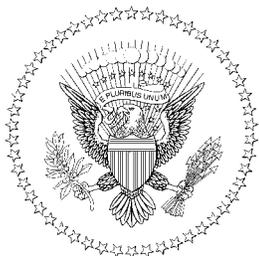


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, May 12, 2003
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Contents

Addresses and Remarks

- See also* Appointments and Nominations;
Meetings With Foreign Leaders
Arkansas, remarks in Little Rock—537
Central European Nations, remarks honoring
upcoming admission to NATO—562
Judicial confirmation process—565
South Carolina, commencement address at
the University of South Carolina in
Columbia—568
Radio address—532
Secretary of Defense, meeting—549
Tax Relief Coalition—544
U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement,
signing ceremony—550

Appointments and Nominations

- Presidential Envoy to Iraq, remarks—549

Communications to Congress

- Sudan, message transmitting report on
national emergency—531
Supplemental budget requests, letter
transmitting—572

Communications to Congress—Continued

- UNITA, message on terminating the national
emergency—554

Communications to Federal Agencies

- Delegation of the functions of the President
under the heading “Iraq Relief and
Reconstruction Fund” in the Emergency
Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act,
2003, memorandum—555
Presidential Determination on Eligibility of
Serbia and Montenegro to Receive Defense
Articles and Services Under the Foreign
Assistance Act of 1961, as Amended, and
the Arms Export Control Act,
memorandum—553
Report to the Congress on Tibet Negotiations,
memorandum—560
Suspending the Iraq Sanctions Act, Making
Inapplicable Certain Statutory Provisions
Related to Iraq, and Delegating Authorities,
under the Emergency Wartime
Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003,
memorandum—559

(Continued on the inside of the back cover.)

Editor’s Note: The President was in Columbia, SC, on May 9, 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

Executive Orders

- Facilitating the Administration of Justice in the Federal Courts—571
- Interagency Group on Insular Areas—564
- Termination of Emergency with Respect to the Actions and Policies of UNITA and Revocation of Related Executive Orders—553

Interviews With the News Media

- Exchanges with reporters in the Oval Office—549, 560
- News conferences
 - May 3 with Prime Minister Howard of Australia—533
 - May 7 with President Aznar of Spain—556

Joint Statements

- United States of America and Singapore—552

Letters and Messages

- Cinco de Mayo, message—544
- National Foster Care Month, message—544

Meetings With Foreign Leaders

- Australia, Prime Minister Howard—533
- Bulgaria, Foreign Minister Pasi—561
- Estonia, Foreign Minister Ojuland—561
- Latvia, Foreign Minister Kalniete—561
- Lithuania, Foreign Minister Valionis—561
- Qatar, Amir Al Thani—560
- Romania, Foreign Minister Geoana—561

Meetings With Foreign Leaders—Continued

- Singapore, Prime Minister Goh—550, 552
- Slovakia, Foreign Minister Kukan—561
- Slovenia, Foreign Minister Rupel—561
- Spain, President Aznar—556

Proclamations

- Jewish Heritage Week—531
- Mother's Day—558

Statements by the President

- Death of Walter Sisulu—563
- Federal judiciary, legislation to increase salaries—571
- House of Representatives action on tax relief legislation—571
- Senate
 - Confirmation of Deborah L. Cook as a Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit—543
 - Filibusters of the nominations of Miguel A. Estrada and Priscilla Owen to be Judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals—564
 - Turkey's Bingol Province, earthquake—537

Supplementary Materials

- Acts approved by the President—575
- Checklist of White House press releases—574
- Digest of other White House announcements—572
- Nominations submitted to the Senate—574

Week Ending Friday, May 9, 2003

Proclamation 7673—Jewish Heritage Week, 2003

May 2, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The extraordinary heritage of Jewish Americans reflects the strength and spirit of our Nation. Their deep family and community ties and strong religious traditions exemplify America's cultural diversity. Jewish Heritage Week provides an opportunity to recognize the contributions of Jewish Americans to our country and to celebrate their commitment to faith, family, and freedom.

The Jewish people began their search for freedom more than 3,000 years ago. From the struggle of the Exodus, to the miracle of the Maccabees, to the horrors of the Holocaust, to the creation of the democratic State of Israel, Jews have faced and survived many challenges. Jews draw on their faith to provide hope for the future.

For centuries, Jews have immigrated to the United States to realize their dreams and enjoy the blessings of religious tolerance and individual liberty. Today, Jewish Americans play an important role in the success and growth of our country. Their accomplishments in education, industry, science, art, literature, and dozens of other fields have strengthened our Nation and enriched our culture.

Throughout their history, Jewish Americans have demonstrated that goodness can overcome evil. Guided by moral principles, they bring to our Nation a rich heritage that recognizes the dignity of every citizen and the possibilities of every life. Countless Jewish charitable organizations are helping serve the men, women, and children across our country who are in need. Their works of kindness and mercy help to build a more generous and compassionate Nation.

During this week, we also recognize the many Jewish Americans serving in our Armed Forces who are working to rid the world of terror and bring freedom and justice to the oppressed. Every generation of Americans must rise to meet its own challenges, and this generation of Jewish Americans is standing strong to defend our freedoms and help make America a land of opportunity for all.

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 4 through May 11, 2003, as Jewish Heritage Week. I urge all Americans to learn more about the rich history of Jewish Americans and to celebrate their contribution to our cultural diversity.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of May, 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 6, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 7. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

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

May 2, 2003

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50

U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 2, 2003.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

May 3, 2003

Good morning. On Thursday, I visited the U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln*, now headed home after the longest carrier deployment in recent history. I delivered good news to the men and women who fought in the cause of freedom: Their mission is complete and major combat operations in Iraq have ended. Our coalition is now engaged in securing and reconstructing that country. The United States and our allies have prevailed.

Operation Iraqi Freedom was carried out with a combination of precision, 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 building or bunker. Marines and soldiers charged to Baghdad across 350 miles of hostile ground in one of the swiftest mass advances of heavy arms in history. The world has seen the might of the American Armed Forces.

In this victory, America received valuable help from our allies. This weekend, I am hosting Australian Prime Minister John Howard at my ranch in Crawford, Texas. Prime Minister Howard has been a strong ally in the war on terror, and Australian forces have played an important role in the liberation of Iraq. Australian Special Forces entered Iraq with their American and British counterparts at the very beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They helped to secure sites in western Iraq that could have been used to launch Scud missiles. And they disrupted Iraqi troop movements and command posts,

paving the way for Army and Marine units making their way to Baghdad.

Australia FA-18 fighters carried out deep bombing runs in Iraq. The Australian Navy worked with British forces to take control of the Faw Peninsula. Australian Navy divers cleared mines in the port of Umm Qasr, opening sea lanes to deliver humanitarian assistance. And Australian transport planes delivered emergency supplies and equipment for Iraqi hospitals.

All told, about 2,000 Australian service members contributed to the destruction of Saddam Hussein's regime and the liberation of the Iraqi people. All Australians can be justly proud of the superb performance of Australians' air, naval, and Special Forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom. America is deeply grateful for their important contributions.

Our coalition still has much work to do in Iraq. We are bringing order to parts of that country that remain dangerous. We are pursuing and finding leaders of the old regime who will be held to account for their crimes. We have begun the search for hidden chemical and biological weapons at hundreds of locations. We are helping to rebuild Iraq, where the dictator built palaces for himself instead of hospitals and schools for the people. 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 is hard and 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 still goes on. 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 our homeland, and more importantly, we will continue to hunt the enemy down before he can strike.

No act of terrorists will change our purpose or weaken our resolve or alter their fate.

Their cause is lost. Free nations will press on to victory.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 2:45 p.m. on April 30 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 3. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 2 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister John Howard of Australia in Crawford, Texas

May 3, 2003

President Bush. Thank you all for coming. This has been an honor for Laura and me to welcome Prime Minister Howard and Mrs. Howard to our ranch. We love coming here. It's a place for Laura and me to really spend some private time and spend time with a friend is—makes it even more special. And John Howard has been a great friend. The Australian Government has been a great friend to the American people. The Australian people are great friends with the American people as well.

The Prime Minister is a man of courage. He is a clear thinker. He understands the responsibilities of freedom. America is really grateful for the sacrifices of the Australian people and for the leadership of Prime Minister John Howard.

On September the 10th, 2001, Prime Minister Howard and I stood together at the Washington Naval Yard to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ANZUS Treaty. The next day, Australia and America began writing a new chapter in the history of our alliance. On September the 14th, just 3 days after the terrorist attacks, Australia invoked the ANZUS Treaty's mutual defense provisions. Australia came to America's aid in our time of need, and we won't forget that.

In nearly 20 months since September the 11th, Australian and American intelligence and law enforcement officials have worked very closely together. Our relationship has

never been stronger, and that's good, because together we've broken up terrorist cells, we've disrupted terrorist plots, we've cut off terrorist financing. We brought a lot of terrorists to justice.

And in Iraq, Australian and American forces have stood together once again. We ended the rule of one of history's worst tyrants, and in so doing, we not only freed the American people, we made our own people more secure. By getting rid of Saddam Hussein, we ended the suffering of a lot of people in Iraq. And at the same time, we made peace more possible in the world. All Australians are justifiably proud of the superb performance—and I mean superb performance—of the Australian Air Force, Navy, and Special Forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As you may know, I was on the U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln* 2 days ago. I met with Admiral Kelly. He was our highest ranking official in charge of joint operations. I said, "I'm getting ready to see the Prime Minister in Crawford." I said, "What can I tell him about the performance and the bravery of the Australian troops?" He said, "They are the best in the world." And for that, Mr. Prime Minister, we're grateful.

We want to thank the Australian servicemen for their service, and particularly want to say thanks to their loved ones, who I'm sure agonized over the fate of their husband or son or daughter, and tell them that we appreciate their sacrifice as well.

We're committed to defeating the threat of terror because we have both felt terror's effects. We remember the sympathy of the people of Australia on September the 11th, and we shared the same sympathy with the people of Australia after the horrible bombings of Bali. The Prime Minister showed he's not only a man of steel, he showed the world he's a man of heart as well as he dealt with the great tragedy that affected the Australian people.

We won't tire in our attempts to fight terror. Nothing will deter us. We understand the effects of terror. We also are committed to a world that is more peaceful and more free. We're committed to a stable and democratic Iraq. We fully believe the people of Iraq are capable of running their own country. We will work to provide the conditions

necessary for security, repair the infrastructure, make sure that the life of the average Iraqi citizen is back to normal, and then encourage the Iraqi people to decide their own fate and run their own Government. We agree the U.N. Security Council should move swiftly to lift the economic sanctions on Iraq.

We'll continue to work together to make the world more safe and free. Today we discussed the Korean Peninsula. We discussed my commitment to move the Middle Eastern peace process forward. We discussed a lot of key issues. I was comfortable in so doing because I value the advice of John Howard. I trust his judgment, and I appreciate his friendship.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Howard. Well, thank you very much, Mr. President. Can I first, for Janette and myself, thank George and Laura very much for inviting us to a piece of American soil that I know has a special place in the President's heart.

To come to the United States is always an experience and an opportunity as Prime Minister to renew the links and the friendship and the affection between our two nations and our two peoples. But to come to the heart of Texas and to be a guest of the President and his wife in this wonderful hide-away—although it doesn't appear to be very well hidden away with this large gathering today—is a special opportunity.

Can I thank the President for the kind words that he's expressed about the Australian military participation in Iraq. We too in Australia are immensely proud of the way in which the men and women of the Australian Defence Force discharged their duties. But can I, Mr. President, congratulate you on the leadership that you gave to the world, at times under very great criticism, at times fighting very great obstruction. But you had a resolute, clear view of what had to be done, and we were very pleased and very proud and very determined when the final decision was taken to be part of that.

I think what was achieved in Iraq was quite extraordinary from a military point of view. I think the military textbooks will be replete with the experiences of Operation Iraqi Freedom for many years to come. And the leadership of the United States, with the sup-

port of its coalition partners, Great Britain, Australia, Holland, and others, I think has sent a very important message not only to the region but also to the rest of the world.

I welcome very much the personal commitment that you have given to the securing of a peaceful outcome in the long-running and bloody saga of relations between Israel and the Palestinians. As the leader of a nation which has been a staunch and unapologetic friend of Israel ever since its foundation, we also support very strongly the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. And we see progress on this issue as being very important to consolidating what has been achieved in Iraq and building on the message of freedom that came out of the operation in Iraq.

Our bilateral relationship is very close indeed, in so many ways. There is a strategic and political closeness. But more important than that, there is a very deep affection between our two nations. We have shared a lot of experiences. You recalled that very emotional moment at the naval dockyard on the 10th of September, the first time we met, and the next day, of course, the world changed so dramatically. And I can remember returning by courtesy of the United States Air Force from Andrews Air Force Base to Hawaii and discussing with our Foreign Minister Alexander Downer the invoking of the ANZUS Treaty, in consequence of what had occurred the day before in New York and Washington.

Australia and America are close friends because, above all, we have similar values. In the end, the thing that binds nations together more than anything else is the commonality of their values. And we have a view of the world that puts freedom and individual liberty, a belief in market outcomes, where appropriate, at the center of the activities of both our nations.

Mr. President, I'm very honored to be here. Janette and I have greatly enjoyed your hospitality. We wish you well. We respect very much the leadership that you, personally, and your administration brings to the affairs of the world. We think the world is a safer, more optimistic place as a result of our joint efforts in Iraq, and we think that is a message which is resonating around the

world. And we too have one aspiration for the Iraqi people, that they can live in freedom, and they can run their own affairs, and they can benefit from the great civilization and the great resources which, unhindered, are at their disposal.

President Bush. Good. Thank you, John.

We will answer a couple of questions, two per side. Barney, do you have a question? [Laughter] He doesn't have one? Then we'll start with Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters]. Patsy is a fine Australian, as you know. Tomorrow is her birthday. [Laughter]

Go ahead and ask a soft question, then, now that I've set it up. [Laughter]

Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction

Q. Sir, in honor of your guest, I'll ask it in Australian, if that's all right. [Laughter] Is there a possibility that you may never find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq? And how would that square with your rationale for going to war?

President Bush. Yes—the question is about weapons of mass destruction. Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. The United States—United Nations Security Council voted 1441, which made the declaration it had weapons of mass destruction. It's well known it had weapons of mass destruction, and we've also got to recognize that he spent 14 years hiding weapons of mass destruction. I mean, he spent an entire decade making sure that inspectors would never find them. Iraq's the size of the State of California. It's got tunnels, caves, all kinds of complexes. We'll find them, and it's just going to be a matter of time to do so.

Australia-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

Q. Mr. President, if I could ask, the Prime Minister has also said that Australian-American ties have never been stronger than at the moment. What impact will that have on Congress when it considers an FTA for Australia? And what sort of timeline are you thinking of for an FTA?

President Bush. Right. Well, I appreciate you asking that. I'm firmly committed to an FTA with Australia. I am hopeful that the Congress feels the same way I feel.

We discussed the matter. I asked the Prime Minister, are we making, from the

U.S. side, a strong enough effort to move the process along? Is Ambassador Zoellick doing what he's supposed to be doing in terms of getting this trade agreement done? And the Prime Minister assured me that was the case. And so that made me feel good. The idea is to try to get this thing done by the end of the year and then, of course, get it to our Congress in '04. It's—I believe we can get it done, and I think it's an important—will be an important step in our relationship.

Prime Minister Howard. Amen to that.

Iraq's 55 Most Wanted/Saddam Hussein's Regime

Q. Sir, you guys now have in custody 18 of the 55 most wanted—

President Bush. Yes.

Q. —including several senior members, Tariq Aziz and others. What are you learning about where Saddam might be—

President Bush. Right.

Q. —what his status is, or also about weapons?

President Bush. The question is about—you know, we've captured 18 of the 55, I think you said. And we're still looking for Baghdad Bob, I want you to know. [Laughter] Anyway—what are we learning? Well, we're learning that, for example, that Tariq Aziz still doesn't know how to tell the truth. He didn't know how to tell the truth when he was in office. He doesn't know to tell the truth when he's been—as a captive.

And the—but we will find out a lot about the nature of the Hussein regime as time goes on because, you know, more and more people will come forward. It may not be the Aces, Kings, and Queens, and Jacks that do the talking. It may be those who were doing the—carrying the water for the Aces, Kings, Queens, and Jacks that do the talking.

And we will learn a lot when the Iraqi people—as the Iraqi people continue to come forth. And when we feel like sharing the information with you, we will. It's—you'll probably learn it before I will in certain cases. But what we're going—the world will find is, the man had a program to develop weapons of mass destruction, that he had terrorist connections, and that he was, by far, one of the most brutal dictators in the history of the world.

People in Australia and America can't imagine what—when John and I say how brutal this guy is. This is a guy that cut the tongues out of dissidents and let them bleed in town squares. That's just—that's beyond the imagination of the Australian people to think that could possibly happen. It happened. And more and more people will find out the nature of this regime as time goes on. I don't know whether the Aces will talk. I don't know whether the Kings will talk. But many Iraqi citizens will talk, and the more we learn, the more the world will find out about the true nature of the Iraqi regime.

Prime Minister Howard's Visit

Prime Minister Howard. Leigh. Leigh Sales and ABC [Australian Broadcasting Corporation].

Q. President Bush, can you give us an idea of the sorts of things that you and the Prime Minister did at the ranch last night and this morning? And when do you plan to visit Australia?

President Bush. Yes, as soon as possible. I don't know what that means, though. So it's kind of what we—that's called a "dodge." [Laughter] I'd love to come to Australia.

We—so I get out a coffee—of course, got Laura some coffee first thing in the morning. And I look out my window, and there's the Prime Minister ready to go for a stroll. So I hustled and got dressed, and we went for a good walk. And I'll tell you something, the guy—I'm a pretty good athlete—he walks a good clip. I was breathing hard, and Barney was breathing harder. [Laughter] We had trouble keeping up with him.

But one of my favorite things to do is to show this place to friends. And so the Prime Minister and Mrs. Howard and Laura and I went—traveled the ranch. And I took him to my favorite spot, which is this canyon, and there's a waterfall. It rained a couple of days ago—actually last night—so the water was moving pretty good. And it's just a special part of the ranch.

We've got a lot of different variety of hardwood on this ranch. It's hard to tell it from this spot, but north of here, and—there's a creek and intersection to a river, and there's some just fantastic trees in these bottoms.

And John and I went and spent some time down there.

We visited a lot about our mutual interests. He's obviously very knowledgeable about a lot of the world. And we spent a lot of time talking about Indonesia and the threats that emanate out of Indonesia and what the Australian Government is doing to work with the Indonesian Government to make Australian people—and America, for that matter—more secure.

We had a pretty good dinner last night—a little beef. And fortunately, the Prime Minister wanted to go to bed early, because I did too. [Laughter] And we had a great visit. We'll go and have a lunch—one more tour of the ranch and have a lunch. The one thing I regret is he didn't go fishing with me yesterday afternoon. He wanted a little rest, but I love having him here.

I can't tell you what a comfort it is to talk to him on the phone. He's steady. You know, times get tough when you make tough decisions, and we both made a tough decision, but there was never any doubt in his mind. He was steady under fire. He stood his ground when he needed to stand his ground, because he understands the difference between right and wrong. And he knows the difference between slavery and freedom. And I'm honored to call him friend, and really am glad he's here.

Thank you all very much. Hope you enjoy your stay in this part of the world. By the way, they tell me Australia and Texas, they've got a lot in common. Having to watch this man perform, I agree. [Laughter] The biggest compliment you can pay to somebody, at least in this part of the world, is you're kind of like a Texan. [Laughter] Thank you.

Prime Minister Howard. Thank you.

President Bush. Okay, Barney, come on. Quit showing off. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:17 a.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein and former Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz of Iraq.

Statement on the Earthquake in Turkey's Bingol Province

May 3, 2003

I extend my condolences to those injured and to the families of the victims of the recent earthquake in Turkey's Bingol Province. I am particularly saddened by the number of children who were killed and injured. The thoughts and prayers of the American people are with those directly affected by this tragedy and with the entire Turkish nation. The United States stands ready to help in any way possible.

Remarks in Little Rock, Arkansas

May 5, 2003

Thank you so very much. So I'm on my way back from Crawford to Washington, and what the heck, I thought I'd stop into Arkansas. [*Laughter*] It's great to be back in Arkansas, a land full of really decent people. And it's—as you know, I was honored to be the Governor of the great State of Texas, and some of my best trips were into the State of Arkansas when I was down there. And I'm glad to be back. And thank you all for coming.

Before we begin, I do want to say how—I express my sincerest condolences to the victims of the tornadoes that ripped through Arkansas and Kansas and Missouri, Tennessee, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Our prayers—and I hope your prayers—are with those who—loved ones who lost life or those who lost their home. The Federal Government—the local—State and local authorities need to know the Federal Government will be moving as quickly as we possibly can to provide help where help is needed and where help is justified. Nature is awfully tough at times. And the best thing we can do right now is to pray for those who have suffered.

I had a good time on our ranch. One of the guests that we had down there was the Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard, and his wife. The reason why we welcomed them there is because Australia is an important ally of ours. Australia is a strong friend of the United States of America. The Australians fought beside our forces in Iraq.

They were a part of our coalition, a coalition that believes in peace and security, a coalition which believes every person ought to be free. They rose to their responsibilities as a free nation. Because of their hard work and because of the bravery and skill of our military and because of the bravery and skill of our coalition, America is more secure; the world is more peaceful; and the Iraqi people are free.

When I get back to Washington, Congress has got important business to finish. I want to talk about some of that business here today. Four months ago, I sent the United States Congress a jobs-and-growth package that would provide tax relief to American workers and families.

Last Friday, we got some troubling economic news. The unemployment rate is now at 6 percent. This news ought to serve as a clear signal to the United States Congress that we need a bold economic recovery plan, so people in America who want to work can find a job. And part of a good economic plan must understand the importance of small business. And that's why I went to a round-table discussion that Richard talked about, so I could hear from small-business owners and employees of small businesses, the entrepreneurs of America that make this economy go.

By far, the vast majority of new jobs in America are created by small-business owners, so we spent time listening to small-business owners here in the State of Arkansas. And I want to thank you all very much for sharing your stories and talking about your hopes and your aspirations and your dreams for your companies.

I also want to thank Hector Barreto, who is the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, for joining us here today. Hector, I'm glad you're here. You're doing a fine job of making sure the ownership society spreads its roots throughout all of society in America, that the entrepreneurial spirit is strong not only in traditional parts of our society but for anybody who wants to start their own business, they get a opportunity to do so here in America. And the SBA helps provide those opportunities for people.

I also want to thank your Lieutenant Governor, Win Rockefeller, for joining us. Win

understands entrepreneurship—doing a fine job as Lieutenant Governor of the State of Arkansas, and I'm glad he's here.

Congressman John Boozman is here from—he's from the northern part of the State. Glad you all let him into Little Rock for this event, since he's going to get on Air Force One and fly back with me. But I appreciate John. I appreciate his steady leadership. All he wants to do is talk about Arkansas football when I'm around him. [*Laughter*] I thought so. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate very much the mayor of Little Rock, Arkansas, being here. Mr. Mayor, thank you for coming. I'm honored you're here, and I want to—I appreciate the local officials and the State officials who have joined us as well. It's my honor to be with you today.

I also had the honor of meeting David Shapiro. There's David right there. David is a retired businessman who works for a program called SCORE, which is a volunteer program that's associated with the SBA to help match aspiring new business owners with experienced volunteer counselors who can help the entrepreneur, the new entrepreneur, realize the opportunities and pitfalls of owning your own business.

David's spirit reminds me of the true strength of the country. Oh, we're a great military might—will remain that way, but our real might is our people. The real might of America is the heart of the American people, and so when somebody like David says, "Well, I'm going to help somebody help themselves," it reminds me of the true strength of our country. The best way for America to be a hopeful place, the best way for America to be the land of opportunity we want it to be, is for neighbor to love neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. It is that spirit of community.

I want to thank you, David. I want to thank you very much. I want to thank each and every one of you who are helping somebody in need in your community or in your neighborhood. It's the millions of acts of kindness and generosity which define the true spirit of the American experience.

This has been a time of testing for this country. It really has been. But I'm absolutely confident we've got the strength to

meet every test that's put in our way. For 20 months, we've been fighting a war against terror. For 20 months, this Nation has been at war against people who hate freedom, and they hate America because of what we stand for. And we are winning that war against terror.

We routed the Taliban in Afghanistan. That was the Government that was so barbaric and backwards, they wouldn't let young girls go to school. And now, thanks to the United States of America and our coalition, young girls go to school in Afghanistan. Society is a better place because of the American troops.

Al Qaida is on the run. That group of terrorists who attacked our country is slowly but surely being decimated. Right now, about half of all the top Al Qaida operatives are either jailed or dead. In either case, they're not a problem anymore. And we'll stay on the hunt. To make sure America is a secure country, the Al Qaida terrorists have got to understand it doesn't matter how long it's going to take, they will be brought to justice.

We're doing a lot to secure our homeland. We've got a lot of good people working hard to make sure the new Department of Homeland Security works well. We're working with local officials in a much more—close manner. We're working with State officials more closely. But the best way to secure America is to get the enemy before they get us, and that's exactly what's going to happen.

America is more secure as a result of the liberation of Iraq. Saddam Hussein is no more. The terrorists can no longer find a source of funding in the Saddam Hussein regime. They won't be able to find weapons of mass destruction from Saddam Hussein regime because that regime is gone forever.

I had the honor of being on the U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln*. It was an unusual arrival—[*laughter*]—but it was such an honor to be with our sailors and pilots, people from all walks of life, all parts of our country, that had been on a very long deployment. Morale was high. Their spirits were strong. They couldn't wait to get home to see their loved ones. I told them all in my speech there on the deck, I said, "You wait and see what's going to happen. America welcomes you

home. We're proud of your service, and we're proud of your bravery."

And for those of you with a loved one in our service, for those of you with a loved one overseas, I want to thank you very much for your sacrifices. When you talk to them, tell them the Commander in Chief really appreciates the job they're doing. So do the Iraqi people, by the way.

Not all our troops are coming home immediately. We've got a job to do in Iraq. We've got to make sure the quality of life improves, and we're working on that right now, the quality of life for all Iraqis. Got to make sure that the elements of the old Ba'athist Party that still wants to create havoc there is brought to justice. We'll do that. We're going to stay there to make sure that the environment is such that a democratic government emerges.

See, we believe that the Iraqi people are plenty competent of running their own Government. We believe that the habits of democracy and freedom are how you fight hatred in the world, that a free society is one in which people have got positive aspirations for the future, a free society is one in which—will be a—more likely a peaceful partner in a troubled neighborhood. We'll stay to help the Iraqi form a government of, by, and for the Iraqi people, and then we're coming home.

You see, here's what America and Americans believe—that freedom is not America's gift to the world, that freedom is the Almighty's gift to each and every individual who lives in the world.

We have got challenges to make the world more peaceful and America more secure, and we'll meet the challenges. There's just no doubt in my mind. We've got challenges here at home, to make sure that our economy is strong enough so people can find work. The proposal I outlined 4 months ago was designed to address specific weaknesses in our economy and to remove obstacles that keep companies from hiring workers. Those obstacles still exist. Congress needs to move.

But let me take a step back, though, and tell you why I'm optimistic about our economic growth potential here in America. We've been through a lot. Just think what we've been through. We've been through a

recession. The first three quarters of the year 2001 were recessionary; they were negative growth. We've been through an attack on America, an attack that affected us—it just did. In a lot of ways it affected us. It certainly focused our resolve. But it also affected our economy.

And then, just as we were recovering from the attack, when we got on the offensive against the enemy, some of our citizens—it was revealed that some of our citizens forgot what it meant to be a responsible citizen, and they didn't tell the truth to their employees and shareholders. There were corporate scandals which affected this Nation. And by the way, they will be dealt with as well. We passed a new law, the most important reforms—[*applause*]. CEOs in America must understand with certainty, there will be consequences if they're not responsible citizens. If they're not responsible to their employees and responsible to their shareholders, there will be consequences in America. Capitalism must have honesty in the boardrooms of American corporations.

We've just been through the uncertainties of war. There were just a lot of things affecting economic growth. But think about this: Interest rates are low, which helps the home-buyer; inflation is low, which helps those who—those on fixed incomes, for example, that worry about high prices of the necessities in order to live. The housing market is strong. The energy prices are declining. There's a lot of positives in our economy.

The greatest strength in our economy is the fact that we're a productive nation. Productivity of the American workforce just last year, for example, rose by 4.8 percent, the highest since 1950. When you hear somebody say that it's a productive nation, that means we've got the best workforce in the world. That's what that says to me.

We have one of the strongest economies in the industrialized world. Things aren't going as good as they can, but nevertheless, we're making progress. We've got some positives on which we can build. But one of the problems with being a productive economy is that a worker can—one worker puts out—there's better output per worker, let me put it to you that way. And therefore, in order for the job market to increase, you need to

increase demand for goods and services. If one worker can produce more goods or more services than before, you need more goods and services to be able to hire the additional worker. In other words, we've got to have policy which stimulates demand. And the best way to stimulate demand is to let people keep more of their own money.

