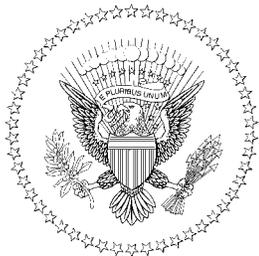


Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



Monday, March 17, 2003  
Volume 39—Number 11  
Pages 313–328

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**Editor's Note:** The President was at Camp David, MD, on March 14, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

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## WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*.

Week Ending Friday, March 14, 2003

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

*March 8, 2003*

Good morning. This has been an important week on two fronts of our war against terror. First, American and Pakistani authorities captured the mastermind of the September the 11th attacks against our country, Khalid Sheik Mohammed. This is a landmark achievement in disrupting the Al Qaida network, and we believe it will help us prevent future acts of terror. We are currently working with over 90 countries and have dealt with over 3,000 terrorists who have been detained, arrested, or otherwise will not be a problem for the United States.

Second, the chief United Nations weapons inspector reported yesterday to the Security Council on his efforts to verify Saddam Hussein's compliance with Resolution 1441. This resolution requires Iraq to fully and unconditionally disarm itself of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons materials, as well as the prohibited missiles that could be used to deliver them. Unfortunately, it is clear that Saddam Hussein is still violating the demands of the United Nations by refusing to disarm.

Iraqi's dictator has made a public show of producing and destroying a few prohibited missiles. Yet, our intelligence shows that even as he is destroying these few missiles, he has ordered the continued production of the very same type of missiles. Iraqi operatives continue to play a shell game with inspectors, moving suspected prohibited materials to different locations every 12 to 24 hours. And Iraqi weapons scientists continue to be threatened with harm should they cooperate in interviews with U.N. inspectors.

These are not the actions of a regime that is disarming. These are the actions of a regime engaged in a willful charade. If the Iraqi regime were disarming, we would know it because we would see it. Iraq's weapons would be presented to inspectors and de-

stroyed. Inspection teams do not need more time or more personnel. All they need is what they have never received, the full cooperation of the Iraqi regime. The only acceptable outcome is the outcome already demanded by a unanimous vote of the Security Council, total disarmament.

Saddam Hussein has a long history of reckless aggression and terrible crimes. He possesses weapons of terror. He provides funding and training and safe haven to terrorists who would willingly deliver weapons of mass destruction against America and other peace-loving countries.

The attacks of September the 11th, 2001, showed what the enemies of America did with four airplanes. We will not wait to see what terrorists or terror states could do with weapons of mass destruction. We are determined to confront threats wherever they arise. And as a last resort, we must be willing to use military force. We are doing everything we can to avoid war in Iraq. But if Saddam Hussein does not disarm peacefully, he will be disarmed by force.

Across the world and in every part of America, people of good will are hoping and praying for peace. Our goal is peace for our own Nation, for our friends, for our allies, and for all the peoples of the Middle East. People of good will must also recognize that allowing a dangerous dictator to defy the world and build an arsenal for conquest and mass murder is not peace at all; it is pretense. The cause of peace will be advanced only when the terrorists lose a wealthy patron and protector and when the dictator is fully and finally disarmed.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:47 a.m. on March 7 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 8. The transcript was made available by the Office

of the Press Secretary on March 7 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, senior Al Qaeda leader responsible for planning the September 11 attack, who was captured in Pakistan on March 1; Hans Blix, Executive Chairman, United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Office of Personnel Management To Act as Director of the Office of Personnel Management**

*March 11, 2003*

*Memorandum for the Director of the Office of Personnel Management*

*Subject:* Designation of Officers of the Office of Personnel Management to Act as Director of the Office of Personnel Management

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. 345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

**Section 1. Order of Succession.**

During any period when the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (Director), or the Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management, 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 Personnel Management, 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 at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director:

Chief of Staff;  
 General Counsel;  
 Associate Director, Management and Chief Financial Officer;  
 Associate Director, Human Resources Policy;  
 Associate Director, Human Resources Products and Services;

Associate Director, Human Capital Leadership and Merit Systems Accountability;

Deputy Associate Director, Center for Investigations Services;

Director, Office of Congressional Relations;

Director, Office of Communications;

Senior Advisor, Homeland Security; and

Senior Advisor, Learning and Knowledge Management.

