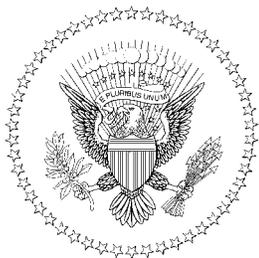


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, June 2, 2003
Volume 39—Number 22
Pages 659–695

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Editor's Note: The President was in Krakow, Poland, on May 30, 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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Week Ending Friday, May 30, 2003

**Statement on Congressional Action
on Tax Cut Legislation**

May 23, 2003

I commend the House and Senate for acting in a bipartisan fashion to bring tax relief to American families, small businesses, and entrepreneurs. In passing this jobs-and-growth plan, Congress has taken a major step forward in the effort to boost economic growth and create jobs. One hundred thirty-six million taxpayers, including 12 million seniors and 23 million small-business owners, will directly benefit from this plan. A married couple with two children and household income of \$40,000 will see their taxes cut by 96 percent this year. A growing economy is an urgent priority for all Americans, and I look forward to signing this bill and to seeing that tax relief is felt in paychecks quickly.

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

The President's Radio Address

May 24, 2003

Good morning. This week Congress took vital action to create jobs in America. Following the outlines of a jobs-and-growth package I announced in January, Members of the House and Senate reached agreement on a bill to strengthen our Nation's economy by reducing income tax rates, lowering the marriage penalty, increasing the child credit from \$600 to \$1,000, increasing the expensing allowance for small-business investment, and significantly reducing taxes on dividends. These tax cuts will go into effect immediately and some retroactively.

About 25 million families with children will see their child credit increase and will receive checks of up to \$400 per child. And 136 million Americans who pay income taxes, including 23 million small-business owners

who pay taxes at the individual rate, will see their taxes lowered.

By leaving American families with more to spend, more to save, and more to invest, these reforms will help boost the Nation's economy and create jobs. When people have extra take-home pay, there's greater demand for goods and services, and employers will need more workers to meet that demand.

A higher expensing allowance will help small firms, including farms and ranches, to buy new equipment so they can become more productive and expand their operations. They will also have more money to add new employees. And reducing the tax rate on dividends will help shareholders across America, from teachers invested in 401(k) accounts to seniors who depend on dividends for their financial well-being.

I appreciate the leadership of Congressman Bill Thomas of California and Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa, who worked with their colleagues to hammer out a final agreement. This achievement is a victory for every family struggling to pay the bills, every entrepreneur hoping to expand the business and create new jobs, and every American looking for work. I look forward to signing this jobs-and-growth legislation in the coming week.

I will also work with Congress to bring down the budget deficit that has resulted from war, recession, and terrorist attacks. Faster growth in the economy will bring more revenues into the Federal Treasury. Yet moving toward a balanced budget also requires that we hold Federal spending to a responsible level. Spending discipline is crucial to my economic program. I urge the Congress to set priorities and stick to the responsible budget plan they passed back in April.

By that measure, discretionary Federal spending will rise by 4 percent, about the same as the increase in the average American family's income. Governments should not

grow faster than workers' paychecks. Governments should follow the example of American families by setting priorities and staying with them.

Our citizens and our economy have endured great challenges over the last 2½ years. Yet this Nation's workers and entrepreneurs, who remain the most productive in the world, are rising to meet every challenge. Our economy continues to grow, and inflation and interest rates remain low. With new relief for the taxpayers, we have laid the foundation for even stronger growth in the years ahead and more jobs for American workers.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 2:38 p.m. on May 23 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 24. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 23 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at a Memorial Day Ceremony in Arlington, Virginia

May 26, 2003

Thank you all very much for the warm welcome. Mr. Secretary, thank you for your leadership. Secretary Principi, Members of the United States Congress, General Myers, members of the Joint Chiefs, General Jackson and Colonel Ray and Colonel Steedley, veterans, honored guests, and my fellow Americans, we come to this Memorial Day with deep awareness of recent loss and recent courage.

Beyond the Tomb of the Unknowns, in Section 60 of Arlington Cemetery, we have laid to rest Americans who fell in the battle of Iraq. One of the funerals was for Marine Second Lieutenant Frederick Pokorney, Jr., of Jacksonville, North Carolina. His wife, Carolyn, received a folded flag. His 2-year-old daughter, Taylor, knelt beside her mother at the casket to say a final goodbye.

An uncle later said of this fine lieutenant, "He was proud of what he was doing and proud of his family, a hard-working guy—the best guy you can ever know. I hope the

American people don't forget." This Nation does not forget.

Last month, in Section 60, First Lieutenant Rob Jenkins was buried, along with five other members of a bomber crew. They were lost when their plane was shot down over North Africa in 1942. Rob Jenkins had joined the Army Air Corps after Pearl Harbor, and he was 20 years old on his final mission.

Six decades later, his plane was found and the remains of the crew were carefully identified, returned home, and buried with military honors. Rob's sister, Helen, said, "We were very proud that the Government would care that much. After all, it was such a long time ago." This Nation does not forget.

On Memorial Day, Americans place flags on military graves, walk past a wall of black granite in Washington, DC, and many families think of a face and voice they miss so much. Today we honor the men and women who have worn the Nation's uniform and were last seen on duty. From the battles of Iraq and Afghanistan to the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam to the trials of World War to the struggles that made us a nation, today we recall that liberty is always the achievement of courage.

And today we remember all who have died, all who are still missing, and all who mourn. And on this day, especially, our Nation is grateful to the brave and fallen defenders of freedom. In every generation of Americans, we have found courage equal to the tasks of our country. The farms and small towns and city streets of this land have always produced free citizens who assume the discipline and duty of military life. And time after time, they have proven that the moral force of democracy is mightier than the will and cunning of any tyrant.

The widow of one of our marines in Iraq made this point very simply. "There is good and evil in the world," she said. "That's what's going on, and he was the good." All the good people we honor today were willing to die in the service of our country and our cause. Yet all of them wanted to live. And the images they carried with them at the end were the people they loved and the familiar sights of home.

Not long before his death last month, Army Captain James Adamowski of Springfield, Virginia, wrote this to his wife, Meighan. "I do my job 110 percent and don't get distracted or discouraged when I'm out flying on missions. However, when I have some down time and get to really thinking, I realize that for all the good times we're—all the good things we're doing here, I just plain miss you."

In his last letter home from the Middle East, Staff Sergeant Lincoln Hollinsaid of Malden, Illinois, said how much he appreciated getting mail from his family. He added, "I wish my truck and boat knew how to write." [Laughter] "I sure do miss them." [Laughter] He went on, "Today would be a beautiful fishing day. I can see it now: Drop my electronic anchors, kick my feet up, three poles out with hooks in search for that elusive yet loveable catfish."

Americans like these did not fight for glory but to fulfill a duty. They did not yearn to be heroes; they yearned to see mom and dad again and to hold their sweethearts and to watch their sons and daughters grow. They wanted the daily miracle of freedom in America, yet they gave all that up and gave life itself for the sake of others.

Their sacrifice was great but not in vain. All Americans and every free nation on Earth can trace their liberty to the white markers of places like Arlington National Cemetery. And may God keep us ever grateful.

Almost 7 weeks ago, an Army Ranger, Captain Russell Rippetoe, was laid to rest in Section 60. Captain Rippetoe's father, Joe, a retired lieutenant colonel, gave a farewell salute at the grave of his only son. Russell Rippetoe served with distinction in Operation Iraqi Freedom, earning both the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. On the back of his dog tag were engraved these words from the Book of Joshua: "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage. Be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee." This faithful Army captain has joined a noble company of service and sacrifice gathered row by row. These men and women were strong and courageous and not dismayed, and we pray they have found their peace in the arms of God.

May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:33 a.m. in the Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld; Maj. Gen. James T. Jackson, USA, commander, and Col. Kerry Steedly, USA, chaplain, Military District of Washington; and Col. Harold Ray, USAF, 11th wing chaplain, Bolling Air Force Base.

Remarks Honoring the 2002 World Series Champion Anaheim Angels

May 27, 2003

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated, except for the players. [Laughter] It's my honor to welcome the World Champion Anaheim Angels to the White House. Congratulations.

I understand some of the players were so excited that, well, like David Eckstein, who actually went out and purchased a suit. [Laughter] Fine looking. [Laughter] I don't know if David shared with the players here that I actually invited David for dinner. George Will and I hosted a baseball dinner here a while ago, and David came, and he didn't take any silverware. [Laughter]

I really want to congratulate the team owners. First, I want to congratulate you, Arte, for being an owner of the team. It's pretty quick how things happen here in America. You buy the team; now you're at the White House. [Laughter] But I think you and Carole will love baseball. I know Laura and I really enjoyed our time with the mighty Texas Rangers, although somewhat disappointed by the fact that we never actually got to come to the White House. But at least we're all in the American League West. How about that? So congratulations on becoming a new owner.

I also want to pay homage to Gene Autry. Gene was the owner of the team when I was fortunate enough to be in baseball, and he's an amazing guy. I know that he's smiling down now here on the—looking at the Rose Garden and realizing his beloved Angels have finally won the World Championship. So I want to thank the players and the manager and the coaches for working hard to see to it that Gene Autry's dream came true.

I also want to give Jackie Autry my best, a person I got to know during baseball as well. She's a woman of strong opinions, but one of the things she did love most of all was the Angels.

And I'm glad my friend Sandy Alderson is here. It's good to see you, Sandy. He used to be the general manager of the Oakland A's, which was an unpleasant experience for not only the Angels but the Texas Rangers, playing the A's. But you're doing a great job as—running baseball operations. Sandy served our country in the Marine Corps. He's a guy that when the country called, he served. And I know you're as proud of the Marine Corps as I am, as how they handled their business in Iraq and freed the Iraqi people from the clutches of a barbaric regime. So, welcome.

I do want to congratulate Bill Stoneman, who's a fine executive. He's a good, steady fellow who did a great job. I called him after you all won, to pass on my congratulations. I know you're proud of the job he did as well as all the business folks here to make sure the operation runs well.

I want to congratulate Mike Scioscia. He's turned out to be a pretty good fellow, it looks like, you know—[*laughter*]—Manager of the Year, a good, steady guy. It's hard to bring a team from being 41 games down the year before to become the World Champs. It says something about focus and desire and willingness to win. It speaks a lot about hope, and that always happens because you've got good management. Mike Scioscia is a—obviously, a good manager. I want to congratulate Mike.

I also want to say hello to my friend Mickey Hatcher. Obviously, we didn't do a very good job about checking the security of every person that came. [*Laughter*] I got to know Mickey when he was working for the Rangers. He was a breath of fresh air. I suspect you're still a breath of fresh air. [*Laughter*] Occasionally a bad breath of fresh air. [*Laughter*] It's good to see you, Mick. Thanks for coming.

I want to thank all you all for being here. I particularly want to thank members of my Cabinet, California fans Ann Veneman and Tony Principi, who are here to celebrate with you. I didn't realize we had this many Ana-

heim Angel fans in the White House. I see Ari Fleischer somewhere around here. He's not exactly an Anaheim Angel fan, but—as a matter of fact, he's a Yankee fan, and I appreciate the message you delivered him. [*Laughter*]

I want to congratulate the Texans who are on the team. [*Laughter*] You've got a boy from west Texas—no wonder you're the World Champs—from Abilene, I believe Lackey is from. Good to see you, John. And Weber—Weber is not from—

Manager Mike Scioscia. We don't know where Weber is from.

The President. That's right. [*Laughter*]

Manager Scioscia. Web, where you from in Texas?

Ben Weber. Beaumont.

The President. Yes, that's good.

Where's Benji Gil? Oh, there he is. Benji Gil, I remember when he was fresh-faced rookie. [*Laughter*] He came up with the Rangers. It's amazing what facial hair does. [*Laughter*] But it's good to see you, Benji. Congratulations.

Where is the rally monkey? [*Laughter*]

Audience member. Woo-hoo!

The President. Oh, there he is. [*Laughter*] Keep your remarks short, please. [*Laughter*] I want to—first of all, I hope the players here forgive me for being the one owner who voted against the wild card system in baseball, if you know what I mean. [*Laughter*] There have been two teams in the history of Major League Baseball that have gone from the wild card to the World Champs, and Anaheim is one.

I mentioned what that said to me. It was something about character that can overcome odds. The players here showed a lot of character. Baseball really is a team sport. The capacity for people to work together for 162 games, a long and grueling season, is an important part of being successful, which means players have to be willing to put aside their selfish interests, that you have to be willing to work for something really greater than yourself.

And so one of the reasons why we like to host World Champs here in the White House is to be able to remind our fellow citizens that there are certain ingredients necessary

to become a champion. One of the key ingredients is to serve the team and not the individual statistic, and that's precisely what the members of the California Angels did.

It also gives me a chance to remind people who come to the White House that when you're a champ, you have a responsibility to the communities in which you live. There are a lot of kids who look at the World Champs and wonder about the example you set. They look at you and say, "Is it okay to curse or drink or carouse?" And I hope the answer you give them, loud and clear, is in order to be a champ, you've got to make right choices in life.

A champion is somebody who sets high standards and lives to those standards. A champion is somebody who assumes responsibility of a champion, which is to not only set a good example but, when you're in your community, use the spotlight that you've achieved to encourage our fellow citizens to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. I know many of you do that, because you're not only champions on the field, you're champions off the field as well.

Welcome to the White House. God bless your talents, and may God continue to bless America.

Manager Scioscia. Mr. President, it took us 42 years to say this, but we'd like to present you with a World Champion Anaheim Angel jersey that I know you'll wear proudly, and we apologize for going through your beloved Texas Rangers in the American League West. [*Laughter*] But thank you very much.

The President. Thank you, Mike. Good to see you all.

Manager Scioscia. Thanks for inviting us.

The President. Congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:53 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to columnist George Will; Anaheim Angels' owner Arturo Moreno and his wife, Carole; Jackie Autry, widow of former Angels' owner Gene Autry; Sandy Alderson, executive vice president of baseball operations, Major League Baseball; Bill Stoneman, vice president and general manager, Anaheim Angels; and manager Mike Scioscia, short stop David Eckstein, starting pitcher John Lackey, relief pitcher Ben Weber, and second baseman Benji Gil, Anaheim Angels.

Remarks on Signing the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003

May 27, 2003

Thank you all very much. I'm so pleased that so many could be here to witness this historic moment, as our Nation sets forth a great mission of rescue. The United States of America has a long tradition of sacrifice in the cause of freedom, and we've got a long tradition of being generous in the service of humanity. We are the Nation of the Marshall plan, the Berlin airlift, and the Peace Corps. And now we're the Nation of the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

HIV/AIDS is one of the greatest medical challenges of our time. The disease has killed more than 20 million people. Today, 42 million more are living with HIV. Across Africa, this disease is filling graveyards and creating orphans and leaving millions in a desperate fight for their own lives.

They will not fight alone, because they will have the help and the friendship of the United States of America. The legislation I sign today launches an emergency effort that will provide \$15 billion over the next 5 years to fight AIDS abroad. This is the largest, single upfront commitment in history for an international public health initiative involving a specific disease.

America makes this commitment for a clear reason, directly rooted in our founding. We believe in the value and dignity of every human life.

In the face of preventable death and suffering, we have a moral duty to act, and we are acting. I want to thank Tommy Thompson and Colin Powell for their leadership on this crucial issue. There are no better people than to trust in seeing that the great heart and compassion of America is recognized in our world through accomplishment.

I appreciate—Tony Fauci is here. Tony has been on the frontline of the war against HIV/AIDS for a long time. And I appreciate you representing the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases.

I appreciate Rich Carmona, is the U.S. Surgeon General, for joining us. Thank you for being here, Rich.

I want to thank a member of my staff, the Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy, Dr. Joseph O'Neill, for his leadership.

It is my honor to recognize Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, the former President of Zambia is with us today as well.

I'm grateful that the Ambassadors and the senior officials from African and Caribbean nations are with us. I appreciate their leadership. Send a message back home that we are earnest and determined to help you wipe out AIDS in your country.

I want to thank all the faith-based and community activists and leaders who are here who share our passion and desire to help those who suffer. Your efforts took place long before we arrived here in Washington or, at least, I arrived here in Washington, and all we want to do is stand by your side as we march down the road of a hopeful tomorrow for people who suffer.

I want to thank the Members of the House and the Senate who are here. Bill Frist has been a leader on this issue, and he, along with Senator Richard Lugar and Senator Joe Biden, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, delivered. Mr. Leader, thank you.

I appreciate my friend Congressman Tom Lantos for being here. He represents the House Foreign Relations Committee. Chairman Hyde is not here, but nevertheless, the two worked really well together.

I am pleased to see Senator Santorum and DeWine are here. Thank you all for coming, and thank you for your leadership on this issue. I also want to thank the Members of the House, Congressmen Pitts, Smith, King, and Congresswoman Barbara Lee for joining us as well. Thank you all for your interest, and thanks for coming.

When I stood in front of the Congress 4 months ago, I was confident that the U.S. Congress would respond. I was confident that they would hear the call for a bold initiative, and they responded. And they have my gratitude, and they have the gratitude of millions around the world for their leadership on this issue. And I want to thank you all very much.

This Act of Congress addresses one of the most urgent needs of the modern world. Because of the AIDS pandemic, a child born today in sub-Saharan Africa has a life expect-

ancy of 47 years. This disease falls most heavily on women and children. Nearly 60 percent of those infected by HIV in sub-Saharan Africa are women. Three million African children under 15 have the AIDS virus—3 million. And the disease has left 11 million orphans, more children than live in the entire State of California.

Behind these numbers are names. There is Mbongeni, a 15-year-old boy who lost both his mother and father to AIDS and now struggles to feed his two siblings and two nephews.

There is Leonora, the mother of five in Kenya, who cares for five other children she has taken into her home, all of them AIDS orphans, all of whom would be on the streets without her love.

There is Ruth, a young mother dying of AIDS at 24, ostracized by her late husband's family, asking, "Who will take care of my children?"

This is the daily reality of a continent in crisis, and America will not look away. This great Nation is stepping forward to help. The fight against AIDS is difficult but not hopeless. We know how to prevent AIDS, and we know how to treat it. The cost of effective medicines has fallen dramatically. And we made progress here in our own country where we have increased spending for domestic HIV prevention and care and treatment by 7 percent in next year's budget. We will also help the people across Africa who are struggling against this disease and those who have proven on a day-by-day basis the battle can be won.

We see hope in the work of individuals like the former President of Zambia who lost his son to AIDS, a son who left several children to the care of their grandfather. The good President turned his grief to good works and created the Kenneth Kaunda Children of Africa Foundation. His foundation pays for food and medical care and schooling for AIDS orphans. Mr. President, we honor you for your service and for the example you have shown to others who live on your ravished continent. Thank you for coming today, sir.

We see hope in the many religious and educational institutions that are doing effective work on the frontline of the AIDS crisis.

The Catholic Medical Mission Board, for example, runs 15 clinics in southern Africa and Haiti, where more than 20,000 pregnant women each year receive HIV testing and counseling and drug therapy to prevent the transmission of the virus to their children.

I want to thank Jack Galbraith for the fine work of Catholic Medical Mission. And I want to thank all of you all who have heard that call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. Thank you for your service to those who suffer. May God continue to bless your work.

We see hope in the actions of African governments that are acting responsibly and aggressively to fight AIDS. The nation of Uganda is pursuing a successful strategy of prevention, emphasizing abstinence and marital fidelity, as well as the responsible use of condoms to prevent HIV transmission. The results in Uganda have been remarkable. The AIDS infection rate has fallen sharply since 1990, and in some places the percentage of pregnant women with HIV has been cut in half. The Uganda plan is proving that major progress is possible.

And now we must spread that progress to suffering nations throughout the world. By the legislation I will sign today, the United States of America will take the side of individuals and groups and governments fighting HIV/AIDS in Africa and other parts of the world. We'll provide unprecedented resources to the effort, and we will keep our commitment until we have turned the tide against AIDS.

Under this legislation, America will provide additional money for the Global Fund for AIDS Relief and additional funding for our efforts in many countries to prevent mother-to-child transmission of the disease. And we will focus our efforts on 12 African and 2 Caribbean countries where HIV/AIDS is heavily concentrated.

We will purchase low-cost antiretroviral medications and other drugs that are needed to save lives. We will set up a broad and efficient network to deliver drugs to the farthest reaches of Africa, even by motorcycle or bicycle. We will train doctors and nurses and other health care professionals so they can treat HIV/AIDS patients. We will renovate and, where necessary, build and equip clinics

and laboratories. We will support the care of AIDS orphans by training and hiring childcare workers. We'll provide home-based care to ease the suffering of people living with AIDS.

We'll provide HIV testing throughout all regions of the targeted countries. We'll support abstinence-based prevention education for young people in schools and churches and community centers. We will assist faith-based and community organizations to provide treatment, prevention, and support services in communities affected by HIV/AIDS. We are developing a system to monitor and evaluate this entire program, so we can truly say to people, "We care more about results than words. We're interested in lives saved." And lives will be saved.

This comprehensive program has the potential in this decade to prevent 7 million new HIV infections, provide life-extending drugs to at least 2 million infected people, give humane care to 10 million HIV sufferers and AIDS orphans. This is a massive undertaking, and the dedicated men and women of the United States Government are eager to get started.

To coordinate this effort, I will soon nominate a global AIDS coordinator who will have the rank of ambassador. This coordinator will work closely with the Departments of State and Health and Human Services, as well as with USAID and the Centers for Disease Control, to direct the efforts in the worldwide fight against AIDS.

I'm going to Europe here at the end of this week, and I will challenge our partners and our friends to follow our lead and to make a similar commitment made by the United States of America so we can save even more lives.

I will remind them that time is not on our side. Every day of delay means 8,000 more AIDS deaths in Africa and 14,000 more infections—every day, 14,000 more people will be infected. I'll urge our European partners and Japan and Canada to join this great mission of rescue, to match their good intentions with real resources.

The suffering in Africa is great. The suffering in the Caribbean is great. The United States of America has the power and we have the moral duty to help. And I'm proud that

our blessed and generous Nation is fulfilling that duty.

Now it is my honor and high privilege to sign this lifesaving piece of legislation. God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:20 p.m. in the Dean Acheson Auditorium at the U.S. Department of State. In his remarks, he referred to Representatives Christopher H. Smith of New Jersey and Peter T. King of New York; and John Galbraith, president and chief executive officer, Catholic Medical Mission Board. H.R. 1298, approved May 27, was assigned Public Law No. 108-25.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
(Serbia and Montenegro) and Kosovo**
May 27, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

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, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing a combined 6-month report prepared by my Administration on the national emergencies declared with respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in Executive Order 12808 on May 30, 1992, and Kosovo in Executive Order 13088 on June 9, 1998.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

**Remarks on Signing the Jobs and
Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act
of 2003**
May 28, 2003

Thank you all very much. Good afternoon, and welcome to the White House. Today we are taking essential action to strengthen the American economy. With my signature, the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation

Act of 2003 will deliver substantial tax relief to 136 million American taxpayers.

We are helping workers who need more take-home pay. We're helping seniors who rely on dividends. We're helping small-business owners looking to grow and to create more new jobs. We're helping families with children who will receive immediate relief. By ensuring that Americans have more to spend, to save, and to invest, this legislation is adding fuel to an economic recovery. We have taken aggressive action to strengthen the foundation of our economy so that every American who wants to work will be able to find a job.

I want to thank the members of my team who have worked so hard to get this bill to this desk. [Laughter] I particularly want to thank Secretary John Snow and Secretary Don Evans for their tireless efforts to convince members of both political parties what we're doing today is the right thing to do on behalf of all Americans.

I want to thank Steve Friedman for his good work, and his staff. I want to thank Mitch Daniels, "the Blade." [Laughter] I want to thank members of my Cabinet who are here, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao and Mel Martinez. Thank you both for coming.

I particularly want to thank the Members of the United States Congress who worked closely with the administration to do what was right for the American people. Speaker Hastert—Speaker Denny Hastert isn't with us, but he put forth a monumental effort to get this bill done, as did Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist.

I'm particularly pleased that not only did the majority leader join me up here, but so does the chairman of the Ways and Means, Chairman Bill Thomas. He got the job done along with Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa, the Finance chairman in the Senate. These two good men worked out differences in a quick period of time and got the bill to the respective bodies quickly, where both Republicans and Democrats supported this major piece of legislation.

I want to thank the Members from the United States House of Representatives who are with us today as well as Senator Thad Cochran, representing other Members of the Senate. We're honored you all are here. I

want to thank all the Members who voted for this bill. We had great support in the House. Senators Miller and Nelson also supported the Republican majority in the Senate, so that we can say loud and clear to the American people, "You got more of your own money to spend so that this economy can get a good wind behind it."

I want to thank Dirk and members of the Tax Relief Coalition who rallied the grassroots all across the country to remind Members of the House and the Senate that there are people out there that understand that with tax relief will come more jobs for the American people.

I appreciate members of the roundtables we had all around America. I see a lot of familiar faces from people that allowed me to come and listen to their stories and then translate those stories into the public arena so that our Congresspeople and citizens knew that behind every number there was a story to be told. I see small-business entrepreneurs and taxpayers and people who need dividends to help with their retirement. All of them stood up as we went around the country and spoke clearly—much more clearly than I can—about the need for tax relief. And I appreciate you all being here. And I want to thank you for your care for our country, and welcome to the White House.

The Jobs and Growth Act reduces Federal income taxes across the board. And today the Internal Revenue Service will post new withholding tax tables so that employers can begin leaving more money in the paychecks of American workers, starting next month.

The Jobs and Growth Act increases the per-child tax credit from \$600 to \$1,000. So today I'm directing the Department of Treasury to issue checks of up to \$400 per child to 25 million eligible families. And those checks will begin arriving in July.

This combination of income tax rate reductions, a higher child credit, and a reduction in the marriage penalty will make a difference for families in every part of this country. A family of four with a total income of \$75,000 will receive a 19-percent reduction in Federal income taxes, saving \$1,122 per year, per family. A family of four with an

income of \$40,000 will see their income taxes drop from \$1,178 to \$45, a 96-percent tax cut. And under this new law, 3 million individuals and families will have their Federal income tax liability completely eliminated. Altogether, 34 million families with children, including 6 million single moms, will receive an average tax cut of \$1,549 per year.

Jenny Theisen, from Omaha, Nebraska, is here with us today. Jenny's husband, David, is a staff sergeant based at Offutt Air Force Base and right now on duty in the Pacific and the Indian Ocean. Jenny and David work hard to provide for their children, just like a lot of other Americans do as well. And right now Jenny says she tries to save \$200 a month for her girls' college savings account. But sometimes other bills have to be paid first, is what she says. Under this proposal, under the bill I sign, it's going to be a lot easier for the Theisen family to save for the future because they will keep an extra \$1,300 a year of their own money.

Tax relief matters a lot to the average citizen here in America. This tax bill will make it easier for moms and dads to save for their children's education, and that's vitally important for the future of this country.

The benefits of the Jobs and Growth Act will also go to investors. The top capital gains tax rate will be reduced by 25 percent, which will encourage more investment and risktaking, and that will help in job creation.

The bill also allows for dividend income to be taxed at a lower rate. This will encourage more companies to pay dividends, which in itself will not only be good for investors but will be a corporate reform measure. It's hard to pay dividends unless you've actually got cashflow. The days when people could say, "Invest with me because the sky's the limit," will be changed by dividend policy. It's hard to promote the sky being the limit and pay dividends unless you're actually profitable and have cashflow. Getting—reducing the tax rate on dividends will also increase the wealth effect around America and will help our markets.

And the good news is a lot of senior citizens rely on dividend income to meet their daily needs. And under this legislation, 12

million seniors will receive an average tax reduction of \$1,401. We're delivering substantial tax relief to small-business owners and entrepreneurs.

Most small-business owners are Subchapter S—own Subchapter S corporations or sole proprietorships or limited partnerships, so the small business pays taxes at the individual tax rate. By cutting individual tax rates and by delivering other incentives for investment in new equipment, 23 million small-business owners will receive an average tax cut of \$2,209.

This law reflects a commonsense economic principle: The best way to have more jobs is to help the people who create new jobs, and those are the small-business owners of America.

Scott Harding is with us today. He's the CEO of a family-owned electrical contracting business in Rockville, Maryland. Scott's company is a Sub S company. He spends more than \$100,000 a year on new equipment. His savings under the tax relief will let him keep \$7,300 of his own money, and his business will save at least \$12,000 because of this legislation's increased expensing rules. His savings, plus those of the other people who own this company, will help this company buy more equipment for their 50 employees, which will make the employees more productive, which will make it more likely that he'll be able to expand the number of employees who works for him.

Scott says, "The more money we make, the bigger bonuses there are for workers. It's that simple." No matter how complicated tax policy may seem here in Washington, people like Scott understand it all too well. If businesses keep more of their own money, their workers benefit right away. By leaving families and entrepreneurs more to spend, more to save, more to invest, these reforms will help boost the entire economy and create jobs.

When people have more money, they can spend it on goods and services. And in our society, when they demand an additional good or a service, somebody will produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or a service, it means somebody is more likely to be able to find a job.

Increased hiring happens gradually, but we're on the path to greater job creation across this country. We know that tax relief is going to help this economy because it has done so in the past. The tax relief we passed in 2001 helped make the recession one of the shallowest in American history. It gave millions of families needed relief during a difficult time for our country. It helped many entrepreneurs to pursue their dreams.

I recently got a letter from Rusty Loiselle, who lives in Illinois. Rusty had seen some hard times, but he always had a dream to start his own business and to be his own boss. He says the tax relief in 2001 helped him create a small custom painting business. He bought a computer, some airbrushes, lights, and sanders, and he's done well. He's done well enough to be able to buy himself a home for he and his son. He said, "It probably doesn't sound much like—sound like much to you all, but it means a lot to my son and me."

That's what America's all about, providing opportunity. The bill I'm going to sign provides opportunity for millions of Americans across this country. And the more opportunity there is, the more likely it is somebody is going to find work in this country.

This legislation is a major step forward in our economic agenda. Yet other steps are also needed. We must hold Federal spending to a responsible level. Our budget for this year calls for discretionary spending to rise only 4 percent, or as much as the average household income will go up this year. Government should follow the example of American families by setting clear priorities and by staying within them.

We must act in other areas to ensure the economic security of American families and workers. There could be no economic security unless people can count on affordable health care. Critical measures before Congress would address this issue. Our country must get a handle on rising health care costs, so we must pass reforms to end the junk lawsuits that drive good doctors out of practice and drive the costs up for everybody.

The biggest threat to economic security of our seniors is the affordability of prescription drugs. We must make available a prescription drug benefit to all our seniors. And we must

assure that the commitments of Medicare are kept to every future generation of Americans.

To enhance economic security for working people throughout the economy, we must reduce the burden of regulation and litigation on small businesses as well. Employers don't want to spend their time and resources filling out forms or fighting junk lawsuits. They want to be out on the shop floor or behind the cash register creating profits and jobs. And that is why this administration has launched a task force to find ways to reduce paperwork for small-business owners in America. We must enact regulatory and lawsuit reforms so that our business owners can do what they do best, create jobs.

We must also help build economic security for workers by preparing citizens to fill the new jobs this economy will create. We're aggressively implementing higher standards in our public schools so that every child—every child—learns to read and write and add and subtract. We've increased funding for Pell grants, making higher education a possibility for more young Americans.

I've proposed innovative reemployment accounts to help unemployed workers cover the cost of job training or relocation. For those currently unemployed, earlier today I signed legislation extending unemployment insurance benefits for an additional 13 weeks. And when we reauthorize welfare reform, we must make sure that more and more Americans are set on the path of work, which is the path of dignity and independence.

I'm confident we can make progress in all these areas, because the Congress is showing the good will and hard work that makes progress possible. Already we've achieved many of the goals that I outlined last January. Congress passed a budget resolution that follows my call to restore spending discipline to Washington, DC. We passed a focused supplemental spending bill to support our brave men and women in uniform. We passed a Global AIDS Initiative to help millions of people fighting for their lives. And now we have passed a bold package of tax relief for America's families and businesses which will help turn our recovery into a lasting expansion that reaches every single corner of America.

I believe in the future of this economy, in our Nation, because I know the character of the American people. In 20 months, Americans have been tested by a national emergency, corporate scandals, war, and recession. And time after time, we've responded effectively to the challenges we have faced. Time after time, Americans have shown a firm resolve and an unshakable faith in our future.

And now, with this bold legislation, we're sending a clear message to the doubters, the doubters that Washington can respond. We can respond. We can respond in a positive way. We're building on the strengths of our economy so that everybody who wants to work can find a job in this great country.

Congratulations to the Members of the United States Congress for rising to the challenge. May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:20 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Senator Ben Nelson of Nebraska; and Dirk Van Dongen, president, Tax Relief Coalition. H.R. 2, approved May 28, was assigned Public Law No. 108-27. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Executive Order 13305—Extension of the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee and the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology

May 28, 2003

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-194), as amended by the Next Generation Internet Research Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-305), and in order to extend the life of the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee and the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology so that they may continue to carry out their responsibilities, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. That section 4(b) of Executive Order 13035, as amended, is further amended by

deleting “June 1, 2003,” and inserting in lieu thereof “June 1, 2005.”

2. That section 4(b) of Executive Order 13226 is amended by deleting “2 years from the date of this order,” and inserting in lieu thereof “September 30, 2005.”

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 28, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
8:45 a.m., May 29, 2003]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on May 30.

**Executive Order 13304—
Termination of Emergencies With
Respect to Yugoslavia and
Modification of Executive Order
13219 of June 26, 2001**

May 28, 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, as amended (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), 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) (UNPA), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code,

I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, have determined that the situations that gave rise to the declarations of national emergencies in Executive Order 12808 of May 30, 1992, and Executive Order 13088 of June 9, 1998, with respect to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, have been significantly altered by the peaceful transition to democracy and other positive developments in Serbia and Montenegro (formerly the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)). Accordingly, I hereby terminate the national emergencies declared in those orders and revoke those and all related orders (Executive Orders 12810 of June 5, 1992, 12831 of January 15, 1993, 12846 of April 25, 1993, 12934 of October 25, 1994, 13121 of April 30, 1999, and 13192 of January 17,

2001). At the same time, and in order to take additional steps with respect to continuing, widespread, and illicit actions that obstruct implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001, relating to Macedonia, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, relating to Kosovo, or the Dayton Accords or the Conclusions of the Peace Implementation Conference Council held in London on December 8–9, 1995, including the decisions or conclusions of the High Representative, the Peace Implementation Council or its Steering Board, relating to Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the harboring of individuals indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and the national emergency described and declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, I hereby order:

Section 1. Pursuant to section 202 of the NEA (50 U.S.C. 1622), termination of the national emergencies declared in Executive Order 12808 of May 30, 1992, and Executive Order 13088 of June 9, 1998, 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 such date, or any rights or duties that matured or penalties that were incurred prior to such date. Pursuant to section 207 of IEEPA (50 U.S.C. 1706), I hereby determine that the continuation of prohibitions with regard to transactions involving any property blocked pursuant to Executive Orders 12808 or 13088 that continues to be blocked as of the effective date of this order is necessary on account of claims involving successor states to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or other potential claimants.

Sec. 2. The Annex to Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, is replaced and superseded in its entirety by the Annex to this order.

Sec. 3. (a) Section 1(a) and 1(b) of Executive Order 13219 are revised to read as follows:

“**Section 1.** (a) Except to the extent provided in section 203(b)(1), (3), and (4) of IEEPA (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)(1), (3), and (4)), and the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 (Title IX, Public

Law 106–387), and in regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may hereafter be issued pursuant to this order, and notwithstanding any contract entered into or any license or permit granted prior to the effective date of this order, all property and interests in property of:

(i) the persons listed in the Annex to this order; and

(ii) persons designated by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, because they are determined:

(A) to be under open indictment by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, unless circumstances warrant otherwise, or

(B) to have committed, or to pose a significant risk of committing, acts of violence that have the purpose or effect of threatening the peace in or diminishing the stability or security of any area or state in the Western Balkans region, undermining the authority, efforts, or objectives of international organizations or entities present in the region, or endangering the safety of persons participating in or providing support to the activities of those international organizations or entities, or

(C) to have actively obstructed, or pose a significant risk of actively obstructing, the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 relating to Macedonia, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 relating to Kosovo, or the Dayton Accords or the Conclusions of the Peace Implementation Conference held in London on December 8–9, 1995, including the decisions or conclusions of the High Representative, the Peace Implementation Council or its Steering Board, relating to Bosnia and Herzegovina, or

(D) to have materially assisted in, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, such acts of violence or obstructionism or any person listed in or designated pursuant to this order, or

(E) to be owned or controlled by, or acting or purporting to act directly or indirectly for or on behalf of, any person

listed in or designated pursuant to this order, that are or hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of United States persons, are blocked and may not be transferred, paid, exported, withdrawn, or otherwise dealt in.

(b) I hereby determine that the making of donations of the type specified in section 203(b)(2) of IEEPA (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)(2)) by or to persons determined to be subject to the sanctions imposed under this order would seriously impair the ability to deal with the national emergency declared in this order, and hereby prohibit such donations as provided in paragraph (a) of this section.”