Notice I said, "keep more of their own money." The money we're talking about in Washington is not the Government's money. It's your money. The best way to get this economy growing is to let you have more of your own money so you can spend on a good or a service. And when you do, it's going to make it more likely somebody is going to find work.

The good news is that the debate has shifted from "no tax relief" to "how much tax relief." And I've got an idea: We need robust tax relief. We don't need a small tax-relief package. We need a tax relief package that meets the needs of our workers. We need a tax relief package that stimulates the entrepreneurial spirit. We need robust tax relief in order to make sure those who are looking for work can find a job.

Now, let me tell you the ingredients of the package that I've outlined. And I'd like to—at the end of this, I'm going to ask your help to maybe contact your elected Representatives to let them know how you feel, if you like this. First of all, one of the cornerstones of the tax policy is to speed up the tax relief which has already been passed. In the year 2001, we cut the tax rates on everybody who pays taxes. Congress phased it in over a 5—3-, 5-, or 7-year period of time, phased that tax relief in. Well, we need the tax relief now. I mean, the economy needs the stimulation today, not 3, 5, or 7 years from now. Congress needs to accelerate the tax relief.

We need an immediate reduction of the marriage penalty. And we need the child credit—we need to increase the child credit from \$600 per child to \$1,000 per child, retroactive to January 1st of this year. This plan would cut the taxes on 705,000 individuals and households in the State of Arkansas. That's how you stimulate demand. You let people keep more of their own money.

But the other thing that's interesting about this plan that's important for the people of

Arkansas and America to understand, when you cut individual income tax rates, you help small business grow. And here is why: Most small businesses pay tax at the individual income tax rate. Most small businesses are taxed at the individual income tax rates because they're either a sole proprietorship, a limited partnership, or an S corp. Those entities pay individual income tax rates. So when you're talking about cutting individual income tax, you're really talking about providing more capital for the small businesses of the State of Arkansas.

I just had the honor of talking to Maura Lozano-Yancy. She is a small-business owner here in the State of Arkansas. She specializes in serving the Spanish-speaking community. She has owned her business for 4 years. First of all, welcome to this ownership society, Maura. One of the things that we want, we want more people owning their own business or their own home. There's nothing better than having a society of owners helping to affect the public policy in a positive way, by the way.

Maura has been at it for 4 years. She knows that it is—it's tough to make it as a small-business owner. But she's making it. How do I know? She's got four full-time employees and nine part-time employees. She's making it because not only is her business thriving, but she's employing people.

And so we talked about this proposal which would save her more than \$2,000 on her taxes. You see, she's a limited liability corporation, limited partnership, which pays tax rates at the individual income tax level. So when you're reducing the individual tax rates, you're providing this entrepreneur with more money so that she can either buy equipment or hire somebody new—more money to invest. And it's not just a one-time shot. We're talking \$2,000 a year until we lower taxes again. I mean we're talking \$2,000 a year out—in the out-years.

Here's what Maura says—she says, "Buying equipment is something we always wanted to do, but sometimes it gets put back." Two thousand dollars would make a difference in her calculations as to whether or not she makes an investment. And that's what we want to encourage. We want to encourage

investment. That's why the plan I've submitted to the Congress will raise the small-business-expense deduction from \$25,000 a year to \$75,000 a year.

We have the Petersons with us today. They're owners of a packaging company. They are a C corp. In other words, when you cut individual tax rates, they don't get a tax cut. However, when they buy equipment under this plan, they will get a tax relief—they'll get tax relief. Pete says, "We don't mind spending money to make money, but you got to have money in the first place." That's pretty sound economics. *[Laughter]*

But this plan, when they make investment, would save them money over time. It provides an incentive for them to invest. Just like Richard Derickson, who is an S corp. He not only gets to save money as a result of the income tax rate—he and his daddy started the business—his father started the business in '47. It's a manufacturing company which makes panels for household appliances. Richard says he wants to expand. He's thinking about expanding. He wants to buy a sheet washer that would improve the company productivity. This plan would help him buy that. See, the deal costs \$250,000 to purchase one of these. But if you can expense up to \$75,000, it makes it more likely somebody like Richard will make that investment.

And I want you to know what happens when somebody buys a piece of equipment. First, somebody has got to make the equipment. When somebody provides—when there's an incentive to go out and buy an extra piece of equipment, somebody is more likely to find work on an assembly line which is making that equipment. And then he purchases the equipment; somebody has got to operate the equipment. So we got a new employee there. And then the company becomes more productive, which means it's more likely to have a better bottom line over time. And when you have a better bottom line over time, it means you're likely to stay in business, so that the people you've hired today are going to have work tomorrow.

This proposal will save Richard \$13,500 in taxes. Not only will he save 7,000 from the increased expensing, but he'll have \$6,500 in his company treasury from cutting the taxes.

My point to you is, is that the Richards of the world, the Mauras of the world are all making decisions about whether to expand or not. They're making decisions all across America. Tax policy needs to encourage positive decisionmaking in the small-business sector because small businesses are the lifeblood for new employment. If we're interested in a healthy economy, any good plan has got to focus on small business, and the plan I submitted to Congress does just that.

Gordon Whitbeck was telling me he wants to buy an HBLC machine. I had to get him to explain it to me. *[Laughter]* He's got his own laboratories. This piece of equipment will make his laboratories more competitive. He said he's more likely to make that purchase when you increase expensing up to \$75,000.

The Congress needs to hear from the people of Arkansas. Congress needs to hear from the small-business owners all across America and understand. And when they do, they must listen to the importance of the small-business owner as well as to why this plan is good for small-business growth and job creation.

As well, I've talked about the need to treat our investors fairly. The Tax Code ought to be fair, and it's fair to tax corporate profits once. It is not fair to tax the owners of the corporate profits, the shareholders, again. That's not fair. The double taxation of dividends is not fair. And I ask Congress to get rid of the double taxation of dividends. And let me explain some reasons why it makes sense to do that.

First of all, there are 62,000 seniors in the State of Arkansas who pay taxes on dividend income. A lot of seniors rely upon their dividend income in order to live the out-years, their remaining years. It's good public policy. It makes sense to let the seniors keep more of their own money by getting rid of the double taxation of dividends.

A while ago in the stock markets, it used to be kind of the bestselling tool to say, "Invest in my company. I've got a pretty good story to tell." I would call that the pie-in-the-sky period of American investment. "We may not have any cashflow," the owner of the company would say, "but I've got a great story. Go ahead and invest with me." And

a lot of people did, and the market corrected, because good old-fashioned economics eventually sets in. If your out-go is greater than your in-flow, no matter how good your story is, you're bust. [*Laughter*]

A company which pays dividends says, "Invest in me. I'm going to pay a dividend." In other words, there is no pie-in-the-sky; dividends come out of cash. "In order to earn your confidence, I'll pay you a dividend on a regular basis." And when the dividend is met, it is pretty clear the company is achieving its objectives. If the company has to cut the dividend, it sends a warning signal up to the investors.

The best—a good—let me just say, a good corporate reform will be conservative accounting practices. If you get rid of the double taxation of dividends, more companies are likely to pay dividends, as opposed to relying upon pie-in-the-sky statements.

As well, we've got a lot of—I was talking about the ownership society—a lot of people own stocks in America. Now, some of them directly—own their stock directly, and some of them through their pension plans. But by getting rid of the double taxation of dividends, a lot of economists talk about what they call the "wealth effect," that the markets will go up. This will help the American public at this point during our economic history. The more people feel they've got wealth in their portfolios, the more likely it is they're willing to spend.

And so getting rid of the double taxation of dividends will create an environment in which capital moves more freely. As a matter of fact, getting rid of the double taxation of dividends will reduce the cost of capital. It's good economic policy to get rid of the double taxation of dividends.

Jim Davis is a fellow from right here in Arkansas. He owns his own insurance company in Little Rock. He started 28 years ago. He's 65 years old, and he reminded me right off the bat that he's not retired. He said, "An entrepreneur never retires. Once you've got the entrepreneurial spirit, you never shake it."

And he was reminding me that by getting rid of the double taxation of dividends, he would save \$5,700, money which, by the way, that he would seriously consider putting back

into his insurance company. He'd like to hire two additional employees. The double taxation—getting rid of the double taxation of dividends would make it more likely two people would find work in Jim's business.

The package I outlined is fair. It addresses weaknesses in our economy. Congress needs to move. They need to move boldly. We don't need, as I mentioned the other day, a little bitty tax relief plan. We need one that is strong and robust for the American worker.

You'll hear them talking about the deficit in Washington. I'm concerned about the deficit, but let me remind you about how we got into deficit. We got into deficit because the economy went into the recession, is how we got into deficit. When the economy slowed down, the revenues to the Treasury slowed down. When the market corrected, the revenues to the Treasury slowed down. That's how you get into a recession. You get less revenues coming in, unless you're willing to cut expenses.

Secondly, we got a deficit because we committed—or I committed our troops into combat. And I told the Congress, "I don't care how much we have to spend. When we put somebody in harm's way, they deserve the best." And so in order to deal with the deficit, you've got to deal with both sides of the equation, starting with the spending side. A Congress which overspends is one which is not that concerned about the deficit, evidently.

I mean, we need to set our priorities, fund those priorities, always remember whose money we're spending in Washington, DC, and keep in mind the deficit. The surest way never to get out of deficit is to overspend in Washington, DC. The best way to deal with the deficit is to hold down discretionary spending to a reasonable level. The budget I submitted to the United States Congress says discretionary spending ought to be at 4 percent. That's about as much as an average family's income is expected to grow this year. If it's good enough for the average family, if 4 percent is good enough for the average family, it's darn sure good enough for the United States Congress.

On the one hand, you control the spending. On the other hand, you stimulate revenue growth. In order to offset any deficit,

you've got to have more revenues. The best way to have more revenues is to encourage economic growth. The more economic growth there is, the more people who are working, the more likely it is you're going to get more revenues into the Treasury of the United States. I'm concerned about the deficit, but I'm first and foremost concerned about that person looking for a job, and so should the United States Congress be worried about people looking for work.

It's time for them to move. The debate has started in Washington, DC. The message I hope you send is, the more tax relief, the more work is going to be available for your fellow citizens. I would hope you'd call the members of your congressional delegation to let them know what you think, to let them know your opinion.

Democracy can work, particularly when a lot of people get on the phone or by email and just let them know what's on your mind. You need to let them know you're concerned, just like the President's concerned about your fellow Arkansas citizen who's anxious to put food on the table but can't find a job. And remind them the best way to find a job—the best way to help somebody find a job is to stimulate the private sector, is to stimulate small-business growth, to let people keep more of their own money. And you might just remind them that we know whose money it is we're talking about in Washington, DC. It's the people's money in the State of Arkansas.

And I want to thank you all for giving me the chance to come by and say hello. It's been an unbelievable experience to be your President. It's an unimaginable honor to be the President of such a fabulous country. I say "fabulous country" because there is no doubt in my mind we can achieve anything we put our mind to. There's no doubt in my mind that we can have a strong economy. And there's no doubt in my mind that the world is going to be more peaceful and more free because of the United States of America.

You see, we hold values dear to our heart. We believe in human dignity. We believe every individual has worth. We believe in respect. We believe in tolerance. But the thing

we hold most dear to our heart is we believe in the power of freedom.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:06 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Robinson Center. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gov. Win Rockefeller of Arkansas; Mayor Jim Dailey of Little Rock; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Maura Lozano-Yancy, owner, Cross Cultural Development Group; Mary and Pete Peterson, owners, Arkansas Packaging Products, Inc.; Richard Derickson, owner, Hiwasse Manufacturing Co.; Gordon Whitbeck, chief executive officer, Whitbeck Laboratories; and James Davis, owner, Davis Agency. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Deborah L. Cook as a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

May 5, 2003

I commend the Senate for confirming Deborah Cook to be a Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. She has served with distinction as an Ohio Supreme Court justice and is known for her integrity and outstanding legal ability. She has led a distinguished legal career, and she will make a superb appellate court judge.

Justice Cook was first nominated on May 9, 2001, and has waited nearly 2 years for a vote. Some in the Senate continue to engage in obstructionist tactics and are preventing votes on two very qualified nominees who were also nominated on May 9, 2001, Miguel Estrada and Priscilla Owen.

Our justice system relies upon an independent court system, and when there are vacancies, the American people suffer. I again call on the Senate to put an end to the delays and to hold an up-or-down vote on all judicial nominees within a reasonable amount of time, regardless of who is President or which party controls the Senate.

**Message on the Observance of
Cinco de Mayo, 2003**

May 5, 2003

I send greetings to those celebrating Cinco de Mayo.

Today, millions of people in Mexico and around the world honor the heritage of a proud people by remembering the heroic Battle of Puebla. On May 5th, 1862, Mexico's General Ignacio Zaragoza and his troops achieved a remarkable victory in the face of tremendous challenge and helped secure Mexico's freedom. This example of courage and sacrifice continues to inspire us today, as we are reminded that people of every culture, of every race, and every background, yearn to be free.

This observance also provides an opportunity for the United States to recognize the invaluable contributions of Mexican Americans to our country. Through their vibrant culture and deep commitment to faith, family, and community, Mexican Americans have enriched our society and contributed to the diversity that makes our Nation strong. We also recognize the many Mexican Americans serving in our Armed Forces who are working to bring freedom and justice to oppressed people. As we remember our two countries' shared history and common values, we look forward to a future of continued friendship and prosperity.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a memorable celebration.

George W. Bush

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

**Message on the Observance of
National Foster Care Month, 2003**

May 5, 2003

I send greetings to those celebrating National Foster Care Month.

Children thrive in loving families where they are nurtured, comforted, and protected. For many children, foster parents provide a safe haven until they can return home or be placed with an adoptive family. Across our Nation, approximately 570,000 children are

living in foster care. During this month, we honor foster and adoptive parents, mentors, community organizations, and all individuals who embrace the lives of young people in need.

My Administration remains committed to strengthening American families by setting policies that encourage a secure today and a healthy tomorrow for children and families. Through the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, we are working to keep families together. When children must be separated from their families to protect their safety, this program supports efforts to correct the problem and reunite them safely and quickly. The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program also supports adoption and post-adoptive services to place children with loving families, to ease a child's transition into a new family, and to help ensure that families stay strong and intact. And as teens leave the foster care system, the program authorizes States to provide Independent Living vouchers of up to \$5,000 a year for education and vocational training.

Every child in America deserves to live in a safe, permanent, and loving family. I commend foster parents for providing guidance and support to young people and families in crisis. Your important work helps our children develop into confident and successful individuals and demonstrates the compassionate spirit of our great Nation.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes.

