

friends to follow in the footsteps of their forefathers and to gather at the Seder table to eat special foods, offer prayers, and sing songs that celebrate their rich heritage, the power of faith, and the eternal blessings of liberty.

The story of the Exodus, as found in the Scriptures, is timeless and universal. More than 3,000 years ago, the children of Abraham learned of our Creator's love and mercy as they reaffirmed man's natural desire for liberty. Every year since then, Jews remember the miracles that led their ancestors out of bondage and to the Promised Land.

As the international community works to face great challenges and embrace important opportunities, the United States remains committed to peace, justice, and opportunity. During this time of great consequence, we resolve to bring about a rebirth of freedom and promise in troubled regions around the world.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a Happy Passover. We also hope the holy season will bring a renewal of faith, comfort, and hope for all.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Message on the Observance of Easter 2003

April 17, 2003

I send greetings to those observing Easter. Easter is the most important event of the Christian faith, when people around the world join together with family and friends to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the hope of life to come.

For Christians, the life and death of Jesus are the ultimate expressions of love, and the supreme demonstrations of God's mercy, faithfulness, and redemption. Since Christ's miraculous Resurrection on Easter, more than 2,000 years ago, Christians have expressed joy and gratitude for this wondrous sacrifice and for God's promise of freedom for the oppressed, healing for the broken-hearted, and salvation.

Though this year's observance comes at a time when our world faces many challenges, the message of Easter remains unchanged—though sorrow may last through the night, joy comes in the morning. This holiday comforts us, as we remember that suffering will pass and goodness will prevail.

This Easter season, join me in praying for peace, wisdom, and resolve. During this holy time, may Christ's example of love and sacrifice compel us towards justice and compassion, and renew us with an assurance of hope and everlasting joy.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a Happy Easter.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Memorandum on Authority To Hold Harmless and Indemnify in Certain Circumstances Under One Contract

April 17, 2003

Memorandum for the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development

Subject: Authority to Hold Harmless and Indemnify in Certain Circumstances Under One Contract

1. You are authorized for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to exercise authority under Public Law 85-804, as amended (50 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*), to the same extent and subject to the same conditions and limitations as the head of a department or agency listed in section 21 of Executive Order 10789 of November 14, 1958, as amended, with respect to one contract identified in subparagraph (a) of this memorandum and solely for the purpose identified in subparagraph (b).

- (a) The contract is for repair and reconstruction in Iraq and is awarded on or before September 30, 2003.
- (b) The purpose is to hold harmless and indemnify with respect to claims, losses, or damage arising out of or resulting from exposure, in the course of performance of the contract to which subparagraph (a) refers, to: