

Europe. We stand by those who today are enjoying the blessings of liberty. And we reaffirm our commitment to extending peace and freedom in the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 9, 2004, as World Freedom Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to reaffirm their dedication to freedom and democracy.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 12, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 15.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Iran

November 9, 2004

On November 14, 1979, by Executive Order 12170, the President declared a national emergency with respect to Iran pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the situation in Iran. Because our relations with Iran have not yet returned to normal, and the process of implementing the January 19, 1981, agreements with Iran is still underway, the national emergency declared on November 14, 1979, must continue in effect beyond November 14, 2004. Therefore, consistent with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year this national emergency with respect to Iran.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 9, 2004.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:46 a.m., November 10, 2004]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on November 12.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Iran

November 9, 2004

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

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Iran emergency declared by Executive Order 12170 on November 14, 1979, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2004, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on November 13, 2003 (68 *Fed. Reg.* 64489).

Our relations with Iran have not yet returned to normal, and the process of implementing the January 19, 1981, agreements with Iran is still underway. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared on November 14, 1979, with respect to Iran, beyond November 14, 2004.

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 Following Discussions With North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretary General Jakob “Jaap” Gijshert de Hoop Scheffer and an Exchange With Reporters

November 10, 2004

President Bush. It’s my honor to welcome the Secretary General of NATO to the Oval Office. This is the first meeting I’ve had, since my reelection, with a leader from overseas. I’m proud you’re the person, Secretary General, because, first of all, I’ve got a very close personal relationship. I’ve come to admire his leadership and his fortitude. And secondly, my Nation is committed to a strong and vibrant NATO.

NATO is playing a very constructive role in Afghanistan. Today we had a chance to revisit one of the great moments of modern history, when millions of people went to the polls to vote for a President in a country that had been ruled by the Taliban only 3 years ago. And we were rejoicing in the fact that the first voter was a 19-year-old woman, and NATO is playing a very active role in Afghanistan.

And NATO is playing a role in helping to train Iraqi citizens so that they can become the people that defend their country against those who are trying to stop freedom. And I want to thank you for that, Mr. Secretary General. We talked about the need to make sure NATO is relevant, that NATO is constructed in a way that is not only effective but one that continues to foster free societies and democracy around the world.

And I thank you for your vision and your commitment. Welcome to the Oval Office.

Secretary General de Hoop Scheffer. Thank you very much. Well, thank you very much, Mr. President. The fact that I am sitting here now in the Oval Office as the first foreign visitor is the best proof, I think, for the full commitment of the United States of America and this President Bush to NATO. And that’s of the utmost importance, because NATO is the unique transatlantic forum where everything we have, the big challenges of the world we are facing in the world today should be discussed, and NATO is the only organization which can deliver.

We delivered, as the President said, in Afghanistan. Less burkas and more ballot boxes, that’s what it’s all about. We are delivering in Kosovo. We are delivering by setting up a training implementation mission in Iraq. There is no second forum. There’s no second organization in the world like NATO, where 26 democracies are defending values, democracy, respect for human rights, freedom of religion, and all those basic values which are at the heart of all these 26 societies.

And it gives me pleasure to have the full support—I knew that already, of course—to have the full support of President Bush for this endeavor. Of course, I think NATO has a very challenging agenda, and I’ll make sure that we can deliver—NATO can deliver, that we can face all those challenges successfully.

Thank you so much, and it’s a great pleasure to be here in the Oval Office once again.

President Bush. Welcome back.

We’ll be glad to answer a couple of questions. