

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Contents

Addresses to the Nation

Iraq—516

Addresses and Remarks

See also Bill Signings; Meetings With Foreign Leaders

California, remarks to employees of United Defense Industries in Santa Clara—518

Global HIV/AIDS Initiative—497

Michigan, Operation Iraqi Freedom in Dearborn—493

National Day of Prayer—513

National Teacher of the Year—500

Radio address—493

Bill Signings

Clean Diamond Trade Act, statement—491

Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003

Remarks—502

Statement—504

Communications to Congress

Budget amendments, letter transmitting—516

Constitution and Convention of the

International Telecommunication Union, message transmitting amendments—509

International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures, message transmitting Protocol of Amendment—510

Communications to Federal Agencies

Wire Hanger Imports From the People's Republic of China, memorandum—492

Interviews With the News Media

Exchanges with reporters

Oval Office—504

U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln*—514

Meetings With Foreign Leaders

Colombia, President Uribe—504

(Continued on the inside of the back cover.)

Editor's Note: The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on May 2, 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.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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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Contents—Continued

Proclamations

- Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month—510
- Law Day, U.S.A.—512
- Loyalty Day—507
- National Day of Prayer—508
- Older Americans Month—511

Statements by the President

- See also* Bill Signings
- AIDS relief legislation—515
- Death of Edward Gaylor—497
- Roadmap for peace in the Middle East—506

Statements by the President—Continued

- Senate action on judicial nominations
- Confirmation of Jeffrey S. Sutton as a Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit—499
- Filibuster on the nomination of Priscilla Owen to be a Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit—515

Supplementary Materials

- Acts approved by the President—529
- Checklist of White House press releases—528
- Digest of other White House announcements—524
- Nominations submitted to the Senate—526

Week Ending Friday, May 2, 2003

**Statement on Signing the Clean
Diamond Trade Act**

April 25, 2003

I have today signed into law H.R. 1584, the “Clean Diamond Trade Act.” The Act enables this Nation to implement procedures developed by more than 50 countries to exclude rough “conflict diamonds” from international trade, while promoting legitimate trade. Conflict diamonds have been used by rebel groups in Africa to finance their atrocities committed on civilian populations and their insurrections against internationally recognized governments. The United States has played a key role over the past 2 years in forging an international consensus to curb such damaging trade and has therefore strongly supported the “Kimberley Process.” Diamonds also are critical to the economic growth and development of African and other countries, so preserving their legitimate trade is an important foreign policy objective.

This Act directs the President to implement regulations to carry out the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS). Although under this Act I have discretion to issue regulations consistent with future changes to the KPCS, under the Constitution, the President cannot be bound to accept or follow changes that might be made to the KPCS at some future date absent subsequent legislation. I will construe this Act accordingly.

Section 15 of the Act provides that the legislation takes effect on the date the President certifies to the Congress that either of two specified events has occurred. The first event is that “an applicable waiver that has been granted by the World Trade Organization is in effect.” The second event is that “an appli-

cable decision in a resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations is in effect.” Once the Act takes effect, it “shall thereafter remain in effect during those periods in which, as certified by the President to the Congress, an applicable waiver or decision” by the World Trade Organization or the United Nations Security Council, respectively, “is in effect.”

If section 15 imposed a mandatory duty on the President to certify to the Congress whether either of the two specified events has occurred and whether either remains in effect, a serious question would exist as to whether section 15 unconstitutionally delegated legislative power to international bodies. In order to avoid this constitutional question, I will construe the certification process set forth in section 15 as conferring broad discretion on the President. Specifically, I will construe section 15 as giving the President broad discretion whether to certify to the Congress that an applicable waiver or decision is in effect. Similarly, I will construe section 15 as imposing no obligation on the President to withdraw an existing certification in response to any particular event. Rather, I will construe section 15 as giving the President the discretion to determine when a certification that an applicable waiver or decision is no longer in effect is warranted.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 25, 2003.

NOTE: H.R. 1584, approved April 25, was assigned Public Law No. 108-19. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Memorandum on Wire Hanger Imports From the People's Republic of China

April 25, 2003

Memorandum for the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Labor, the United States Trade Representative

Subject: Presidential Determination on Wire Hanger Imports from the People's Republic of China

Pursuant to section 421 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2451), I have determined the action I will take with respect to the affirmative determination of the United States International Trade Commission (USITC Investigation TA-421-2) regarding imports of certain steel wire garment hangers from China. After considering all relevant aspects of the investigation, I have determined that providing import relief for the U.S. wire hanger industry is not in the national economic interest of the United States. In particular, I find that import relief would have an adverse impact on the United States economy clearly greater than the benefits of such action.

The facts of this case indicate that imposing additional tariffs on Chinese imports would affect domestic producers unevenly, favoring one business strategy over another. While most of the producers would likely realize some income benefits, additional tariffs would disrupt the long-term adjustment strategy of one major producer, which is based in part on distribution of imported hangers, and cause that producer to incur substantial costs.

In addition, most domestic producers, including the petitioners, have begun to pursue adjustment strategies. While these strategies have included consolidation, modernization of production facilities, and expansion into complementary products and services, domestic producers are also expanding their use of imports. Indeed, a substantial part of the surge in imports during the most recent period measured was brought in by domestic producers themselves, including the petitioners.

Moreover, after 6 years of competing with Chinese imports, domestic producers still ac-

count for over 85 percent of the U.S. wire hanger market. With this dominant share of the market, domestic producers have the opportunity to adjust to competition from Chinese imports even without import relief.

Furthermore, there is a strong possibility that if additional tariffs on Chinese wire hangers were imposed, production would simply shift to third countries, which could not be subject to section 421's China-specific restrictions. In that event, import relief would have little or no benefit for any domestic producer.

Additional tariffs would have an uneven impact on domestic distributors of wire hangers. For some distributors, the tariffs would likely lead to some income benefits. However, the tariffs would likely harm other distributors in light of their business models.

Additional tariffs would also likely have a negative effect on the thousands of small, family-owned dry-cleaning businesses across the United States that would either have to absorb the resulting increased costs or pass them on to their customers.

The circumstances of this case make clear that the U.S. national economic interest would not be served by the imposition of import relief under section 421. I remain fully committed to exercising the important authority granted to me under section 421 when the circumstances of a particular case warrant it.

Section 421 is not the only avenue available to the petitioning domestic producers as they seek to adjust to import competition. I hereby direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Labor to expedite consideration of any Trade Adjustment Assistance applications received from domestic hanger producers or their workers and to provide such other requested assistance or relief as they deem appropriate, consistent with their statutory mandates.

The United States Trade Representative is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:55 a.m., April 28, 2003]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on April 29. This item was not

received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

April 26, 2003

Good morning. As America continues to fight and win the war on terror, our Government is also focused on another national priority, growing our economy and creating jobs.

America's economy has been through a lot. We experienced the shock of a terrorist attack. We have endured a recession. We had to deal with some major corporate scandals. We faced the uncertainty of war, and we have seen a slowdown in the global economy, which weakens demand for American goods and services. In spite of all of this, the American economy is growing and growing faster than most of the industrialized world.

There are great strengths in this economy. Lower interest rates have helped more Americans buy their own homes. Gas and other energy prices are coming down, and consumers are getting the savings immediately. Inflation is low, and America's families are seeing their incomes on the rise. The entrepreneurial spirit is healthy in America, as small-business men and women put their ideas and dreams into action every day. And America's greatest economic strength is the pride, the skill, and the productivity of American workers.

Yet, we know that America's economy is not meeting its full potential. We know our economy can grow faster and create new jobs at a faster rate. We also know that the right policies in Washington can unleash the great strengths of this economy and create the conditions for growth and prosperity.

On Monday, Members of Congress return from recess, and they will face some important decisions on the future of our economy. I have proposed a series of specific measures to create jobs by removing obstacles to economic growth. My jobs-and-growth plan would reduce tax rates for everyone who pays income tax, provide relief for families and small businesses, and help millions of seniors in retirement by eliminating the double taxation of dividends.

With a robust package of at least \$550 billion in across-the-board tax relief, we will help create more than a million new jobs by the end of 2004. Some Members of Congress support tax relief but say my proposal is too big. Since they already agree that tax relief creates jobs, it doesn't make sense to provide less tax relief and, therefore, create fewer jobs. I believe we should enact more tax relief so that we can create more jobs and more Americans can find work and provide for their families.

Americans understand the need for action. This week in Ohio, I met Mike Kovach, whose business is in Youngstown, Ohio. Mike started and runs a growing company, wants to hire new people, and would benefit from lower taxes. Mike says, "Anytime you can improve the bottom line of Main Street business, it's good for the city; it's good for the State; and it's great for the Nation. It all trickles up, instead of trickling down."

I urge Congress to listen to the common sense of people like Mike Kovach. He and tens of millions of Americans like him need our help in building the prosperity of our country. Tax relief is good for families and good for our entire economy. The jobs-and-growth plan I have proposed is fair; it is responsible; it is urgent. And Congress should pass it in full.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:53 a.m. on April 25 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 26. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 25 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on Operation Iraqi Freedom in Dearborn, Michigan

April 28, 2003

The President. Thank you for that warm welcome. I'm glad to be here. I regret that I wasn't here a few weeks ago when the statue came down. I understand you had quite a party. I don't blame you. A lot of the people in the Detroit area had waited years for that great day.

Many Iraqi Americans know the horrors of Saddam Hussein's regime firsthand. You also know the joys of freedom you have found here in America. You are living proof the Iraqi people love freedom and living proof the Iraqi people can flourish in democracy. People who live in Iraq deserve the same freedom that you and I enjoy here in America. And after years of tyranny and torture, that freedom has finally arrived.

I have confidence in the future of a free Iraq. The Iraqi people are fully capable of self-government. Every day, Iraqis are moving toward democracy and embracing the responsibilities of active citizenship. Every day, life in Iraq improves as coalition troops work to secure unsafe areas and bring food and medical care to those in need.

America pledged to rid Iraq of an oppressive regime, and we kept our word. America now pledges to help Iraqis build a prosperous and peaceful nation, and we will keep our word again.

Mr. Mayor, thanks, I appreciate you greeting me once again here in Dearborn. I appreciate your leadership. If you've got any problems with the garbage or the potholes, call the mayor. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank members of the congressional delegation who have joined us today. Thank you all for coming. Michigan is well represented in the Halls of the United States Congress. I want to thank the folks from the State government who have joined us today, and local governments.

I appreciate so very much the CEOs of the major automobile manufacturing companies who are based here in Detroit who are here, Rick Wagoner, Bill Ford, and Dieter Zetsche. Thank you all for coming. I look forward to discussing things with you later.

Right before I came in here I had the opportunity to meet with some extraordinary men and women, our fellow Americans who knew the cruelties of the old Iraq. And like me, they believed deeply in the promise of a new Iraq.

I spoke with Najda Egaily, a Sunni Muslim from Basra who moved to the United States 5 years ago. Najda learned the price of dissent in Iraq in 1988, when her brother-in-law was killed after laughing at a joke about Saddam Hussein in a house that was bugged.

"In Iraq," Najda says, "we could never speak to anyone about Saddam Hussein. We had to make sure the windows were closed." The windows are now open in Iraq. Najda and her friends will never forget seeing the images of liberation in Baghdad. Here's what she said: "We called each other, and we were shouting. We never believed that Saddam Hussein would be gone."

Audience member. He's gone.

The President. Like Najda, a lot of Iraqis—a lot of Iraqis—feared the dictator, the tyrant, would never go away. You're right. He's gone.

Audience members. U.S.A! U.S.A! U.S.A!

Audience member. *[Inaudible]*—back in the—*[inaudible]*—

Audience member. Because of you, Mr. President, so can you.

Audience member. *[Inaudible]*.

The President. We love free speech in America. *[Laughter]*

I talked to Tarik Daoud, a Catholic from Basra who now lives in Bloomfield Hills. When the dictator regime fell, here's what Tarik said. He said, "I am more hopeful today than I've ever been since 1958. We need to take the little children in Iraq and hold their hands and really teach them what freedom is all about." He says, "The new generation could really make democracy work."

He's right to be optimistic. From the beginning of this conflict, we have seen brave Iraqi citizens taking part in their own liberation. Iraqis have warned our troops about landmines and enemy hideouts and military arsenals.

Earlier this month, Iraqis helped marines locate the seven American prisoners of war who were then rescued in Northern Iraq. One courageous Iraqi man gave marines detailed layouts of a hospital in An Nasiriyah, which led to the rescue of American soldier Jessica Lynch.

Iraqi citizens are now working closely with our troops to restore order to their cities and improve the life of their nation. In Basra, hundreds of police volunteers have joined with coalition forces to patrol the streets. In Baghdad, more than 1,000 citizens are doing

joint patrols with coalition troops. And residents are also working with coalition troops to collect unexploded munitions from neighborhoods and repair the telephone system. People are working to improve the lives of the average citizens in Iraq.

I want you to listen to what an Iraqi engineer said who was working with U.S. Army engineers to restore power to Baghdad. He said, "We are very glad to work with the Americans to have power for the facilities. The Americans are working to help us." Iraqi Americans, including some from Michigan, are building bridges between our troops and Iraqi civilians. Members of the Free Iraqi Forces are serving as translators for our troops and are delivering humanitarian aid to the citizens.

One of these volunteers, an Iraqi American who fled Saddam Hussein's regime in 1991, recently returned to his homeland with the 101st Airborne Division. A few weeks ago, when he first saw the cheering crowds of Iraqis welcome coalition troops in Hillah, he wept. He said people could hardly believe what was happening, and he told them, "Believe it. Liberation is coming."

Yes, there were some in our country who doubted the Iraqi people wanted freedom, or they just couldn't imagine they would be welcome—welcoming to a liberating force. They were mistaken, and we know why. The desire for freedom is not the property of one culture; it is the universal hope of human beings in every culture.

Whether you're Sunni or Shi'a or Kurd or Chaldean or Assyrian or Turkoman or Christian or Jew or Muslim—no matter what your faith, freedom is God's gift to every person in every nation. As freedom takes hold in Iraq, the Iraqi people will choose their own leaders and their own Government. America has no intention of imposing our form of government or our culture. Yet, we will ensure that all Iraqis have a voice in the new Government and all citizens have their rights protected.

In the city of An Nasiriyah, where free Iraqis met recently to discuss the political future of their country, they issued a statement beginning with these words: Iraq must be democratic.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. Thank you. That historic declaration expresses the commitment of the Iraqi people and their friends, the American people. The days of repression from any source are over. Iraq will be democratic.

The work of building a new Iraq will take time. That nation is recovering not just from weeks of conflict but from decades of totalitarian rule.

In a nation where the dictator treated himself to palaces with gold faucets and grand fountains, 4 out of 10 citizens did not even have clean water to drink. While a former regime exported milk and dates and corn and grain for its own profit, more than half a million Iraqi children were malnourished. As Saddam Hussein let more than \$200 million worth of medicine and medical supplies sit in warehouses, one in eight Iraqi children were dying before the age of 5. And while the dictator spent billions on weapons, including gold-covered AK-47s, nearly a quarter of Iraqi children were born underweight. Saddam Hussein's regime impoverished the Iraqi people in every way.

Today, Iraq has only about half as many hospitals as it had in 1990. Seventy percent of its schools are rundown and overcrowded. A quarter of the Iraqi children are not in school at all. Under Saddam's regime, the Iraqi people did not have a power system they could depend on. These problems plagued Iraq long before the recent conflict. We're helping the Iraqi people to address these challenges, and we will stand with them as they defeat the dictator's legacy.

Right now, engineers are on the ground working with Iraqi experts to restore power and fix broken water pipes in Baghdad and other cities. We're working with the International Red Cross, the Red Crescent Societies, the International Medical Corps, and other aid agencies to help Iraqi hospitals get safe water and medical supplies and reliable electricity. Our coalition is cooperating with the United Nations to help restart the ration distribution system that provides food at thousands of sites in Iraq. And coalition medical facilities have treated Iraqis from everything from fractures and burns to symptoms of stroke.

One Iraqi man who was given medical help with his wife and sister aboard the U.S. Navy ship *Comfort* said, "They treat us like family. There are babies in Iraq who are not cared for by their mothers as well as the nurses have cared for us."

Already, we are seeing important progress in Iraq. It wasn't all that long ago that the statue fell, and now we're seeing progress.

Rail lines are reopening, and fire stations are responding to calls. Oil—Iraqi oil owned by the Iraqi people—is flowing again to fuel Iraq's powerplants. In Hillah, more than 80 percent of the city has now running water. City residents can buy meats and grains and fruits and vegetables at local shops. The mayor's office, the city council have been reestablished.

In Basra, where more than half of the water treatment facilities were not working before the conflict—more than half weren't functioning—water supplies are now reaching 90 percent of the city. The opulent Presidential palace in Basra will now serve a new and noble purpose. We've established a water purification unit there to make hundreds of thousands of liters of clean water available to the residents of the city of Basra.

Day by day, hour by hour, life in Iraq is getting better for the citizens. Yet, much work remains to be done. I have directed Jay Garner and his team to help Iraq achieve specific long-term goals. And they're doing a superb job. Congress recently allocated 2.5—nearly \$2.5 billion for Iraq's relief and reconstruction. With that money, we are renewing Iraq with the help of experts from inside our Government, from private industry, from the international community, and most importantly, from within Iraq.

We are dispatching teams across Iraq to assess the critical needs of the Iraqi people. We're clearing landmines. We're working with Iraqis to recover artifacts, to find the hoodlums who ravished the National Museum of Antiquities in Baghdad. Like many of you here, we deplore the actions of the citizens who ravished that museum. And we will work with the Iraqi citizens to find out who they were and to bring them to justice.

We're working toward an Iraq where, for the first time ever, electrical power is reliable and widely available. One of our goals is to

make sure everybody in Iraq has electricity. Already, 17 major powerplants in Iraq are functioning. Our engineers are meeting with Iraqi engineers. We're visiting powerplants throughout the country and determining which ones need repair, which ones need to be modernized, and which ones are obsolete, powerplant by powerplant. More Iraqis are getting the electricity they need.

We're working to make Iraq's drinking water clean and dependable. American and Iraqi water sanitation engineers are inspecting treatment plants across the country to make sure they have enough purification chemicals and power to produce safe water.

We're working to give every Iraqi access to immunizations and emergency treatment and to give sick children and pregnant women the health care they need. Iraqi doctors and nurses and other medical personnel are now going back to work. Throughout the country, medical specialists from many countries are identifying the needs of Iraqi hospitals for everything from equipment and repairs to water to medicines.

We're working to improve Iraqi schools by funding a back-to-school campaign that will help train and recruit Iraqi teachers, provide supplies and equipment, and bring children across Iraq back into clean and safe schools. And as we do that, we will make sure that the schools are no longer used as military arsenals and bunkers and that teachers promote reading, rather than regime propaganda.

And because Iraq is now free, economic sanctions are pointless. It is time for the United Nations to lift the sanctions so the Iraqis can use some resources to build their own prosperity.

Like so many generations of immigrants, Iraqi Americans have embraced and enriched this great country without ever forgetting the land of your birth. Liberation for Iraq has been a long time coming, but you never lost faith. You knew the great sorrow of Iraq. You also knew the great promise of Iraq, and you shared the hope of the Iraqi people.

You and I both know that Iraq can realize those hopes. Iraq can be an example of peace and prosperity and freedom to the entire Middle East. It'll be a hard journey, but at

every step of the way, Iraq will have a steady friend in the American people.

May God continue to bless the United States of America, and long live a free Iraq.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:46 p.m. in the theater at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Mayor Michael A. Guido of Dearborn; G. Richard Wagoner, Jr., president and chief executive officer, General Motors Corp.; William Clay Ford, Jr., chairman of the board and chief executive officer, Ford Motor Co.; Dieter Zetsche, president and chief executive officer, Chrysler Group; and Lt. Gen. Jay Garner, USA (Ret.), Director, Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance for Post-war Iraq, Department of Defense. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on the Death of Edward Gaylord

April 28, 2003

Edward Gaylord was a shining example of generosity, patriotism, and dedication to helping others. As a business leader with a distinguished career in journalism, he spent a lifetime in selfless service to his community and State. I was honored to have Ed as a partner in the Texas Rangers Baseball Club. He was an excellent partner and a fine man. Laura joins me in extending our heartfelt condolences to Ed's family and friends.

Remarks on the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative

April 29, 2003

Thank you all very much for the warm welcome. Welcome to the people's house, the White House. It's my honor to welcome Members of the United States Senate and the United States Congress, members from the ambassadorial corps, and fellow Americans who deeply care about a neighbor in need.

HIV/AIDS is a tragedy for millions of men, women, and children, and a threat to stability of entire countries and of regions of our world. Our nations have the ability and,

therefore, the duty to confront this grave public health crisis.

We are here today to urge both Houses of the United States Congress to pass the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which will dramatically expand our fight against AIDS across this globe.

I appreciate so very much Secretary of State Colin Powell's commitment to this issue. The fight against AIDS is an integral of our Nation's foreign policy. I appreciate so very much Secretary Tommy Thompson's dedication to this issue, as the chairman of the Global Fund. He knows this administration's passion about doing our duty. And I want to thank these members of my Cabinet for being here today.

I also want to thank the chairman and the ranking members of the committees responsible for getting this legislation moving. Senator Lugar and Senator Biden both committed to this legislation, both working closely with our administration to get a good bill out of the Senate. And Senator Hyde and Senator Lantos have been at work already, and I appreciate their leadership as well. We're honored to have you here, and we're honored to have the other Members of the Congress with us today who care deeply about this issue.

I also want to thank Tony Fauci. He works for the NIH. He is on the leading edge of finding the vaccines that will help those who suffer from AIDS. I love Tony's commitment to humans, to what's best for mankind. I'm glad you're here, Tony.

I also want to thank Joe O'Neill, as the Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy. He works closely in my administration. I appreciate his advice. I appreciate his counsel.

I want to thank Gaddi Vasquez, who's the Director of the Peace Corps, who is here. We just came from a roundtable discussion, and somebody came up with the idea, as this initiative goes forward and we get a good piece of legislation out of Congress, and when I sign it, hopefully before Memorial Day, one of the things we may want to do is to convert some of our Peace Corps to helping people in Africa who have got AIDS. So Gaddi, I want you to think carefully about that idea.

I appreciate the ambassadors who are here from the African and Caribbean nations. It's good to see you all again. I think the last time we saw each other was in black tie. It's a lot better not being in black tie. [Laughter]

I appreciate those who are members of the faith-based world who have answered the call, the universal call, to help a brother and sister in need. I want to thank you for being involved in the fight against AIDS. I want to thank those who have been involved in this struggle for a long period of time. I am confident that the progress that you have made to date will be progress that we can build upon and will build upon.

Confronting this tragedy is the responsibility of every nation. For the United States, it is a part of the special calling that began with our founding. We believe in the dignity of life, and this conviction determines our conduct around the world. We believe that everyone has a right to liberty, including the people of Afghanistan and Iraq. We believe that everyone has a right to life, including children in the cities and villages of Africa and the Caribbean.

Today, on the continent of Africa alone, nearly 30 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, including 3 million people under the age of 15 years old. In Botswana, nearly 40 percent of the adult population—40 percent—has HIV, and projected life expectancy has fallen by more than 30 years due to AIDS. In seven sub-Saharan African countries, mortality for children under age 5 has increased by 20 to 40 percent because of AIDS.

There are only two possible responses to suffering on this scale. We can turn our eyes away in resignation and despair, or we can take decisive, historic action to turn the tide against this disease and give the hope of life to millions who need our help now. The United States of America chooses the path of action and the path of hope.

Since January 2001, America has increased total spending to fight AIDS overseas by nearly 100 percent. We've already pledged more than \$1.6 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS and other infectious diseases. It is by far the most of any nation in the world today. And last year, I launched an initiative to help prevent the transmission of

HIV from mothers to children in Africa and the Caribbean.

These are vital efforts, and they're important efforts. But we must do far more. So in January, I asked the House and the Senate to enact the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. With the approval of Congress, this plan will direct \$15 billion to fight AIDS abroad over the next 5 years, beginning with \$2 billion in 2004. We will create comprehensive systems that diagnose, to treat and to prevent AIDS in 14 African and Caribbean countries where the disease is heavily concentrated. We won't diminish our other efforts that are now ongoing. We will continue the funding that is in place, but we'll focus intensely on 14 ravaged countries to show the world what is possible.

This is a terrible disease, but it is not a hopeless disease. At this moment, in nations around the world, governments and health officials, doctors and nurses, people living with the virus are proving that there is hope and that lives can be saved. We know that AIDS can be prevented. In Uganda—Madame Ambassador, thank you for being here—President Museveni has begun a comprehensive program in 1986 with a prevention strategy emphasizing abstinence and marital fidelity as well as condoms to prevent HIV transmission.

The results are encouraging. The AIDS infection rate in Uganda has fallen dramatically since 1990. And in places throughout the country, the percentage of pregnant women with HIV has been cut in half. Congress should make the Ugandan approach the model for our prevention efforts under the Emergency Plan.

We also know that AIDS can be treated. Anti-retroviral drugs have become much more affordable in many nations, and they are extending many lives. In Africa, as more AIDS patients take these drugs, doctors are witnessing what they call the Lazarus effect when one patient is rescued by medicine, as if back from the dead. Many others with AIDS seek testing and treatment, because it is the first sign of hope they have ever seen.

Many past international efforts to fight AIDS focused on a prevention at the expense of treatment. But people with this disease

cannot be written off as expendable. Integrating care and treatment with prevention is the cornerstone of my Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and we know it works.

In Haiti, for example, the GHESKIO clinic—where are you, Jean;* there you are; thank you for coming—the director of which is here with us today, is providing care to 5,000 people with HIV. His report was optimistic about what is possible. He should be speaking up here and not me about success. He says in spite of miserable conditions in Haiti, he is optimistic that with the right strategy and the right approach, we can save lives. And I appreciate you coming, sir.

In Uganda's capital, a clinical research center is providing anti-retroviral therapy to 6,000 patients with HIV. Health care workers from other centers in Uganda travel by truck and by motorcycle to rural villages and farms a few times each week, delivering critical medicine to patients who cannot reach the city for treatment.

These are successful strategies and must be brought to a much larger scale. We've seen what works. I'm asking Congress to appropriate monies so we can expand what works to save lives.

In sub-Saharan Africa, just 1 percent of the more than 4 million people needing immediate drug treatment are receiving medicine. That's about 50,000 people. The Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is designed to put major resources behind proven methods of care and treatment and prevention and multiply these goods—good works many times over.

