

Later in the afternoon, at Blair House, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the diplomatic corps holiday reception.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with James A. Baker III, his personal envoy on the issue of Iraqi debt, concerning Secretary Baker's discussions with President Jacques Chirac of France and Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany.

In the evening, the President attended holiday receptions.

December 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Kill Devil Hills, NC.

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

In the evening, the President attended holiday receptions.

December 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, he had an MRI examination of his knees, followed by a brief visit with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, who was recovering from surgery. He then visited U.S. military personnel injured in Iraq and Afghanistan and awarded Purple Hearts to several of them.

In the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia to discuss the capture of former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, Colombia's fight against drugs and terrorism, and bilateral and regional issues. Later, he had a telephone conversation with President Vicente Fox of Mexico to discuss the capture and bilateral and regional issues.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a holiday reception.

December 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson and Director of National Drug Control Policy John P. Walters to discuss progress toward the President's goals for reducing drug use.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Secretary-Gen-

eral Kofi Annan of the United Nations to exchange holiday greetings.

In the afternoon, the President met with James A. Baker III, his personal envoy on the issue of Iraqi debt.

In the evening, the President had a holiday dinner with senior White House staff.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Monterrey, Mexico, on January 12–13, 2004, to attend the Special Summit of the Americas.

The President announced his intention to designate Mark J. Warshawsky as Acting Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy.

The President announced his intention to designate Gordon H. Mansfield as Acting Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

The President declared a major disaster in the Federated States of Micronesia and ordered Federal aid to supplement national and State recovery efforts in the area struck by Typhoon Lupit on November 22–26.

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 December 13

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2417

Fact sheet: 2003: A Year of Accomplishment for the American People

Released December 14

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released December 15

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the designation of a Presidential delegation to attend the funeral of His Excellency Heydar Aliyev, former President of Azerbaijan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 80, H.R. 1437, H.R. 1813, H.R. 3287, and S. 459

Fact sheet: Facts About the New Iraqi Healthcare System

Released December 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary on the French, German, U.S. agreement on Iraqi debt restructuring

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 82 and S. 877

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3491, H.R. 2297, and S. 811

Fact sheet: Expanding Homeownership Opportunities for All Americans

Fact sheet: President Bush Signs Anti-Spam Law

Released December 17

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary on Special Presidential Envoy James A. Baker III's meeting with Italian Prime Minister Berlusconi

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 63

Released December 18

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Medical Summary: The President's Orthopedic Exam

Released December 19

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: President To Attend Special Summit of the Americas

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 100, H.R. 622, H.R. 1006, H.R. 1012, H.R. 2620, S. 686, S. 1680, S. 1683, S. 1929, and S. 1947

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to the Federated States of Micronesia

Fact sheet: The President's National Security Strategy To Combat WMD

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved December 13

H.R. 2417 / Public Law 108-177
Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004

Approved December 15

H.R. 1437 / Public Law 108-178
To improve the United States Code

H.R. 1813 / Public Law 108-179
Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2003

H.R. 3287 / Public Law 108-180
To award congressional gold medals posthumously on behalf of Reverend Joseph A. DeLaine, Harry and Eliza Briggs, and Levi Pearson in recognition of their contributions to the Nation as pioneers in the effort to desegregate public schools that led directly to the landmark desegregation case of *Brown et al. v. the Board of Education of Topeka et al.*