George W. Bush

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

Remarks to the Tax Relief Coalition

May 6, 2003

Thank you all. Good to see you. Thanks for coming. Thank you all. Thanks for coming. I heard you were in the neighborhood—*[laughter]*—so I decided to drop by and say hello. Thanks for your interest in your country. Thanks for your concern about the future. Thanks for worrying about somebody who is wondering whether he or she are going to be able to put food on the table,

to find work. And that's what we're here to talk about.

The Tax Relief Coalition is a broad group, united by the commitment to the spirit of risktaking. You understand that free enterprise makes this economy go. You understand the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish. You understand that our duty here in Washington is to set pro-growth policies in place that reward and respect Americans who work hard and take risks. That's what you understand.

I appreciate your understanding, and I'm glad you're here because you're here at just the right time. *[Laughter]* You see, Congress is now considering what to do. Congress is debating the package. They're trying to figure out what course to take. And I'm glad you're bringing your voices to the Halls of Congress and can be a loud voice, as both the Secretary and I understand, and that's going to be important in the Halls of Congress. *[Laughter]*

Last Friday, we received some troubling economic news. The unemployment rate is now at 6 percent. The news ought to serve as a clear signal to Members of the United States Congress that we need a bold economic recovery plan. Congress will hear from me. Congress will hear from the Secretary. Congress needs to hear from you. We need tax relief that creates the greatest number of jobs. The goal is to create a million new jobs by the end of next year. I've submitted a good, strong plan that will help meet that goal. The United States Congress must not only listen to your voice but must listen to the voice of somebody looking for work. We need aggressive action out of the United States Congress now.

I want to thank our Secretary of Treasury, John Snow. He's experienced. He's capable. He's able. He just as—he could easily have looked me in the eye and said, “No, I don't want to serve my country. I think I'm kind of happy where I am in the private sector.” But no, he said, “Mr. President, I want to serve the country.” And our country is better off because John Snow said yes. Mr. Secretary, thank you.

I want to thank my friend Dirk Van Dongen, who's been a tireless advocate for

policies that help people looking for work. He's the president of the Tax Relief Coalition. I want to thank all the members of the Tax Relief Coalition who are here, who have joined us, who realize that democracy can work if you work at it. And I appreciate you coming.

I want to thank Tom Donohue, who is the president and CEO of the Chamber, for lending this fantastic hall and this beautiful building for—lending us this for the purposes of making a statement to the country about our mutual desire to help people find a job.

I want to thank all the entrepreneurs who are with us today, the risktakers, the—really, truly the engine of growth for the American economy. We've got the Brindley boys here from Vienna, Virginia. I'm going to say something about them a little later on. They started what they call Jammin' Java. *[Laughter]* The good news is, Jammin' Java is succeeding. I had a chance to visit with them before we came in, as I did with the Rickards as well, who have got their own business. I'm going to say something about them a little later on.

The reason I point them out is, there are people in this audience who own their own business, who are part of the ownership society in America, who are creating new jobs. So, for all the entrepreneurs who are here with us and all across America, thank you—thank you for working hard to realize your dreams.

America is a strong and confident nation, and those qualities are seeing us through some challenging times. For nearly 20 months, we have waged a relentless campaign against global terror. For 20 months, we have done what the American people expect, and that is to hunt down the killers, one at a time, so that America is more secure. We are winning the war on terror.

And as a part of the war against terror, we removed Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq. Thanks to the skill and courage of our military and other coalition forces, America is more secure, the world is more peaceful, and the Iraqi people are now free.

We will continue to meet our responsibilities to secure America. We will continue to

dismantle the Al Qaida network. We will continue to promote the peace. We will continue to promote freedom, because we know a free society is one that is more likely to be a peaceful society. We assumed those responsibilities. We'll follow through on our responsibilities.

And here at home, we have responsibilities. As we press forward on national security, we must promote job security here in America. Our goal is a vibrant and growing economy—that's our goal—in which the entrepreneur can find new opportunities, in which every person who wants to work can find a job. That's the stated goal of this administration. It's, I know, a goal that you share as well.

The American economy has faced one challenge after another over the past several years. The stock markets peaked in early 2000. The economy began to slow in the summer of that year. In early 2001, our economy was in recession. And then we got attacked by the terrorists, and that affected our capacity to grow. And we've endured the uncertainty of war. We've seen failures in corporate responsibility across America. Unfortunately, some of our citizens forgot what it means to be a responsible citizen of this country. They didn't tell the truth. They didn't tell the truth to their employees and their shareholders. They self-enriched at the expense of small investors and public interests. In every case, we've taken action to confront these challenges.

Our economy is growing. We've got many strengths in our economy. First, the economy is growing because interest rates are low. I mean, I want you to know that in spite of all the hurdles and the challenges we faced, we're still growing faster than nearly all the industrialized countries. And interest rate—low interest rates help because it helps Americans buy a home or refinance or remodel a home. And that helps. That helps create employment opportunity. Inflation is low, and that helps. Energy prices are now falling. That's like tax relief on a daily basis when you go to the pumps.

We've got two great strengths even better than the statistics I just cited: One, the entrepreneurial spirit is strong; and secondly, we've got the best workers in the world in

America. Last year, productivity growth in America was about 4.8 percent. That's the best annual increase since 1950. When you're talking about productivity increases, you're really talking about technology and, more importantly, the human capacity of the workforce. Our workers are great, the best in the world.

But even with the strengths I just outlined, it's important for Members of Congress to hear from you that we've got more work to do, that there's unmet potential in this economy. It's not growing fast enough. In spite of the strengths, there's still people looking for work, and we've got to do more. And that's the message I want you to take to the Halls of the United States Congress.

This isn't the first time I've been talking about this subject. [*Laughter*] Four months ago, I sent a jobs-and-growth package to the Congress. That was 4 months ago. And we've seen some progress since then, and that's good news. First of all, both parties in both Houses of Congress now recognize that tax relief helps create jobs.

That's important, that both Houses understand that when somebody keeps more money, they're likely to demand a good or a service, when they have more of their own money to spend. By the way, when you're up there, remind them something that you and I know is true: The money we talk about in Washington, DC, is not the Government's money; it is the people's money.

And so, the debate is not if there is going to be tax relief; the debate now is how much tax relief. And when they ask you, "How much do you think, citizen?" what you ought to say is, "Enough to make sure that we create a million new jobs by the end of 2004." That's the definition of the right amount.

The definition of the right amount is not some theory—is based upon theory. It's based upon the practical application of tax cuts, and it ought to be based in human terms. The right answer for how big the tax cut ought to be is a million new jobs. That's the right answer, and that's the package I submitted to the United States Congress.

The good news is, many in this room have already been through the tax relief exercise in recent history. Many of you in this room

were involved in the spring of 2001 to convince Congress to pass tax relief. And it's a good thing you were involved, and it's a good thing they did, because the tax relief helped make the 2001 recession one of the shortest and shallowest in American history.

The issue we now face results from the fact that Congress phased in tax relief over 10 years. In other words, they passed tax relief, but it was going to be incremental. My proposal would get the tax relief into effect this year. Our motto is this: If tax relief is good for Americans years from now, it is even better when the American economy needs it today.

Instead of lowering all tax rates little by little, the Congress needs to do it all at once and needs to do it now. Instead of gradually reducing the marriage penalty, we should do it now. Instead of slowly raising the child credit from \$600 to \$1,000, we ought to do it now. And we should send the extra \$400 per child to American families this year.

You'll hear all kinds of rhetoric about how this plan is not fair. Well, let me just describe to you what it means to the family of four making \$40,000 a year. It means their taxes would go from \$1,178 a year to \$45 a year. That's what that means. That sounds fair to me. And it will sound really fair to the family making \$40,000 a year. You see, that's \$1,000 not just one year, but for every year. It's \$1,000 of that family's own money coming back into their personal treasury, so they get to decide what to do with the money. They get to decide whether to save for a college tuition. They get to decide whether to prepare for retirement. They get to decide how to make their family stronger with their own money.

It's also important for your message to understand—it's important for your message to understand that this tax relief will help 23 million small businesses create new jobs. Any good tax relief plan must understand the role of the small business in American economy.

This plan says loud and clear to the Congress: We understand the role of the entrepreneur; we understand most new jobs are created by small-business owners. And this plan directly affects small business, because most small businesses pay taxes at the individual tax rates. You know why? Because

they're either a sole proprietorship or a limited partnership or a Subchapter S corporation. All three of those entities pay tax at the individual tax rates. So when we reduce individual tax rates, we help the bottom line of every mom-and-pop business in America. When we accelerate the tax rate reduction, it really means we're putting capital into the treasuries of the small businesses all across America. More capital means more investment. More investment means more jobs. If Congress is interested in job creation, if you want to join us in creating a million new jobs, cut the tax rates on the small businesses all across the country.

Our Tax Code should also support small-business owners who want to invest in the future. So today, a small business can deduct \$25,000 for investment in new equipment. The proposal that you're advocating there in the Halls of Congress, the proposal I have submitted, says that we would triple the amount of expensing in new equipment from \$25,000 to \$75,000 per year and index that to inflation.

I mentioned the Brindley boys were with us today, from Vienna. They—let me talk about—they help define the entrepreneurial spirit in America. They started their business right after September the 11th, 2001. Those are confident people. [*Laughter*] Those are people that said, "We're not going to allow a terrorist attack to diminish our dreams to have our own business." I appreciate not only the courage, but I appreciate this, that they have gone from 5 employees to 25 employees.

Here's what Luke says. Luke says, "Buying equipment is something we need to do in order to grow the business, in order to stay up with competition. Any break we get obviously encourages us to hire more people and buy equipment." In other words, tax relief will be used by the Brindleys to buy new equipment. And when they buy new equipment, it means their workforce becomes more productive. It means they can compete better in the marketplace. It also means that somebody has got to make that equipment. And when somebody makes the equipment, somebody is finding work. In other words, good tax policy ripples throughout our economy.

And Randy and Harriet Rickard are with us. I cite these examples because Congress must understand that behind the numbers is just people that are taking risk for the sake of creating jobs. The Rickards are here. They started their own business 3 years ago. It's a home remodeling business. Randy runs a tight ship. He's got four employees, and he's one of them. He comprises 25 percent of his workforce. [Laughter] But that's the nature of most small businesses, people who are working hard, people who are expanding, people who are providing a good or a service.

This proposal that we've proposed will save him nearly \$2,400 every year. That's enough to help pay health insurance for employees, or it's enough to add a new truck, to make sure his business is competitive. He says anything is helpful. "If the economy does well, I do well." Well, Randy, this plan is all aimed at making sure the economy does well, so you can do well. And when you do well, somebody is going to work. That's the whole basis of the plan.

The jobs-and-growth plan would encourage investment by ending the double taxation on dividends. Taxing profits at the corporate level is fair. That's fair. Somebody makes a profit, that profit ought to be taxed. However, when the profits get distributed to the shareholders and it gets taxed again, that's unfair. It's counterproductive. Ending the practice makes the Tax Code fair. It makes it fair especially for our seniors, who receive more than half of all taxable dividend income.

Economists say that this move will boost the stock market. That's what the economists say—not all but a lot of the smart ones say that. [Laughter] In other words, there's a wealth effect that will take place. An increasing stock market means a lot for many of our fellow citizens, because we are becoming an ownership society. Many people own stocks directly. Many people own stocks through their pension plans. Many people will be directly affected by an increasing stock market. And so getting rid of the double taxation of dividends will help an ownership society realize more wealth. Getting rid of the double taxation of dividends will be good corporate reform.

We went through a period where people said, "Invest in my company because I happen to have a good story. I may not have any cashflow, but I've got a good tale to tell." [Laughter] The problem—the new economics sometimes overlooked old accounting. And that is, when you run out of cash, it doesn't matter what the story is like. [Laughter] A dividend-paying society is one that says, "I've got a good story, and oh, by the way, part of my story is, I'm going to distribute on a regular basis cash out of my treasury in the form of a dividend."

Getting rid of the double taxation of dividends will be good corporate reform. It will make our balance sheets more reliable. It will be better for small investors. It will also help create new jobs. We estimate that 400,000 new jobs will be created when we get rid of the double taxation of dividends. So when you hear people say the proposal only helps, you know, a certain investor class, they're not telling the whole story. Ending the double taxation of dividends will help 400,000 people find work by the end of next year.

The House of Representatives is considering a proposal that would include all the elements of the growth plan which I just described to you. It would also significantly reduce the double taxation on dividends. It's a positive step. And they're making progress. I'm going to continue to work with both the House and the Senate, with the goal of making sure as many people can find work as possible. But the more the Members of Congress hear from you, the more likely it is that this plan is going to pass.

What you need to do is tell them what tax relief will do for our country; if you own your company, how much it will help your company grow; how many jobs that you'll be able to create with tax relief. That's what you need to tell them.

You'll also hear talk about the deficit. And yes, we've got a deficit because we went through a recession. You see, a recession means you get less money coming into your treasury. When the economy goes down, there's less tax revenues coming to the Treasury.

Secondly, we've got a deficit because we're at war. And one thing is for certain about this Commander in Chief: We will spend

whatever is necessary to win the war. We owe it to every soldier in the American military to make sure they've got the best pay, best equipment, best possible training. We owe it to the families of the military to make sure that they're as well protected as possible. So our expenditures went up because of the emergency in war and revenues went down. That's the ingredients for what they call a deficit.

And there's two ways to deal with that deficit, in my judgment. One is to hold the line on spending. I submitted a bill to the—I submitted a budget to the United States Congress which holds the discretionary spending to 4 percent. That's a reasonable level. We, of course, will work with Congress to make sure they stick to that budget—control spending on the one hand, and on the other hand, in order to get rid of the deficit, you boost revenues coming into the Treasury by encouraging economic growth and vitality.

I'm concerned about the deficit but not as concerned about the deficit as I am about people trying to find work. I'm more worried about the person looking for work. And therefore, we've got a plan that is robust and strong, that encourages economic vitality and growth, so our fellow citizen can get to work and get to work soon.

You all can make a difference in this debate. Not only the people present in this room can make a difference, but people who are listening across the country can make a difference. That's why they've got e-mails—[laughter]—or telephones or in some cases, buses. People on the Hill are responsive to the voice of their fellow citizens.

So thanks for coming, to be a part of a process that distinguishes—that really distinguishes us in many ways from many parts of the world, a process in which the citizen can make a difference, part of the process that says democracy is by far the fairest way for people to live. And that's what we believe.

We believe strongly in certain principles. We believe in the dignity of every single human being. That's why we want to make sure—that's why we care when we hear somebody can't find a work. That's why we grieve when a fellow citizen who wants to work can't find a job, and that's why we've put policies out there that promote growth

and economic vitality. But we not only believe in the dignity of every American; we believe in the dignity of every person. See, we believe that freedom is the Almighty God's gift to each and every person on this—who lives on this globe. That's what we believe.