**Sec. 2. Exceptions.**

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall 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**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 12, 2003]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on March 13.

**Memorandum on Implementation of Section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, Relating to Food for Education and Child Nutrition**

*March 11, 2003*

*Memorandum for the Secretary of Agriculture*

*Subject:* Implementation of Section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, Relating to Food for Education and Child Nutrition

Effective upon the publication of this memorandum in the *Federal Register*, there is established the program relating to food for education and child nutrition authorized by subsection 3107(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public

Law 107–171) (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1). Pursuant to subsection 3107(d) of the Act, the Department of Agriculture is designated to take actions specified in that subsection. The authorities and duties of the President under section 3107 (except the authority to designate under 3107(d)) are delegated to the Secretary of Agriculture.

In the implementation of a program for which section 3107 provides, the Secretary of Agriculture shall consult as appropriate with the Food Policy Assistance Council established by section 3 of Executive Order 12752 of February 25, 1991, as amended, and such heads of Federal departments and agencies as the Secretary determines appropriate.

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

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 14, 2003]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on March 17.

**Letter to Senate Leaders on the  
Nomination of Miguel A. Estrada To  
Be Circuit Judge for the District of  
Columbia Circuit**

*March 11, 2003*

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

The Senate is debating the nomination of Miguel A. Estrada to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Miguel Estrada's life is an example of the American Dream. He came to this country from Honduras as a teenager barely speaking English and went on to graduate with honors from Harvard Law School. He has argued 15 cases before the Supreme Court of the United States and served in the United States Department of Justice under Presidents of both political parties. The American Bar Association has given him its highest rating. When appointed, he will be the first Hispanic ever to serve on the D.C. Circuit.

I submitted Mr. Estrada's nomination to the Senate on May 9, 2001. But his nomination has been stalled for partisan reasons for

nearly 2 years in which the Senate has not held a vote either to confirm or to reject the nomination.

The Senate has a solemn responsibility to exercise its constitutional advice and consent function and hold up or down votes on judicial nominees within a reasonable time after nomination. Senators who are filibustering a vote on Miguel Estrada are flouting the intention of the United States Constitution and the tradition of the United States Senate. The filibuster is the culmination of an escalating series of back-and-forth tactics that have marred the judicial confirmation process for years, as many judicial nominees have never received up or down Senate votes. And now, a minority of Senators are threatening for the first time to use ideological filibusters as a standard tool to indefinitely block confirmation of well-qualified nominees with strong bipartisan support. This has to end.

The judicial confirmation process is broken, and the consequences for the American people are real. Because of the Senate's failure to hold timely votes, the number of judicial vacancies has been unacceptably high during my Presidency and those of President Bill Clinton and President George H.W. Bush. The Chief Justice has warned that the high number of judicial vacancies, when combined with the ever-increasing caseloads, leads to crowded courts and threatens the administration of justice. When understaffed, the Federal courts cannot act in a timely manner to resolve disputes that affect the lives and liberties of all Americans. The courts cannot decide constitutional cases promptly, which harms people seeking to vindicate and protect their rights, and the courts cannot rule on commercial cases efficiently, which hurts the economy, businesses, and workers. Our system of equal justice under law administered fairly and efficiently is at risk. The American Bar Association in 2002 accurately described the situation as an "emergency."

My concern about the state of the judicial confirmation process is not new. In June 2000, I proposed timely votes for all nominees, stating that the confirmation process "does not empower anyone to turn the process into a protracted ordeal of unreasonable delay and unrelenting investigation." In May

2001, when I announced my first judicial nominations, I urged the Senate to rise above the bitterness of the past and again asked that every judicial nominee receive a timely up or down vote. In October 2002, after nearly two additional years in which too many nominees did not receive votes, I proposed a specific, commonsense plan involving all three Branches that, among other steps, would ensure that all judicial nominees receive an up or down Senate vote within 180 days of nomination.

Over the years, many Senators of both political parties have publicly agreed with the principle that every judicial nominee should receive a timely up or down Senate vote. Similarly, the Federal Judiciary, speaking through the Chief Justice in his 2001 Year-End Report, has stated that the Senate should “schedule up or down votes on judicial nominees within a reasonable time after receiving the nomination.”