That's what we're going to do. The resources will be managed carefully, with flexibility by a new global AIDS coordinator. And this coordinator will help us utilize and further develop successful clinical networks. These networks link urban medical center staff by specialist physicians and nurses with rural clinics, where HIV tests can be preformed and medications distributed.

And because so much of the health care in sub-Saharan Africa is provided by facilities associated with churches and religious orders, we must ensure that the legislation provides the greatest opportunity for faith-based

and community organizations to fully participate in helping a neighbor in need.

Our experts believe that the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief will, in this decade, prevent 7 million new HIV infections, treat at least 2 million people with life-extending drugs, and provide humane care for millions of people suffering from AIDS and, as importantly, for children orphaned by AIDS.

Confronting the threat of AIDS is important work, and it is urgent work. It is a moral imperative for our great Nation. In the 3 months since I announced the Emergency Plan, an estimated 760,000 people have died from AIDS, 1.2 million people have been infected, more than 175,000 babies have been born with the virus. Time is not on our side.

So I ask Congress to move forward with speed and seriousness this crisis requires. But Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States cannot succeed by ourselves. I urge all nations and will continue to urge all nations to join with us in this great effort.

Fighting AIDS on a global scale is a massive and complicated undertaking. Yet, this cause is rooted in the simplest of moral duties. When we see this kind of preventable suffering, when we see a plague leaving graves and orphans across a continent, we must act. When we see the wounded traveler on the road to Jericho, we will not—America will not pass to the other side of the road.

Thank you all. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:08 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Representatives Henry J. Hyde of Illinois and Tom Lantos of California; President Yoweri Kugata Museveni and Ambassador to the U.S. Edith Grace Ssempala of Uganda; and Jean W. Pape, director, Haitian Study Group on Kaposi's Sarcoma and Opportunistic Infections (GHESKIO).

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Jeffrey S. Sutton as a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

April 29, 2003

I commend the Senate for confirming Jeffrey Sutton to be a Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Mr. Sutton

* White House correction.

is a man of great integrity, intellect, and experience, and has bipartisan support. He has served the people of Ohio with distinction, including as the State's solicitor. He graduated first in his class from Ohio State University College of Law. He is known as one of the premier appellate lawyers in America, having argued numerous cases before the Supreme Court of the United States, and State and Federal appeals courts. He will be an outstanding Court of Appeals Judge and will serve the American people well.

All judicial nominees should receive a timely up-or-down vote in the Senate. Mr. Sutton was nominated on May 9, 2001, and waited more than 23 months for this vote. Five of the 11 nominees I submitted to the Senate on May 9, 2001, still have not received votes. Some in the Senate are now engaging in unprecedented filibusters to prevent votes on two outstanding circuit nominees I submitted on May 9, 2001, Miguel Estrada and Priscilla Owen.

The delays in the Senate confirmation process deter good people from seeking to serve on the bench and create a vacancy crisis in the Federal courts that harms the American people. As I have said before, I call on the Senate to perform its Constitutional responsibility to hold timely up-or-down votes on all judicial nominees, no matter who is President or which party controls the Senate.

Remarks Honoring the National Teacher of the Year

April 30, 2003

The President. Please be seated. Welcome to the First Lady's Garden. It's an appropriate place to honor some of our Nation's finest citizens. After all, the First Lady was and is a teacher, and I'm glad she said yes. [Laughter]

I want to thank the teachers, who have traveled from all over the country, for being here today. Thank you for your dedication. Thank you for your hard and rewarding work. The 54 teachers we honor today deserve the respect and the gratitude of our entire Nation. This is our way of thanking you all for your dedication, your service, and your love. Welcome to Washington.

I want to thank the Secretary of Education for joining us up here. When I picked the Secretary of Education, I wanted somebody who knew something about public education. I wasn't interested in a theorist. I was interested in finding a hands-on person. I knew Rod Paige when I was the Governor of the State of Texas, and he was the superintendent of the Houston Independent School District. He set high standards for every child in that district. He worked hard with teachers to achieve those standards. I really want to thank Rod for the job he did in Texas and, as importantly, for the job he's doing for America. Mr. Secretary, welcome.

We've got some fine Members of the United States Congress with us today: from the State of Georgia, Senator Miller and Senator Saxby Chambliss—thank you, Zell and Saxby, for coming; from the State of North Dakota, Senator Dorgan and Senator Conrad—I'm honored to see both of you all; Senator Jeff Sessions and Senator Richard Shelby from the State of Alabama. It turns out that some of the finalists are from these States. [Laughter] And these Senators and Members of the House are here to join with Laura and me in thanking you all for your hard work. From the House of Representatives: Artur Davis from the State of Alabama; Mac Collins from the State of Georgia; Richard Burr from the State of North Carolina; Earl Pomeroy from the State of North Dakota; and Spencer Bachus, who happens to be the Congressman of the particular lady standing up next to me. Thank you all for coming. Thank you for your service and your dedication to education.

I do want to congratulate the National Teacher of the Year finalists: Lorraine Johnson of Newnan, Georgia; Melissa Bartlett of Statesville, North Carolina; Jennifer Montgomery of Bismarck, North Dakota; and Betsy Rogers. I'm going to have a little more to say about her later. I'm not going to tell you who won yet—[laughter]—but they might have figured it out. [Laughter]

I want to thank Tom Houlihan, who is the executive director of the Council of Chief State School Officers. I appreciate your service so very much. And I want to thank the Council of State School Officers and Scholastic, Inc. for organizing this annual event

to recognize our fine teachers. I also want to thank Edward Richardson, who's the chief State school officer from Alabama, Ray Simon from Arkansas, and Kent King from the State of Missouri for joining us as well.

The teachers we honor today come from many different backgrounds, from every part of this country. What unites them all is the deep conviction that every child can learn if given the chance. We honor them because they are willing to raise high expectations, to raise the standards for every child, because they know that with high expectations each child can rise to meet them.

When I campaigned for President, I used to say one of the commitments I would make is we would challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. You all have challenged the soft bigotry by setting high standards. You believed in the worth of every child. A good teacher believes in the possibilities of every boy and girl. A good teacher sees what is possible, and a good teacher believes in the responsibility of every school to bring out the best in every student.

In 2001, we passed what's called the No Child Left Behind legislation. I love that phrase, because it's a commitment of our Nation to make sure that not only does every child excel but no child gets left behind. Members of both parties, both Republicans and Democrats, came together to pass this law. Inherent in the law is the vision of high standards and money to meet the standards and historic reforms, all of which put the education decisions of America in the hands of teachers and principals and local officials.

But we also said that as we seek excellence for every child, we must design accountability systems at the State level to determine whether or not each child is learning. In order to make sure no child gets left behind, we must understand whether or not each child is learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if they are, there will be plenty of praise. And if they're not, we will work to design programs to make sure no child gets left behind.

That's the crux of the law. Every State met the law's January 31st deadline for submitting their accountability plans for approval. I'm pleased to announce today that Secretary Paige has approved plans from Arkansas,

Missouri, and Washington State, which bring the total number of approved plans to 16, covering 16 million children in public schools across America.

Secretary Paige and his Department will continue working with the rest of the States to get the plans approved quickly as possible. People are responding to the challenge at the local level. People are beginning to develop the accountability systems to show your States and your communities that you're doing your job, leaving no doubt in the minds of the parents and taxpayers and citizens—some of whom praise public schools, some of whom are critical of public schools—that in fact, you're performing. They will understand why you're here being honored in Washington, DC, as one of the top 54 teachers around our country.

Education reform depends on good laws and good plans, but you and I know it ultimately depends upon good teachers. Last June, States submitted to the Department of Education strategies for ensuring that all teachers are highly qualified. By this September, States will assess the programs they expect to make by 2005 and 2006 school year. And the Department is working with States to help teachers meet new definitions of teacher quality, so that every classroom will have a well-trained, highly effective teacher like you all.

Our 2003 National Teacher of the Year is an example of the highest professional standards and the finest personal qualities. Betsy Rogers teaches first and second grade students in Leeds, Alabama. She is an accomplished teacher with 22 years in the profession who could have her pick of any school; yet, she chooses to teach in a school in an underprivileged rural area because she believes that devoted teachers and principals can make a difference in the lives of students from every background.

Teaching is a tradition in Betsy's family. Her grandmother was a teacher. Her mother taught Sunday school for 50 years. In her own career, Betsy Rogers is known for a commitment to students that goes beyond school hours. She gives before-school tutoring to students who need extra help learning to read and volunteers on school committees after hours. She attends sporting events and

birthday parties for her students. She helps the families of disadvantaged students through local church and community groups.

Betsy also encourages her students to help each other. As she puts it, “No matter what your circumstances in life, you can always give.” Teachers like Betsy Rogers put children on the road to becoming good citizens and, as importantly, successful adults. They show students that there are a lot of caring people ready to help along the way.

I thank every one of our Teachers of the Year for your determination and your love. Each of you is an example of excellence in the classroom. Each of you is a model for a young teacher to follow. And your students are fortunate to have talented and good-hearted people in their lives, and our Nation is fortunate to have you in the classroom.

Thank you for your work. May God bless what you do. And now I’m pleased to introduce the National Teacher of the Year, Betsy Rogers.

[At this point, Helen Elizabeth Dawson Rogers made brief remarks.]

The President. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. in the First Lady’s Garden at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Helen Elizabeth Dawson Rogers.

Remarks on Signing the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003

April 30, 2003

Thanks a lot for the warm welcome, and welcome to the Rose Garden in the White House. What a beautiful day. I’m glad you all are here, and I’m pleased that you could join us on a day a vital piece of legislation becomes the law of the land.

I appreciate the hard work of the Congress. I want to thank the Members of the Congress, the Senate, who are here and the Members of the House of Representatives who are here. I want to thank you all for your very hard work in getting this bill to my desk as quickly as you did.

This law, the PROTECT Act of 2003, will greatly assist law enforcement in tracking criminals who would harm our children and will greatly help in rescuing the youngest victims of crime. With my signature, this new law will formally establish the Federal Government’s role in the Amber Alert system and will make punishment for Federal crimes against children more severe.

This law carries forward a fundamental responsibility of public officials at every level of government to do everything we can to protect the most vulnerable citizens from dangerous offenders who prey on them.

I want to thank our Attorney General, John Ashcroft, for his leadership on this issue. He is strong. He is steady, and he will see to it that this law is executed in its fullest.

I appreciate so very much Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, who worked hard to make sure this bill encompassed a lot, that it fulfilled a lot, that it met the aspirations of those who are anxious to make sure our children are protected. Chairman, you did fine work. Thank you very much.

I appreciate the members of your committee who are here today, and I appreciate the fact that chairman Senator Orrin Hatch is with us as well, who shepherded the bill through the United States Senate in record time. Mr. Chairman, thank you for your hard work as well.

I appreciate my friend, the Governor of Connecticut, Johnny Rowland, being with us today. Johnny, thank you. Thank you for your concerns about the children of the State of Ohio—of Connecticut. The attorney general, Jerry Kilgore, is here from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Attorney General, thanks for coming. Of course it’s always good to see the Mayor—the Mayor of Washington, DC, Anthony Williams. There are no potholes in front of the White House today. *[Laughter]* It’s good to see you, Mr. Mayor.

Also with us today are some families who understand better than most the need for this law. In your great suffering and loss, you have found the courage to come to the defense of all children. Because of you, this critical measure is now becoming law. Because of you, children and parents you may never

meet will be spared from the harm and anguish your families have known. We are honored to have you all here today.

When a child is reported missing, that case becomes the matter of the most intensive and focused efforts by law enforcement. Entire communities join in the search, and through unrelenting efforts, many children have been saved.

Amber Alerts have become an increasingly important tool in rescuing kidnapped children, by quickly getting key information about the missing child and information about the suspect out into the public through radio broadcasts or highway signs or other means. An Amber Alert adds thousands of citizens to the search in the crucial early hours.

At present, statewide Amber Alert systems exist in 41 States. The bill I will sign this afternoon authorizes matching grants to those and other States to help ensure that we have effective Amber Alerts wherever they are needed.

Last year, at my direction, Attorney General John Ashcroft appointed an Amber Alert coordinator to oversee this nationwide effort. This new law formally establishes that position and empowers the coordinator to set clear and uniform voluntary standards for the use of Amber Alerts across our country.

It is important to expand the Amber Alert systems so police and sheriffs' departments gain thousands or even millions of allies in the search for missing children. Every person who would think of abducting a child can know that a wide net will be cast. They may be found by a police cruiser or by the car right next to them on a highway. These criminals can know that any driver they pass could be the one that spots them and brings them to justice.

This is exactly what happened last summer in California when several drivers heard an Amber Alert over the radio and soon passed a vehicle meeting the description they heard. Within hours, two teenage girls were rescued and their abductor cornered by the police. We're so happy these two young ladies are healthy and with us today, Tamara Brooks and Jacqueline Marris.

Tamara's brother is somewhere around here. He showed me—guess what happened

to him today? One, he brings his little sister to the White House, and secondly, today he was accepted to West Point. He's following in the footsteps of two older sisters.

The new law also confronts an evil that is too often a cause of child abuse and abduction in America, the evil of child pornography. In the past, prosecutors have been hindered by not having all the tools needed to prosecute criminals who create child pornography. Under the PROTECT Act, we've seen images of children, even those created with computer technology, will now be illegal, giving prosecutors an important new tool. Obscene images of children, no matter how they are made, incite abuse, raise the dangers to children, and will not be tolerated in America.