Sec. 4. New sections 7 and 8 are added to Executive Order 13219 to read as follows:

“**Sec. 7.** For those persons listed in the Annex to this order or determined to be subject to the sanctions imposed under this order who might have a constitutional presence in the United States, I have determined that, because of the ability to transfer funds or assets instantaneously, prior notice to such persons of measures to be taken pursuant to this order would render these measures ineffectual. I therefore determine that for these measures to be effective in addressing the national emergency declared in this order, there need be no prior notice of a listing or determination made pursuant to this order.

Sec. 8. The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is authorized to determine, subsequent to the issuance of this order, that circumstances no longer warrant inclusion of a person in the Annex to this order and that such person is therefore no longer covered within the scope of the sanctions set forth herein. Such a determination shall become effective upon publication in the *Federal Register*.”

Sec. 5. The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is hereby authorized to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA and UNPA, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this

order. The Secretary of the Treasury may re-delegate any of these functions to other officers and agencies of the United States Government. All agencies of the United States Government are hereby directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of this order and, where appropriate, to advise the Secretary of the Treasury in a timely manner of the measures taken.

Sec. 6. Nothing contained in this order shall create any right or benefit or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

Sec. 7. This order is effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on May 29, 2003. This order shall be transmitted to the Congress and published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 28, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:48 p.m., May 28, 2003]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 29, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 29.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Termination of Emergencies With Respect to Yugoslavia and Modification of Emergencies With Regard to the Western Balkans

May 28, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Consistent with section 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b) (IEEPA), and sections 202(a) and 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622 and 1631, I hereby report that I have today issued an Executive Order. The order terminates the national emergencies declared in Executive Order 12808 of May 30, 1992, and Executive Order 13088 of June 9, 1998, with respect to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and revokes those and all related orders. I have determined that the situations

that gave rise to those national emergencies have been significantly altered by the peaceful transition to democracy and other positive developments in Serbia and Montenegro (formerly the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (the "FRY (SaM)").

A series of Milosevic-era Executive Orders, beginning with Executive Order 12808 of May 30, 1992, imposed sanctions on the former Yugoslavia. The sanctions imposed pursuant to Executive Order 12808 and related orders were suspended pursuant to Presidential Determination 96-7, on December 27, 1995, in order to achieve a settlement of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In Executive Order 13192 of January 17, 2001, President Clinton lifted sanctions on the Government of the FRY (SaM) and the Governments of the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro that had been imposed pursuant to Executive Order 13088 and related orders. Since that time, the United States Government has maintained sanctions on Slobodan Milosevic, his close associates, and other persons, because of the illegitimate control over FRY (SaM) political institutions and economic resources or enterprises exercised by these persons and their capacity to repress democracy or perpetrate or promote further human rights abuses.

I have now determined that the strong commitment to political and economic reform shown by senior officials in the Government of Serbia and Montenegro warrants the termination altogether of the national emergencies declared with respect to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. These national emergencies, and the sanctions that flowed from them, though suspended or lifted, have been perceived to be outdated and have been a source of bilateral concern for the United States and Serbia and Montenegro. In terminating these national emergencies, this Executive Order also encourages the efforts of reform-minded officials of the Government of Serbia and Montenegro by removing the vestiges of restrictions imposed during the Milosevic era.

Although I am terminating the Yugoslav emergencies and related Executive Orders, pursuant to my authority under IEEPA, I am

continuing for the near future certain prohibitions with respect to property previously blocked pursuant to Executive Orders 12808 and 13088. Such prohibitions are necessary on account of claims involving the successor states to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and others with respect to certain property and interests in property that have yet to be unblocked. In addition, certain individuals targeted with sanctions under Executive Order 13088, as amended by Executive Order 13192 of January 17, 2001, will now be subject to sanctions set forth under the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, with respect to persons who threaten international stabilization efforts in the Western Balkans, as discussed below.

I have amended Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, with respect to persons who threaten international stabilization efforts in the Western Balkans to take additional steps with respect to continuing, widespread, and illicit actions by certain persons that obstruct implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 relating to Macedonia, or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, relating to Kosovo, or the Dayton Accords or the Conclusions of the Peace Implementation Conference held in London on December 8–9, 1995, including the decisions or conclusions of the High Representative, the Peace Implementation Council or its Steering Board, relating to Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the harboring of individuals indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. These additional steps respond to the continuing actions of ethnic extremists in Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, southern Serbia, and elsewhere in the Western Balkans who engage in acts of violence, sometimes targeting international personnel, or otherwise obstruct efforts to build peace and stability. The Executive Order underscores the support of the United States for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia by sanctioning those individuals indicted by the Tribunal and those who aid and abet their efforts to escape justice.

The Executive Order blocks all property and interests in property of the persons iden-

tified in the Annex to the order, which supersedes a previous Annex attached to Executive Order 13219, as well as persons subsequently designated pursuant to the order by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State. The order further prohibits any transaction or dealing by United States persons or within the United States in property or interests in property blocked pursuant to the order, including the making or receiving of any contribution of funds, goods, or services to or for the benefit of the persons designated pursuant to the order.

Under the order, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to designate additional persons, and thereby block their property and assets, that are determined:

- to be under open indictment by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, unless circumstances warrant otherwise, or
- to have committed, or to pose a significant risk of committing, acts of violence that have the purpose or effect of threatening the peace in or diminishing the stability or security of any area or state in the Western Balkans region, undermining the authority, efforts, or objectives of international organizations or entities present in the region, or endangering the safety of persons participating in or providing support to the activities of those international organizations or entities, or
- to have actively obstructed, or pose a significant risk of actively obstructing, implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 relating to Macedonia, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 relating to Kosovo, or the Dayton Accords or the Conclusions of the Peace Implementation Conference held in London on December 8–9, 1995, including the decisions or conclusions of the High Representative, the Peace Implementation Council or its Steering Board, relating to Bosnia and Herzegovina, or
- to have materially assisted in, sponsored, or provided financial, material or technological support for, or goods or

services in support of, such acts of violence or obstructionism, or any person listed in or designated pursuant to this order, or

- to be owned or controlled by, or acting or purporting to act directly or indirectly for or on behalf of, any persons designated in or pursuant to this order.

In addition, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is also authorized to determine, subsequent to the issuance of the Executive Order, that circumstances no longer warrant inclusion of a person in the Annex to the order and that such person is therefore no longer covered within the scope of the Executive Order. The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is also authorized to issue regulations in the exercise of authorities under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and the United Nations Participation Act of 1945, as amended (22 U.S.C. 287c), to implement the measures provided in the order. All Federal agencies are directed to take actions within their authority to carry out the provisions of the Executive Order.

This Executive Order further demonstrates the U.S. commitment to supporting reform throughout the Balkans and recognizes the significant steps the countries of the region have taken, and are continuing to take, to root out corruption and fight organized crime.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued. This order becomes effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on May 29, 2003.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 29.

**Executive Order 13306—
Establishing the Bob Hope American
Patriot Award**

May 28, 2003

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

Section 1. Establishment of the Award. In order to encourage love of country, service to the people of the United States, and support for our Armed Forces, and in order to recognize the unique and lifelong service of Bob Hope to the United States Armed Forces and to the Nation through his unwavering patriotism and dedication to maintaining the morale of the troops he entertained for nearly six decades, and on the occasion of his 100th birthday, there is hereby established the Bob Hope American Patriot Award (Award).

Sec. 2. Granting and Presentation of the Award.

(a) The Award may be granted by the President, in his sole discretion, to any civilian individual who has demonstrated extraordinary love of country and devotion to the personnel of the United States Armed Forces, in the form of true patriotism. The Award may also be granted by the President to an organization that meets the same criteria.

(b) Other than in exceptional circumstances, no more than one Award may be granted in any given year.

(c) The presentation of the Award may take place at any time during the year.

(d) Subject to the provisions of this order, the Award may be conferred posthumously.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 28, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:30 a.m., June 2, 2003]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 29, and it

will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 3.

Interview With TV3 of France

May 29, 2003

France-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, are you going to forgive the French attitude on Iraq? What are you going to tell President Chirac when you're going to see him face to face?

The President. Sure.

Q. Are you still mad at him? Are you going to take sanctions against France?

The President. No, no. No sanctions. I'm not mad. I mean, I'm disappointed, and the American people are disappointed. But now is the time to move forward, and there's a lot of issues that we can work together on. I know that Jacques Chirac feels strongly about Africa, and so do I. And therefore, we can work together, for example, on the AIDS pandemic in Africa. I laid out a bit initiative here for the American people, and the Congress passed a \$15 billion, 5-year plan to work on HIV/AIDS in Africa. And there would be an opportunity, for example, for America and the French to work together to solve some big problems.

And I'm going to remind him, just like I'm going to remind a lot of people, that we can do a heck of a lot more together than we can arguing with each other. And I can understand why some didn't agree with our policy in Iraq, but it's now time to move forward.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Considering the roadmap, peace in Middle East, you are going to meet most of the protagonists next week, how do you plan concretely to succeed where your predecessors failed?

The President. Yes. Well, first of all, I appreciate the understanding of Jacques Chirac and the administration about me leaving a little early from Evian to go to the Middle East, where I will first meet with our Arab friends, some of the leaders in the neighborhood, and remind them they have a responsibility to the process. In other words, if they're interested in the achievement of peace, that they must cut off funding, for example, or work to cut off the fi-

ancing of money to terrorist groups that would like to destroy the process.

Secondly, I believe that the Palestinian Authority—the new Prime Minister is firmly committed to the defeat of terror and the advancement of a state and the institutions necessary to make a state viable. And so I'm very encouraged by his emergence.

And thirdly, I believe Israel recognizes it's in their self-interest to support the notion of two states living side by side in peace. I'm the first President to have ever proposed that. I did so at the United Nations, and I take that vision into the Middle East knowing that the process is going to be difficult. But I believe that people now see the necessity of achieving that end result.

Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction

Q. Mr. President, what do you answer to the American press that are trying to say that you have not released yet the proof of the existence of arms of massive destructions in Iraq? What do you answer to them?

The President. Well, they must not be paying attention, is what I answer, because we've discovered mobile biological laboratories, the very same laboratories that Colin Powell talked about at the United Nations, the very same laboratories that were banned by the resolutions of the United Nations.

Iraq

Q. The situation in Iraq is far from being stabilized. We have seen some American soldiers killed. Do you fear the rise of Muslim fundamentalism in this region against the occidental world, against United States? And do you fear at the same time the risk of creation of an Islamic republic backed by neighboring Iran?

The President. No, I don't fear that. I think the Iraqi people want to run their own state. They don't need to have an Iranian-backed regime. I think the Iraqi people are plenty capable of managing their own affairs.

Secondly, I fully recognize that democracy didn't flourish overnight. But I didn't expect it to. This is a country which has been ravished by a brutal dictator who murdered and tortured to stay in power. And it wasn't all that long ago that they were liberated from Saddam Hussein. So it's going to take a while.

And therefore, I've told Jerry Bremer that our Government, my Government, will be patient, as he makes progress toward improving the lives of the Iraqi people. And I say "he," it's not only Jerry Bremer and the United States; there's a lot of people that are involved with the reconstruction of Iraq. And as life returns back to normal and as we get a hold of the situation—particularly in Baghdad—of the killers and people that are wreaking havoc—in other words, as we bring security to the neighborhoods, you'll see a good, democratic government emerge.

Iran

Q. Is Iran a preoccupation for you—the ayatollahs with Al Qaida, which might be in that country attacking the United States?

The President. Well, we are concerned—we are concerned that there's Al Qaida inside of Iran and have made our concerns very clearly. And this will give me a chance to do so again. To the extent that they have got Al Qaida in their country, we expect them to detain them and eventually hand them over to their countries of origin. There's no preoccupation. Our main focus right now is to find Al Qaida wherever they exist and bring them to justice, and we will do that. We'll continue to do that, and we expect others to join us.

And I want to compliment the French for joining in this fight against Al Qaida. The French intelligence service have been very good to work with, and we've shared intelligence which has made France more secure and America more secure. And for that I'm grateful.

Q. Mr. President, I want to thank you very much, and I definitely wish you all the best and great success for the future.

The President. Thank you, sir. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 2:43 p.m. in the Library at the White House for later broadcast and was embargoed for release by the Office of the Press Secretary until 4:30 p.m. In his remarks, the President referred to President Jacques Chirac of France; Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and L. Paul Bremer III, Presidential Envoy to Iraq.