I ask Senators of both parties to come together to end the escalating cycle of blame and bitterness and to restore fairness, predictability, and dignity to the process. I ask that the Senate take action, including adoption of a permanent rule, to ensure timely up or down votes on judicial nominations both now and in the future, no matter who is President or which party controls the Senate. This is the only way to ensure that our Judiciary works and that good people remain willing to be nominated to the Federal bench.

All Senators should have a chance to have their voices heard and their votes counted. All Presidents should have their judicial nominees considered and voted upon in a reasonable time. All nominees should have the certainty of an up or down Senate vote within a reasonable time. All Judges should have the assurance that vacancies on their courts will not persist for years. And all Americans should have the assurance that the Federal courts will remain open and fully staffed to resolve their disputes and protect their rights and liberties.

As I stated last October, the current state of affairs in the United States Senate is not merely another round of political wrangling,

It is a disturbing failure to meet a responsibility under the Constitution. Our country deserves better, the process can work better, and we can make it better. The Constitution has given us a shared duty, and we must meet that duty together. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Letters were sent to Bill Frist, Senate majority leader, and Thomas A. Daschle, Senate minority leader. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders  
Transmitting a Certification  
Pursuant to the Chemical Weapons  
Convention**

*March 11, 2003*

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

Consistent with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the United States Senate on April 24, 1997, I certify that for calendar year 2002:

In connection with Condition 9, Protection of Advanced Biotechnology, the legitimate commercial activities and interests of chemical, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical firms in the United States were not harmed significantly by the limitations of the Convention on access to, and production of, those chemicals and toxins listed in Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard G. Lugar, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

**Message to the Congress  
Transmitting a Report on the Plan  
for Securing Nuclear Weapons,  
Material, and Expertise of the States  
of the Former Soviet Union**

*March 11, 2003*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

As required by section 1205 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107–107) and section 1205 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–314), I am providing a report prepared by my Administration which presents a plan for securing nuclear weapons, material, and expertise of the states of the Former Soviet Union and reports on implementation of that plan during Fiscal Year 2002.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
March 11, 2003.

**Statement on the Assassination of  
Serbian Prime Minister Zoran  
Djindjic**

*March 12, 2003*

On behalf of the United States, I extend my condolences to the people of Serbia and to the family of Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic, who was shot and killed this morning.

History will remember Prime Minister Djindjic for his strong leadership during Serbia's successful struggle to end the dictatorship of Slobodan Milosevic. Following the peaceful transition to a new, democratic Government, Djindjic acted with strength and courage to transfer Milosevic to The Hague, where today he stands on trial for war crimes. At the helm of the new Government, Prime Minister Djindjic was committed to building a prosperous, democratic future for Serbia, and he fought to hasten that future's arrival by fighting organized crime and reforming Serbia's economy and political institutions.

The United States will continue to support Serbia's pursuit of reforms that will open the way to a brighter future and full integration with Europe.

**Executive Order 13289—  
Establishing the Global War on  
Terrorism Medals**

*March 12, 2003*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including my authority as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1.** Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. There is hereby established the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal with suitable appurtenances. Except as limited in section 3 of this order, and under uniform regulations to be prescribed by the Secretaries of the military departments and approved by the Secretary of Defense, or under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal shall be awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who serve or have served in military expeditions to combat terrorism, as defined by such regulations, on or after September 11, 2001, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

**Sec. 2.** Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. There is hereby established the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal with suitable appurtenances. Except as limited in section 3 of this order, and under uniform regulations to be prescribed by the Secretaries of the military departments and approved by the Secretary of Defense, or under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal shall be awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who serve or have served in military operations to combat terrorism, as defined by such regulations, on or after September 11, 2001, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

**Sec. 3.** Relationship to Other Awards. Notwithstanding section 3 of Executive

Order 10977 of December 4, 1961, establishing the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and section 3 of Executive Order 12985 of January 11, 1996, establishing the Armed Forces Service Medal, any member who qualified for those medals by reason of service in operations to combat terrorism between September 11, 2001, and a terminal date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense, shall remain qualified for those medals. Upon application, any such member may be awarded either the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal or the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal in lieu of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or the Armed Forces Service Medal, but no person may be awarded more than one of these four medals by reason of service in the same approved Global War on Terrorism expedition or operation to combat terrorism, and no person shall be entitled to more than one award of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal or the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

**Sec. 4.** Posthumous Award. The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal may be awarded posthumously to any person covered by and under regulations prescribed in accordance with the first or second sections of this order.