The new law will also strengthen Federal penalties for child kidnaping and other crimes against the young. Judges will now have the authority to require longer supervision of sex offenders who are released from prison. And certain repeat sex offenders in our society will now face life behind bars, so they can never do harm again.

In addition, this law creates important pilot programs to help nonprofit organizations which deal with children to obtain quick and complete criminal background information on volunteers. Listen, mentoring programs are essential for our country, and we must make sure they are safe for the children they serve.

Amber Hagerman, whose mom is with us today—a good Texan, I might add—was 9 years old when she was taken away from her parents. We are acting today in her memory and in the memory of so many other girls and boys who lost their lives in innocence and acts of cruelty.

No child should ever have to experience the terror of abduction, or worse. No family should ever have to endure the nightmare of losing a child. Our Nation grieves with every family that has suffered unbearable loss. And our Nation will fight threats against our children.

This law marks important progress in the protection of America's children. And now it is my honor to sign the PROTECT Act of 2003.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Marcus Brooks, brother of Tamara Brooks; and Donna Norris, mother of Amber Hagerman. S. 151, approved April 30, was assigned Public Law No. 108–21. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003

April 30, 2003

Today I have signed into law S. 151, the “Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003,” also known as the PROTECT Act. This important legislation gives law enforcement authorities valuable new tools to deter, detect, investigate, prosecute, and punish crimes against America’s children. In particular, the Act builds upon my Administration’s ongoing efforts to expand and improve the AMBER Alert program to combat child abduction, strengthens laws against child pornography, and addresses deficiencies in Federal sentencing policies and practices.

The executive branch shall construe section 108(d)(3) of the Act, which calls for the Attorney General to submit recommendations to the Congress, in a manner consistent with the President’s constitutional authority to submit for the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President judges necessary and expedient.

Section 401(l)(2) of the Act calls for a report to certain committees of the Congress by the Attorney General concerning prosecutorial actions, including the basis on which the Solicitor General decides, in particular cases involving departures from sentencing guidelines, whether or not to authorize an appeal. Were this provision to take effect, the executive branch would implement it in a manner consistent with the President’s constitutional authority to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair the deliberative processes of the Executive or the

performance of the Executive’s constitutional duties.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 30, 2003.

NOTE: S. 151, approved April 30, was assigned Public Law No. 108–21.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia and an Exchange With Reporters

April 30, 2003

President Bush. It’s my honor to welcome to the Oval Office a friend and courageous person, the President of Colombia. He is determined to fight terror. He is determined to fight the flow of narcotics to America. We appreciate his determination. We appreciate his strength.

And so it’s my honor to welcome you, Mr. President. Before I ask you to speak and before we answer two questions a side, I do want to say that today we issued the roadmap. The roadmap is the beginning of a long process to achieve peace in the Middle East. In order for there to be a peace in the Middle East, it is important for all parties to assume the necessary responsibilities to achieve the conditions so that peace can happen. That starts with fighting off terror, to prevent killers from disrupting that which most citizens want in the Middle East, and that is a peaceful, hopeful world.

I strongly condemn the killings that take place in the Middle East in the last couple of days. I applaud the words of Abu Mazen, the new Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority, who renounced that terror. I look forward to spending time and energies to move the process forward.

And finally, Mr. President, you’re here on a day in which our country has achieved another notable success in the war against terror. The Pakistan authorities have detained Waleed bin Attash. He’s a killer. He was one of the top Al Qaida operatives. And he was right below Khalid Sheik Mohammed on the organizational chart of Al Qaida. He is one less person that people who love freedom have to worry about.

I want to thank our friends in Pakistan. I want to thank the Agency, the CIA, for working hard to continue to win the war against terror. And make no mistake about it, Mr. President, we will win the war against terror.

Thank you for your courageous fight in the war against terror, and welcome to the Oval Office.

President Uribe. Thank you, Mr. President, for your warm welcome. This is very important for my country. Colombia has suffered terrorism for a long time. Thus, Colombia understands the need to fight terrorism in our country and in other—in any other country. And your Government, your people, your country, they are our best allies for us to succeed in our fight.

Thank you again, Mr. President.

President Bush. Thank you.

We'll have one—we'll alternate questions between the American side and the Colombian side. Tom [Tom Raum, Associated Press].

Terrorist Attacks

Q. Mr. President, even as the new Palestinian Cabinet was sworn in, there was a terror attack, and the suicide bomber was linked to Mr. Abbas' own party. How much confidence do you have that the new Prime Minister can control, can reign in these people?

President Bush. Well, for certain, in order for there to be peace, we must all join together to fight off terror. Abu Mazen has publicly declared that he will fight terror. He understands that in order for the Palestinian lives to improve, terror must be battled.

Listen, he's a man I can work with. And I look forward to working with him and will work with him, for the sake of peace and for the sake of security.

Do you want to call on one of your reporters?

President Uribe. Half of my Cabinet are made of women.

President Bush. No, I'm very impressed by that. [Laughter] Not only that, but they're very smart women.

Q. [Inaudible]—Mr. President.

President Bush. Thank you.

Colombia-U.S. Trade Agreement

Q. Mr. President, people in Colombia, we want to know how difficult is to sign a bilateral trade agreement with Colombia. Is that going to be done?

President Bush. Well, we've got a lot of work to do. The President and I look forward to discussing trade. One thing that is for certain is we've started down the road on a free trade agreement through the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, which I'm absolutely confident will boost the capacity of the Colombian economy to grow.

And so we'll work—we'll talk about all aspects of trade, including the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, which, in my judgment, is the most hopeful trade agreement there is. We've got all kinds of different opportunities to work together, whether it be in trade or counternarcotics or fighting terror. And we will stand as a strong friend and supporter of the Colombian people as they take on difficult tasks.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Sir, previous Middle East peace initiatives haven't been all that successful. What's different about this time?

President Bush. Well, just because history has proven to be unsuccessful doesn't mean that we're not going to try, for starters. I'm an optimist. I believe now that we have an interlocutor from the Palestinian Authority that has spoken clearly about the need to fight terror, that we have a good opportunity to advance the peace process. And I will seize the opportunity.

Secondly, the war on Iraq has made it absolutely clear that those who harbor terrorists, fund terrorists, or harbor weapons of mass destruction will be held to account. That, in itself, helps create the conditions to move peace forward.

And by the way, in order for peace to occur, all parties must assume their responsibilities. That includes the Arab nations which surround Israel and the potential Palestinian state. They must cut off funding to terrorists. They must create the conditions necessary for peace. Israel is going to have to make some sacrifices in order to move the peace process forward. But no sacrifice

should be made that will allow and encourage terror to continue and reign.

Colombian Terrorists

Q. Mr. Bush, more than 500 terrorists from the FARC have handed themselves—[*inaudible*]. We're wondering if the United States Government would be willing at some point to help reinsert into society these terrorists that have now handed themselves—[*inaudible*].

President Bush. To help in what fashion? I didn't get your question.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—to reinsert to the civil society—

President Bush. To bring what to the civil society? I'm sorry.

Q. To reinsert themselves, to go back to civil—

President Bush. Oh, to help them go back into civil society?

Q. Yes.

President Bush. Well, some terrorists are just plain coldblooded killers. They're hard to retrain, somebody who is a killer. And we—it's going to be—the President is going to have to make that decision, what's best for his country. All I know is the man is absolutely committed to fighting terror. For that, I appreciate it. He has got a straightforward, strong vision about what has to happen to people who are willing to kill innocent people. And that is, they must be dealt with severely.

And it's interesting, we share the same strategy. When Al Qaida came and killed Americans, there's only one way to deal with them. That was to hunt them down, find them, and bring them to justice. And as I mentioned, today we found one of the Al Qaida leaders. It was a major, significant find, his detention. And the war goes on. It takes a while. We must be patient and strong and diligent and focused.

And the President of Colombia is diligent, strong, and focused. He knows what he must do to make Colombia, a great nation, more safe and more secure against people who, in my opinion, are nothing but terrorists.

President Uribe. Regarding this point, we have only one determination, to defeat terrorists in Colombia. When you look at the people in the terror organizations, you find

the ringleaders, you find professional killers, and you find young people mistakenly led by professional killers. Therefore, we have the obligation to defeat terrorists and the duty, the obligation, to give those young people the opportunity to come to live under our Constitution again.

We are telling them, you have the opportunity to follow the ringleaders of the terror organizations, or you have the opportunity to come to live in our community with the respect of our Constitution. For those who make—who choose this option, we are ready to give them a new opportunity.

President Bush. Thank you.

Q. [*Inaudible*].

President Bush. Never can tell what's going to kick in—the urge. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:21 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority; Waleed Mohammed bin Attash, Al Qaida leader suspected of planning the terrorist attack on the U.S.S. *Cole* in Yemen in October 2000; and Khalid Sheik Mohammed, senior Al Qaida leader responsible for planning the September 11 attack, who was captured in Pakistan on March 1. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Roadmap for Peace in the Middle East

April 30, 2003

On March 14, I noted the important steps taken by the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) toward the creation of an empowered, accountable office of Prime Minister. The PLC has now confirmed a new Palestinian Prime Minister and Cabinet. Today, the roadmap for peace developed by the United States over the last several months in close cooperation with Russia, the European Union, and the United Nations has been presented to Israel and the Palestinians.

The roadmap represents a starting point toward achieving the vision of two states, a secure state of Israel and a viable, peaceful, democratic Palestine, that I set out on June

24, 2002. It is a framework for progress towards lasting peace and security in the Middle East. Implementing the roadmap will depend upon the good faith efforts and contributions of both sides. The pace of progress will depend strictly on the performance of the parties.

I urge Israelis and Palestinians to work with us and with other members of the international community and above all directly with each other to immediately end the violence and return to a path of peace based on the principles and objectives outlined in my statement of June 24, 2002. Both Israelis and Palestinians have suffered from the terror and violence and from the loss of hope in a better future of peace and security. An opportunity now exists to move forward. The United States will do all it can to seize this opportunity. To that end, I have asked Secretary Powell to travel to the region to begin working with the parties so that we can take advantage of this moment.

Proclamation 7671—Loyalty Day, 2003

April 30, 2003

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

To be an American is not a matter of blood or birth. Our citizens are bound by ideals that represent the hope of all mankind: that all men are created equal, endowed with unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. On Loyalty Day, we reaffirm our allegiance to our country and resolve to uphold the vision of our Forefathers.

Our founding principles have endured, guiding our Nation toward progress and prosperity and allowing the United States to be a leader among nations of the world. Throughout our history, honorable men and women have demonstrated their loyalty to America by making remarkable sacrifices to preserve and protect these values.

Today, America's men and women in uniform are protecting our Nation, defending the peace of the world, and advancing the cause of liberty. The world has seen again

the fine character of our Nation through our military as they fought to protect the innocent and liberate the oppressed in Operation Iraqi Freedom. We are honored by the service of foreign nationals in our Armed Services whose willingness to risk their lives for a country they cannot yet call their own is proof of the loyalty this country inspires. Their service and sacrifice are a testament to their love for America, and our soldiers' honor on and off the battlefield reaffirms our Nation's most deeply held beliefs: that every life counts, and that all humans have an unalienable right to live as free people.

These values must be imparted to each new generation. Our children need to know that our Nation is a force for good in the world, extending hope and freedom to others. By learning about America's history, achievements, ideas, and heroes, our young citizens will come to understand even more why freedom is worth protecting.

Last September, I announced several initiatives that will help improve students' knowledge of American history, increase their civic involvement, and deepen their love for our great country. The We the People initiative will encourage the teaching of American history and civic education by providing grants for curriculum development and training seminars. The Our Documents initiative will use the Internet to bring information about and the text of 100 of America's most important documents from the National Archives to classrooms and communities across the country. These initiatives are important, for it is only when our children have an understanding of our past that they will be able to lead the future.

This Loyalty Day, as we express allegiance to our Nation and its founding ideals, we resolve to ensure that the blessings of liberty endure and extend for generations to come.

The Congress, by Public Law 85-529, as amended, has designated May 1 of each year as "Loyalty Day," and I ask all Americans to join me in this day of celebration and in reaffirming our allegiance to our Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2003, as Loyalty Day. I call upon all the people of the United

States to join in support of this national observance. I also call upon government officials to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings on Loyalty Day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, 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., May 2, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 5.

Proclamation 7672—National Day of Prayer, 2003

April 30, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

We are a Nation whose people turn to prayer in times of our most heartfelt sorrow and our moments of greatest joy. On this National Day of Prayer, first called for more than 225 years ago by the Continental Congress, we come together to thank God for our Nation's many blessings, to acknowledge our need for His wisdom and grace, and to ask Him to continue to watch over our country in the days ahead.

America welcomes individuals of all backgrounds and religions, and our citizens hold diverse beliefs. In prayer, we share the universal desire to speak and listen to our Maker and to seek the plans He has for our lives. We recognize the ways that He has blessed our land abundantly, and we offer thanks for these gifts and for the generosity of our Nation in helping those in need. We are grateful for our freedom, for God's love, mercy, and forgiveness, and for a hope that will never be shaken.

Today, our Nation is strong and prosperous. Our Armed Forces have achieved great success on the battlefield, but challenges still lie ahead. Prayer will not make

our path easy, yet prayer can give us strength and hope for the journey.