A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Interview With Nile TV of Egypt

May 29, 2003

President's Upcoming Visit to Egypt/ Meeting With Arab Leaders

Q. Mr. President, thank you very much for talking to Egyptian television. Mr. President, you're coming to Egypt next week, and you are meeting with President Mubarak and a number of other Arab leaders. What are you going to tell them? What role do you see the Arab countries playing in the coming stage?

The President. First, I want to thank President Mubarak for his hospitality. He has been telling me about the beauty of Sharm el-Sheikh for a long time, and now I'm going to get to see it firsthand.

Q. You will love it.

The President. I am looking forward to it.

The first thing I want to do is to make it very clear to the leaders in the neighborhood that I am intent upon working toward a two-state solution in the Middle East—two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace. In other words, I want them to look me in the eye so they can see that I am determined to work to make this happen.

I'm also going to remind them the United States cannot do this alone. We obviously need Israeli support. We obviously need the new Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority's work and help. And we need countries like Egypt and Saudi Arabia and Jordan and others to work together to cut off funding for terrorist groups, to prevent the killers from moving around, to help provide security, and as a Palestinian state emerges, to support Prime Minister Abbas' regime with not only advice but, when necessary, development aid so an economy can start to grow in a Palestinian state.

President's Commitment to Peace

Q. Mr. President, let me follow up on that. You said you are determined to bring peace, you are committed, personally committed to the roadmap, and you are personally involved in the roadmap. That has sort of a different

approach from the approach that the administration had adopted at the beginning, which was a hands-off approach, the peace process.

The question is, how long would that commitment and involvement, personal involvement, last and how deep is it?

The President. Well, first of all, I think it's not a fair characterization to say we were hands-off—quite the contrary. I took an assessment of what was possible and realized that it was impossible to achieve peace with Chairman Arafat. He's failed the Palestinian people in the past. My predecessor tried hard, and I watched very carefully what was tried at Camp David.

Now, having said that, I also was working with the parties to try to set the conditions necessary for the emergence of a Palestinian government with whom we could work, so we wouldn't waste time, so that actually some progress could be made.

So the people have got to know when I say something, I mean it. Hopefully by now people have learned that, that when George W. commits America to a project, we mean that, we don't have idle chit-chat, that we're serious about our intentions.

Q. So the Arabs, or the people in the region shouldn't really be worrying about voices within your administration who are opposed to serious efforts by the United States—

The President. Yes, they don't have to worry about that, because I'm going to put the effort forward.

Q. So you don't listen to them?

The President. Well, it sounds like they don't listen to me, because when I say something, I mean it. And I think President Mubarak knows that. And I'm going to refresh their memories about the kind of administration I try to run. When I say something, we actually go do it. And when I say that I'm going to be involved in the peace process, I mean I'm going to be involved in the peace process.

Now, I understand it's going to be tough and difficult, but I believe it can happen. And I want to work toward achieving two states, so that the Palestinian suffering and humiliation ends.

Egypt-U.S. Relations

Q. And Mr. President, how do you see the future of the Egyptian-American relations, the strategical relations that binded those two countries over the past two decades?

The President. Strong I think, a good future. Listen, we have counted on Egypt, and Egypt counts on America. It's a mutually beneficial relationship. Throughout my Government, people deal with the Egyptian authorities, and I think it's in our interests, our national interest to keep a strong relationship with Egypt, and I intend to do so.

Q. Right. We are looking forward to seeing you, Mr. President, in Sharm el-Sheikh. Thank you very much for your time.

The President. It's going to be an exciting trip, and I look forward to the hospitality of the Egyptian people. And I want to assure the people of Egypt that the relationship is an important relationship between Egypt and the United States. And I want to assure your listeners that when I come to the region, I come with peace in mind and the possibilities of peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis is real in my mind, and I'm going to work toward that objective.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 2:48 p.m. in the Library at the White House for later broadcast and was embargoed for release by the Office of the Press Secretary until 5 p.m. In his remarks, the President referred to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; and Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Interview With Al Arabiyya of the United Arab Emirates

May 29, 2003

Upcoming Meeting With Arab Leaders

Q. Thanks again. We really appreciate it, Mr. President. Sir, you will be discussing with the Arab leaders in Egypt their responsibilities toward the peace process. What are your expectations, practically speaking, from leaders such as President Mubarak and Crown Prince Abdullah?

The President. Well, first of all, one, the willingness to join with the United States and

other nations to cut off funding to terrorist organizations that can't stand the thought of peace. In other words, we all have got to work together to make security real, not only for Israel but for the Palestinian people. And that's my expectations from them.

What I hope to achieve is to be able to look at these leaders in the eye and say, "I believe peace is possible, and I'm going to work to peace." And this isn't just a visit in which you won't hear from me again. I believe peace is necessary and possible.

I told a lot of the leaders that after the Iraq situation, that I would work toward peace in the Middle East. I'm the kind of person who does what he says he's going to do, and now I'm working to achieve that. And I think it's possible.

Meeting With Israeli and Palestinian Authority Leaders

Q. Sir, you are known for your straight talk—some could even say, blunt talk. [Laughter] Are you going to use that approach in Aqaba with Prime Minister Abbas and Prime Minister Sharon? Are you going to hold them accountable for their commitments? And how far are you willing to go in this regard?

The President. I am going to hold people accountable for their commitments. And the good news is, is that Prime Minister Sharon knows that. I have had very straightforward conversations with him. I think it's in Israel's best interests that there be two states living side by side in peace. He too has embraced that idea. And I don't think there's going to be any need for me to hold him to account, but he's agreed to that vision.

I have not met Prime Minister Abbas yet. I look forward to it. And he will—I did meet his Finance Minister, a man who impressed me. And I will assure him that we will work together. But I'll also assure him that security is essential to achieve what we want, which is a viable Palestinian state.

Iraq

Q. Sir, you have held the removal of President Saddam Hussein's regime from power as a harbinger for a new dawn in the Middle East. Yet, the day after in Iraq has been marred, unfortunately, by chaos, some blood-

shed, uncertainty. What is that going to do to your vision of a broader, different, more liberal political landscape in the Middle East? You've talked about it several times.

The President. Absolutely. Well, first of all, we're just starting in Iraq. And a lot of Iraq is stable, and the life of the Iraqi people are better now than it was prior to the war. I readily concede Baghdad is still a relatively dangerous place. And therefore, first things first, which is to bring security to Baghdad. But along with security, we're bringing better electricity, more food, more medicine. And it's not just America, by the way; the world is now involved with the reconstruction of Iraq.

I remind people that, for example, in the United States it took 13 years for us to finally settle on a Constitution. And I guess some expect us to do it in 13 days in Iraq, and it's going—it's just going to take longer. And I talked to Jerry Bremer, and again, will see him when I go to the region and will remind him that we're patient here in America, that we—you know, it wasn't until March 19th that we actually began operations. So there hasn't been much time yet.

I'm not surprised that there's still some pessimism and people are unsettled. After all, they have lived under a brutal regime for a long time. But I'm confident we'll achieve our objective, and I'm confident the Iraqi people will be better off.

Iran and Syria

Q. Sir, you've used tough language vis-a-vis Iran and Syria in the last few weeks. Is the United States on a collision course with Tehran? And what is the state of play with Syria, following Secretary Powell's visit to Damascus?

The President. Well, first, Secretary Powell had a good visit to Damascus. And yes, we used some tough rhetoric, because it looked like Ba'athists were trying to escape into Syria, and obviously, we didn't want that to happen. And the Syrian Government pledged that that wouldn't be the case. We take people for their word until proven otherwise.

In Iran, obviously, we're nervous about the reporting now out that there's some Al Qaida inside of Iran. We just want the Iranians to

understand that if there are Al Qaida loose in Iran, we expect them to be detained. If there are Al Qaida in Iran and they plot against the United States, that obviously we're going to be displeased with that.

My hope, of course, is that the Iranians respond. And they've heard our message loud and clear, and I suspect they will.

Q. I have one more question, sir.

The President. Sure.

Arab Allies in the War on Terrorism

Q. Who are your Arab allies in the war on terrorism? Sometimes we hear conflicting reports, for instance, on Saudi Arabia—

The President. Yes.

Q. —sometimes they cooperate, we are told; sometimes they don't cooperate. What is the state of play?

The President. That's a good question. Crown Prince Abdullah is a strong ally in the war on terror. There's no doubt in my mind that he is moving within the Kingdom to bring the killers to justice and to prevent other killing. King Abdullah is a strong ally in the war on terror. President Mubarak is a strong ally in the war on terror. I know this not only from my conversations with these men, but also because of the cooperation between our intelligence services.

The Gulf Coast countries have been strong supporters in the war on terror, and I'm grateful for that support.

Q. Mr. President, we really appreciate it. Thanks again. There are so many questions, so little time. [*Laughter*]

The President. Well, I'm sorry.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 2:54 p.m. in the Library at the White House for later broadcast and was embargoed for release by the Office of the Press Secretary until 4 p.m. In his remarks, the President referred to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) and Finance Minister Salam Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority; L. Paul Bremer III, Presidential Envoy to Iraq; and King Abdullah II of Jordan. A reporter referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Statement on Signing Legislation Concerning Participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization

May 29, 2003

Today I have signed into law S. 243, an Act concerning participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization. The United States fully supports the overall goal of Taiwan's participation in the work of the World Health Organization, including observership. The United States has expressed publicly its firm support for Taiwan's observer status and will continue to do so. The executive branch shall, as is consistent with the President's constitutional authority to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs, construe the Act to be consistent with the "one China" policy of the United States, which remains unchanged. The executive branch also shall construe the reporting requirement in section 1(c) of the Act in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties. The Secretary of State will continue, of course, as a matter of comity to keep the Congress appropriately informed of the matters addressed by the reporting requirement.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 29, 2003.

NOTE: S. 243, approved May 29, was assigned Public Law No. 108-28.

Executive Order 13307—European Central Bank

May 29, 2003

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 1 and 15 of the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288 and 288f-5), I hereby extend to the European Central Bank the privileges, exemptions, and immunities provided to public international organizations designated by the President under

the International Organizations Immunities Act.

This extension of such privileges, exemptions, and immunities is not intended to abridge in any respect privileges, exemptions, or immunities that the European Central Bank otherwise may have acquired or may acquire by international agreements or by law.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 29, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:30 a.m., June 2, 2003]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 3.

Interview With Print Journalists

May 29, 2003

The President. I've got a couple of opening comments, and we'll go around the table a couple of times and answer your questions.

First, I'm really looking forward to my trip. We're involved with a lot of interesting initiatives that will help the world grow toward peace and freedom, and this trip will be an opportunity to not only to talk about American values but to talk with friends, allies, important parties about how working together we can achieve grand goals, the goals of peace, the goals of freedom, the goals of hope and prosperity.

I start off in Poland. It's my second trip to Poland since I've been the President. I'm going to Krakow; I'm going to Auschwitz. I'm going to give a speech, which I'm still working on right now, but it's a speech that reminds us that together we can achieve the big objective. It's a speech, really, to Europe that says that our common values are strong and that we welcome the emergence of countries like—free countries like Poland, and as well as we must be reminded of the lessons of the past.

I'm going to Auschwitz to see firsthand one of the greatest lessons of the past, that there's evil in this world and that the only way to deal with the evil is together. And we did so in the past, and now there's—you know, terrorism and killing of innocent peo-

ple is evil, and we've got to work together to achieve the same objectives that were achieved in the past, and that is peace and freedom.

And then I go on to St. Petersburg to not only honor the great city of St. Petersburg, their 300th anniversary, but also to have an important dialog with Vladimir Putin. It'll be a dialog that will really show the world that in spite of our disagreements over what happened in Iraq, that our relationship is strong and that we can move together in positive ways.

Then I go to the G-8. I know the press corps is going to be—you know, they'll be observing the G-8 as a great—you know, "will this turn into a meeting, a confrontational meeting?" The answer is absolutely not. It's an opportunity to talk with some who agreed with us on Iraq and some who didn't, about how we move forward. And I've laid the groundwork for the trip by talking about some great goals that wealthy nations can achieve.

One, of course, is to fight AIDS in Africa. Another which is to enhance trade, so that people have a chance to rise out of poverty, and others address famine as well as to continue to keep our focus on dealing with those terrorists who would like to hold the world—blackmail the world as well as to kill innocents, take innocent life.