**Sec. 5.** Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed for any purpose as fixing, or authorizing the fixing of, the dates of initiation or termination of armed hostilities between the United States and terrorists of global reach.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
March 12, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,  
12:27 p.m., March 13, 2003]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on March 14.

## **Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Iran**

*March 12, 2003*

On March 15, 1995, by Executive Order 12957, the President declared a national emergency with respect to Iran pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Iran, including its support for international terrorism, efforts to undermine the Middle East peace process, and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them. On May 6, 1995, the President issued Executive Order 12959 imposing more comprehensive sanctions to further respond to this threat, and on August 19, 1997, the President issued Executive Order 13059 consolidating and clarifying the previous orders.

Because the actions and policies of the Government of Iran continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, the national emergency declared on March 15, 1995, must continue in effect beyond March 15, 2003. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to Iran. Because the emergency declared by Executive Order 12957 constitutes an emergency separate from that declared on November 14, 1979, by Executive Order 12170, this renewal is distinct from the emergency renewal of November 2002. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
March 12, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:08 a.m., March 13, 2003]

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 13.

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 13, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on March 14.

**Message to the Congress on  
Continuation of the National  
Emergency With Respect to Iran**  
*March 12, 2003*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Iran emergency is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2003, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on March 14, 2002 (67 FR 11553).

The crisis between the United States and Iran constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Iran, including its support for international terrorism, efforts to undermine Middle East peace, and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on March 15, 1995, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are contrary to the interests of the United States in the region and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Iran and maintain in force comprehensive sanctions against Iran to respond to this threat.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
March 12, 2003.

**Message to the Congress  
Transmitting a Report on the  
National Emergency With Respect to  
Iran**

*March 12, 2003*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c), I am transmitting a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
March 12, 2003.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 13.

**Remarks at a Saint Patrick's Day  
Shamrock Presentation Ceremony  
With Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of  
Ireland**

*March 13, 2003*

Thank you very much, Taoiseach, and welcome back to the White House. Laura and I are honored you came and really glad you're here.

On behalf of the American people, I thank you for the bowl of shamrocks and the good fortune they promise. This annual gift symbolizes the deep and enduring friendship between our two countries. The strong ties between Ireland and the United States reach back centuries.

These strong ties have been affirmed at critical moments in our country's history. It is said that during the Revolutionary War, an Irish American woman, Lydia Darragh, provided valuable intelligence to George

Washington's troops, helping prevent a planned British offensive. During the Civil War, the famed Irish Brigade fought valiantly on the Union side in terrible battles, some not far from where we stand.

And throughout America's history, we have benefited from the industry and the talents and the ideals of millions of Ireland's sons and daughters. Today, our two countries share a deep commitment to building a world of peace and security and prosperity and freedom. We've stood together in Afghanistan, in Kosovo, in Bosnia, and beyond, to stop aggression and to alleviate suffering. Ireland is a valued member of the coalition against global terror. And we thank you, sir.

The American people appreciate Ireland's work on U.N. Security Council to help secure passage of the Resolution 1441. That resolution demanded that Iraq disarm itself of all weapons of mass destruction. We appreciate Ireland's support for ensuring that the just demands of the world are enforced. The responsibilities of freedom are not always easy to bear, but Ireland and America are joined by a common commitment to freedom's defense against tyranny and terror.

Our two countries also stand together in another cause, working to achieve lasting peace in Northern Ireland. Recent years have seen historic progress thanks to the tireless efforts of Prime Minister Ahern and Blair and many other people who long for peace. Now all parties can and must build on this progress so that the people of Northern Ireland can replace old resentments with new cooperation and new hope. America has long supported this vital work, and today that support endures and continues. We will help where we can.

Saint Patrick's Day reminds us of the close ties of family and friendship between our countries, but everyday—every day of the year, America is proud to call Ireland a friend.

Taoiseach, may good fortune be yours, may your joys never end, may good luck be with you wherever you go, and your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow. Welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:38 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Bertie

Ahern of Ireland, who presented the shamrocks; and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

### **Statement on Senate Passage of Legislation Banning Partial-Birth Abortion**

*March 13, 2003*

Partial-birth abortion is an abhorrent procedure that offends human dignity, and I commend the Senate for passing legislation to ban it. Today's action is an important step toward building a culture of life in America. I look forward to the House passing legislation and working with the Senate to resolve any differences so that I can sign legislation banning partial-birth abortion into law.

### **Statement on the Senate Filibuster To Block a Vote on the Nomination of Miguel Estrada**

*March 13, 2003*

Today, 42 Senate Democrats have decided to continue their filibuster to block a vote on the nomination of Miguel Estrada. The Senate has a constitutional responsibility to hold an up-or-down vote on all judicial nominees within a reasonable time, but some Senate Democrats have abandoned that responsibility in favor of partisan obstructionist tactics. The judicial confirmation process is broken, and the consequences for the American people are real. Because of the Senate's failure to hold timely votes, the number of judicial vacancies has become unacceptably high. When the Federal courts are understaffed, they cannot act in a timely manner to resolve disputes that affect the lives and liberties of all Americans.

In order to protect the rights of Americans and the sanctity of the Constitution, this obstruction must end. Miguel Estrada was nominated nearly 2 years ago, yet he still has not received a fair vote. I call on the Senate to end the delays, stop holding Miguel Estrada to a double standard, and live up to its responsibility to hold an up-or-down vote on this highly qualified nominee. As I said

before, let each Senator vote as he or she thinks best, but give the man a vote.

### **Statement on House of Representatives Action on Health Care Legislation**

*March 13, 2003*

America's medical liability system is badly broken. Frivolous and abusive lawsuits are driving up costs for patients, threatening access to quality health care, and forcing good doctors to shut down clinics in communities across the Nation.

We need a medical liability system that provides compensation for patients, not windfalls for trial lawyers. The direct and indirect costs of the liability crisis to the Federal Government is more than \$28 billion a year, adding to the costs of Medicare and Medicaid and hurting our efforts to help people get access to the medical care they need.

Today's House vote is an important step toward creating a liability system that fairly compensates those who are truly harmed, punishes egregious misconduct without driving good doctors out of medicine, and improves access to quality, affordable health care by reducing health care costs.

I also commend the House for passing legislation that improves patient safety by providing for better sharing of valuable medical expertise between health care professionals. Together, these two pieces of legislation will make the system work for patients.

I urge the Senate to move quickly on legislation that will reform our medical liability system and reduce medical errors so that I can sign these important measures into law this year.

### **Remarks on the Roadmap for Peace in the Middle East**

*March 14, 2003*

Good morning. We have reached a hopeful moment for progress toward the vision of Middle Eastern peace that I outlined last June. I spoke of a day when two states, Israel and Palestine, will live side by side in peace and security. I called upon all parties in the

Middle East to abandon old hatreds and to meet their responsibilities for peace.

The Palestinian state must be a reformed and peaceful and democratic state that abandons forever the use of terror. The Government of Israel, as the terror threat is removed and security improves, must take concrete steps to support the emergence of a viable and credible Palestinian state and to work as quickly as possible toward a final status agreement. As progress is made toward peace, settlement activity in the occupied territories must end. And the Arab states must oppose terrorism, support the emergence of a peaceful and democratic Palestine, and state clearly that they will live in peace with Israel.

This moment offers a new opportunity to meet these objectives. After its recent elections, the nation of Israel has a new Government. And the Palestinian Authority has created the new position of Prime Minister. Israeli and Palestinian leaders and other governments in the region now have a chance to move forward with determination and with good faith.

To be a credible and responsible partner, the new Palestinian Prime Minister must hold a position of real authority. We expect that such a Palestinian Prime Minister will be confirmed soon. Immediately upon confirmation, the roadmap for peace will be given to the Palestinians and the Israelis. This roadmap will set forth a sequence of steps toward the goals I set out on June 24th, 2002, goals shared by all the parties.

The United States has developed this plan over the last several months in close cooperation with Russia, the European Union, and the United Nations. Once this roadmap is delivered, we will expect and welcome contributions from Israel and the Palestinians to this document that will advance true peace. We will urge them to discuss the roadmap with one another. The time has come to move beyond entrenched positions and to take concrete actions to achieve peace.

America is committed, and I am personally committed, to implementing our roadmap toward peace. Our efforts are guided by clear principles: We believe that all people in the Middle East, Arab and Israeli alike, deserve

to live in dignity under free and honest governments. We believe that people who live in freedom are more likely to reject bitterness, blind hatred, and terror, and are far more likely to turn their energy toward reconciliation, reform, and development.

There can be no peace for either side in the Middle East unless there is freedom for both. Reaching that destination will not be easy, but we can see the way forward. Now the parties must take that way, step by step, and America will be the active partner of every party that seeks true peace.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

### **Statement on the Centennial Anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System**

*March 14, 2003*

One hundred years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt signed an Executive order that established America's first wildlife refuge in Pelican Island, Florida. His foresight and leadership have resulted in the world's largest network of dedicated lands to protect and manage a vast array of wildlife.

America's National Wildlife Refuge System spans 95 million acres of conservation lands and waters. With more than 540 refuges, there is a wildlife refuge within an hour's drive of every major city across America. More than 400 national wildlife refuges are open to the public, offering a variety of outdoor activities—including fishing, hunting, environmental education, wildlife observation, and photography—and making them special places for Americans to discover the wonders of nature. Many refuges offer additional opportunities for nature hikes, bird tours, wildlife drives, and other activities.

Our wildlife refuges have played a vital role in conserving and recovering our country's wildlife and vibrant natural resources. To maintain and improve our wildlife refuges, more than 34,000 volunteers generously donate more than 1.3 million service hours every year. These volunteers carry on the service inspired by Paul Kroegel, the vol-

unteer who encouraged President Roosevelt's Executive order in 1903.

I have requested a \$26 million increase in the wildlife refuge system's budget for FY 2004. This request is on top of the historic \$56.5 million budget increase requested for this year. Congress also recognized the importance of the refuge system by including \$51 million of the request for 2003 in the recently enacted Omnibus Appropriations Act. Americans are proud of their wildlife refuge system, and we remain committed to continuing President Roosevelt's legacy.

### **Proclamation 7653—National Poison Prevention Week, 2003**

*March 14, 2003*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

More than 40 years ago, President John F. Kennedy signed into law National Poison Prevention Week. The annual observance of this week continues to help American families learn how to protect their children from accidental poisonings.

Every year more than one million children under 5 years of age are exposed to poisonous household chemicals and medicines, and an estimated 30 children die as a result of these accidental poisonings. Almost every child poisoning could be prevented. The death of even one child from poisoning is too many and for this reason, Poison Prevention Week Council members representing 37 national organizations coordinate events each year to raise awareness of childhood poisonings and to encourage preventative steps that all Americans can take to protect the lives of our children.

The theme of this year's National Poison Prevention Week, "Children Act Fast . . . So Do Poisons!" reminds parents that they always must be watchful when household chemicals or drugs are stored and used. Many incidents occur when adults are using a product and are distracted for only a brief time. Unfortunately, it only takes a moment for a small child to grab and swallow something that could be poisonous. To guard

against these accidents, we must keep medicines and household chemicals locked up, out of sight and reach of young children at all times. The Consumer Product Safety Commission requires child-resistant packaging for certain toxic medicines and chemicals, but it is vital we recognize that the packaging is not “child-proof,” and must be monitored with great care.

When poisoning is suspected, individuals should immediately call the national toll-free number, 1–800–222–1222 to speak to the nearest poison control center. This telephone number and local poison control centers are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and can provide life-saving emergency advice. Regional Poison Control Centers in the United States provide information on recommended treatment for the ingestion of household products and medicines, and parents and those responsible for taking care of children are encouraged to keep the national toll-free number on their telephones. In cases of an emergency, callers should remain calm and provide the Poison Control Center expert with essential information about the victim’s age, weight, existing health conditions, and details about the substance that was inhaled, swallowed, or absorbed by the victim. Through our vigilance, we can work together to help stop child poisonings and give every child an opportunity for a bright future.