You're representing the best of a free society. The willingness to speak out really does speak to the great freedoms of America, and we hold those freedoms dear. We believe in freedom not only for our own people, but we believe in freedom for those who are enslaved. We believe so strongly in freedom that we're willing sometimes to take risk for not only our own freedoms but the freedoms of others. That's the great thing about our country. We're a strong country. We're a confident country, but we're also a compassionate country that believes in values and principles that will endure the test of time.

Thank you for coming to Washington to exercise your freedom. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:31 a.m. in the Hall of Flags at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In his remarks, he referred to Luke and Daniel Brindley, owners, Jammin' Java; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and an Exchange With Reporters

May 6, 2003

Appointment of L. Paul Bremer III as Presidential Envoy to Iraq

The President. Today it's my honor to announce that Jerry Bremer has agreed to become the Presidential Envoy to Iraq. In selecting Jerry Bremer, our country will be sending one of our best citizens. He's a man of enormous experience, a person who knows how to get things done. He's a can-do type person. He shares the same values as the American—most Americans share, and that is our deep desire to have an orderly country in Iraq that is free and at peace, where the

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.

However, the President and the Prime Minister agreed that the war against terrorism in Southeast Asia is far from over. The two leaders pledged to redouble their efforts to work with other leaders in the region and through multilateral organizations, including ASEAN and APEC, to defeat terrorism. They also reaffirmed their commitment to work with other states in Asia to achieve the complete, verifiable, and irreversible elimination of North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

President Bush and Prime Minister Goh discussed the global health threat posed by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). President Bush commended Singapore for its quick, decisive, and transparent response to SARS and expressed confidence that Singapore's efforts to prevent the spread of the disease would succeed. President Bush also welcomed Prime Minister Goh's leadership in initiating the Special ASEAN Leaders Meeting and ASEAN-China Leaders Meeting on SARS held in Bangkok on April 29, 2003. Given American leadership in the biomedical field and Singapore's advanced research facilities, President Bush and Prime Minister Goh agreed that the two countries should explore prospects for collaborative efforts to understand new health threats which put the world community at risk, including tropical diseases and biological warfare agents. The two leaders tasked their respective health and medical experts to begin consultations on possible joint projects.

The warm discussion between the President and the Prime Minister and the signing of the U.S.-Singapore FTA strengthens their personal friendship and the partnership between their two nations. The goodwill generated today will be valuable in moving forward on their common agendas.

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

Presidential Determination on Eligibility of Serbia and Montenegro To Receive Defense Articles and Services Under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as Amended, and the Arms Export Control Act

May 6, 2003

Presidential Determination No. 2003-22

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination on Eligibility of Serbia and Montenegro to Receive Defense Articles and Services Under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as Amended, and the Arms Export Control Act

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including by section 503(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and section 3(a)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, I hereby find that the furnishing of defense articles and services to Serbia and Montenegro will strengthen the security of the United States and promote world peace.

You are authorized and directed to report this finding to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 13, 2003]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 14.

Executive Order 13298—Termination of Emergency With Respect to the Actions and Policies of UNITA and Revocation of Related Executive Orders

May 6, 2003

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers

Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*) (NEA), section 5 of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945, as amended (22 U.S.C. 287c), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in view of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1448 of December 9, 2002,

I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, find that the situation that gave rise to the declaration of a national emergency in Executive Order 12865 of September 26, 1993, with respect to the actions and policies of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), and that led to the steps taken in that order and in Executive Order 13069 of December 12, 1997, and Executive Order 13098 of August 18, 1998, has been significantly altered by the recent and continuing steps toward peace taken by the Government of Angola and UNITA. Accordingly, I hereby terminate the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12865, revoke Executive Orders 12865, 13069, and 13098, and order:

Section 1. Pursuant to section 202 of the NEA (50 U.S.C. 1622), termination of the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of UNITA shall not affect any action taken or proceeding pending, not finally concluded or determined as of the effective date of this order, or any action or proceeding based on any act committed prior to the effective date of this order, or any rights or duties that matured or penalties that were incurred prior to the effective date of this order.

Sec. 2. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, or its departments, agencies, entities, officers, employees, or agents.

Sec. 3. (a) This order is effective 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on May 7, 2003.

(b) This order shall be transmitted to the Congress and published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 6, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:14 a.m., May 7, 2003]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 7, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 8.

**Message to the Congress on
Terminating the National
Emergency With Respect to UNITA**
May 6, 2003

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622, I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the "Order"), that terminates the national emergency described and declared in Executive Order 12865 of September 26, 1993, with respect to the actions and policies of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and revokes that order, Executive Order 13069 of December 12, 1997, and Executive Order 13098 of August 18, 1998.

The Order will have the effect of lifting the sanctions imposed on UNITA in Executive Orders 12865, 13069, and 13098. These trade and financial sanctions were imposed to support international efforts to force UNITA to abandon armed conflict and return to the peace process outlined in the Lusaka Protocol, as reflected in United Nations Security Council Resolutions 864 (1993), 1127 (1997), and 1173 (1998).

The death of UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi in February 2002 enabled the Angolan government and UNITA to sign the Luena Memorandum of Understanding on April 4, 2002. This agreement established an immediate cease-fire and called for UNITA's return to the peace process laid out in the 1994 Lusaka Protocol. In accordance therewith, UNITA quartered all its military personnel in established reception areas and handed its remaining arms over to the Angolan government. In September 2002, the Angolan government and UNITA reestablished the Lusaka Protocol's Joint Commission to resolve outstanding political issues. On November 21, 2002, the Angolan government and UNITA declared the provisions of the Lusaka Protocol fully implemented and

called for the lifting of sanctions on UNITA imposed by the United Nations Security Council.

With the successful implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and the demilitarization of UNITA, the circumstances that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 26, 1993, have been resolved. The actions and policies of UNITA no longer pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1448 (2002) lifted the measures imposed pursuant to prior U.N. Security Council resolutions related to UNITA. The continuation of sanctions imposed by Executive Orders 12865, 13069, and 13098 would have a prejudicial effect on the development of UNITA as an opposition political party, and therefore, on democratization in Angola. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to terminate the national emergency with respect to UNITA and to lift the sanctions that have been used to apply economic pressure on UNITA.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued. This Order is effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on May 7, 2003.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 6, 2003.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 7.

Memorandum on Delegation of the Functions of the President Under the Heading “Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund” in the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003

May 6, 2003

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Subject: Delegation of the functions of the President under the heading “Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund” in the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003

The functions of the President under the heading “Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund” in the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003 (Public Law 108–11), including with respect to apportionment, reimbursement, consultation, transfer of funds, retransfer of funds, and acceptance and crediting of contributions, are assigned to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

In accordance with Presidential direction relating to Iraq relief and reconstruction, multiple agencies are deployed with the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA) and are serving as implementing partners or executing agents for programs and projects. These agencies will identify funding requirements for such programs and projects through ORHA. OMB will work with ORHA to transfer funds to the appropriate implementing agency. The Director of OMB shall coordinate with the Secretary of Defense or his designee prior to apportioning funds. With respect to programs administered by the Department of State or the United States Agency for International Development, the Director of OMB shall coordinate with the Secretary of State or his designee prior to apportioning funds.

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget is authorized and directed to

publish this Memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:40 a.m., May 8, 2003]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 7, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 9.

**The President's News Conference
With President Jose Maria Aznar of
Spain**

May 7, 2003

President Bush. Welcome. It's also my honor to welcome an important friend of America, President Jose Maria Aznar. I welcome you back to the *Casa Blanca*. It's good to see you again.

Jose Maria is a man of principle and a man of courage. Under his leadership, Spain has been a strong partner in the war against terror and has stood with a coalition to liberate the people of Iraq. He believes in freedom, freedom for all.

Together, Spain and America will continue to meet the responsibilities of free nations for the peace and security of the world.

We last met in March at the Atlantic Summit in the Azores. The 8 weeks since have been a momentous chapter in the history of freedom. We liberated the people of Iraq from a brutal dictatorship. We brought greater security to people of all nations.

I want to thank the President for Spain's diplomatic support before the conflict and for the use of Spanish airspace and bases as the war grew closer. I also offer my condolences to the family and friends of the two members of the Spanish media who lost their lives while covering the hostilities.

Both Spain and the United States are committed to a stable, democratic, and peaceful future for the people of Iraq. Spain has shown that commitment by sending medical and engineering units to help the Iraqi people, and I thank you for that help.

Today I moved to ease sanctions imposed by the United States against Iraq's old Government. First, based on the authority recently given to me by Congress, I am sus-

pending the Iraq Sanctions Act, which restricts the export of certain equipment necessary for Iraq's reconstruction.

Secondly, I am directing Treasury Secretary Snow to relax administrative sanctions on American companies and citizens conducting business in Iraq that contributes to humanitarian relief and reconstruction.

Soon, at the U.N. Security Council, the United States, Great Britain, and Spain will introduce a new resolution to lift the sanctions imposed by the United Nations. The regime that the sanctions were directed against no longer rules Iraq. And no country in good conscience can support using sanctions to hold back the hopes of the Iraqi people.

Across the globe, Spain and America will continue as strong allies in the war against terror. Today the United States took steps to cut off financing for the Batasuna organization, because of its ties to the ETA. We believe that the people of Spain, like everywhere, have a right to live free from terror.

We'll also work for a better world beyond the war on terror. We are committed to expanding trade, which builds prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic. We'll work together to address global poverty and the terrible diseases, such as HIV/AIDS.

Spain and the United States will stand on the side of people everywhere who are striving for greater freedom, tolerance, and opportunity. We are determined to help build peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Last week's confirmation of Abu Mazen and his cabinet permitted the release of the roadmap for peace, developed with Russia, the European Union, and the United Nations. Spain and the United States are determined to take advantage of this moment of opportunity for peace. I'm grateful for the wise counsel and for the friendship of Jose Maria Aznar.

Bienvenidos.

President Aznar. Good afternoon, everyone. I would, firstly, like to thank President George Bush and thank him because of his kind invitation. And I want to thank the President personally because, upon his initiative, the U.S. Government has taken an extremely important decision in the antiterrorist struggle by illegalizing Batasuna,

that has supported—considering it a terrorist organization, as part of the terrorist organization that has made so many victims in Spain.

I want to recall here in the White House precisely that in July 2001—that is to say, before 9/11—President Bush committed himself very firmly in Madrid to solve and help to fight terrorism. So we're speaking of deep convictions that unite us.

So I want you all to know that President Bush has scrupulously met his commitment. And today, in a very fundamental support in the struggle against terrorism, and I, as President of the Government of Spain, as a Spaniard and as a friend, would like to thank him most especially.

The second thing I wanted to say is that the relationship between Spain and the United States is extremely solid, strong. It's firm, and we want it to be that way not only now but also in the future. And I think that it is based on a shared vision and on shared values, on many things—given one clear example, the most serious risk, perhaps, to us all, terrorism. But this relationship is based on firm belief in shared values and in principles that we defend and that we proclaim and that we assume.

And it's also based on something that is very important, in that commitments are met. And that's something these days is worth remembering, and that's the value of giving your word. When you give your word and you keep it, then that gives rise to trust and that, in turn, friendship. And that, I believe, is what serious countries and serious governments must do.

With regard to Iraq, that we've spoken about, I very much appreciate all the information that the President shared with me. Well, we've done, very simply, very normally, what we had to do. But today, we confront the future with optimism from a founded hope for the Iraqi people in freedom. Having won freedom for the Iraqis is the best hope we can sow for Iraq's future. And we want a democratic Iraq in which the Iraqis may decide their own future, they can be—have their own future in their own hands, and naturally, that they can live in freedom.

That is something that Spain is committed to, to Iraq's reconstruction. And we will, naturally, cosponsor with our friends and part-

ners, the United States, Great Britain, the new resolution that the Security Council may take on sanctions.

Yesterday, I told Secretary-General Kofi Annan that sanctions had to be lifted. And I believe it should be done as quickly as possible, because they've lost their reason to exist. And with that resolution we will also be meeting one of the commitments of the Azores, and that is defining the central role of the United Nations in the process.

One last consideration regarding the Middle East, Israelis, Palestinians, the starting out of the roadmap is the expression of a firm political commitment of all of us and the expression of President Bush's firm political commitment. That opens up possibilities—because after the situation in Iraq, now many possibilities opened up—but it also opens up responsibilities. Everyone has to meet their responsibilities, and we very highly value the steps taken by the Palestinian Authority. We wish Abu Mazen success. And we will actively cooperate so as to sow the relationship between Israelis and Palestinians with coexistence, peace, and hope.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

President Bush. *Dos preguntas por lado.* Tom [Tom Raum, Associated Press].

U.S. Action on Iraqi Reconstruction

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. How are you doing in getting a resolution put together to win the support of some of the critics on the Security Council, namely Russia and France? And is the United States prepared to ignore the sanctions if the June 3d deadline comes and it's necessary?

And to Mr. President Aznar, what will you be able to do to help win the speedy vote you talked about? And do you find that public opinion at home is making it harder for you to make such a case?

President Bush. You want to translate? He managed to violate a rule. He asked two questions instead of one question. But that's okay. He's been around a long time. Yes, listen, we have—we discussed the resolution today. We believe there is a mood to work together to achieve a resolution that will expedite the reconstruction of Iraq. The read from at least our diplomats at the United Nations is that the kind of—the atmosphere that

existed prior to the war has changed and that people now want to work together for the good of the Iraqi people. I think Jose Maria shares that sentiment.

President Aznar. Absolutely. I hope it's true. For our part, the position I've maintained is a clear one, and everyone needs to contribute to it within the Security Council. And it's all about the Iraqi people, so I hope we're successful.

Death of Spanish Journalist in Iraq

Q. Well, President Bush, you have expressed your condolences because of the death of the two Spanish journalists in Iraq. My question would be, do you think this was a mistake, firing against the Palestine Hotel, under which fire Jose Couso died? And if so, would you apologize, do you think it's necessary to apologize before the Spanish Government and the family of these journalists?

President Bush. I think war is a dangerous place, and I think that nobody would kill a journalist intentionally.

President Aznar. Well, the U.S. Government has already said that this was a mistake, and we believe this. I am truly, fully convinced that no one would intentionally fire against innocent victims, and in this case, the journalists who died. And that's all; that's it. The President has often expressed the pain that this produces and his condolences because of this. And I think that's clear enough.

President Bush. Steven [Steve Holland, Reuters].

President's Visit to the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln

Q. Mr. President, do you have any reaction to Senator Byrd's criticism of your aircraft carrier landing?

President Bush. Exactly—the fact that it was on the fourth hook?

