Estonia. I want to thank them for coming as well. Laura and I are