As we continue to fight against terror, we ask the Almighty to protect all those who battle for freedom throughout the world and our brave men and women in uniform, and we ask Him to shield innocents from harm. We recognize the sacrifice of our military families and ask God to grant them peace and strength. We will not forget the men and women who have fallen in service to America and to the cause of freedom. We pray that their loved ones will receive God's comfort and grace.

In this hour of history's calling, Americans are bowing humbly in churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, and in their own homes, in the presence of the Almighty. This day, I ask our Nation to join me in praying for the strength to meet the challenges before us, for the wisdom to know and do what is right, for continued determination to work towards making our society a more compassionate and decent place, and for peace in the affairs of men.

The Congress, by Public Law 100-307, as amended, has called on our citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer in our society and to honor the religious diversity our freedom permits by recognizing annually a "National Day of Prayer."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2003, as a National Day of Prayer. I ask the citizens of our Nation to pray, each after his or her own faith, in thanksgiving for the freedoms and blessings we have received and for God's continued guidance and protection. I also urge all Americans to join in observing this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, 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., May 2, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 5.

Message to the Senate Transmitting Amendments to the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union

April 30, 2003

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the amendments to the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (Geneva 1992), as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto 1994), together with declarations and reservations by the United States as contained in the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis 1998). I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State concerning these amendments.

Prior to 1992, and as a matter of general practice, previous Conventions of the ITU were routinely replaced at successive Plenipotentiary Conferences held every 5 to 10 years. In 1992, the ITU adopted a permanent Constitution and Convention. The Constitution contains fundamental provisions on the organization and structure of the ITU, as well as substantive rules applicable to international telecommunications matters. The ITU Convention contains provisions concerning the functioning of the ITU and its constituent organs.

Faced with a rapidly changing telecommunication environment, the ITU in 1994 adopted a few amendments to the 1992 Constitution and Convention. These amendments were designed to enable the ITU to respond effectively to new challenges posed.

The pace at which the telecommunication market continues to evolve has not eased. States participating in the 1998 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference held in Minneapolis submitted numerous proposals to amend the Constitution and Convention. As discussed in the attached report of the Department of

State concerning the amendments, key proposals included the following: amendments to clarify the rights and obligations of Member States and Sector Members; amendments to increase private sector participation in the ITU with the understanding that the ITU is to remain an intergovernmental organization; amendments to strengthen the finances of the ITU; and amendments to provide for alternative procedures for the adoption and approval of questions and recommendations.

Consistent with longstanding practice in the ITU, the United States, in signing the 1998 amendments, made certain declarations and reservations. These declarations and reservations are discussed in the report of the Department of State, which is attached hereto.

The 1992 Constitution and Convention and the 1994 amendments thereto entered into force for the United States on October 26, 1997. The 1998 amendments to the 1992 Constitution and Convention as amended in 1994 entered into force on January 1, 2000, for those states, which, by that date, had notified the Secretary General of the ITU of their approval thereof. As of the beginning of this year, 26 states had notified the Secretary General of the ITU of their approval of the 1998 amendments.

Subject to the U.S. declarations and reservations mentioned above, I believe the United States should ratify the 1998 amendments to the ITU Constitution and Convention. They will contribute to the ITUs ability to adapt to a rapidly changing telecommunication environment and, in doing so, will serve the needs of the United States Government and U.S. industry.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to these amendments and that the Senate give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 30, 2003.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Protocol of Amendment to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures

April 30, 2003

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith for Senate advice and consent to accession, the Protocol of Amendment to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures done at Brussels on June 26, 1999. The Protocol amends the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures done at Kyoto on May 18, 1973, and replaces the Annexes to the 1973 Convention with a General Annex and 10 Specific Annexes (together, the “Amended Convention”). I am also transmitting, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State on the Amended Convention.

The Amended Convention seeks to meet the needs of international trade and customs services through the simplification and harmonization of customs procedures. It responds to modernization in business and administrative methods and techniques and to the growth of international trade, without compromising standards of customs control. Accession by the United States would further the U.S. interest in reducing non-tariff barriers to international trade.

By acceding to the Protocol, a state consents to be bound by the amended 1973 Convention and the new General Annex. At the same time, or anytime thereafter, Parties have the option of accepting any of the Specific Annexes (or Chapters thereof), and may at that time enter reservations with respect to any Recommended Practices contained in the Specific Annexes. In accordance with these terms, I propose that the United States accept seven of the Specific Annexes in their entirety and all the Chapters, but one of each of two other Specific Annexes (A–E, G, and H, as well as Chapters 1, 2, and 3 of F, and Chapters 1, 3, 4, and 5 of J), and enter the reservations proposed by the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection as set forth in the enclosure to the report of the Department of State. The provisions for which res-

ervation is recommended conflict with current U.S. legislation or regulations. With these proposed reservations, no new implementing legislation is necessary in order to comply with the Amended Convention.

Accession to the Protocol by the United States would contribute to important U.S. interests. First, accession by the United States would benefit the United States and U.S. businesses by facilitating greater economic growth, increasing foreign investment, and stimulating U.S. exports through more predictable, standard, and harmonized customs procedures governing cross-border trade transactions. Setting forth standardized and simplified methods for conducting customs business is important for U.S. trade interests in light of the demands of increased trade flows, as is the use of modernized technology and techniques for customs facilitation. These achievements can best be pursued by the United States as a Party to the Amended Convention. Second, through early accession, the United States can continue to take a leadership role in the areas of customs and international trade facilitation as the U.S. accession would encourage other nations, particularly developing nations, to accede as well.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Protocol and give its advice and consent to accession.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 30, 2003.

Proclamation 7668—Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, 2003

April 30, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America is strengthened by the rich cultural diversity of our people, and we are blessed to be a Nation that welcomes individuals of all races, religions, and cultural backgrounds. The values and traditions of the Asian/Pacific-American community—love of family, entrepreneurship, excellence in education, and community service—have

strengthened us as a Nation. During Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, we celebrate the contributions of these talented and hard-working citizens and recognize their rich legacy of ingenuity, perseverance, and achievement.

Many Asian/Pacific immigrants came to America to discover the promise of our Nation and to realize their dreams. Their contributions were critical in establishing a robust economy. Asian/Pacific Americans also worked tirelessly to build our national railroad infrastructure, paving the way for our western expansion and growth as a world leader. Generations of Asian/Pacific Americans have proudly served our Nation with honor and courage in wars and conflicts, including most recently in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Today, as in the past, their dedication and service to advancing peace in a troubled world upholds the values that make our country strong.

Asian/Pacific Americans are also helping to shape America's future. As entrepreneurs, artists, educators, public servants, scientists, and explorers, they challenge the minds of our next generation, expand commerce and innovation, probe the frontiers of space, and search for cures for the world's diseases. Our children are also inspired by the contributions and sacrifices of dedicated individuals such as inventor An Wang, experimental physicist Chien-Shiung Wu, *Challenger* astronaut Ellison Onizuka, *Columbia* astronaut Kalpana Chawla, and sculptor Isamu Noguchi.

Since the earliest days of America, people from all cultures have traveled to our Nation seeking the promise of freedom, opportunity, and justice. As an integral part of our society, Americans of Asian and Pacific heritage share in the pursuit of this American Dream. I join with all Americans in celebrating this rich and diverse culture, and I encourage every citizen to recognize the role of Asian/Pacific Americans in building and sustaining our Nation.

To honor the achievements of Asian/Pacific Americans, the Congress by Public Law 102-450 as amended, has designated the month of May each year as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 2003 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. I call upon our citizens to learn more about the history of Asian/Pacific Americans and how they have contributed to the culture and heritage of our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, 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., May 2, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 1, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 5.

Proclamation 7669—Older Americans Month, 2003

April 30, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Advances in medicine, public health, science, and technology are keeping Americans healthier and adding years to our lives. As our population of senior citizens continues to grow, our Nation remains dedicated to fulfilling our promises to these valuable members of our society. This year's observance of Older Americans Month, "What We Do Makes A Difference," recognizes the important contributions of older Americans and the network of services that support them. Older Americans continue to work in a variety of jobs, from teachers, to engineers, to business owners and entrepreneurs, and in so doing bring invaluable experience and leadership skills. Additionally, their wisdom, strength, and compassion reflect the character of our great Nation. During this month, we honor our seniors and thank them for the lessons they teach us and the strong values they instill in families and communities throughout our country.

Serving as examples to others, throughout our Nation every day, older Americans are engaging in acts of compassion. Over a half million members of the Senior Corps are volunteering their time and talents to help those in need. Retired doctors, nurses, police, and firefighters are helping communities prepare for emergencies, and countless other older Americans are bringing comfort and care to their families and neighbors. These individuals understand the importance of service, and their efforts are helping to build a more welcoming society. Many food banks, clothing distribution programs, and other social service activities of faith-based and community organizations could not operate without the senior Americans who volunteer in these efforts.

As these individuals continue to work on our behalf, our Nation is working to fulfill our obligations to older Americans by providing them with good health care and other services to enhance their lives. My Administration is coordinating with State and Area Agencies on Aging, and faith-based and community organizations to better provide essential services, such as meals, nutrition, counseling, and health screening, to our seniors. Seven million older Americans and their families are currently being served by a large network of Federal, State, tribal, local partnerships, and thousands of volunteers. The services provided by these groups make it easier for older Americans to remain in their homes, communities, and the workplace, which helps preserve their dignity and independence.

In addition, our Medicare system is our binding commitment as a caring society. When Medicare was signed into law 38 years ago, it was designed to bring the healing miracle of modern medicine to our senior citizens. We must renew our commitment to giving seniors access to the preventative medicines and new drugs that are transforming health care in America. Medicare must be available in a variety of forms, and older Americans must have the opportunity to choose the healthcare plan that best fits their needs. My Administration will continue its efforts to improve programs that support older Americans and to offer innovative options for long-term care.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2003 as Older Americans Month. I commend our senior citizens for their many contributions to our society. I further commend the network of Federal, State, local, and tribal organizations, service and healthcare providers, caregivers, and millions of dedicated volunteers for their daily efforts on behalf of our senior citizens. I encourage all Americans to honor their elders, to find opportunities to address their needs, and to work together to reinforce the bonds that unite families and communities. I also call upon all our citizens to publicly reaffirm our Nation's commitment to older Americans this month, and throughout the year.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, 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

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**Proclamation 7670—Law Day,
U.S.A., 2003**

April 30, 2003

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America was founded on the ideals of liberty and equality for all, and the Framers of the Constitution created three branches of the national Government to uphold these principles. The third branch, the Judicial, is responsible for administering justice fairly and impartially. On Law Day, we recognize the achievements of our Nation's legal system and our independent Judiciary in sustaining the rights and liberties we cherish.

George Washington wrote, “The administration of justice is the firmest pillar of government.” Our Judicial branch upholds the rule of law in our society and strengthens our democracy. Under the Constitution, judges are granted the solemn responsibility of providing fair and impartial resolution of criminal and civil disputes.

This year’s Law Day theme, “Independent Courts Protect Our Liberties,” focuses on one of the foundations of our constitutional system: judicial independence, provided in the Federal system by life tenure and an assured level of compensation. In order to ensure equality for all citizens and fairness in the judicial process, our judges must serve as impartial arbiters who do not have a stake in their decisions or seek to achieve a biased outcome or particular result in the cases they oversee.

Our constitutional system of separation of powers places careful limits on the powers of judges and separates the responsibilities of making laws and interpreting laws between the Legislative and Judicial branches. Independent Federal judges have the autonomy to make decisions and interpret the law unfettered by outside influences. In this way, we are assured that our laws will be interpreted justly and applied with uniformity.

Our Nation’s judges must be men and women of exemplary character, wisdom, experience, and good temperament, and have a willingness to work hard. They must be jurists who will honor the public office with which they are entrusted.

This Law Day, we recognize the vital role of independent judges in upholding justice in courts throughout our land, and we resolve to continue to support and strengthen the Judicial branch, thereby helping to preserve our rights and liberties.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, in accordance with Public Law 87–20, as amended, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2003, as Law Day, U.S.A. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call upon Government officials to display the flag of the United States in support of this national observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, 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., May 2, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 1, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 5.

Remarks on the National Day of Prayer

May 1, 2003

Thanks for coming. Thanks for the warm welcome. I’m glad you’re here at the people’s house. Laura and I welcome you. We’re really pleased to have you here. I want to thank each of you for participating in the National Day of Prayer. It’s a good time to be praying. Every day is a good day to pray. [*Laughter*]

Today we recognize the many ways our country has been blessed, and we acknowledge the source of those blessings. Millions of Americans seek guidance every day in prayer to the Almighty God. I am one of them. I also know that many Americans remember Laura and me in their prayers, and we are so very, very grateful.

I want to thank General Hicks, chaplain of the entire U.S. Army, for being here today, and thank you for your service. Shirley, thank you as well for once again being the chairwoman of the National Day of Prayer. I see you brought your husband along too. [*Laughter*]

Luis, *muchas gracias*. Thank you for your beautiful prayer. Father Joe Wallroth is going to be with us in a second. I’m honored you are here, Father.

I really want to thank the Washington National Cathedral Choir of Men and Girls. It is a fabulous way to begin a morning, to walk down the corridor here and hear your beautiful voices echo throughout this magnificent house. We’re really glad you’re here, and thank you for sharing your talents.