Q. I guess that's it. No, I think the words were “flamboyant showmanship.”

President Bush. Yes. No, listen, it was an honor for me to go on the U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln*. I appreciate the chance to thank our troops. It was an unbelievably positive experience. And not only was I able to thank our troops; I was able to speak to the country and talk about not only their courage but the

courage of a lot of other men and women who wear our country's uniform. I'm glad I did it. It was also a really good landing.

U.S. Relations With Chile and Mexico

Q. The criticism is that—the criticism was made of Chile and Mexico that they would not support the resolution in the U.N. Security Council, the war against Iraq. What is your opinion of this?

President Bush. They're friends of ours. Period. We've got great relations with Mexico, and we'll continue to have great relations with Mexico. We've got an important free trade agreement with Chile that we're going to move forward with.

President Aznar. For my part, I have to say that in addition to being our friends, they're family.

President Bush. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 5:58 p.m. in the Cross Hall at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority. President Aznar referred to Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations. President Aznar spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this news conference.

Proclamation 7674—Mother's Day, 2003

May 7, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On Mother's Day, we honor the dedicated and caring women who are devoted to their families and committed to improving the world their children will inherit. Our first President, George Washington, said that his mother was “the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother.” America owes much of its goodness and strength to mothers, including adoptive mothers, stepmothers, and foster mothers.

Mother's Day began as a day of love and friendship, designed to help heal families divided across battle lines during the Civil War. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed

a resolution officially establishing Mother's Day to honor the role of women in the family. On Mother's Day, 2003, we carry on the tradition by recognizing our mothers for their strength and compassion. We also recognize them for showing unconditional love and teaching positive values.

Mothers nurture a child's physical and emotional growth, nurse illness, ease failure, and cheer success. They instill important values in children and help provide the tools they need to make the right choices and grow up to be responsible, compassionate, and successful members of society.

As we honor our mothers on this special day, we celebrate their contributions to the character of our next generation of leaders. And we remember the lessons our mothers have taught us: That it is better to give than to receive, that we must love our neighbors as ourselves, and that service to others brings joy.

The Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 8, 1914, as amended (38 Stat. 770), has designated the second Sunday in May each year as "Mother's Day" and has requested the President to call for its appropriate observance. It is my honor and privilege to do so again.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 11, 2003, as Mother's Day. I encourage all Americans to express their love, respect, and appreciation to mothers everywhere for their contributions to their children, families, communities, and our Nation. I also call upon citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of May, 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, 10:40 a.m., May 8, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 9.

Memorandum on Suspending the Iraq Sanctions Act, Making Inapplicable Certain Statutory Provisions Related to Iraq, and Delegating Authorities, Under the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003

May 7, 2003

Presidential Determination No. 2003-23

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce

Subject: Suspending the Iraq Sanctions Act, Making Inapplicable Certain Statutory Provisions Related to Iraq, and Delegating Authorities, under the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including sections 1503 and 1504 of the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Act, 2003, Public Law 108-11 (the "Act"), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby:

(1) suspend the application of all of the provisions, other than section 586E, of the Iraq Sanctions Act of 1990, Public Law 101-513, and

(2) make inapplicable with respect to Iraq section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, Public Law 87-195, as amended (the "FAA"), and any other provision of law that applies to countries that have supported terrorism.

In addition, I delegate the functions and authorities conferred upon the President by:

(1) section 1503 of the Act to submit reports to the designated committees of the Congress to the Secretary of Commerce, or until such time as the principal licensing responsibility for the export to Iraq of items on the Commerce Control List has reverted to the Department of Commerce, to the Secretary of the Treasury; and,

(2) section 1504 of the Act to the Secretary of State.

The functions and authorities delegated herein may be further delegated and redelegated to the extent consistent with applicable law.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Memorandum on the Report to the Congress on Tibet Negotiations

May 7, 2003

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Report to the Congress on Tibet Negotiations

The provisions under the heading “Tibet Negotiations” in section 613(b) of the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, as contained in the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–228), state that a report must be prepared 180 days following enactment, and every 12 months thereafter, concerning the steps taken by the President and the Secretary to encourage the Government of the People’s Republic of China to enter into dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives leading to a negotiated agreement on Tibet. The report is also to address the status of any discussions between the People’s Republic of China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives.

You are hereby authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register* and to transmit the attached report to the appropriate committees of the Congress.

George W. Bush

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Amir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar and an Exchange With Reporters

May 8, 2003

President Bush. It’s my honor to welcome the Amir of Qatar to the Oval Office. The Amir has shown great leadership. He has led his country to join in a vast coalition to make the world more peaceful, to make the world more free.

Mr. Amir, you made some promises to America, and you kept your promises. We’re

honored to call you friend. We appreciate your steadfast support.

The Amir also has served as a strong example of what is possible in his part of the world. He is a reformer. He’s promoted a new constitution which allows women to vote. He’s promoted women into his cabinet. He is a strong leader. He believes strongly in education; an educated populace is one more likely to realize their dreams.

So, Your Highness, it’s such an honor to have you here, and I welcome you, and I want to thank you for your friendship.

The Amir. I would like to thank the President very much for his gracious invitation for me to come and meet with him here at the White House. We in Qatar are very keen to have a very unique and strong and distinct relationship with the United States, a relationship that it is transparent.

Our military relationship is very good. We are very committed with the United States regarding every agreement that we have signed to fulfill our part.

We are also so grateful for the United States, because it is helping Qatar in the areas of education and economics and economic development. And in Qatar we welcome all American corporations who are willing to come and invest in Qatar.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Keil [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

Iranian Nuclear Weapons Program

Q. Mr. President, there are reports this morning that Iran may be pursuing or accelerating its pursuit of nuclear weapons. Is this of a concern to you, particularly as you are also trying to deal with a similar situation in North Korea?

President Bush. Well, I’ve always expressed my concerns, that of the Iranians may be developing a nuclear program. I have done so publicly. I have done so privately. As you may recall, I expressed those concerns to Vladimir Putin when I went to Russia. And as I understand, the IAEA is coming out with a report in June, and we’ll wait and see what it says.

But one of the things we must do is work together to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It is a major issue that

faces the world, and it's an issue in which the United States will still lead.

Stretch—you're not Stretch [Bill Sammon, Washington Times].

Women in Combat

Q. Mr. President, I know you support our women in the military, but sometimes female prisoners of war are treated worse than males. Is it time to review the Clinton-era rule change that puts women into combat situations?

President Bush. I will take guidance from the United States military; our commanders will make those decisions. I will tell you this: When I was on the U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln*, I met two women pilots. I would have just have been happy to have one of those pilots fly me on that carrier as the guy, as "Loose" flew me on the carrier.

But in terms of whether or not, you know, the configuration of our force and who ought to be fighting where, that's going to be up to the generals. That's how we run our business here in the White House. We set the strategy, and we rely upon our military to make the judgments necessary to achieve the strategy.

Scott [Scott Lindlaw, Associated Press].

Tax Cut on Dividends

Q. Mr. President, can you live with a scaled-back tax cut on dividends the Senate is talking about now?

President Bush. Well, first of all, the question is, will the Congress respond in a bold enough way to help people who are looking for work find a job? That's the fundamental question Congress ought to ask.

Q. What do you think of this compromise—

President Bush. And I continually remind people that I want something strong enough so people can work. And I will continue reminding Congress that they have a responsibility to listen to the voices of those who are unemployed. I certainly have heard those voices, and you'll see me next week continuing to take that message out to the country.

Holland [Steve Holland, Reuters] and the last question.

Secretary Powell's Upcoming Visit to the Middle East/Roadmap for Peace

Q. Secretary Powell is going to the Middle East this weekend. Are you seeing any progress at all on the roadmap? The violence seems to be going—

President Bush. That was supposed to be a dramatic announcement for my speech tomorrow at the University of South Carolina: I hereby send Secretary Powell to the Middle East. It doesn't sound like it's that dramatic anymore. [Laughter] You've jumped the gun on me.

Q. Sorry, sir. [Laughter]

President Bush. That's all right. It's your job. That's your job.

Q. Have you seen any—

President Bush. Yes, of course we're going to make progress. Yes, we'll make progress, absolutely. And the reason why we'll make progress is that the Palestinian Authority has now got a leader in the Prime Minister who has renounced violence. And he said he wants to work with us to make the area more secure. He understands what we know, that a peace process will proceed if and when there is a concerted effort to fight violence.

So one of the things I'll be talking to His Highness about—who, by the way, is very active in this process—is how do we work with the Arab world to encourage the Arab world to assume its responsibilities of stopping the funding of terror and to working with the Palestinian Authority to encourage the habits of democracy and freedom with the Palestinian Authority.

So I'm very optimistic. That's why I'm sending Secretary Powell there—a secret which is no longer a secret. [Laughter]

Thank you all. Very good work, Holland.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:56 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia; Comdr. John P. "Loose" Lussier, USN, executive officer, VS-35, Naval Air Station North Island, CA; and Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority. The Amir spoke in Arabic, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Honoring Central European Nations on Their Upcoming Admission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

May 8, 2003

Thank you all very much, and welcome to the White House. We're glad you're here. Interestingly enough, it was here, 58 years ago today, that President Harry Truman announced the end of the war in Europe. And the people of America and Europe celebrated that victory together.

This year on V-E Day we mark another kind of victory in Europe. Just hours ago, the United States Senate voted unanimously to support NATO admission for Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. These heroic nations have survived tyranny. They have won their liberty and earned their place among free nations. America has always considered them friends, and we will always be proud to call them allies.

I appreciate the Foreign Ministers of the NATO nations—or the nations who will soon be joining NATO—who are with us today. We just had a great discussion in the Roosevelt Room in the White House complex.

I appreciate so very much the Secretary of State Colin Powell, who has been a strong and tireless advocate for the expansion of NATO.

I want to thank the Members of the United States Senate who have joined us here today. I appreciate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee for coming. I particularly want to thank Chairman Dick Lugar and ranking member Joe Biden for their strong leadership in getting the Senate to vote unanimously for the admission of these nations into NATO. Great job, Senators.

I also am honored to welcome George Voinovich, the Senator from Ohio and, more importantly, Janet Voinovich, his wife—*[laughter]*—and Senator Carl Levin from Michigan. Welcome. I'm glad you all are here, and thanks for coming.

I want to welcome the chairmen and chairwomen of the Parliamentary foreign affairs committees who are here. I appreciate the Ambassadors from our current and future allied nations who are joining us today. I want

to thank General Richard Myers for joining us today, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. And I want to thank all of our distinguished guests for coming.

The defeat of Nazi Germany brought an end to the armed conflict in Europe, but that victory did not bring true peace and unity to the Continent. For millions, tyranny remained in a different uniform. The freedom of Bulgaria and Romania and Slovakia and Slovenia was subverted by Communist dictators. And Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were wiped off the map as independent countries.

As the Iron Curtain fell across Europe and walls and barbed wire were raised, the free nations of Europe and the United States gathered their will and courage and formed the greatest alliance of liberty. Through 40 winters of cold war, NATO defended the security of the western world and held in trust the ideal of freedom for all the peoples of Europe.

This division, this great standoff, did not end in military conflict. It ended when the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe took history into their own hands and took back their rights and their freedom.

From that moment, it was clear that the old lines dividing Europe between East and West, the lines of Yalta, were entirely irrelevant to the future.

Nearly 2 years ago, in Warsaw, I urged the enlargement of NATO to all of Europe's democracies, from the Baltic to the Black Sea and all that lie between, so that peoples in those countries would have the same chance for security and freedom enjoyed by Europe's older democracies.

I called upon all the NATO Allies to renew our mission and to meet the great challenges and opportunities of the world beyond Europe. And these challenges arrived quickly. Following the terrorist attacks of September the 11th, NATO invoked its commitment to the collective defense for the first time in its history.

Our friends in Central and Eastern Europe responded as well, providing resources of law enforcement and intelligence to help break up terrorist cells, to disrupt terrorist plots, and to cut off terrorist funding.

In the battle of Afghanistan, nations from Central and Eastern Europe supplied soldiers and special forces and peacekeepers to help defeat the Taliban, to help destroy the terrorists and to bring freedom to the Afghan people.

In the battle of Iraq, Central and Eastern European countries have stood with America and our coalition to end a grave threat to peace and to rid Iraq of a brutal, brutal regime. The peoples of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia have a fresh memory of tyranny. And they know the consequences of complacency in the face of danger.

Time and again, they have demonstrated their desire and ability to defend freedom against its enemies. They have proven themselves to be allies by their action, and now it is time to make them allies by treaty.

This morning's vote in the Senate brings that day closer. I urge all the current members of NATO to welcome these new members as quickly as possible. These nations will make NATO stronger, and we need that strength for all the work that lies ahead. We must continue to fight global terror and strongly oppose the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

NATO itself must develop new military capabilities to meet the emerging dangers of a new era. We must help the people of the Balkans to become full partners in the progress of Europe. We welcome the commitment of Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia to the values and principles of NATO. And we will help them as they move forward with reform.

We have work ahead in bringing order and security to Iraq, so the Iraqi people can build the institutions of freedom and provide an example of democracy to other Arab nations. And just as NATO has stood for the freedom of all of Europe, we must stand with people everywhere who strive for greater freedom and tolerance and development and health and opportunity, including those in the Middle East and Africa.

This day was a long time in coming, yet there was never any doubt. Through decades

of crisis and division, Europe's peoples shared with people everywhere the same need and hope for freedom. This hope overcame the designs of tyrants, and this hope overcame the tragedies of war.

The nations of Central and Eastern Europe are one of history's great examples of the power and appeal of liberty. And we believe that example will be followed and multiplied throughout the world.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless your nations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:38 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Foreign Minister Solomon Pasi of Bulgaria; Foreign Minister Kristiina Ojuland of Estonia; Foreign Minister Sandra Kalniete of Latvia; Foreign Minister Antanas Valionis of Lithuania; Foreign Minister Mircea Dan Geoana of Romania; Foreign Minister Eduard Kukan of Slovakia; and Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel of Slovenia. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on the Death of Walter Sisulu

May 8, 2003

I was saddened to hear of the death of Walter Sisulu in South Africa on May 6, 2003. Walter Sisulu was a man of great moral and strategic vision who committed his life to leading the struggle to end apartheid rule in South Africa. Sisulu was a man of principle and humility whose pursuit of an inclusive, multiracial South Africa never wavered through the 25 years of his imprisonment. Walter Sisulu lived to become a free man and to see his vision become a reality. He leaves a legacy of courage and conviction for South Africans, and all of us who share his belief in the equality of all people.

On behalf of the American people, I extend our deepest sympathies to Mrs. Albertina Sisulu, the Sisulu family, and the people of South Africa.

