

our economic recovery, we will propose further steps to add new jobs, reduce the burden on our taxpayers, and to strengthen investor confidence. Our economy is strong, and we're going to make it even stronger. It's important work, and Steve Friedman will be a key member of our team. And I'm pleased to welcome him to full-time public service.

Thank you very much, Steve. Appreciate it.

[At this point, Director Friedman made brief remarks.]

**The President.** You're welcome. I'm glad you're here. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:05 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Director Friedman's wife, Barbara, and their children Susie, Caroline, David, and Sam. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director Friedman.

### Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Office of Science and Technology Policy To Act as Director

December 11, 2002

*Memorandum for the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy*

*Subject:* Designation of Officers of the Office of Science and Technology Policy To Act as Director

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 et seq., I hereby order that:

**Section 1. Order of Succession.** During any period when the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (Director) has died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, the following officers of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, if they are eligible to act as Director under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as the Di-

rector is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director:

Associate Director for Technology;  
Associate Director for Science; and  
Chief of Staff and General Counsel.

**Sec. 2. Exceptions.**

- (a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity shall, by virtue of so serving, act as Director pursuant to this memorandum.
- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345–3349d, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Director.

**Sec. 3. Publication.** You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 13. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

### Remarks Announcing the Smallpox Vaccination Plan

December 13, 2002

Good afternoon. Since our country was attacked 15 months ago, Americans have been forced to prepare for a variety of threats we hope will never come. We have stepped up security at our ports and borders. We've expanded our ability to detect chemical and biological threats. We've increased support for first-responders. We made public—made our public health care system better able to track and treat disease. By preparing at home and by pursuing enemies abroad, we're adding to the security of our Nation. I thank the members of my team who are here who are adding to the security of our Nation.

One potential danger to America is the use of the smallpox virus as a weapon of terror. Smallpox is a deadly but preventable disease. Most Americans who are 34 or older had a smallpox vaccination when they were children. By 1972, the risk of smallpox was so

remote that routine vaccinations were discontinued in the United States. In 1980, the World Health Organization declared that smallpox had been completely eradicated, and since then, there has not been a single natural case of the disease anywhere in the world.

We know, however, that the smallpox virus still exists in laboratories, and we believe that regimes hostile to the United States may possess this dangerous virus. To protect our citizens in the aftermath of September the 11th, we are evaluating old threats in a new light. Our Government has no information that a smallpox attack is imminent. Yet it is prudent to prepare for the possibility that terrorists would kill indiscriminately—who kill indiscriminately would use diseases as a weapon.

Our public health agencies began preparations more than a year ago. Today, through the hard work of our Department of Health and Human Services, ably led by Tommy Thompson, and State and local officials, America has stockpiled enough vaccine and is now prepared to inoculate our entire population in the event of a smallpox attack. Americans and anyone who would think of harming Americans can be certain that this Nation is ready to respond quickly and effectively to a smallpox emergency or an increase in the level of threat.

Today I am directing additional steps to protect the health of our Nation. I'm ordering that the military and other personnel who serve America in high-risk parts of the world receive the smallpox vaccine. Men and women who could be on the frontlines of a biological attack must be protected.

This particular vaccine does involve a small risk of serious health considerations. As Commander in Chief, I do not believe I can ask others to accept this risk unless I am willing to do the same. Therefore I will receive the vaccine along with our military.

These vaccinations are a precaution only and not a response to any information concerning imminent danger. Given the current level of threat and the inherent health risks of the vaccine, we have decided not to initiate a broader vaccination program for all Americans at this time. Neither my family nor my staff will be receiving the vaccine, because

our health and national security experts do not believe vaccination is necessary for the general public.

At present, the responsible course is to make careful and thorough preparations in case a broader vaccination program should become necessary in the future. There may be some citizens, however, who insist on being vaccinated now. Our public health agencies will work to accommodate them, but that is not our recommendation at this time.

We do recommend vaccinations for one other group of Americans that could be on the frontlines of a biological attack. We will make the vaccine available on a voluntary basis to medical professionals and emergency personnel and response teams that would be the first on the scene in a smallpox emergency. These teams would immediately provide vaccine and treatment to Americans in a crisis, and to do this job effectively, members of these teams should be protected against the disease.

I understand that many first-responders will have questions before deciding whether to be vaccinated. We will make sure they have the medical advice they need to make an informed decision. Smallpox is a serious disease, and we know that our enemies are trying to inflict serious harm. Yet there's no evidence that smallpox imminently threatens this country.

We will continue taking every essential step to guard against the threats to our Nation, and I deeply appreciate the good efforts of State and local health officials who are facing difficult challenges with great skill. The actions we are taking together will help safeguard the health of our people in a measured and responsible way.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:12 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### ***December 7***

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

#### ***December 8***

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the Kennedy Center Honors ceremony at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

#### ***December 9***

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President Emomali Rahmonov of Tajikistan.

In an afternoon ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Lapologang Caesar Lekoa of Botswana, Amadou Lamine Ba of Senegal, Pedro Manuel dos Reis Alves Catarino of Portugal, Ivan Vujacic of Yugoslavia, Antoine Ntamobwa of Burundi, Roberto Danino Zapata of Peru, Antonio Arenales Forno of Guatemala, Helgi Agustsson of Iceland, and Jean-David Levitte of France.

Later in the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen of Finland.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations: Margaret Cushing Whitman; Steven Rollie Rogel; Frank Henry Habicht II; Jerome Jasinowski; William Frenzel; Rodolphe Vallee; Bernard Aronson; Edward Emma; Jill Considine; Wythe Willey; Edward Perkins; Richard Rivera; Pete Hanna; John Rowland; Jean-Pierre Rosso; Hersh Kozlov; Samuel Palmisano; JoAnn Brouillette; Herbert Johnson; Hector Ruiz;

Melinda Bush; Richard Wardrop, Jr.; Grace Nichols; Larry Liebenow; Michael Goldstein; Thomas Mottola; George Fitch; Luis Lauredo; James Winston Morrison; Walter Bernard Duffy Hickey, Jr.; Robert Edward Grady; and Morgan Yaping Wang.

The President declared a major disaster in Guam and ordered Federal aid to supplement Territory and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Super Typhoon Pongsona beginning on December 8 and continuing.

#### ***December 10***

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil.

The President announced the appointment of David G. Leitch as Deputy Counsel and Deputy Assistant to the President.

The President announced his intention to appoint Richard B. Gasaway as a member of the Medal of Valor Review Board for Firefighting.

The President announced his intention to appoint George Stuart Yount as U.S. Representative on the Governing Board of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

#### ***December 11***

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark, President of the European Union, to express his support for Turkey's aspirations to join the EU. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he participated in an interview and White House tour with journalist Barbara Walters for broadcast on December 13 on ABC's "20/20" television program.

In the afternoon, the President met with Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman, Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton, and Chairman James Connaughton of the Council on Environmental Quality to discuss implementation of the President's Healthy Forests Initiative to reduce the threat of wildfire in the western States. Later, he attended a diplomatic corps holiday reception at Blair House.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Commission on the U.S.