I then go from there to the Middle East. It's going to be a significant visit. One, it says that I am committed to the peace process; that I look forward to working with the new Palestinian leadership as well as Ariel Sharon to make it clear to the world that we have—as leaders, we have the intention of working together to achieve peace, that there's a commitment, a personal commitment, not just by me but a personal commitment by Prime Minister Abbas as well as Prime Minister Sharon, to work together to achieve peace; and that there are responsibilities that all of us have as leaders, not only responsibility to the new Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority, not only the responsibility of the Israeli Prime Minister, but a responsibility for the leadership in the Arab world to fight terror, prevent killers from stopping the process from going forward.

And so the first stop will be in Sharm el-Sheikh, in Egypt. I'm really looking forward to the visit. President Mubarak has urged me, consistently urged me to come to Sharm el-Sheikh, and this is my chance to see this spectacular part of Egypt. And that's where I'm going to meet with the Arab leaders, some of the Arab leaders, to talk about shared responsibility. I want them to hear from me firsthand the commitment of the United States of America to move toward peace in the Middle East. And I want them also to hear from me firsthand that I expect them to be partners in the process.

And then I'm going to go to Jordan. Of course, I'll see the King of Jordan. I believe the King is going to be in Sharm el-Sheikh as well. And then I'll have a bilateral meeting with the King. It will give me a chance to thank him for his strong support on the liberation of Iraq. I'm sure he'll want to talk about matters of trade with the United States, and I'll be fully prepared to do so.

And then I'll meet with the Prime Minister of both the Palestinian Authority and of Israel, and I'm looking forward to these meetings. I believe in the possibilities of peace. I trust the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority when he condemns terror. I believe that provides an opening for the United States and others to expend the necessary energies to move the process forward.

I will remind them that I was the first President ever to stand up and say I am for two states, living side by side in peace. And I did so at the United Nations. I still have that vision. I believe it's possible. So I will talk to these two leaders about our mutual desire to move the process forward.

And then I go to Qatar, where I'll meet with General Franks and Jerry Bremer to talk about the reconstruction of Iraq. I'll also meet with Amir of Qatar and then speak to our troops, and head home. And this is a trip I'm looking forward to.

Let me answer some questions. Why don't we start here?

Issues of Trust in the Middle East Peace Process

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, obviously your vision and your principles are quite commendable. The trouble

is that so many people still have suspicions; they are afraid. Why do you think people remain suspicious and afraid of either your staying power, sir, or whether, you know—well, please go ahead and then I'll ask my—

The President. No, I understand your question. Oftentimes, we live in a processed world—you know, people focus on the process and not results. What I'm going to say to people who are suspicious of our motives: Let's work together to achieve positive results. And I fully understand, for example, the Middle East—it's a suspicious world. There are suspicions of motives.

And until people see the emergence of a Palestinian state, there will be suspicions; until I can prove for the average Palestinian citizen, there will be suspicions. And so I fully understand the skepticism. I mean, after all, we're dealing in a world where there's a lot of heartbreak, a lot of death, a lot of sorrow, a lack of hope. And until there is noticeable change, there is going to be suspicions.

I've got great confidence in what America stands for. I have said to our country and to the world many times that in order for there to be peace, there must be freedom. And I believe that a free Palestinian Authority and a free Palestinian people will yield to peace in that part of the world. Therefore, we're striving toward the development of such a state. And until people begin to see, however, the results of that vision, people will be skeptical.

And the only thing I can do is to continue to speak out as clearly as I can about the values which motivate our foreign policy and motivate me personally and work hard to achieve results, tangible results. And when people see results, when the people see that the Iraqi people are more free and that their economy begins to develop, when people see that the Iraqi people have control of their own oil for the benefit of the Iraqi people, then some of the suspicions will be turned aside.

I'll never win the hearts of the terrorists, nor am I trying to, because the terrorists have got one thing in mind, murder to stop peace. And it stands in stark contrast to what I believe, which is freedom to bring peace.

So, you know, there are some—I would never try to win their hearts and minds over—that are absolutely bent upon stopping not only what the United States is trying to do but a lot of other nations as well. So my answer to your question is: I understand skepticism; I understand the attitudes of some; but I refuse to be stopped in my desire to rally the world toward achieving positive results for each individual.

I have said many times that freedom and human dignity is not America's gift to the world; it is the Almighty God's gift to each and every individual. And I firmly believe that. And it's that principle which motivates my desire to see to it that the Palestinian mother or father can raise their child in a comfortable environment, knowing that their child can have a good education and the possibility of a peaceful life.

And I feel the same way about the Israeli citizen who grows up, a child who grows up in an environment where they can go to the market with their mother or father and get blown away. We must stop that kind of violence and provide hope for people.

Palestinian State/Israeli Settlements

Q. Mr. President, a followup on the skepticism. Of course there is a lot of concern in the area, over and above the hope, because of your strong commitment. So what do you think will happen if the rush for the settlements continue? And how would it affect your vision of having a Palestinian state with borders and with land, a viable Palestinian state?

The President. Well, I believe that's important that there be a viable Palestinian state. I mean, it is the vision. I believe a viable Palestinian state with the institutions necessary for democracy and freedom to prevail, the institutions bigger than the occupants of the offices which they hold, is very important to gain the confidence not only of the neighborhood, the confidence of the Israelis, the confidence of other Arab nations, but the confidence of the free world as well.

So I believe the emergence of a Palestinian state is very important. I have consistently said that the Israelis are going to have to deal with the settlement issue and that there is a part of the process is going to be a focus

on the settlements. I fully understand that settlement expansion is not in concert with the development of a state. And we will deal with that.

And I will also remind everybody, however, that the process—in order for the process to go forward, in order for there to be confidence of all parties, there must be an absolute determined effort to fight off terror, to not allow the few to destroy the process. I believe we can make progress, otherwise I wouldn't be going.

France-U.S. Relations

Q. Yes. Well, since I'm French, I'll ask you a French question.

The President. In French or in American? [*Laughter*]

Q. Well, I'll try to do it in American. [*Laughter*] A number of American high officials have repeatedly said that France would have to pay the price for its opposition to your policy in Iraq. So far, we didn't see much as far as reprisals are concerned. Have you forgiven France?

The President. I look forward to working with France to achieve common objectives. Listen, let me be realistic. There is a sense of frustration and disappointment amongst the American people toward the French decision. That's realistic. People didn't understand the decisions by the French leadership to thwart the desire for the American—the American desire and the desire of others to work on security and freedom, security for our countries and freedom in Iraq.

However, that's not going to influence my policy. My decision is to go and to say the French Government: Let us work together for a Europe which is whole, free, and at peace, a Europe in which countries are allowed to be friends of the United States, and at the same time participate in institutions such as the European Union; that rivalry will end up weakening our efforts to jointly deal with issues like security and peace and AIDS and trade.

So, no, I will have a good discussion with Jacques Chirac and I'm looking forward to going to the G-8, not only talking to Jacques Chirac; I'll talk with others who have not necessarily agreed with our Iraq policy. We've got a lot of work to do. And I've got work

to do to convince the skeptics in France that the intentions of the United States are positive. And the French leadership has got work to do to convince the American people that they are concerned about the security of our country. And I will look forward to conducting that work with Jacques Chirac.

Russia-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, please allow me in genuine Texan style to grab the bull by the horns.

The President. Okay. [Laughter]

Q. It's quite obvious that your personal relations with Mr. Putin are much more developed, much more warm than the relations between Russia and the United States.

The President. That's interesting.

Q. At least there is no Jackson-Vanik amendment between George and Vladimir.

The President. That's right. [Laughter]

Q. And this situation—

The President. We need to get rid of the Jackson-Vanik amendment, I want you to know. Make sure the Russian people know that.

Q. And this difference between your personal relations and the relations between our countries creates negative feelings in the Russian public opinion and among Russian elites. And that's why I think it somehow hinders President Bush for his—in his quest for further democratization and westernization of Russia.

My question is, what do you want to undertake to upgrade the Russian-American relations to the same level as your personal relations with Mr. Putin, including, of course, the Jackson-Vanik amendment, which became in Russia, unfortunately, the litmus paper of our relations?

The President. Right.

Q. And by the way, our Russian Jews are a little bit indignant that they are replaced by the American chicken. And instead of, "Let my people go," now they say, "Let our chicken come." [Laughter] And we don't understand in Russia how the genuine American eagle can defeat an artificial American chicken. [Laughter]

The President. Well, first of all, at least we're arguing about chickens and not about

whether or not we've got enough missiles pointed at each other.

Q. Yes. [Laughter] By the way, Mr. President, before you start answering my question, you can already do something in improving our relations. I brought two books. If you sign them, you will improve the relations. It is for my—

The President. Okay. I'm certainly not going to try to influence your story. [Laughter]

Q. Oh, no, no—[laughter]—for my Presidential library, which has all the signed books and pictures of all American Presidents, beginning with Eisenhower and, of course, your highly esteemed father.

The President. You don't look that old. [Laughter]

Q. Well, I'm 75.

The President. Okay, well, you're a young 75. Thank you, sir, for your question.

First of all, Vladimir Putin and I do have a good relationship. And that is an important beginning in order to make sure the relationship is positive throughout our respective Governments. If we had a poisonous relationship, it would be awfully difficult to convince others in our Governments to work closely together. And so that's a positive beginning.

Secondly, I did take note that the Moscow Treaty was overwhelmingly approved by both Houses in the Duma. That's a positive sign. As a matter of fact, if you think back, people—if you put this in historical context, this treaty is pretty darn good progress early in our respective administrations. I mean, it happened quickly, which is a positive sign. In other words, Vladimir and I made the decision that we'll work together to create better conditions and make the world a more peaceful place.

One way to enhance relations between our Governments is to have a meaningful and real strategic dialog throughout our entire Government on key matters, so that the participants in both our Governments recognize that we are willing to not only share information but to deal with issues before they become problems and to work together in a collaborative way to show the world that we can handle and deal with some of the large issues, such as proliferation, for example.

So therefore, we've got Spence Abraham, our Secretary of Energy, working very closely with his counterpart. Secretary Veneman has got a task force set up to work very—Agriculture Secretary—to work very closely with her counterpart not only on chickens, but on other issues dealing with our farm communities.

This dialog, this kind of strategic framework was initiated at my request—and I think at Vladimir's request as well. But Condi, when she went over to Russia, began the setting in place this capacity for our two Governments to relate on a variety of issues in a consistent way.

Now, I agree with Vladimir, we need to get rid of Jackson-Vanik, and have talked to our—some of the folks on the Hill to deal with this issue. And I would like to get rid of Jackson-Vanik. I think it's an important symbol to say to the Russian people, "The past is over. Now we move forward in a positive relationship."

Yes, sir.

Future Roles of NATO and the United Nations

Q. Mr. President, a very quick question. What role, if any, you foresee for international organizations like the U.N. or NATO in the future, for instance, in the war against terrorism and any other international conflict?

The President. Yes, good question. NATO—I see a robust role for NATO, which says that NATO must reform herself. NATO has got to be a military collaboration that is modern, that can move quickly, that's got the newest weapons. I will speak to NATO when I go to Poland. It's part of my speech in Krakow. And it's—I'm a strong advocate of NATO. As you know, I, with Warsaw, talked about the expansion of NATO, which, thankfully, came to fruition and had been ratified—the expansion has been ratified in our United States Senate, overwhelmingly so.

NATO is now—its vision is beyond the old days of when the Soviet Union posed a threat to Europe. NATO is now willing to take on new assignments, all aimed at creating the same conditions of the past, in other words, a peaceful and free world. And that's why NATO is now in Afghanistan. I welcome that.

NATO will play a supportive role for Poland in Iraq. I want to thank the Polish people for their—and the Government—for sending, I believe, 8,000 or 9,000 troops to run a sector in Iraq. And NATO has agreed to help in that sector, help the Polish troops. I think that—my point to you is NATO is becoming more modern, and a more modern NATO is going to be very useful for dealing with the true threats that we face in the 21st century.

In terms of the United Nations, it's going to be important for all of us to work to keep the United Nations a strong and viable institution. And I think a useful dialog at some point in time will be how to make sure the United Nations has adapted to the threats we face.

Obviously, it was a frustrating experience to have gone to the United Nations and spent a lot of time and a lot of debate on whether or not United Nations resolutions should be upheld. I believe they should. I believe in this world, when you say something, you'd better mean it. And I gave the speech, as you might remember, on September the 12th, 2002, in the United Nations, the day after the anniversary of the attacks on our country. And I said to the United Nations, "You have passed resolution after resolution after resolution"—I think is said it 12 times—and my point was, "Do you mean it?"

