

average citizen has a chance to achieve his or her dreams.

The Ambassador goes with the full blessings of this administration and the full confidence of all of us in this administration that he can get the job done.

So, Mr. Ambassador, thanks for taking this on. I'm proud of you, and I appreciate so very much you're willing to sacrifice not only on behalf of our country but on behalf of the people of Iraq who deserve a free and democratic society. Good luck to you.

Ambassador Bremer. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. I'll answer some questions.

Yes.

Resignation of OMB Director Mitch Daniels

Q. Mr. President, how did Mitch Daniels explain his resignation today? And does that departure affect your prospects for a tax package on the Hill?

The President. Mitch told me that he wants to go back home to the State of Indiana and perhaps pursue a run for political office. I told him, I said, "Mitch, we're going to miss you a lot in this administration." He has served us well. He has been a really good watchdog of the taxpayers' money. And you know, I'm going to miss him. On the other hand, this administration's loss is the gain of the people of Indiana.

And we're going to get a tax package through because it's the right thing to do, and I hope Congress acts decisively and boldly. I put up a package that will increase the number of new jobs by a million folks at the end of 2004. And I expect them to understand, there's a lot of people looking for work, and the burden is on them right now. And we're going to send a lot of people up there from around the country, and we'll be sending our own folks here in the administration to work with Members of the Congress to remind them that the size of the tax package will depend on them, and the bigger the package, the more likely it is that people are going to find a job here.

Randy [Randall Mikkelsen, Reuters].

Q. Mr. President, following up briefly on Scott's [Scott Lindlaw, Associated Press]

question, will fiscal discipline be as high on the qualification list for Mitch Daniels' successor as it was when he entered office?

The President. First of all, fiscal discipline was high on my agenda. And therefore, anybody that works for me will place a premium on fiscal discipline. It turns out that the—that appropriators love to appropriate here in Washington. Given a pot of money, they will appropriate it, unless there's an administration willing to fight on behalf of the taxpayers. This administration is willing to fight on behalf of the taxpayers. We will insist upon fiscal discipline here in Washington, DC.

Angle [Jim Angle, FOX News].

Iraqi Weapons Lab

Q. Mr. President, Defense officials are now saying they are confident they have found a mobile biological lab, exactly what Secretary Powell described before the United Nations. Are you aware of the details? What can you tell us about that? And has Secretary Rumsfeld given you any details?

The President. I'm not surprised if we begin to uncover the weapons program of Saddam Hussein because he had a weapons program. I will leave the details of your question to the experts, but one thing we know is that he had a weapons program. We also know he spent years trying to hide the weapons program. And over time, the truth will come out and the American people will see that when we rid Saddam Hussein from—got him out of power, we made America more secure.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:19 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a Signing Ceremony for the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement

May 6, 2003

President Bush. Thank you. Good afternoon, and welcome to the White House. I'm honored to host Prime Minister Goh as we

sign an historic free trade agreement between the United States and Singapore.

Our two countries have a proud history of friendship and cooperation. We're working together to meet the threats of a new era, and we share a belief in the power of free enterprise and free trade to improve lives. The U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement marks a crucial step forward for both our countries. And with the approval of the Congress, this agreement will help generate well-paying jobs and opportunities for people in Singapore and in the United States.

The Prime Minister is a man with whom I enjoy good conversations. He's got good advice, and I'm proud to call him friend.

I appreciate so very much our—members of my Cabinet who are here: the Secretary of State; Secretary of Commerce; Trade Minister Robert Zoellick, Ambassador Zoellick. I want to thank very much the Singaporean delegation for coming. Madame Ambassador, it's good to see you again. I appreciate our Ambassador, Frank Lavin, for being here, and I appreciate his service to our country.

I'm so grateful for the Members of Congress for being here. Thank you all for coming—strong free-traders, people who believe in the possibility of trade, in the hope of trade. I want to thank members of our business community who are here. Mr. Prime Minister, you've drawn quite a crowd. *[Laughter]*

America supports free trade because it creates new opportunities for millions of people, new wealth for entire nations, and benefits that are widely shared. NAFTA and the Uruguay Round, for example, show us what free trade can accomplish. They've created more choices and lower prices for consumers, raising living standards for a typical American family of four by at least \$2,000 a year. Free trade has a direct benefit for our citizens.

In NAFTA's first 6 years, more than half of Mexico's new manufacturing jobs were connected to trade. Trade helps people in our neighborhood. It helps people find work. A prosperous neighborhood is in the interest of the United States of America. Trade helps people emerge from poverty. Trade helps people realize their hopes and ambitions.