Julie, thank you as well for coming. Gosh, I could have sat here and listened all day to your singing. [Laughter]

We've got a lot of military chaplains who are here. I want to thank you for your service to your country and to those who wear our uniform. You make a tremendous difference in the lives, the daily lives of people who are frightened and lonely and worried and strong and courageous. I appreciate so very much what you have done and will continue to do.

So many great events in our Nation's history were shaped by men and women who found strength and direction in prayer. The first President to live in this house composed a prayer on his second evening here for all who would follow him. Our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, knew that his burdens were too great for any man, so he carried them to God in prayer. Over the radio on D-day in 1944, Franklin Roosevelt prayed for God's blessing on our mission to "set free a suffering humanity."

This past month has been another time of testing for America and another time of intense prayer. Americans have been praying for the safety of our troops and for the protection of innocent life in Iraq. Americans prayed that war would not be necessary and now pray that peace will be just and lasting.

We continue to pray for the recovery of the wounded and for the comfort of all who have lost a loved one. The Scriptures say: The Lord is near to all who call on Him. Calling on God in prayer brings us nearer to each other. After his son was rescued from northern Iraq, the father of Sergeant James Riley of New Jersey said, "We have been flooded with people's prayers. Everyone is praying for us, and we are so grateful."

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, many Americans have registered online to adopt a service man or woman in prayer. Others wear prayer bracelets to remind themselves to intercede on behalf of our troops. In Fountain City, Wisconsin, Lynn Cox has collected at least 80 Bibles to send to those serving in Iraq. In Green, Ohio, a group of parishioners at Queen of Heaven Catholic Church has made 2,000 rosaries for our troops. Margaret Brown, who helped start the group, said, "We want them to know that someone back here is holding them up in

prayer and that God is so powerful He can supply all their needs."

To pray for someone else is an act of generosity. We set our own cares aside and look to strengthen another. Prayer teaches humility. We find that the plan of the Creator is sometimes very different from our own. Yet, we learn to depend on His loving will, bowing to purposes we don't always understand. Prayer can lead to a grateful heart, turning our minds to all the gifts of life and to the great works of God.

Prayer can also contribute to the life of our Nation. America is a strong nation, in part because we know the limits of human strength. All strength must be guided by wisdom and justice and humility. We pray that God will grant us that wisdom, that sense of justice, and that humility in our current challenges and in the years ahead.

I thank you all for helping to keep prayer an integral part of our national life. May God bless each one of you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:47 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Brig. Gen. David Hicks, USA, Deputy Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Army; Shirley Dobson, chairman, National Day of Prayer Task Force; James C. Dobson, founder and president, Focus on the Family; Luis Palau, president, Luis Palau Evangelistic Association; Col. Joseph Wallroth, USAF, Wing Chaplain, Andrews Air Force Base; and Julie Keim, soloist, Washington National Cathedral. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters Aboard the U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln*

May 1, 2003

[The President's remarks are joined in progress.]

The President. —No, it was not me.

Q. [Inaudible]—land it?

The President. Not my first time on a carrier.

Q. How was your—

The President. Really exciting. I miss flying, I can tell you that. This is a formal press

conference that you're now conducting. This counts.

Q. Not when we're dressed like this, it doesn't. [Laughter]

The President. That's right.

Q. Mr. President, when you were flying the plane, what did you do? Did you steer it?

The President. Just steer it.

Q. Did you go straight, or did you turn it?

The President. Straight.

Q. How did you do? Did you waver?

The President. Ask the pilot.

Q. He won't tell.

Q. How does it compare to the jets you used to fly?

The President. Huh?

Q. How does that compare to the jets you used to fly?

The President. Much more sophisticated.

Q. What's it been like here on the ship?

The President. Huh?

Q. What have you been doing on the ship?

The President. I've mainly been talking to the troops.

Naval Officer. Here they come, sir.

[At this point, a squadron of Navy fighter jets flew over.]

The President. The press conference is over.

NOTE: The exchange began at approximately 2:10 p.m. on the ship's navigation deck. The press release issued by the Office of the Press Secretary did not include the complete opening remarks of the President. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on AIDS Relief Legislation

May 1, 2003

The fight against AIDS is a moral imperative our great Nation must confront decisively and boldly.

I applaud the House of Representatives for acting quickly to pass historic legislation that is consistent with the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief that I announced earlier this year. Today's action is an important step toward providing critically needed treatment

and care for millions of people suffering from AIDS and proven prevention programs for millions more who are at risk.

Time is of the essence, and I urge the Senate to act quickly so that we can turn the tide against this disease and give the hope of life to millions of people in the world's most afflicted countries.

Statement on the Senate Filibuster on the Nomination of Priscilla Owen To Be a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

May 1, 2003

Priscilla Owen is an extraordinarily well-qualified nominee to the U.S. Court of Appeals. She has served with distinction on the Texas Supreme Court since 1995 and has strong bipartisan support including from three former Democrat Texas Supreme Court Justices with whom she served. She was unanimously rated "well-qualified" by the American Bar Association.

Justice Owen has been waiting nearly 2 years for an up-or-down vote in the United States Senate. The decision today by 44 Senators to filibuster and block a vote on her nomination is shameful. This obstructionist tactic is an injustice and unfair to this good woman and unfaithful to the Senate's own obligations.

Senate Democrats are now simultaneously filibustering two well-qualified nominees to the U.S. Courts of Appeals. The Senate has a constitutional responsibility to exercise its advice and consent function and hold up-or-down votes on all judicial nominees within a reasonable time after nomination. Some Senate Democrats who once insisted that every appeals court nominee deserves a timely vote have now abandoned that responsibility in favor of partisan obstructionist tactics.

In October of last year, I announced my plan for timely consideration of judicial nominees. Today I again call on the Senate to end the delays and to ensure that every judicial nominee receives an up-or-down vote, no matter who is President or which party controls the Senate. Let each Senator

vote as he or she thinks best, but give the nominees a vote.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments

May 1, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed amendments to the Administration's FY 2004 budget submission for the Department of Defense.

In total, these amendments would not affect the budgetary resources proposed in my FY 2004 Budget.

The details of this proposal are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Address to the Nation on Iraq From the U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln*

May 1, 2003

Thank you all very much. Admiral Kelly, Captain Card, officers and sailors of the U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln*, my fellow Americans: Major combat operations in Iraq have ended. In the battle of Iraq, the United States and our allies have prevailed. And now our coalition is engaged in securing and reconstructing that country.

In this battle, we have fought for the cause of liberty and for the peace of the world. Our Nation and our coalition are proud of this accomplishment; yet it is you, the members of the United States military, who achieved it. Your courage, your willingness to face danger for your country and for each other, made this day possible. Because of you, our Nation is more secure. Because of you, the tyrant has fallen, and Iraq is free.

Operation Iraqi Freedom was carried out with a combination of precision and speed and boldness the enemy did not expect and the world had not seen before. From distant bases or ships at sea, we sent planes and missiles that could destroy an enemy division or strike a single bunker. Marines and soldiers

charged to Baghdad across 350 miles of hostile ground, in one of the swiftest advances of heavy arms in history. You have shown the world the skill and the might of the American Armed Forces.

This Nation thanks all the members of our coalition who joined in a noble cause. We thank the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom, Australia, and Poland, who shared in the hardships of war. We thank all the citizens of Iraq who welcomed our troops and joined in the liberation of their own country. And tonight I have a special word for Secretary Rumsfeld, for General Franks, and for all the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States: America is grateful for a job well done.

The character of our military through history—the daring of Normandy, the fierce courage of Iwo Jima, the decency and idealism that turned enemies into allies—is fully present in this generation. When Iraqi civilians looked into the faces of our service men and women, they saw strength and kindness and good will. When I look at the members of the United States military, I see the best of our country, and I'm honored to be your Commander in Chief.

In the images of falling statues, we have witnessed the arrival of a new era. For a hundred of years of war, culminating in the nuclear age, military technology was designed and deployed to inflict casualties on an ever-growing scale. In defeating Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan, Allied forces destroyed entire cities, while enemy leaders who started the conflict were safe until the final days. Military power was used to end a regime by breaking a nation.

Today, we have the greater power to free a nation by breaking a dangerous and aggressive regime. With new tactics and precision weapons, we can achieve military objectives without directing violence against civilians. No device of man can remove the tragedy from war; yet it is a great moral advance when the guilty have far more to fear from war than the innocent.

In the images of celebrating Iraqis, we have also seen the ageless appeal of human freedom. Decades of lies and intimidation could not make the Iraqi people love their oppressors or desire their own enslavement.

Men and women in every culture need liberty like they need food and water and air. Everywhere that freedom arrives, humanity rejoices, and everywhere that freedom stirs, let tyrants fear.

We have difficult work to do in Iraq. We're bringing order to parts of that country that remain dangerous. We're pursuing and finding leaders of the old regime, who will be held to account for their crimes. We've begun the search for hidden chemical and biological weapons and already know of hundreds of sites that will be investigated. We're helping to rebuild Iraq, where the dictator built palaces for himself instead of hospitals and schools. And we will stand with the new leaders of Iraq as they establish a government of, by, and for the Iraqi people.

The transition from dictatorship to democracy will take time, but it is worth every effort. Our coalition will stay until our work is done. Then we will leave, and we will leave behind a free Iraq.

The battle of Iraq is one victory in a war on terror that began on September the 11th, 2001, and still goes on. That terrible morning, 19 evil men, the shock troops of a hateful ideology, gave America and the civilized world a glimpse of their ambitions. They imagined, in the words of one terrorist, that September the 11th would be the "beginning of the end of America." By seeking to turn our cities into killing fields, terrorists and their allies believed that they could destroy this Nation's resolve and force our retreat from the world. They have failed.

In the battle of Afghanistan, we destroyed the Taliban, many terrorists, and the camps where they trained. We continue to help the Afghan people lay roads, restore hospitals, and educate all of their children. Yet we also have dangerous work to complete. As I speak, a Special Operations task force, led by the 82d Airborne, is on the trail of the terrorists and those who seek to undermine the free Government of Afghanistan. America and our coalition will finish what we have begun.

From Pakistan to the Philippines to the Horn of Africa, we are hunting down Al Qaida killers. Nineteen months ago, I pledged that the terrorists would not escape the patient justice of the United States. And

as of tonight, nearly one-half of Al Qaida's senior operatives have been captured or killed.

The liberation of Iraq is a crucial advance in the campaign against terror. We've removed an ally of Al Qaida and cut off a source of terrorist funding. And this much is certain: No terrorist network will gain weapons of mass destruction from the Iraqi regime, because the regime is no more.

In these 19 months that changed the world, our actions have been focused and deliberate and proportionate to the offense. We have not forgotten the victims of September the 11th—the last phone calls, the cold murder of children, the searches in the rubble. With those attacks, the terrorists and their supporters declared war on the United States, and war is what they got.

Our war against terror is proceeding according to the principles that I have made clear to all: Any person involved in committing or planning terrorist attacks against the American people becomes an enemy of this country and a target of American justice; any person, organization, or government that supports, protects, or harbors terrorists is complicit in the murder of the innocent and equally guilty of terrorist crimes; any outlaw regime that has ties to terrorist groups and seeks or possesses weapons of mass destruction is a grave danger to the civilized world and will be confronted; and anyone in the world, including the Arab world, who works and sacrifices for freedom has a loyal friend in the United States of America.

Our commitment to liberty is America's tradition, declared at our founding, affirmed in Franklin Roosevelt's Four Freedoms, asserted in the Truman Doctrine and in Ronald Reagan's challenge to an evil empire. We are committed to freedom in Afghanistan, in Iraq, and in a peaceful Palestine. The advance of freedom is the surest strategy to undermine the appeal of terror in the world. Where freedom takes hold, hatred gives way to hope. When freedom takes hold, men and women turn to the peaceful pursuit of a better life. American values and American interests lead in the same direction: We stand for human liberty.

The United States upholds these principles of security and freedom in many ways,

with all the tools of diplomacy, law enforcement, intelligence, and finance. We're working with a broad coalition of nations that understand the threat and our shared responsibility to meet it. The use of force has been and remains our last resort. Yet all can know, friend and foe alike, that our Nation has a mission: We will answer threats to our security, and we will defend the peace.

Our mission continues. Al Qaida is wounded, not destroyed. The scattered cells of the terrorist network still operate in many nations, and we know from daily intelligence that they continue to plot against free people. The proliferation of deadly weapons remains a serious danger. The enemies of freedom are not idle, and neither are we. Our Government has taken unprecedented measures to defend the homeland, and we will continue to hunt down the enemy before he can strike.

The war on terror is not over, yet it is not endless. We do not know the day of final victory, but we have seen the turning of the tide. No act of the terrorists will change our purpose or weaken our resolve or alter their fate. Their cause is lost. Free nations will press on to victory.

Other nations in history have fought in foreign lands and remained to occupy and exploit. Americans, following a battle, want nothing more than to return home. And that is your direction tonight. After service in the Afghan and Iraqi theaters of war, after 100,000 miles on the longest carrier deployment in recent history, you are homeward bound. Some of you will see new family members for the first time; 150 babies were born while their fathers were on the *Lincoln*. Your families are proud of you, and your Nation will welcome you.

We are mindful as well that some good men and women are not making the journey home. One of those who fell, Corporal Jason Mileo, spoke to his parents 5 days before his death. Jason's father said, "He called us from the center of Baghdad, not to brag but to tell us he loved us. Our son was a soldier."

Every name, every life, is a loss to our military, to our Nation, and to the loved ones who grieve. There's no homecoming for these families. Yet we pray, in God's time, their reunion will come.

Those we lost were last seen on duty. Their final act on this Earth was to fight a great evil and bring liberty to others. All of you—all in this generation of our military have taken up the highest calling of history. You're defending your country and protecting the innocent from harm. And wherever you go, you carry a message of hope, a message that is ancient and ever new. In the words of the prophet Isaiah, "To the captives, 'come out,' and to those in darkness, 'be free.'"

Thank you for serving our country and our cause. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6 p.m. on the deck of the U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln* at sea off the coast of San Diego, CA. In his remarks, he referred to Rear Adm. John M. Kelly, USN, commander, *Abraham Lincoln* Battle Group; Capt. Kendall L. Card, USN, commanding officer, U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln*; and Gen. Tommy R. Franks, USA, combatant commander, U.S. Central Command. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to Employees of United Defense Industries in Santa Clara, California

May 2, 2003

Thank you all very much. Thanks for the warm welcome. It's been a heck of a trip out here to California. [Laughter] I'm honored to be here with the good folks at United Defense. I'm here to thank you for your contribution to making the world a more peaceful and free place.

Yesterday I had the honor of speaking to the American people from the deck of the U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln*. I made this declaration, that major combat operations in Iraq have ended, the United States and our allies have prevailed.

I spent the night—one night. [Laughter] Most of the crew had been on there for 9½ months. I was so proud to be with those men and women who wear our Nation's uniform. Their morale is high. They have served our Nation well, and this country is proud of them.

We are proud of everybody who wears the Nation's uniform, and we are proud of those who have contributed to the defense of the country, just like the people right here at United Defense have done. The technologies and products developed here at United Defense have made our military second to none. So I'm here to thank the folks who work for this fine company, on behalf of the American people, for your contribution to the security of your Nation and for the peace of the world.

I'm also here for another reason. I'm here to talk about the state of our economy. Today we saw some new statistics on employment. The unemployment number is now at 6 percent, which should serve as a clear signal to the United States Congress we need a bold economic recovery package so people can find work. That 6-percent number should say loud and clear to members of both political parties in the United States Congress, we need robust tax relief so our fellow citizens can find a job.

I want to thank Tom for his kind introduction, and I want to thank Elmer for the tour. [Laughter] You all are doing some amazing stuff here. I'm really proud—proud of the workers, proud of the engineers, proud of the people who are keeping this country on the cutting edge. I want to thank the mayor of Santa Clara for coming. Madam Mayor, I appreciate you coming. I want to thank all the local officials. I particularly want to thank Richard Pombo, the Congressman from the great State of California, for being here as well.

I had the honor of meeting a fellow named Steve Houck today. Where are you, Steve? Somewhere around here. Where? There he is. Hi, Steve. [Laughter] They gave Steve a great seat—[laughter]—at least a great view. [Laughter] Here's why I want to mention Steve. You see, Steve works for salesforce.com, a company which encourages voluntarism amongst its employees. Not only does the company encourage voluntarism amongst employees, Steve leads the effort—one of the leaders of the effort. He takes the time that the company allows him and volunteers to help make somebody's life better.

We've spent a lot of time in this country over the recent weeks talking about the great military might of America. The truth of the matter is, the greatest strength of our country is the compassion of our fellow citizens to one another. The great strength of America can be found in the hearts of our fellow citizens.

My call to you is to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you're worried and interested about the future of this country, find somebody who hurts. Find somebody who needs love. Put your arm around them and say, "The great American experience belongs to you just as much as it belongs to me." Steve, thank you for your leadership.

On September the 11th, 2001, America learned that vast oceans no longer protect us from the threats of a new era. On that day, 19 months ago, we also began a relentless worldwide campaign against terrorists, those who hate freedom, in order to secure our homeland and to make the world a more peaceful place.

And we're making great progress. In the battle of Afghanistan, we destroyed one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind: A regime so barbaric, they would not allow young girls to go to school; a regime so barbaric, they were willing to house Al Qaida. That regime no longer exists. Many Al Qaida leaders no longer exist, and the training camps no longer exist.

In the war on terror, we're making good progress. As I said last night, nearly one-half of all Al Qaida's senior operatives are no longer a threat to the United States of America. And we're still on the hunt. We will flush them out of their caves. We'll get them on the run, and we will bring them to justice.

As a result of the bravery and skill of our Armed Forces and coalition forces, the war on terror is much longer down the road because of what happened in Iraq. You see, the Al Qaida no longer have an ally in the regime in Iraq. Terrorists no longer have a funding source in the regime of Iraq. One thing is for certain: Terrorists will no longer have a source of weapons of mass destruction in the regime that used to be in Iraq, because the regime that used to be in Iraq is no longer.

We have an obligation to future generations of Americans to make sure this country is secure, and we will keep that obligation. We have made progress, but there is more to do. In all these efforts, our men and women in uniform have performed brilliantly. By their courage, our Nation is more secure. By their skill and sacrifice, Iraq and Afghanistan are now free.

The people who serve our country deserve our gratitude, and they deserve the finest equipment we can provide. The new technologies of war help to protect our soldiers and, as importantly, help protect innocent life. You see, new technologies allow us to redefine war on our terms, which makes it more likely the world will be more free and more peaceful.

You do a lot to keep the American Armed Forces on the leading edge of technological change here at United Defense. And I want to thank you for that. You not only help save lives, but you're an agent for peace. And that's important for you to know that. The better we can redefine how war is—wars are fought and won, the more likely it is that peace will prevail because this is a peaceful nation. This is a nation that wants nothing more than the world to be more free and more peaceful. I want to thank you for what you've done, what you're going to do, and I want to thank you for the product you put out in the field.

In the Iraqi theater, the M4 Command and Control vehicles that you help produce gave our commanders unprecedented control over the battlefields. The Bradley Fighting Vehicles were responsible for a lot of tank kills. Some of the first Army units sent to take control of the Baghdad Airport were traveling in Bradleys.

The world witnessed one of the swiftest advances of heavy arms in the history of warfare, a 350-mile charge from south to north in Iraq, through hostile enemy territory. We were able to do so not only because of the good strategy, great courage, and skill, but because of the Bradleys and Abrams with which our soldiers were equipped. You're making a good product here.

One of the things that people learned about your company as well is how useful the HERCULES tank recovery system can

be. The guy with the sledgehammer on the statue needed a little help. [*Laughter*] Thankfully, there was a HERCULES close by—[*laughter*]—a HERCULES which pulled that statue of Saddam Hussein to the ground.

That meant more to the Iraqi people than you can possibly imagine. It was a symbol of their future, a future based upon something that we hold dear to our hearts, a future based upon something that is not America's gift to the world but the Almighty God's gift to each and every individual, a future based upon freedom.

I also appreciate so very much that 35 of your fellow workers are in theater. Some were in Kuwait. Many are in Iraq, working on the products that you helped develop, working through those sandstorms and those long hauls across hostile territory. They're still in the region. They and their families need to know America is grateful for their service and their sacrifices, just as we are grateful for the service and sacrifice of many of the families whose loved ones have been and still are in theater.

Perhaps some of you have got a relative over there, kind of like Ron Pinkney, who is an engineer here at United Defense. His son, Jason, is serving in the 101st Airborne Division. Ron, I appreciate your sacrifice for your country by being a loving dad. But you tell Jason, and you tell Jason to tell his buddies, the Commander in Chief and the people of Santa Clara, California, are really proud of his service.

Major combat operations are over. Yet we have got commitments to keep in Iraq. Parts of that country are still dangerous, and we will provide security. We will establish order in the parts of Iraq that are dangerous. We will chase down the leaders of the old regime, and they will be held to account for the atrocious crimes they committed on the Iraqi people.

We've got hundreds of sites to exploit, looking for the chemical and biological weapons that we know Saddam Hussein had prior to our entrance into Iraq. Listen, this guy has spent years and years and years of hiding weapons from weapons inspectors. It's going to take time, but the world will see the truth.

We'll restore the hospitals, rebuild the schools, provide needed infrastructure in a country that didn't have as many hospitals as it needed or schools as it needed or needed infrastructure as was required, because Saddam Hussein was willing to spend money on luxurious palaces, not on the people of Iraq. We will stand with the new leaders of Iraq as they build a Government of, by, and for the Iraqi people.

This is going to take time. The efforts to restore security and infrastructure is going to take time, and it's not going to be easy work. But we will stay the course. We will stay as long as necessary to get the job done, and then we will leave. And when we leave, we will leave behind a free Iraq.

We believe in the peace, in keeping the peace. And the best way to make the world more peaceful and the best way to fight hatred, the hateful ideologies oftentimes found in corners of the world, is to promote freedom. Free people are less likely to hate. Free people are more likely to focus on a hopeful future. We love freedom in America. It's ingrained in our soul. We also understand the habits of freedom are more likely to make the world a more peaceful and hopeful place. We will stay in Iraq until it is free, and we will stay to make sure the foundations for freedom are real and solid.

Now, here at home, we've got other—we've got challenges to face. I talked about a statistic, but behind every statistic is somebody's life when it comes to employment statistics. Listen, the goal of this country is to have an economy vibrant enough, strong enough, so that somebody who's looking for work can find a job. We're making progress. You've just got to know that. We're a growing economy. Matter of fact, we're the—of all the industrialized economies, we're one of the strongest. That's not good enough for me, and I know it's not good enough for you.

We've come through some hard times. Remember, we've overcome a recession. We've overcome an attack on our soil. We have been in two major battles in the war against terror, one in Afghanistan, one in Iraq. We had some of our fellow citizens forget what it means to be a responsible citizen, some CEOs of corporations in America who felt it would be okay to fudge the numbers, to

not tell the truth. Their irresponsible behavior affected the psychology of the country. We'll take care of them. Corporate America—[*applause*].

It would be helpful if many CEOs in corporate America took care of business before we had to take care of them. I call upon the CEOs of this company to treat their employees and shareholders with the utmost of respect.

Despite these obstacles, we're growing, but there is untapped potential in this economy. You know it better than anybody, right here in this part of the world. The foundations for growth are good. We got low inflation, which is positive, low interest rates, which are really good for people who either own a home or want to buy a home or refinancing a home in order to remodel a home. The greatest strength—well, let me—gas prices are coming down, which, by the way, is positive for the American consumer, American people.

The greatest strength we have is the productivity of the American worker. That's our greatest strength. Last year, productivity growth in America was 4.8 percent. It's the best annual increase since 1950.

Let me tell you what that means here at United Defense—incredibly productive workforce that you have here. It took 4 years for United Defense's engineers to develop a working prototype of the Bradley. It took only 8 months to do the same for the Future Combat System vehicle. Productivity increases like that means that we are more competitive, that people are likely to find better jobs, that consumers will benefit. Now, productivity increase is an incredibly important part of the future of this country. And I want to thank the workers here and the engineers here for being on the leading edge of the productivity increases in our country.

But the economy is not growing fast enough, and you know it as well as anybody here. So I've been working with the Congress on a jobs package, a pro-growth jobs package. See, in order to help people looking for work, we need to figure out how best to encourage economic growth. That ought to be the cornerstone of any good jobs package. You see, if the economy grows, somebody is more

likely to find work. Therefore, we ought to be asking the question: How do we create economic growth?

In my judgment and the judgment of a lot of economists—and the truth of the matter is, it's now become kind of the common wisdom in Washington, DC—the best way to create growth is to let people keep more of their own money. The more money you have in your pocket, the more likely it is you're going to demand a good or a service. The more goods and services demanded, the more likely it is somebody is going to find work in America.

And therefore, I proposed a robust tax package to the United States Congress of at least \$550 billion. The reason I did so is because economists have taken a look at that package and say that when it passes, one million new jobs will be created by the year 2004. If you're interested in job creation, if you want to make sure that your neighbor can find work, support a job package that is robust and strong and is hopeful for the American worker.

We're making good progress. I mean, it makes sense that we should make progress. After all, most of the tax relief package I proposed has already been passed by the Congress. See, I said we ought to reduce all rates. They've already agreed to that. We ought to reduce the effect of the marriage penalty. They agreed to that. We ought to raise the child credit from \$600 to \$1,000 per child. They agreed to that.

The problem is that they weren't going to let you keep your own money for 3, 5, or 7 years from now. Well, listen, our economy needs a shot in the arm now, not 3, 5, or 7 years from now. If you're somebody that's looking for work, you're not interested in what's going to take place 3, 5, or 7 years from now. If you're somebody looking for work, you want your Government to act now. For the sake of job creation, the United States Congress must enact all the tax reforms they passed in 2001.

When I get back to Washington, DC, I want to see a bill on my desk that recognizes—well, that may be a little fast. How about in a couple of weeks after I get back to Washington? [*Laughter*] For the sake of job growth, let's put those tax cuts we've al-

ready got in place, in place today so people can find work.

Oh, you hear all kinds of talk in Washington about, "This plan is not fair." You know, "This plan is going to reward only certain people." Let me tell you the effects of this plan on a family of four making \$40,000 a year. Their tax bite will go from \$1,178 a year to \$45 a year. Now, perhaps for some in Washington, DC, that \$1,000 a year for every year doesn't sound like a lot. But for a family of four making \$40,000 a year, it means a lot. It means a lot not only to the family, for their capacity to save or invest in their children, it means a lot for our economy to have people with an additional \$1,000 in their pocket. Congress needs to get this passed and get it passed soon.