And my answer in a rhetorical—if that's a rhetorical question, my answer to you is, I hope they mean it, because I want the United Nations to be an effective body. However, its effectiveness is undermined when they say something and nothing happens. And therefore, we've got to, all of us who care about the United Nations, must figure out how to make it effective in the future.

Q. Mr. President, if you would permit me a couple of detailed questions.

The President. Sure. Do I need to write these down, because my memory is getting somewhat—[laughter].

Iraq

Q. I'm getting that too. [Laughter]

Sir, on the issue of Iraq, it looks like a messy situation. Security is not established. Are you worried about a lengthy American-

British occupation of Iraq? And on the Palestinian issue—

The President. Let me answer that one first.

Q. Then will you permit me the Palestinian question?

The President. Yes. And that you admitted you've got a flawed memory like I do. [Laughter]

First of all, you made a broad statement, "the security situation," as if all of Iraq is—there's lawlessness in all of Iraq. That's simply not the case. A lot of Iraq is improving from the pre-war conditions, and that's important to know.

Now, there's no question that there's lawlessness inside of Baghdad, for example, and regions north of Baghdad. And we are dealing with that. And we will deal with that for the sake of the Iraqi people, who want most—first and foremost, to have a secure life, food on the table, lights in their house, running water, sewage that works. They want the conditions of life that everybody yearns for, which is a comfortable lifestyle so their families can be secure. They want to work. And we're making progress on all fronts.

I fully understand the degree of difficulty, and it's created by the fact that these people have been enslaved by a torturous ruler for many, many years. And therefore, I don't expect the conditions to improve automatically after 70 days. And it's going to take a while.

And therefore, to answer your question—I don't view it as an occupation, by the way. I view it as a group of nations. You said "British and Americans." There are many, many nations who are involved in the contribution of help so that the Iraqi people are able to establish their own Government and have comfortable lives and can be a free society. And it's going to take a while.

And I remind you that it's like the writing of the Constitution. America, after our revolution, did not write its Constitution overnight. As a matter of fact, it probably took, what, 11 years or so. From the Articles of Confederation to the United States Constitution took 11 years. We live in a world now where everything has to happen yesterday.

Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. Thirteen.

The President. What?

Press Secretary Fleischer. Thirteen.

The President. Thirteen years. My man corrected—I'm sorry. He won't be correcting me much longer. [Laughter] He'll be a pundit. [Laughter] Don't worry, he will be correcting me, but on TV. Get him on your TV show. [Laughter]

Anyway, 13 years, as my man corrected me.

The process will take a while. I am in touch with Jerry Bremer. I mentioned to you that I will see him when I go over to Qatar. We get a report all the time. And we are making progress, slowly but surely. And that's—and it makes sense, given the conditions.

And it's important we succeed. And so, therefore, our coalition of a lot of countries will stay the course, until such time as the Iraqi people—the life is improved and the Iraqi people would be in a position to, you know, run themselves. Freedom is going to be a beautiful thing in this part of the world. It's a very powerful sentiment that I believe all people feel.

And therefore, one of our ambitions and one of our values is to create the conditions necessary for the Iraqi people to run their own Government. And you'll see over time here that they'll be getting—a group of people will be coming together to write a constitution. And you know, it'll be a constitution written by the Iraqis, for the Iraqis, and of the Iraqis. And we believe that's possible.

Now, look, I recognize there are some in the world who say Iraq can't run themselves. I refuse to condemn people. I mean, "They need a dictatorship in order for the country to survive." Forget it. I don't believe that. It's just not in my makeup. That's just not what I think. I think people—I think the Iraqi people are plenty competent about running themselves. It's just going to take a while to go from a society in which one person dominated and killed and murdered people in order to stay in power.

I mean, we've discovered an unbelievable amount of graves. And by the way, we've discovered weapons manufacturing facilities that were condemned by the United Nations; biological laboratories described by our Secretary of State to the whole world, that were not supposed to be there, in direct violation of the U.N. resolution, have been discovered.

Q. Thank you, sir.

The President. Thanks for giving me a chance to say that, so the American press, in particular, could hear it—off the record, of course. [Laughter]

Palestinian Authority/Middle East Terrorists

Q. Sir, on the Palestinian issue, what if the government of Mr. Abbas really becomes unable—no matter how much it puts up an effort to produce—eliminating these operations, the suicide bombings—what if he fails? Is this a failure of the peace process, of the roadmap? Would you then give it up? And then can you afford, really, sir, to pressure Mr. Ariel Sharon in a pre-reelection stage? Can you really do that?

The President. Of course I can. I don't know about—listen, if I were afraid of making the decisions necessary, for political reasons, to move the process forward, I wouldn't be going. I believe peace is possible, and I believe that I have a responsibilities, now that the conditions are such, to move the process forward.

And what are those conditions? Well, there's a new Palestinian leader who is openly, firmly committed to fighting terror. And I believe he can be successful, particularly when the Arab world helps him. I believe the conditions are such that people are so sick and tired of a hopeless situation in that part of the world that together we can defeat the forces of terror and dismantle the forces of terror.

That's not to say that a suicider could slip through, and it's possible, but we will not allow the evil designs of a few to stop the process that can provide such hope for a lot of people. So I believe, with the right effort and the right focus and the leadership, not only of the United States and Israel and the Palestinian Authority but the leadership of Egypt and Saudi Arabia and other nations of concern, Jordan, that we can defeat terror, the forces of terror that would like to stop the process.

Yes, ma'am.

Egypt-U.S. Relations/Cooperation With Arab Governments

Q. Okay. Mr. President, you mentioned today that you want to have commitment

from the parties about the peace process. Do you want to have, like, concrete steps? Are you going to ask them for concrete steps, like what?

The President. Well——

Q. And——

The President. Pardon me, sorry to interrupt you. Go ahead.

Q. Yes. And then in Sharm el-Sheikh, what do you want—what do you look to get from the Arabs? And you are meeting with President Mubarak also. Would it include something bilateral or——

The President. Sure.

Q. And what kind?

The President. Well, listen, President Mubarak and I have had a lot of meetings and a lot of conversations. And I'm confident that he will bring up bilateral relations. As you know, we've got a very strong commitment to Egypt, particularly a funding commitment. And we want to look forward to a—I will talk to him about economic reforms. And there's no telling what he'll talk to me about. We've got such a good relationship that he doesn't need to pre-clear it with anybody. He can say what's on his mind. I'll be glad to visit with him about it.

Yes, I mean, first of all, we have a roadmap which talks about specific things people need to do. The most constructive thing that the Arab nations can do is to stop funding terrorism to the extent that—is to stop the funding of terrorism, make sure you get that right—is the work to cut off monies to terrorists whose design it is to stop any peace process. And that's important. To me, that's the most fundamental task.

Secondly, as conditions improve, it would be very helpful if those in the neighborhood provide financial resources to help the economy of a new Palestinian state begin to grow. It's going to be very difficult for a Palestinian state to emerge unless there's economic activity.

I recently met with the finance minister of the Palestinian Authority, was very impressed by his grasp of finances, by the fact that he believes that in order for there to be confidence amongst the Palestinians and confidence in the world that they've got to fight corruption. Listen, stories used to emerge out of the—in the old days, of the

Palestinian Authority that much of the aid went to enhance a few, as opposed to the people. And I don't stand for that, at least from American perspective. We're not going to let corrupt elites take aid that's supposed to go help the people.

And so when the institutions evolve and confidence emerges that the develop aid will go to help the Palestinian people, which I want it to do, that will be a useful role for the Arab world. And I look forward to working with them on it. But the main thing is for them to see me and my commitment to the process. And it's one thing to read about it in stories; it's another thing to look a person in the eye and tell them, "Let's work together." And that's what I'm looking forward to doing.

I've got very good relations with President Mubarak and Crown Prince Abdullah and the King of Jordan, Gulf Coast countries. I've worked very closely with them. And a lot of them ask me, "Well, are you going to move forward now that there's a new Palestinian Authority, a leader of the Palestinian Authority, somebody that"—you see, the old leader of the Palestinian Authority is somebody who had a chance to lead and didn't. He has been in power a long time, and the life of the Palestinian people have gotten worse, not better. I remember what happened at Camp David during the tenure of my predecessor. It was a good lesson.

So I've always said, we need to be able to work with somebody who is committed to peace. And I believe the new Prime Minister is committed to peace. And therefore, I want to share that with the leaders.

Israeli Security/Conditions for the Peace Process

Q. Sir, can you assure that the other party is committed without reservations?

The President. The Israelis? Yes, I believe—

Q. Without reservations. It's a big problem to the Palestinians now.

The President. Well, there's a reservation, and there should be a reservation of all parties, and that is the reservation of security. In other words, people aren't going to go forward with a process unless there is a full commitment to enhance the security of all peo-

ple. And remember, terrorist killers not only affect the security of the Israelis; they affect the security of the Palestinian people. You can't have a Palestinian state if people continue to blow up the process.

And therefore, it's in all our interest to work together on security. And I'm convinced that as the area becomes more secure, as the institutions necessary for a democracy to emerge, that we'll have a positive partner in Israel. I believe that. I believe they want peace. Most Israelis understand two states, side by side in peace, is in their national interest.

And so I think the ingredients for peace are very possible. But you say, "Are there conditions?" You bet. There's conditions, of course. And the conditions are to work together to stop the killers from stopping the process, and I share that condition too. And I suspect a lot of the Arab leaders share that condition as well, because they fully understand the consequences of terrorist groups of taking innocent life.

Yes, sir.

Press Secretary Fleischer. Make this the last question.

The President. I'll answer shorter.

Q. All right. So, 30 years ago—

The President. Somebody very important, very important is waiting.

Group of Eight

Q. Okay. Thirty years ago, the G-7 or G-8—

The President. Oh, it's only Condi. Well, I take it back. [Laughter]

Dr. Rice. Your TV people.

The President. That's later. Later.

Q. Thirty years ago, the G-7 or G-8 summit was set up to coordinate the big powers—

The President. It wasn't 30 years ago, was it? Twenty—

Q. Twenty-five or—

The President. Whatever.

Q. He'll know. [Laughter]

Press Secretary Fleischer. Twenty-seven point two. [Laughter]

Q. Well done. They were set up to coordinate the big powers, the economic strategists.

The President. Yes.

Q. Given the risk of deflation, will there be such a concerted plan in Evian? Or will it be everyone for himself, with the U.S. capitalizing on the slide of the dollar?

The President. Yes, that's a great question. It is very important that we do spend time talking about our respective economies. It is essential that the G-8 meeting—remember why it was first started, because much of it—many of the grand goals that we have, together, are very difficult to achieve if the economies, our respective economies, aren't strong.

You just heard me talk about a hopeful Palestinian state will require trade and commerce. And if the wealthier nations aren't generating cashflow and the capacity to be able to trade with other countries, then it's going to be difficult to achieve our goals.

And so, absolutely, I will tell them that here at home we are—have got sound monetary and fiscal policies. After all, I just signed a tax bill yesterday that will cut the taxes by \$350 billion, which will help energize growth here in America. I will reiterate our strong dollar policy. I will talk to—listen to their plans and initiatives to reform their economies.

I had a very good discussion with Prime Minister Koizumi of Japan about economic matters. We want the Japanese economy to be strong. As a matter of fact, we want the European economies to be strong. We want there to be vibrant growth. It is more likely somebody in America will be able to find a job if our closest trading partners have got vibrant economies.

So we need to spend a lot of time on this subject. And I will remind them that we have a great opportunity on the next round of the World Trade Organization to advance a free trade agenda, which I believe will make it more likely people in our respective countries can work. But it will make it more likely that nations will be able to rise out of poverty. And so, yes, it's a very good question. And we will focus on the economy.

France-U.S. Relations

Q. Just a followup, if I may.

The President. Yes—

Q. You got rid of the policy that—

The President. I'm a patient man. [Laughter]

Q. —reprises against the French—

The President. My whole family laughed when they heard that. [Laughter] Go ahead.

Q. You didn't exactly answer the question.

The President. Especially my daughters. [Laughter]

I answered the question. I look forward to—

Q. The reprisals on the French.

The President. No, I answered it. You see—what do you mean, didn't exactly answer the question? You've got my answer on your tape machine.

Q. So were reprisals?

The President. No, you've got my answer on the tape machine. It's an old trick they use in the American press corps too, "You didn't answer my question." What are you talking about? I spent 15 minutes answering your question. You might not like the answer but, nevertheless, I did answer it, absolutely answered it. And I loved the question. [Laughter] I look forward to working with the French.

Russia, NATO, and the World Trade Organization

Q. Mr. President, do you visualize Russia as a member of the World Trade Organization, and in the future, the member of the NATO?