To encourage Americans to learn more about the dangers of accidental poisonings and to take more preventive measures, the Congress, by joint resolution approved September 26, 1961, as amended (75 Stat. 681), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week of March each year as “National Poison Prevention Week.”

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 16 through 22, 2003, as National Poison Prevention Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week by participating in appropriate ceremonies and activities and by learning how to prevent poisonings among children.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 17, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 18.

### **Memorandum on Waiver of Coup-Related Sanctions for Pakistan**

*March 14, 2003*

Presidential Determination No. 2003–16

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Waiver of Coup-Related Sanctions for Pakistan

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 1(b)(1) of the Pakistan Waiver Act, Public Law 107–57, I hereby determine and certify that a waiver of section 508 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations, Division E of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003, Public Law 108–7

- would facilitate the transition to democratic rule in Pakistan; and
- is important to United States efforts to respond to, deter, or prevent acts of international terrorism.

I hereby waive, with respect to Pakistan, section 508 of Division E of Public Law 108–7.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

**George W. Bush**

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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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#### **March 8**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan to discuss the war on terror, efforts to rebuild Afghanistan, and President Karzai's appearance before the U.S. Senate on February 26.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a Gridiron Club dinner at the Capital Hilton Hotel.

#### **March 10**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Jiang Zemin of China to congratulate him on his years of service to his country and to discuss China-U.S. relations and the situations in North Korea and Iraq. The President also had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan to discuss the situations in Iraq and North Korea.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa to discuss the situation in Iraq, South Africa-U.S. relations, and to congratulate President Mbeki for his work on peace efforts in the Congo. He also had a telephone conversation with Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman to discuss the situation in Iraq and Oman-U.S. relations.

Later in the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

During the day, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain and Chairman Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey's AK Party to discuss the situation in Iraq.

In the afternoon, the President met with Veterans of Foreign Wars youth medal winners.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert S. Nichols to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Public Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Suedeem G. Kelly to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

#### **March 11**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola to discuss the situation in Iraq.

Later in the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He also met with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard Myers, USAF. Later, he met with Attorney General John Ashcroft to discuss the initiative on using DNA to solve crimes.

During the day, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Ricardo Lagos of Chile, President Vicente Fox of Mexico, Prime Minister John Howard of Australia, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy, and President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain to discuss the situation in Iraq.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joe D. Whitley to be General Counsel of the Department of Homeland Security.

The President announced his intention to nominate Eduardo Aguirre, Jr., to be Director of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Service, Department of Homeland Security.

The President announced his intention to designate Michael J. Garcia as Acting Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and to nominate him to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The President announced his intention to designate Richard Seybolt as Federal Commissioner and Chairman of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission (Arkansas and Oklahoma).

The President announced his intention to designate David Vandergriff as Alternate Federal Commissioner of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission (Arkansas and Oklahoma).

The President announced his intention to appoint Kenneth C. Canterbury, Jr., as a member of the Medal of Valor Review Board (Law Enforcement).

The President declared an emergency in Maine and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by record/near record snow on February 2–4.

The President declared an emergency in Connecticut and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by record/near record snow on February 17–18.

The President declared an emergency in Massachusetts and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by record/near record snow on February 17–18.

The President declared an emergency in New Hampshire and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by record/near record snow on February 17–18.

### **March 12**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Zayid bin Sultan Al Nuhyayan of the United Arab Emirates to discuss the situation in Iraq. He also had a telephone conversation with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines to discuss the situation in Iraq, President Macapagal-Arroyo's upcoming state visit to the U.S., and efforts to combat terrorism in the southern Philippines.

Later in the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He also met with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Colin Powell, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard Myers, USAF.

Also in the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan and President Vladimir Putin of Russia to discuss the situation in Iraq.

In the afternoon, in the Cabinet Room, the President met with bipartisan Members of Congress to discuss proposed medical liability reform legislation.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister

Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to discuss the situation in Iraq.

The President announced his intention to nominate R. Hewitt Pate to be Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Helen R. Meagher La Lime to be Ambassador to Mozambique.

The President announced his intention to nominate Eric M. Javits for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure as U.S. Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

### **March 13**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea to discuss the situations in Iraq and North Korea. He also had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg-Gotha of Bulgaria to discuss the situation in Iraq.

The President then had intelligence and FBI briefings.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President met with Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland and Northern Ireland leaders.

In the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to discuss the situation in Iraq.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jeane J. Kirkpatrick as U.S. Representative on the Human Rights Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The President announced his intention to appoint Robert P. Liscouski as Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection at the Department of Homeland Security.

The President announced his intention to appoint Paul J. Redmond as Assistant Secretary for Information Analysis at the Department of Homeland Security.

### **March 14**

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, King Abdullah II of Jordan, and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to discuss peace efforts in the Middle East. He also had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Anders

Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to discuss the situation in Iraq.

Later in the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, the President met with victims of 1988 chemical weapons attacks by the Iraqi regime against Kurdish citizens in Iraq.

Later in the afternoon, the President went to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali of Pakistan at the White House on March 28 to discuss key bilateral, regional, and international issues and cooperation in the war on terror.

The President announced his intention to nominate Pamela J.H. Slutz to be Ambassador to Mongolia.

The President announced his intention to appoint Margaret L. Kripke as a member of the President's Cancer Panel.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jo Ann Krukar Webb as a member of the National Veterans Business Development Corporation.

The President announced his intention to appoint James W. Porter, George W. Reiger, and Jane Graeffe Witheridge to be members of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals to represent the United States at the March 15 memorial service for Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic of Serbia in Belgrade: Lawrence Eagleburger (delegation leader), William D. Montgomery, Marlene Eagleburger, Janet Bogue, Lisa Tepper, and Theresa Grecnik.

The President declared a major disaster in Ohio and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm and record/near record snow on February 14.

The President declared a major disaster in Kentucky and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter ice and snow storms, heavy rain, flooding, tornadoes, and mud and rock slides on February 15–26.

The President declared a major disaster in West Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm, record/near record snow, heavy rains, flooding, and landslides on February 16.

The President declared an emergency in Maryland and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by record/near record snow on February 14–17.

The President declared an emergency in Pennsylvania and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by record/near record snow on February 14–19.

The President declared an emergency in the District of Columbia and ordered Federal aid to supplement District recovery efforts in the area struck by record/near record snow on February 16–17.

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## **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

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### ***Submitted March 11***

Eduardo Aguirre, Jr., of Texas, to be Director of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security (new position).

Julia Bartling, of South Dakota, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, vice Eugene Branstool.

Raul David Bejarano, of California, to be U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of California for the term of 4 years, vice Stephen Simpson Gregg.

William M. Bellamy, of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kenya.

Elizabeth Courtney, of Louisiana, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for the remainder of the term expiring January 31, 2004, vice Diane D. Blair.

Ralph Frank, of Washington, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia.

Mary Lucille Jordan, of Maryland, to be a member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of 6 years expiring August 30, 2008 (reappointment).

Lowell Junkins, of Iowa, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (reappointment).

Glen Klippenstein, of Missouri, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, vice Marilyn Fae Peters.

John W. Leslie, Jr., of Connecticut, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation for a term expiring September 22, 2007, vice Ernest G. Green, term expired.

**Submitted March 13**

David G. Campbell, of Arizona, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona (new position).

Helen R. Meagher La Lime, of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Pleni-

potentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mozambique.

R. Hewitt Pate, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Charles A. James, Jr.

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**Checklist  
of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

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**Released March 10**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

**Released March 11**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 395

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the designation of John O. Brennan as Director of the Terrorist Threat Integration Center

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Connecticut

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to New Hampshire

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Maine

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Massachusetts

**Released March 12**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

**Released March 13**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the appointment of Faryar Shirzad as Special

Assistant to the President and Senior Director for International Economic Affairs

***Released March 14***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press availability by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Pakistani Prime Minister Jamali

Statement by the Press Secretary on designation of delegation to attend the memorial service for Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic of Serbia

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Kentucky

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Ohio

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Maryland

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to West Virginia

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Pennsylvania

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to the District of Columbia

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**Acts Approved  
by the President**

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***Approved March 11***

H.R. 395 / Public Law 108-10  
Do-Not-Call Implementation Act