Any good economic jobs package has got to understand the role of small business in our society. Most new jobs are created by small businesses. When small businesses are strong, when small business flourishes, people are more likely to find work.

Cutting the tax rates and accelerating the tax rates cuts is important for small business growth for this reason: Most small businesses pay tax at the individual income-tax rates. Most small businesses are either a sole proprietorship or a limited partnership or a Subchapter S and, therefore, pay tax like an individual does.

So that when you hear us talk about cutting individual tax rates and accelerating the tax rate cuts, you've got to understand the impact it is going to have on the American entrepreneur. It will mean more capital in the coffers of the small business company. More capital in the coffers of the small business company means more investment. More investment means more work for the American people. Twenty-three small-business owners will see their taxes cut—23 million—small-business owners will be more likely candidates to hire somebody.

As well, there is a limit on what a small business can deduct on capital purchases, at \$25,000. Congress ought to raise that limit to \$75,000 per year for small businesses, to allow small business to exempt capital purchases of that amount. It ought to index it to inflation.

Listen, when somebody goes out and buys a new computer or a new program, it not only benefits the small business because the small business becomes more productive, it benefits the computer programmer who has designed the program or the computer manufacturer who made the computer. The best way to encourage economic growth is to encourage investment, is to stimulate supply and demand. The Congress needs to be bold, and the Congress needs to act, and the Congress needs to recognize the importance of small business in our society.

I also believe we ought to end the double taxation on dividends. It makes sense to tax a company's profits. What doesn't make sense is to tax the company's profits and then tax the owners of the company after they pay tax. It's not fair to tax something twice in our society. Who are the owners of the companies? The owners of the companies are the shareholders. Millions of Americans own stock either directly or through pension plans, 401(k)s.

Listen, if you're an owner of a company, small or large, you ought to be worried about your company—your investment being taxed twice by the Federal Government. The double taxation of dividends is not fair. It is not fair to seniors, who oftentimes rely upon dividend income. It's not fair to the workers whose pension plans rely upon dividend income. It is not fair for the Federal Government to tax something twice, and we need to get rid of the double taxation of dividends in America.

Getting rid of the double taxation of dividends will make it easier for businesses to raise capital. It will reduce the cost of capital. The more capital there is in circulation, the more jobs there will be for American workers. Getting rid of the double taxation of dividends will encourage companies to pay dividends.

We have just gone through a period in American economic history where people invested based upon what I would call, maybe, pie-in-the-sky projections—that, “Don't worry. We don't have any cashflow, but nevertheless, we've got a nice story.” [*Laughter*] The problem is that story kind of ran out of steam because there wasn't any cashflow. To me, it's a great reform to encourage peo-

ple to pay dividends on stocks, because you can't put out a pie-in-the-sky projection if you're a dividend-paying company. If you say you're going to pay a dividend, you better pay the dividend, and the only way you can pay a dividend is to have actual cashflow available for the investors.

Getting rid of the double taxation of dividends will be good for job creation. It will be good for capital formation. It will be good for the pension holders of America, and it will be good corporate reform in a system that needed reform.

I know there's people hurting here in Silicon Valley. I know there are people who are worried about their future. I know this incredibly vibrant part of the American economy over the past year is not meeting its full potential. The plan I just outlined is one that will boost the economy in the Silicon Valley. It's a plan that is bold because we need a bold plan. It's a plan that is thoughtful because we need a thoughtful plan. Most importantly, it's a plan that will invigorate the entrepreneurial spirit, which has been so strong here, and make it more likely somebody who's looking for a job will be able to find one.

I urge the United States Congress to look at the unemployment numbers that came out today and pass a tax relief plan that will matter, a tax relief plan robust enough so that the people of this country who are looking for work can find a job.

I know you'll hear talk about the deficit, and we've got a deficit because we went through a recession. A recession means the economy has slowed down to the extent where we're losing revenues to the Federal Treasury. We got a recession because we went to war, and I said to our troops, “If we're going to commit you into harm's way, you deserve the best equipment, the best training, the best possible pay. It doesn't matter what it costs, we're going to pay what it costs in order to win the war.”

We had an emergency. These all cost our Government money. So with the combination of the loss of revenue as a result of the recession, which was official in January of 2001, and the expenditures in order to win a war and deal with an emergency and deal

with the new issues of homeland security, we've got a deficit.

And there's two ways to deal with that. One is you control the expense side of the ledger. You make sure the Federal Government spends your money on that which is absolutely necessary. You focus them on doing certain things and doing them well. You must have fiscal discipline in Washington, DC, in order to deal with the deficit.

And the other way to deal with the deficit is to put policies in place that increase the revenues coming into the Treasury. And the best way to encourage revenues coming into the Treasury is to promote policy which encourages economic growth and vitality. A growing economy is going to produce more revenues for the Federal Treasury. The way to deal with the deficit is not to be timid on the growth package. The way to deal with the deficit is to have a robust enough growth package so we get more revenues coming into the Federal Treasury and then follow my lead and make sure we don't overspend the people's money in Washington, DC.

I'm incredibly proud of this country, and I know you are as well. We have been through a lot as a nation. Our resolve has been tested. You know—but we have shown the world our greatest resources and our greatest strength, which is our national character—that we hold certain values to be true, that we've got tremendous compassion as a nation, that we're an optimistic people, and we're a resolved people, we are resolved to defend the peace of the world, that we are resolved to bring freedom to corners of the world that haven't seen freedom in generations, that we're determined to build the prosperity of our own country.

This is a unique moment in our country's history—it truly is—and the American people are rising to meet it.

I want to thank each of you for what you've done to make this country more secure and the world more peaceful and the world more free. I want to thank you for coming out today. It's such an honor to be here. May God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:10 a.m. in the prototype bay. In his remarks, he referred to Thomas W. Rabaut, president and chief executive

officer, and Elmer L. Doty, vice president, United Defense, L.P.; and Mayor Patricia M. Mahan of Santa Clara.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

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.

April 26

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner in the International Ballroom at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

The President declared a major disaster in Alaska and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms, including high winds and freezing temperatures, on March 6–14.

April 28

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Dearborn, MI, where he participated in a roundtable discussion on the situation in Iraq with Iraqi Americans at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center. Later, he met with William C. Ford, Jr., chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Ford Motor Co.; G. Richard Wagoner, Jr., president and chief executive officer of General Motors Corp.; and Dieter Zetsche, president and chief executive officer of Chrysler Group, to discuss the state of the economy and the President's jobs-and-growth package.

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

The President announced his intention to nominate John E. Herbst to be Ambassador to Ukraine.

April 29

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea to discuss the situation in North Korea and President Roh's upcoming state visit. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan to discuss the situation in North Korea. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the Homeland Security Council.

The President announced his intention to appoint Howard L. Ganek, Phyllis G. Heideman, and Harlan D. Hockenbergh as members of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

The President announced his intention to appoint Gen. John A. Gordon, USAF, as Assistant to the President and Homeland Security Adviser.

April 30

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, he met with Republican congressional leaders to discuss pending legislation.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, the President welcomed Representative Ralph M. Hall of Texas to the White House to celebrate the Representative's 80th birthday.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik of Norway to the White House on May 16.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals to represent the United States at ceremonies on April 30 marking the 60th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising: Anthony J. Principi, who will lead the delegation; Christopher Hill; Benjamin Gilman; Thomas Bernstein; and Don Etra.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas W. O'Connell to be Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict).

May 1

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then traveled to Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado, CA.

While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to discuss peace efforts in the Middle East.

Later in the morning, at Naval Air Station North Island, the President had a briefing on flight procedures. He then traveled to the U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln* off the coast of San Diego, California, where he met with F-18 combat pilots and had a briefing on completed Air Wing combat missions.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch in the ship's tower, where he observed F-18 launches. He then observed flight operations from the flight deck.

In the evening, the President had dinner with enlisted U.S. Navy personnel.

The President announced his intention to nominate George A. Krol to be Ambassador to Belarus.

The President announced his intention to nominate Howard Radzely to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

The President announced his intention to nominate Morgan Edwards to be a member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences.

The President announced his intention to appoint Paul R. Corts as a member (Justice Representative) of the Board of Directors of the Federal Prison Industries, Inc.

The President announced his intention to appoint John Hartnedy as a member of the Department of Defense Retirement Board of Actuaries.

May 2

In the morning, the President had breakfast with U.S. Navy officers aboard the U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln*.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Santa Clara, CA. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had an intelligence briefing. In Santa Clara, he toured the United Defense Industries Ground Systems Division facility.

In the afternoon, the President was joined by Prime Minister John Howard of Australia and his wife, Janette, and they traveled together to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush had dinner with Prime Minister and Mrs. Howard.

The White House announced that the President will welcome NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson to the White House on May 5.

The White House announced that the President will welcome the Foreign Ministers of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia to the White House on May 8.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard W. Erdman to be Ambassador to Algeria.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

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

Submitted April 28

Claude A. Allen,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, vice Francis D. Murnaghan, Jr., deceased.

Robert C. Brack,
of New Mexico, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of New Mexico (new position).

James O. Browning,
of New Mexico, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of New Mexico, vice C. LeRoy Hansen, retired.

Glen E. Conrad,
of Virginia, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, vice James C. Turk, retired.

Robert J. Conrad, Jr.,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina (new position).

Allyson K. Duncan,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, vice Samuel J. Ervin III, deceased.

Mark R. Filip,
of Illinois, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, vice Harry D. Leinenweber, retired.

Kim R. Gibson,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, vice D. Brooks Smith, elevated.

Dora L. Irizarry,
of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, vice Reena Raggi, elevated.

H. Brent McKnight,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina (new position).

Daniel P. Ryan,
of Michigan, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, vice Patrick J. Duggan, retired.

Gary L. Sharpe,
of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of New York, vice Thomas J. McAvoy, retired.

Lonny R. Suko,
of Washington, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, vice Wm. Fremming Nielsen, retired.

Frank Libutti,
of New York, to be Under Secretary for Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection, Department of Homeland Security (new position).

Paul Morgan Longworth,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration, vice Linton F. Brooks.

Nicholas Gregory Mankiw,
of Massachusetts, to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisers, vice Robert Glenn Hubbard, resigned.

Charles Darwin Snelling,
of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan

Washington Airports Authority for the remainder of the term expiring May 30, 2006, vice Norman Y. Mineta.

Joe D. Whitley,
of Georgia, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security (new position).

Submitted April 30

Robert W. Fitts,
of New Hampshire, 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 Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Vanuatu.

John Richard Grimes,
of Massachusetts, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development for a term expiring May 19, 2006, vice Jayne G. Fawcett.

John E. Herbst,
of Virginia, 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 Ukraine.

Georgianna E. Ignace,
of Wisconsin, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development for a term expiring October 18, 2004, vice Kenneth Blankenship, term expired.

Tracey Ann Jacobson,
of the District of Columbia, a Foreign Service Officer of Class One, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Turkmenistan.

Lisa Genevieve Nason,
of Alaska, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian

and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development for a term expiring October 18, 2004, vice Thomas A. Thompson, term expired.

Harry K. Thomas, Jr.,
of New York, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

William B. Wood,
of New York, 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 Colombia.

Submitted May 1

Roger T. Benitez,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of California (new position).

Larry Alan Burns,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of California, (new position).

Kathleen Cardone,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Texas, (new position).

James I. Cohn,
of Florida, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, (new position).

Marcia A. Crone,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, (new position).

Dale S. Fischer,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California, (new position).

D. Michael Fisher,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, vice Carol Los Mansmann, deceased.

William Q. Hayes,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of California, (new position).

John A. Houston,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Southern District of California, (new po-
sition).

George A. Krol,
of New Jersey, a career member of the Sen-
ior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to
be Ambassador Extraordinary and Pleni-
potentiary of the United States of America
to the Republic of Belarus.

Frank Montalvo,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Western District of Texas, (new position).

Thomas W. O'Connell,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of
Defense, vice Brian E. Sheridan.

R. David Proctor,
of Alabama, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Northern District of Alabama, (new po-
sition).

Xavier Rodriguez,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Western District of Texas, vice Edward C.
Prado.

Dana Makoto Sabraw,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Southern District of California, (new po-
sition).

Gretchen C. F. Shappert,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. Attorney for
the Western District of North Carolina for
the term of 4 years, vice Robert J. Conrad,
Jr.

Earl Leroy Yeakel III,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Western District of Texas, vice James R.
Nowlin, retired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

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.

Released April 26

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster
assistance to Alaska

Released April 28

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Cir-
cuit Judges for the Third Circuit

Released April 29

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attor-
ney for the Western District of North Caro-
lina

Released April 30

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Prime
Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik of Norway
To Visit Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing
that the President signed H.R. 1770

Released May 1

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: We the People Forum on Amer-
ican History, Civics, and Service

Excerpts of the President's address to the
Nation

Advance text of the President's address to
the Nation

Released May 2

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Signing of the Adriatic Charter

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Rose Garden Event with the Foreign Ministers of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Visit of NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Nigerian Elections

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved April 30

H.R. 1770 / Public Law 108–20
Smallpox Emergency Personnel Protection Act of 2003

S. 151 / Public Law 108–21
Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003