**Statement on the Senate Filibusters
of the Nominations of Miguel A.
Estrada and Priscilla Owen To Be
Judges on the United States Court of
Appeals**

May 8, 2003

Miguel Estrada and Priscilla Owen have been waiting 2 years for an up-or-down vote in the Senate. Both of these nominees are of the highest integrity and character with tremendous legal experience. Both have been unanimously rated “well-qualified” by the American Bar Association. Each has the support of a majority of Senators, yet votes on their nominations are being blocked by a minority of Senators who are engaged in simultaneous filibusters. These partisan obstructionist tactics are unprecedented, unacceptable, and inconsistent with the Senate’s constitutional responsibility.

Because of the Senate’s failure to hold timely votes, the number of judicial vacancies has become unacceptably high. When the Federal courts are understaffed, they cannot act in a timely manner to resolve disputes that affect the lives and liberties of Americans.

Mr. Estrada and Justice Owen represent the mainstream of American law and American values, possess extraordinary experience and integrity, and have strong bipartisan support from those who know them best. They will be outstanding circuit judges once they receive a vote and are confirmed.

In recent days, many Senators of both parties have rightly spoken out about the broken confirmation process and reiterated the need for the Senate to ensure timely consideration of judicial nominees. I appreciate their call for the Senate to fulfill its constitutional responsibility and hold up-or-down votes on all judicial nominees within a reasonable time after nomination.

**Executive Order 13299—
Interagency Group on Insular Areas**

May 8, 2003

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the

United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Interagency Group on Insular Areas. (a) There is established, within the Department of the Interior for administrative purposes, the Interagency Group on Insular Areas (IGIA). The group shall consist exclusively of:

- (i) the heads of the executive departments; and
- (ii) the heads of such agencies as the Secretary of the Interior may designate.

(b) The Secretary of the Interior, or the Secretary’s designee under section 1(c) of this order, shall convene and preside at the meetings of the IGIA, determine its agenda, direct its work and, as appropriate to deal with particular subject matters, establish and direct subgroups of the IGIA that shall consist exclusively of members of the IGIA.

(c) A member of the IGIA may designate, to perform the IGIA or IGIA subgroup functions of the member, any person who is a part of the member’s department or agency (agency) and who is either an officer of the United States appointed by the President or a member of the Senior Executive Service.

Sec. 2. Functions of the IGIA. The IGIA shall:

(a) provide advice on establishment or implementation of policies concerning American Samoa, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (Insular Areas) to:

- (i) the President, through the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs in the White House Office, in written reports, at least once each year; and
- (ii) the Secretary of the Interior;

(b) obtain information and advice concerning Insular Areas from governors and other elected officials in the Insular Areas (including through a meeting at least once each year with such governors of the Insular Areas who may wish to attend) in a manner that seeks their individual advice and does not involve collective judgment or consensus advice or deliberation;

(c) obtain information and advice concerning Insular Areas, as the IGIA determines appropriate, from representatives of entities or other individuals in a manner that

seeks their individual advice and does not involve collective judgment or consensus advice or deliberation; and

(d) at the request of the head of any agency who is a member of the IGIA, unless the Secretary of the Interior declines the request, promptly review and provide advice on a policy or policy implementation action affecting one of the Insular Areas proposed by that agency.

Sec. 3. General Provisions. (a) The Secretary of the Interior may, as the Secretary determines appropriate, make recommendations to the President, or to the heads of agencies, regarding policy or policy implementation actions of the Federal Government affecting the Insular Areas.

(b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

Sec. 4. Judicial Review. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 8, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
10:47 a.m., May 9, 2003]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on May 12.

Remarks on the Judicial Confirmation Process

May 9, 2003

Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Thanks. Thanks a lot for coming. Thanks for the warm welcome. Welcome to the White House and the Rose Garden. I'm pleased all of you could be here to stand for a truly independent Federal judiciary. The Framers of the Constitution knew that freedom and jus-

tice depend on fair and impartial judges. To ensure judges of the highest quality, integrity, they designed a system in which the President would nominate judges and the Senate would vote up or down on the nominees.

Today, we are facing a crisis in the Senate and, therefore, a crisis in our judiciary. Highly qualified judicial nominees are waiting years to get an up-or-down vote from the United States Senate. They wait for years while partisans search in vain for reasons to reject them. The obstructionist tactics of a small group of Senators are setting a pattern that threatens judicial independence. Meanwhile, vacancies on the bench and overcrowded court dockets are causing delays for citizens seeking justice. The judicial confirmation process is broken, and it must be fixed for the good of the country. Every person nominated to the Federal bench deserves a timely vote.

I want to appreciate Al Gonzales' introduction. I appreciate his good, sound legal advice. He's been my friend for a long time. I'm really pleased he left Austin, Texas, to come up here and serve our country. I also want to thank the Attorney General for serving our country as well. He is doing a fabulous job for our Nation, and we wish him a happiest 60th birthday today.

I'm so pleased the leaders of the United States Senate are here. Bill Frist is ably leading the United States Senate. Thank you for coming, Senator. I want to thank Senator Orrin Hatch for being here as well. The chairman is going to lead the efforts to reform our process. And Mr. Chairman, I support your work to make sure we increase judicial pay across the United States. Thank you for your leadership.

I'm also grateful that Senators Cornyn from Texas, Dole, and Graham of South Carolina, Mitch McConnell, Zell Miller, and Arlen Specter are with us. These folks represent the best of the United States Senate, and thank you for coming.

I appreciate the fact that members of John Ashcroft's staff from the Justice Department are here, in particular Larry Thompson, Bobby McCallum, and Ted Olson. Thank you all for your good work and service.

I know we've got a lot of distinguished lawyers who are here. A.P. Carlton is the president of the American Bar Association. A.P., I appreciate you coming and lending your efforts to make sure that the system works on behalf of the American people. Duard Bradshaw, who's the president of the Hispanic National Bar Association, is here as well. Welcome to you both. Thank you for your concern. And welcome to all.

Exactly 2 years ago, I announced my first 11 nominees to the Federal appeals court. I chose men and women of talent and integrity, highly qualified nominees who represent the mainstream of American law and American values. Eight of them waited more than a year without an up-or-down vote in the United States Senate. As of today, three of that original group have waited 2 years. Their treatment by a group of Senators is a disgrace.

Overall, I have sent to the Senate 42 superb nominees for Federal courts of appeal. Eighteen of them are still waiting for a vote in the Senate, and 8 of those 18 have been waiting more than a year. More appeals court nominees have had to wait over a year for a hearing in my Presidency than in the last 50 years combined. This is not just business as usual. This is an abnegation^o of constitutional responsibility, and it is hurting our country.

As President, I have the constitutional responsibility to nominate excellent judges, and I take that responsibility seriously. The men and women I have nominated are an historically diverse group whose character and credentials are impeccable.

This group includes Miguel Estrada, my selection for the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. Miguel Estrada has served in the Justice Department under Presidents from both political parties. He has argued 15 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. He has earned the American Bar Association's highest mark, a unanimous rating of "well-qualified." If confirmed, Miguel would be the first Hispanic American ever to serve on the court that is often considered the second highest in the land. Miguel Estrada's nomination has strong support from citizens and leaders in both political parties, and he has support from a majority in the United States Senate.

^o White House correction.

Yet, after 2 years, he still cannot get an up-or-down vote on the floor of the Senate. A group of Democratic Senators has insisted that Mr. Estrada answer questions that other nominees were not required to answer. These Senators have sought confidential Justice Department memos not sought for other appeal court nominees—a request opposed by all living former Solicitor Generals because of the damage it would do to our legal system. These Senators have also filibustered for 3 months to prevent a vote on Miguel Estrada's nomination. Never before has there been a successful filibuster to prevent an up-or-down vote on an appeals court nominee. This is an unprecedented tactic that threatens judicial independence and adds to the vacancy crisis in our courts, and it is wrong.

Justice Priscilla Owen, whom I have nominated to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, also has the support of the majority of United States Senators. And she too has become the target of a filibuster. Justice Owen is an extraordinarily well-qualified nominee who has served with distinction on the Texas Supreme Court since 1995. Like Miguel Estrada, she has earned the American Bar Association's unanimous rating of "well-qualified." She has strong bipartisan support, including endorsements from three Democrats who served with her on the Texas Supreme Court and endorsements from 15 past presidents of the Texas bar. Yet, Justice Owen has been waiting 2 years—2 years—for an up-or-down vote on the Senate floor.

The list goes on. And the trend is clear: Of the 18 appeals court nominees awaiting a vote, all who have been rated by the American Bar Association have received "well-qualified" or "qualified" ratings. Some Democratic Senators have referred to those ratings as the gold standard. But those same Senators have ignored those high marks and instead of applying the gold standard, have applied a double standard to some of my nominees. The Senate has a constitutional responsibility to hold an up-or-down vote.

Throughout most of our history, the Senate has exercised this responsibility and voted promptly on judicial nominees. During the administration of former Presidents Bush and Clinton, however, too many appeals court nominees never received votes. And

today the situation is worse than ever, making the need for reform greater than ever.

While Senators stall and hold on to old grudges, American justice is suffering. Dockets are overcrowded, judges are overworked, and citizens are waiting too long for their cases to be heard. The regional appeals courts have a 12-percent vacancy rate, and filings in those courts have reached an all-time high again last year. The Sixth Circuit, which covers Ohio and Michigan and Kentucky and Tennessee, has 4 vacancies on a 16-judge court. The DC Circuit has 3 vacancies on a 12-judge court. Of the 18 open seats that could be filled by the nominees waiting for Senate confirmation, 15 have been classified as judicial emergencies by the Judicial Conference of the United States. The American Bar Association has called this an emergency situation. And the Chief Justice recently said that these vacancies and rising caseloads threaten the proper functioning of Federal courts and asked the Senate to give every nominee a prompt up-or-down vote.

The bitterness and partisanship that have taken over the judicial confirmation process also threatened judicial independence. Some Senators have tried to force nominees to take positions on controversial issues before they even take the bench. This is contrary to the constitutional design of a separate and independent judicial branch.

Six months ago, I proposed a plan to end the vacancy crisis and make the process work again. This plan would apply no matter who lives in the White House or no matter which party controls the United States Senate. Here's how it works: Judges on the Federal appellate and district courts would notify the President of their intentions to retire at least a year in advance whenever that is possible. The President would then submit a nomination to the U.S. Senate within 180 days of receiving notice of a vacancy or intended retirement. The Senate Judiciary Committee would hold a hearing within 90 days of receiving a nomination. And the full Senate would vote on a nominee no longer than 180 days after the nomination is submitted. The goal is to have a new judge ready to take the bench on the same day the sitting judge retires.

Since I announced this plan, the Judicial Conference has done its part by strongly urging judges to give a one-year advance notice of retirement. I've done my part with an Executive order issued today formalizing my commitment to submit nominations within 180 days after notification of a vacancy. And now we're waiting for the Senate to do its duty and ensure timely up-or-down votes for every single nominee.

Majority Leader Frist and Judiciary Chairman Hatch are pushing hard for progress on this issue. They are reformers, and I thank you for your hard work. U.S. Senator Arlen Specter and U.S. Senator Zell Miller have proposed reforms to fix the problem. And I thank you for your leadership. I'm very pleased that 10 freshmen Senators of both parties have come together to demand the return of dignity and civility to the process. As newcomers, they see the futility of endless bickering that blocks good judges from the bench.

Under the leadership of John Cornyn and Democrat Mark Pryor, these Senators sent a letter to the Senate leadership last week. And this is what it said: "None of us were parties to any of the reported past offenses, whether real or perceived. None of us believe that the ill will of the past should dictate the terms and direction of the future. Each of us firmly believes the United States Senate needs a fresh start."

I completely agree, and so do the American people. I believe a fresh start is possible. And we will stand with these Senators to bring needed reform on behalf of the American people. And I ask for your help. I ask for your help to make sure our judiciary functions in a way that will make the people proud. I ask for your help in talking to Senators as we convince them that obstructionist policies harm the American people. It hurts the justice system that makes us the envy of the world. I know we can move forward. I look forward to the day when a good nominee gets a vote, up or down, in timely fashion on the floor of the United States Senate.

Thank you all for coming, and God bless. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks,

he referred to Counsel to the President Alberto R. Gonzales.

Commencement Address at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina

May 9, 2003

Thank you all very much. Thank you all. President Sorensen and Governor Sanford, members of the South Carolina congressional delegation and State officials, members of the faculty, trustees, the families, distinguished guests, and members of the Class 2003, thank you for the warm welcome to this great State and to this fine university. I'm honored to be with you on graduation day as you all become proud alumni of the University of South Carolina.

I work every day with a distinguished graduate of USC, and I brought him along this afternoon, White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card of the Class of 1971.

Andy is a superb public servant and an honorable man. His loyalty to this university runs deep, and sometimes he gets carried away. [*Laughter*] I don't mind the chicken finger Wednesdays at the White House. [*Laughter*] I don't even mind his shag dancing in the West Wing. [*Laughter*] But it's a little much when Andy shows up on the day of the Clemson game dressed as "Cocky." [*Laughter*]

I am so thankful for the invitation to be the speaker this afternoon. When I arrived, I heard an old boy standing outside. He said, "We're honored to have the President speaking with us today. It's almost as good as last year when Lou Holtz was the speaker." [*Laughter*]

Today marks a great achievement for this graduating class. You've put your talents to good use; you're seeing the rewards of your hard work. Congratulations to each one of you.

I also congratulate the men and women who gave their best to this and every class, the fine professors of the University of South Carolina. And I join the graduates in thanking the people whose love and sacrifice made this day possible, the parents of the graduates of the Class of 2003.

Forty-six years ago, Senator John F. Kennedy came to this campus to address the graduating class of 1957. He spoke of the great problems of that time, including, he said, "untangling the strife-ridden, hate-ridden Middle East." In the decades since, that strife and hate sometimes seemed like a distant tragedy having little to do with America.

After September the 11th, 2001, your generation and our whole country knows better. In an age of global terror and weapons of mass destruction, what happens in the Middle East greatly matters to America. The bitterness of that region can bring violence and suffering to our own cities. The advance of freedom and peace in the Middle East would drain this bitterness and increase our own security.

So today I want to discuss with you a great goal for this Nation. We will use our influence and idealism to replace old hatreds with new hopes across the Middle East. A time of historic opportunity has arrived. A dictator in Iraq has been removed from power. The terrorists of that region are now seeing their fate—the short, unhappy life of the fugitive. Reformers in the Middle East are gaining influence, and the momentum of freedom is growing. We have reached a moment of tremendous promise, and the United States will seize this moment for the sake of peace.

The future of peace requires the defeat of terror. So America and a large coalition of nations are waging a global and unrelenting war against the terrorists, and we are winning.

In the battle of Afghanistan, we destroyed one of the most oppressive regimes on Earth, and we destroyed many of the terrorists it harbored. Across six continents, America and our friends and allies have been hunting down the terrorists one by one and bringing them to justice.