The President. I think that the question on NATO is a question that will be answered over time, but first things first. Let's deal with the framework we've now set up, which is a great advance and a tribute to Vladimir Putin's leadership and our NATO leader's desire to have a unique relationship with Russia.

In terms of the WTO, it is in our national interest that Russia join the WTO. And Russia is going to have to make some internal decisions as to whether or not they're willing to conform to the guidelines of the WTO. But we—I strongly support Russia's admission in the WTO.

Final question.

Religious Tolerance

Q. Yes, sir. Thank you. Do you see the issue of restitution of Jewish property as a

problem in Polish-American relations? And will you talk about this in—

The President. You know, it has not made it to—it hasn't made it to my desk. And so, therefore, if it is a problem, it is a problem that hasn't been brought to my attention. In other words, a lot of Polish Americans have yet to express themselves to the point where it has become an issue here in the White House.

I think it's very important—let me speak to the broader issue of Jewish relations around the world. It is very important for all of us to reject anti-Semitism wherever it is found, just like it's very important for us to reject those who condemn Islam. Our Nation is one that believes in freedom of religion, and we respect and tolerate people's religious faiths, no matter what their faith.

And so my greater concern about Judaism and Europe is that society resist and thwart a culture which would tolerate any kind of antireligious fervor, anti-Semitism, or an anti-Islamic bent. In other words, one of the things I did I thought was most important was right after September 11th, went to a Islamic center here. I wanted to send a signal that the evil people who hijacked a great religion should not condemn that religion. In other words, Americans shouldn't hold Islam accountable for the deaths.

And so one of the things we believe here in America is religious tolerance. And I will continue to speak out on religious tolerances in a clear fashion.

As I said, I'm going to Auschwitz for a reason. I want to go—I want to see Auschwitz. I've studied a lot of history. I've been told it's a powerful experience. But I also want to send a clear signal that all of us must work together to make sure that kind of evil never happens again to anybody.

At any rate, I'm looking forward to going. I want to thank you all for your interest. Very good interview. Pass those books over here.

22d Amendment

Q. Mr. President?

The President. Yes.

Q. What do you think about a third presidential term in the United States?

The President. Against it. [*Laughter*] I'm only supportive of a second term these days. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The interview was taped at 10:11 a.m. on May 29 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for later broadcast and was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 30. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) and Finance Minister Salam Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; King Abdullah II of Jordan; Gen. Tommy R. Franks, USA, combatant commander, U.S. Central Command; L. Paul Bremer III, Presidential Envoy to Iraq; Amir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar; President Jacques Chirac of France; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Interview With TVP of Poland

May 29, 2003

President's Upcoming Visit to Poland

Q. Mr. President, in a few hours you begin your quite unexpected visit to Poland. Are you going to Krakow just to thank us for our support and participation in the war in Iraq?

The President. That's one reason I'm going to Krakow. I think it's very important for the Polish people to understand how deeply Americans appreciate their sacrifice and their courage and their willingness to work with us in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

I'm also going to Auschwitz to remind people that we must confront evil when we find it, and there's no better place to remind people that there has been evil in the world than at Auschwitz. I'm also going to talk about the great spirit of the Polish people, and I'm looking forward to it. I will have been to Poland now twice since—in my Presidency, and there's a reason, because I have a special fondness for Poland.

French and German Verbal Attacks on Poland

Q. Mr. President, as you probably know, we've been strongly criticized for our support

to America. President Chirac started by telling us that we lost our chance to sit quietly. German press called us American trojan donkey in Europe—not even a horse, American trojan donkey. How do you perceive these opinions from American perspective?

The President. I think it's unfortunate that some of the countries in Europe will try to bully Poland for standing up for what you think—what they think is right. And I'm going to say in my speech, Poland needs to be in the EU and Poland can be a friend of the United States and the two are not in conflict. I'm also going to remind the countries of Europe that we must work together. We don't need divides between us. We need to work together to achieve big objectives, which is to fight terror, to fight global poverty, to fight AIDS, and to promote freedom.

Possible Polish Isolation Within the European Union

Q. But Mr. President, aren't you afraid that, for our support to America, we might be isolated in the future united Europe, which we are about to enter?

The President. No, I don't think you will be isolated. I think Poland is too important a country to be isolated. I think the days of harsh lecturing are over with. I think Poland is going to be such an important member of the EU that people will welcome Poland's entry with open arms.

No, I don't think so. I think that was a heated rhetoric of the moment.

Polish Support in Iraq

Q. But thanks to your decision we are going to run one of the zones in Iraq. And of course our EU partners do not want to be there with us. They say that we're new, we're unexperienced, and we simply do not deserve getting what we got. And aren't you afraid that we may fail in Iraq, or are you absolutely sure that you made the right decision?

The President. I'm absolutely sure I made the right decision.

Q. Why?

The President. Because I've seen the Polish troops in action. And I know President Kwasniewski, and I know the spirit of the Polish people. And there's no doubt in my

mind that Poland will be able to accomplish the objectives we set out together.

And it was also—the critics need to watch very carefully what's happening. NATO is going to support the Polish efforts inside of Iraq. Poland will not be alone. Poland will have plenty of support. Poland is a member of this coalition of the willing, who stood up for freedom and stood up for peace and stood up for security. And Poland also recognizes that there's more work to do. And I'm—also I'm going to Poland to thank the Polish people for caring about freedom in other parts of the world.

Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction

Q. But still, those countries who didn't support the Iraqi Freedom operation use the same argument, weapons of mass destruction haven't been found. So what argument will you use now to justify this war?

The President. We found the weapons of mass destruction. We found biological laboratories. You remember when Colin Powell stood up in front of the world, and he said, "Iraq has got laboratories, mobile labs to build biological weapons." They're illegal. They're against the United Nations resolutions, and we've so far discovered two. And we'll find more weapons as time goes on. But for those who say we haven't found the banned manufacturing devices or banned weapons, they're wrong. We found them.

Future Poland-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, the last question. Coming back to your trip to Warsaw. Two years ago you quoted a very popular song in Poland, "On that wheat field I'm going to build my San Francisco, over the molehill, I'm going to build my bank." And there are such places in Poland in which people believe they could build a little San Francisco, if, for example, they have American military base in their neighborhood. What would you tell these people today, Mr. President?

The President. Well, I'm telling them that we're looking at all options, of course. I make no promises, but we will remember who our friends are. And the Polish people have been strong friends of the United States. And for that, we are very grateful.

Q. Thank you very much, Mr. President, and here's something for you. They couldn't come for a concert to play for you, the—the songs that you quoted, and they wrote it here: "To Mr. President Bush, fond greetings from the mountains, and hope you enjoy it."

The President. Oh, thank you so very much. I'm honored. I look forward to listening to this. I've got just the CD player to use, right upstairs in the residence here.

Q. That's great. It's number three on that CD.

The President. Well, thanks.

Q. Thank you.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 2:28 p.m. on May 29 in the Library at the White House for later broadcast and was embargoed for release by the Office of the Press Secretary until 1:30 p.m. on May 30. In his remarks, the President referred to President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland. A reporter referred to President Jacques Chirac of France. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Memorandum on Determination Under Subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as Amended—Continuation of Waiver Authority for Vietnam

May 29, 2003

Presidential Determination No. 2003-24

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Determination Under Subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as Amended—Continuation of Waiver Authority for Vietnam

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, Public Law 93-618, 88 Stat. 1978 (hereinafter the "Act"), I determine, pursuant to subsection 402(d)(1) of the Act, 19 U.S.C. 2432(d)(1), that the further extension of the waiver authority granted by section 402 of

the Act will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act. I further determine that continuation of the waiver applicable to Vietnam will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act.

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

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 30. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting Documentation on the Extension of Normal Trade Relations Status for Vietnam

May 29, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I hereby transmit the document referred to in subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (the "Act"), as amended, with respect to the continuation of a waiver of application of subsections (a) and (b) of section 402 of the Act to Vietnam. This document constitutes my recommendation to continue in effect this waiver for a further 12-month period and includes my determination that continuation of the waiver currently in effect for Vietnam will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act and my reasons for such determination.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 30. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Memorandum on Determination Under Subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as Amended—Continuation of Waiver Authority for the Republic of Belarus

May 29, 2003

Presidential Determination No. 2003-25

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Determination Under Subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as Amended—Continuation of Waiver Authority for the Republic of Belarus

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, Public Law 93-618, 88 Stat. 1978 (hereinafter the “Act”), I determine, pursuant to section 402(d)(1) of the Act, 19 U.S.C. 2432(d)(1), that the further extension of the waiver authority granted by section 402 of the Act will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act. I further determine that continuation of the waiver applicable to Belarus will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act.

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

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 30.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting Documentation on the Extension of Normal Trade Relations Status for Belarus

May 29, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I hereby transmit the document referred to in subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (the “Act”), as amended, with respect to the continuation of a waiver of application of subsections (a) and (b) of section 402 of the Act to Belarus. This document constitutes my recommendation to continue this waiver for a further 12-month period and includes my determination that continuation of the waiver currently in effect for Belarus will substantially promote the objectives of sec-

tion 402 of the Act, and my reasons for such determination.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 30.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Certifying Actions Responsive to Ratification of the Joint Convention on Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management

May 29, 2003

Dear 11111:

In response to sections 2(1) and 2(2)(C) of the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Joint Convention on Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, adopted by the United States Senate on April 2, 2003, I hereby certify that the United States will take those actions specified in section 2(1) and that the Comptroller General shall have the access specified in section 2(2)(C). The executive branch shall implement the foregoing in a manner and to the extent consistent with the President’s constitutional authority to conduct the foreign affairs of the United States, supervise the unitary executive branch, and withhold information the disclosure of which could impair the foreign relations of the United States, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive’s constitutional duties.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Richard G. Lugar, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 30. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979

May 29, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Consistent with section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(c)) and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641(c)), I transmit herewith a 6-month report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency declared by Executive Order 13222 of August 17, 2001, to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 30. 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 24

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

May 25

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

May 26

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush

traveled to Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA, and later returned to Washington, DC.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea concerning their May 14 meeting in the Oval Office, the situation in North Korea, and President Bush's meetings with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on May 22-23.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain to offer condolences for the loss of Spanish soldiers on a military transport that crashed in Turkey earlier in the day. President Bush also had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada to discuss the G-8 Summit beginning June 1 in Evian-les-Bains, France; Canada-U.S. relations; and other international issues.

May 27

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

May 28

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, he met with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

The White House announced that on June 2-5 the President will travel to Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt, to meet with Arab leaders, then to Aqaba, Jordan, to meet with King Abdullah II of Jordan, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel, and Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority, and then to Doha, Qatar, to visit coalition and U.S. Central Command personnel.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso of Portugal to the White House on June 6 for a meeting and working luncheon.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals to represent the U.S. at the second inauguration of President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria on May 29 in Abuja, Nigeria: Roderick R. Paige, who will

lead the delegation, Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, Jendayi Fraser, W. Todd Bassett, and Howard Franklin Jeter.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as U.S. Commissioners of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission: Scott Burns (non-fisheries State representative), Robert Fletcher (public), and Patrick W. Rose (public).

The President announced his intention to appoint Diana Balmori, Earl A. Powell III, and Elyn Zimmerman as members of the Commission of Fine Arts.

May 29

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

In the evening, on the South Lawn, the President participated in the Yale University Class of 1968 reunion.

May 30

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Krakow, Poland, arriving in the evening.

The President announced his intention to nominate Paul S. Atkins to be a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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 27

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 51

Released May 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's upcoming visit to Europe and the Middle East

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush To Travel to Egypt, Jordan, and Qatar

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Prime Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso of Portugal

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1298

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2185

Released May 29

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released May 30

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 330 and S. 870

Transcript of a press gaggle by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell on the President's visit to Europe and the Middle East

Acts Approved by the President

Approved May 27

H.J. Res. 51 / Public Law 108-24
Increasing the statutory limit on the public debt

H.R. 1298 / Public Law 108-25
United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003

Approved May 28

H.R. 2185 / Public Law 108-26
Unemployment Compensation Amendments
of 2003

H.R. 2 / Public Law 108-27
Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation
Act of 2003

Approved May 29

S. 243 / Public Law 108-28
Concerning participation of Taiwan in the
World Health Organization

S. 330 / Public Law 108-29
Veterans' Memorial Preservation and Rec-
ognition Act of 2003

S. 870 / Public Law 108-30
To amend the Richard B. Russell National
School Lunch Act to extend the availability
of funds to carry out the fruit and vegetable
pilot program