Trade is an important part of improving the lives of people around the globe.

And that's why this administration strongly stands for free trade. From the first days of this administration, we have been working to extend the benefits of trade to every region of the world. We're a leader in the negotiations of the WTO. We've advanced bold proposals to open up global markets. We seek to build on the success of NAFTA with the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

We're also encouraging the free flow of trade and investment in the Pacific, among our partners in APEC and ASEAN. America has implemented a free trade agreement with Jordan, our first ever with an Arab nation. And we're finalizing our pact with Chile. Similar negotiations are underway with Australia, Morocco, and five nations in the Central American region. And soon we'll begin negotiations with the Southern African Customs Union to bring new opportunities to a part of the world where the need is great.

The agreement that the Prime Minister and I sign today is the first of its kind between the United States and an Asian-Pacific country. The 4 million people of Singapore have built a strong and vibrant economy. Singapore has long set an example for its neighbors in the world of the transforming power of economic freedom and open markets. Singapore is already America's 12th-largest trading partner and buys a full range of American products, everything from machine parts and computers to agricultural products.

This free trade agreement will increase access to Singapore's dynamic markets for American exporters, service providers, and investors. The agreement contains state-of-the-art protections for Internet commerce and intellectual property that will help drive growth and innovation in our dynamic technology sectors.

The agreement also safeguards the right of workers and protections for our environment. It's a modern agreement. And it's a good agreement for both countries. By granting free trade—by granting trade promotion authority last year, Congress showed support for an agenda of free and open trade. And I want to thank them for that. I hope the Congress will act in this same spirit and

quickly give final approval to this agreement, and I'm sure they will. Singapore is a nation that is small in size but large in influence. With this agreement, Singapore becomes an even more valued economic partner of the United States.

Mr. Prime Minister, your nation has also been a vital and steadfast friend in the fight against global terror. Singapore has made determined and successful efforts to break up terror plots before they can take innocent lives.

As a member of the U.N. Security Council, Singapore worked hard to secure the passage of Resolution 1441, requiring Iraq to live up to its international obligations. And now with Iraq's liberation, Singapore will send police and health care workers to help with Iraq's reconstruction.

Mr. Prime Minister, I appreciate your nation's contribution as we overcome great dangers and defend the peace. I'm grateful as well for your commitment to a world that trades in freedom and for all the hard work on both sides that have made this agreement possible. We take great pride in the strong relationship between our countries.

Welcome to Washington, Mr. Prime Minister.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:10 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chan Heng Chee, Singapore's Ambassador to the United States. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and Singapore

May 6, 2003

President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong today signed the U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and celebrated the strength and vitality of the bilateral relationship between the United States and Singapore.

In the signing ceremony and in their Oval Office meeting, the two leaders expressed conviction that the FTA, the first ever between the United States and an Asian nation, would enhance mutual prosperity and rein-

force the strategic partnership between the two nations. The two leaders expressed hope that the FTA would be a catalyst for trade liberalization and enhanced growth in the region and beyond. In this regard, the President and the Prime Minister reaffirmed their commitment to achieving a successful outcome at the World Trade Organization's Doha Development Agenda trade negotiations. The President also reaffirmed his commitment to the Enterprise for ASEAN Initiative (EAI), which he launched at APEC in 2002 with Leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The EAI sets forth a roadmap to promote increased investment, economic growth, and free trade between the United States and ASEAN countries.

The President and the Prime Minister agreed that the U.S.-Singapore security partnership has helped foster stability in Asia. The President also thanked Singapore for its leadership beyond the region, including as a key member of the Coalition on Iraq. Singapore supported the U.S.-led coalition to disarm Iraq out of a belief that the world must send a strong message of deterrence to other regimes and terrorist networks that might be looking to use weapons of mass destruction. Prime Minister Goh welcomed the successful conclusion of combat operations in Iraq, and the two leaders agreed to cooperate closely to deliver the humanitarian assistance and services necessary to help the people of Iraq build a stable, prosperous, and democratic state. In that regard, the President welcomed Singapore's offer to dispatch a medical team, police personnel, and technicians to help rebuild Iraq.

President Bush and Prime Minister Goh reviewed recent developments in Southeast Asia. President Bush praised Singapore's efforts to respond to the challenge of terrorism in Southeast Asia. The two leaders noted that enhanced cooperation among ASEAN nations and international cooperation with the region has helped disrupt terror plots and led to the apprehension of members of the Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist network. They welcomed recent arrests in Indonesia and the exceptional progress made in the investigation of the October 2002 Bali bombings.