And in the battle of Iraq, we faced a regime that aided terrorists, armed itself with weapons of mass destruction to threaten the peace, and persecuted its own people. And today that regime is no more.

During these 20 months, the world has seen the resolve of the American people. And the world has seen the power and the skill and the bravery of American Armed Forces. Our men and women in uniform have acted

with courage and decency, in the proudest traditions of this Nation. And our Nation is grateful. And for those of you who are going into the ROTC, you will be entering a military that will remain second to none.

Our Nation is strong. Our greatest strength is that we serve the cause of liberty. We support the advance of freedom in the Middle East because it is our founding principle and because it is in our national interest. The hateful ideology of terrorism is shaped and nurtured and protected by oppressive regimes. Free nations, in contrast, encourage creativity and tolerance and enterprise. And in those free nations, the appeal of extremism withers away.

Free governments do not build weapons of mass destruction for the purpose of mass terror. Over time, the expansion of liberty throughout the world is the best guarantee of security throughout the world. Freedom is the way to peace.

Some believe that democracy in the Middle East is unlikely, if not impossible. They argue that the people of the Middle East have little desire for freedom or self-government. These same arguments have been heard before in other times, about other people. After World War II, many doubted that Germany and Japan, with their histories of autocratic rule and aggressive armies, could ever function as free and peaceful societies. In the cold war we were told that imperial communism was permanent and the Iron Curtain was there to stay.

In each of these cases—in Germany, in Japan, in Eastern Europe, and in Russia—the skeptics doubted; then history replied. Every milestone of liberty over the last 60 years was declared impossible until the very moment it happened. The history of the modern world offers a lesson for the skeptics: Do not bet against the success of freedom.

Freedom has advanced because the desire for liberty and justice is found in every human heart. And the men and women of the Muslim world, one-fifth of all humanity, share this hope of liberty. Freedom has advanced because it is a way to lift millions out of poverty and improve their lives. Where freedom is denied, people live in isolation and stagnation. Where freedom is welcome, people in every culture can flourish. And

freedom is advanced in our time because at crucial moments brave men and women have worked and sacrificed for it. And the United States has taken their side. This is how dissidents and political prisoners became the leaders of newly free countries. And this is how former enemies became loyal friends of the United States.

The Middle East presents many obstacles to the advance of freedom. And I understand that this transformation will be difficult. Recently, a group of 30 Arab scholars issued a report describing a freedom deficit in Arab countries, citing in particular a lack of human rights and poor education. They also identified the social oppression of women as a major barrier to progress. And they are correct. No society can succeed and prosper while denying basic rights and opportunities to the women of their country.

For all the challenges, we also see hopeful signs of change. About half of all the Muslim people live under democratic rule in nations from Turkey to Indonesia. The Governments of Bahrain and Morocco have held recent and free elections. And Jordan will hold elections next month. The people of Qatar have approved a new constitution guaranteeing basic freedoms. Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia has proposed a new Arab charter calling for internal reform and enhanced political participation in nations of that region.

And in Iran, the desire for freedom is stirring. In the face of harsh repression, Iranians are courageously speaking out for democracy and the rule of law and human rights. And the United States strongly supports their aspirations for freedom.

Those who feed hatred want to create a faultline between East and West. Yet in the growing desire for freedom throughout the Muslim world, there is no clash of civilizations. When terrorists and tyrants resist and attack freedom, they are resisting and attacking the hopes of Muslims everywhere. When terrorists go on missions of suicide and murder, they defile the high ethical teachings of Islam itself. Their true ambition is to dominate and control and remake whole societies in their own cruel image. Repression of the kind practiced by Saddam Hussein and the Taliban is not the wave of the future. Free

people, not tyrants or murderers, will set the course of history.

Freedom is taking hold in Afghanistan and Iraq, countries of more than 50 million newly liberated people, countries building for themselves the institutions of self-government. And our Nation has special responsibilities to these countries, responsibilities we will keep. In Afghanistan, America and our allies are helping to build roads and train police and rebuild schools. This summer, at townhall meetings across the country, Afghans will discuss the working draft of a new constitution. And in the fall, a national assembly will convene to ratify the constitution of a free and democratic Afghanistan.

The Afghan people face continued struggles in rebuilding their Government and the nation, but the days when women were beaten in the streets and executed on soccer fields are over.

In Iraq, we are restoring electricity and water and providing medicines and supplies and removing the thugs who threaten the peace and order of the country. Iraqi citizens have conducted two major conferences to discuss their country's future and place themselves to the path of self-government.

Soon, Iraqis from every ethnic group will choose members of an interim authority. The people of Iraq are building a free society from the ground up, and they are able to do so because the dictator and his regime are no more.

America is working with governments and reformers throughout the Middle East. We are strengthening ties through our Middle East partnership initiative. As a further step, Secretary Powell and Trade Representative Zoellick will meet with regional leaders in Jordan next month to discuss an agenda of economic and political and social progress. Progress will require increased trade, the engine of economic development.

The combined GDP of all Arab countries is smaller than that of Spain. Their peoples have less access to the Internet than the people of sub-Saharan Africa. The Arab world has a great cultural tradition, but is largely missing out on the economic progress of our time. Across the globe, free markets and trade have helped defeat poverty and taught men and women the habits of liberty. So I propose

the establishment of a U.S.-Middle East free trade area within a decade, to bring the Middle East into an expanding circle of opportunity, to provide hope for the people who live in that region.

We will work with our partners to ensure that small and mid-sized businesses have access to capital and support efforts in the region to develop central laws on property rights and good business practices. By replacing corruption and self-dealing with free markets and fair laws, the people of the Middle East will grow in prosperity and freedom.

Making the most of economic opportunities will require broader and better education, especially among women who have faced the greatest disadvantages. We will work to improve literacy among girls and women, building on similar efforts in Afghanistan and Morocco and Yemen. We'll provide resources for the translation of early reading books into Arabic and donate those books to primary schools in the region.

And ultimately, both economic success and human dignity depend on the rule of law and honest administration of justice. So America will sponsor, with the Government of Bahrain, a regional forum to discuss judicial reforms. And I'm pleased that Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has agreed to help lead this effort.

As trade expands and knowledge spreads to the Middle East, as women gain a place of equality and respect, as the rule of law takes hold, all peoples of that region will see a new day of justice and a new day of prosperity.

For generations, one of the most tragic problems in the Middle East has been the conflict in the Holy Land. Yet now with a liberated Iraq, with new leadership for the Palestinian people, with efforts of leaders like President Mubarak and Crown Prince Abdullah, the hope of peace is renewed.

If the Palestinian people take concrete steps to crack down on terror, continue on a path of peace, reform, and democracy, they and all the world will see the flag of Palestine raised over a free and independent nation.

All sides of this conflict have duties. Israel must take tangible steps now to ease the suffering of Palestinians and to show respect for their dignity. And as progress is made toward

peace, Israel must stop settlement activity in the occupied territories. Arab nations must fight terror in all forms and recognize and state the obvious once and for all: Israel has a right to exist as a Jewish state at peace with its neighbors.

The way forward in the Middle East is not a mystery; it is a matter of will and vision and action. The way forward depends on serving the interests of the living instead of settling the accounts of the past.

To seize this moment, I am sending Secretary Powell to the Middle East to call all the parties to their responsibilities. Secretary Powell leaves on this mission tonight. He carries with him my personal commitment: America will work without tiring to achieve two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in security and prosperity and in peace.

You are living in an historic time for our country. When America was attacked 20 months ago, many thought that an age of fear and terror had arrived. Yet the world has seen something very different. America is fighting against grave threats wherever they may gather.

We're determined to help build a Middle East that grows in hope instead of resentment. Because of the ideals and resolve of this Nation, you and I will not live in an age of terror. We will live in an age of liberty.

I wish each of you well in the careers and lives that await you. I thank you for the invitation, for the honorary degree, and for the privilege of sharing this proud day with the University of South Carolina Class of 2003.

May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:16 p.m. in the Carolina Center. In his remarks, he referred to Andrew A. Sorensen, president, and Lou Holtz, head football coach, University of South Carolina; Gov. Mark Sanford of South Carolina; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Tax Relief Legislation

May 9, 2003

I commend the House for making great progress toward passing a jobs-and-growth package that will spur economic growth and create jobs for American workers. The tax relief package passed by the House today includes all of the elements of my original plan, including accelerating all income tax rates, increasing small-business expensing, increasing the child credit, delivering significant marriage penalty relief, and addressing the unfair double tax on dividends. I look forward to building on this success to deliver the economic boost America's workers deserve.

Statement on Legislation To Increase Salaries for the Federal Judiciary

May 9, 2003

I am pleased to support legislation introduced in the Senate this week that would increase the annual salaries of Justices and judges of the United States. This bipartisan legislation, S. 1023, responds to the recommendation of the Chief Justice and the Judicial Conference that salary increases be enacted for the Judiciary.

Executive Order 13300—Facilitating the Administration of Justice in the Federal Courts

May 9, 2003

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to promote the prompt appointment of judges to the Federal courts, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. The Federal courts play a central role in the American justice system. For the Federal courts to function effectively, judicial vacancies in those courts must

be filled in a timely manner with well-qualified candidates.

Sec. 2. Plan. The presidential plan announced on October 30, 2002, calls for timely consideration of judicial nominees, with the President submitting a nomination to fill a vacancy in United States courts of appeals and district courts within 180 days after the President receives notice of a vacancy or intended retirement, absent extraordinary circumstances.

Sec. 3. Responsibilities. The Counsel to the President shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that the President is in a position to make timely nominations for judicial vacancies consistent with this plan. All Federal departments and agencies shall assist, as requested and permitted by law, in the implementation of this order.

Sec. 4. Reservation of Authority. Nothing in this order shall be construed to affect the authority of the President to fill vacancies under clause 3 of section 2 of article II of the Constitution.

Sec. 5. Judicial Review. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 9, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
9:24 a.m., May 12, 2003]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 13.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Supplemental Budget Requests

May 9, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed amendments to the Administration's FY 2004 budget submission for the Depart-

ments of Agriculture, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, the Interior, Justice, Labor, and Transportation; the Office of Personnel Management; and the Farm Credit Administration. I also ask the Congress to consider the enclosed proposals for the Department of the Interior and the Social Security Administration.

This transmittal also contains FY 2004 budget amendments for the Legislative Branch. Appropriations requests of the Legislative Branch are historically transmitted without change.

Further, in accordance with provisions of Public Law 108-11, the FY 2003 Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, I hereby request and make available \$280.0 million for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) of the Department of Homeland Security. Consistent with the Act, TSA would utilize these resources solely for expenses incurred to hire, train, and deploy initial passenger screeners.

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

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

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.

May 3

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia.

May 5

In the morning, the President traveled to Little Rock, AR. While en route aboard Air

Force One, he had an intelligence briefing. He also had a telephone conversation with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer of Turkey to extend his condolences for victims of the recent earthquake in Turkey's Bingol Province.

Later in the morning, in the Robinson Center, the President participated in a roundtable discussion with small-business owners and employees.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, he met with NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson to discuss NATO's role in Afghanistan and the future of NATO.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain to the White House on May 7 for a meeting and working dinner.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Amir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar to the White House on May 8.

The President announced his intention to appoint Ronald J. James as Chief Human Capital Officer at the Department of Homeland Security.

May 6

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he met with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell.

In the afternoon, the President met with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore in the Oval Office.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark to Washington, DC, on May 8.

The President announced his appointment of L. Paul Bremer III as Presidential Envoy to Iraq.

The President declared a major disaster in Kansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on May 4 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Missouri and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on May 4 and continuing.

May 7

In the morning, the President had breakfast with Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert, House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle to discuss domestic and foreign policy. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain to discuss the situation in Iraq and peace efforts in the Middle East.

In the evening, the President had dinner with President Aznar in the Old Family Dining Room.

The President announced his intention to nominate James G. Roche to be Secretary of the Army.

The President announced his intention to nominate Colin R. McMillan to be Secretary of the Navy.

May 8

In the morning, the President had a breakfast meeting with Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark in the President's private dining room. The two then met in the Oval Office to discuss the war on terror, the situation in Iraq, European-U.S. relations, and peace efforts in the Middle East.

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

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Amir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar, following their meeting in the Oval Office.

Later in the afternoon, in the Roosevelt Room, the President met with the Foreign Ministers of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia to discuss the recent extension of NATO membership to these countries.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines to the White House for a state visit on May 19.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will welcome Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on May 22-23.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee: Marc Benioff (Co-Chair); Edward D. Lazowska (Co-Chair); Ruzena Bajcsy; J. Carter Beese, Jr.; Pedro Celis; Bernard Daines; Patricia Evans; Manuel Fernandez; Luis Fiallo; Jose Marie Griffiths; William J. Hannigan; Jonathan C. Javitt; Judith L. Klavans; F. Thomson Leighton; Harold Mortazavian; Randy D. Mott; Peter M. Neupert; Eli M. Noam; David A. Patterson; Alice G. Quintanilla; Daniel A. Reed; Eugene H. Spafford; David H. Staelin; Peter S. Tippett, and Geoffrey Yang.

The President declared a major disaster in Tennessee and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on May 4 and continuing.

May 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Columbia, SC. Later, he traveled to Santa Fe, NM, where and Mrs. Bush, who joined him in Santa Fe, stayed at the home of family friend Roland Betts.

The White House announced that the President has invited Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel to visit him in Washington, DC, on May 20.

The President announced his intention to appoint Ronald G. Bellamy and Carlos M. de Cespedes as members of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: Julia A. King (historic preservation expert), Timothy Pawlenty (Governor), and Ann A. Pritzlaff (historic preservation expert).

The President announced his intention to appoint James E. Geringer as U.S. Representative to the Western Interstate Nuclear Board.

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 May 6

Morgan Edwards, of North Carolina, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences for a term expiring September 7, 2005, vice Mary Ellen R. Fise, term expired.

Howard Radzely, of Maryland, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor, vice Eugene Scalia.

Submitted May 7

Richard W. Erdman, of Maryland, 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 People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

Submitted May 8

Michael W. Mosman, of Oregon, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Oregon, vice Robert E. Jones, 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 May 5

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Visit of President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of the Amir of Qatar

Released May 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Ambassador L. Paul Bremer as Presidential Envoy to Iraq

Statement by the Press Secretary: Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark To Visit Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Kansas

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Missouri

Released May 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Presidential Determination Authorizing Defense Cooperation With Serbia and Montenegro

Statement by the Press Secretary: Lifting Economic Sanctions on UNITA

Released May 8

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: State Visit by President Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to Crawford

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Tennessee

Released May 9

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel To Visit Washington

Fact sheet: The President's Call to Action on Judicial Nominees

Fact sheet: Proposed Middle East Initiatives

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.