

**Memorandum on Delegation of  
Certain Authority Under the  
National Defense Authorization Act  
for Fiscal Year 2004, Public Law  
108-136**

March 18, 2004

*Memorandum for the Secretary of Homeland  
Security*

*Subject:* Delegation of Certain Authority  
Under the National Defense Authorization  
Act for Fiscal Year 2004, Public Law 108-  
136

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby delegate to you the functions and authority conferred upon the President by section 1034 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108-136) to provide the specified report to the Congress. In addition, I direct you to coordinate with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Transportation regarding the contents of this report.

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

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 19, 2004]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on March 22.

**Remarks on the Anniversary of  
Operation Iraqi Freedom**

March 19, 2004

Good morning and thanks for coming. Laura and I are pleased to welcome you all to the White House. Mr. Secretary, thank you for being here. Members of my National Security Council are here, members of the administration, members of our Armed Forces, Members of the United States Congress. Thank you for being here. Ladies and gentlemen. I particularly want to thank the members of the diplomatic corps who are here. Thank the ambassadors for coming today.

We are representing 84 countries united against a common danger and joined in a common purpose. We are the nations that have recognized the threat of terrorism, and we are the nations that will defeat that threat. Each of us has pledged before the world: We will never bow to the violence of a few. We will face this mortal danger, and we will overcome it together.

As we meet, violence and death at the hands of terrorists are still fresh in our memory. The people of Spain are burying their innocent dead. These men and women and children began their day in a great and peaceful city, yet lost their lives on a battlefield, murdered at random and without remorse. Americans saw the chaos and the grief and the vigils and the funerals, and we have shared in the sorrow of the Spanish people. Ambassador Ruperez, please accept our deepest sympathy for the great loss that your country has suffered.

The murders in Madrid are a reminder that the civilized world is at war, and in this new kind of war, civilians find themselves suddenly on the frontlines. In recent years, terrorists have struck from Spain to Russia to Israel to East Africa to Morocco to the Philippines and to America. They've targeted Arab states such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Yemen. They have attacked Muslims in Indonesia, Turkey, Pakistan, Iraq, and Afghanistan. No nation or region is exempt from the terrorists' campaign of violence.

Each of these attacks on the innocent is a shock and a tragedy and a test of our will. Each attack is designed to demoralize our people and divide us from one another. And each attack must be answered not only with sorrow but with greater determination, deeper resolve, and bolder action against the killers. It is the interest of every country and the duty of every government to fight and destroy this threat to our people.

There is no dividing line—there is a dividing line in our world, not between nations and not between religions or cultures but a dividing line separating two visions of justice and the value of life. On a tape claiming responsibility for the atrocities in Madrid, a man is heard to say, "We choose death, while you choose life." We don't know if this is the voice of the actual killers, but we do know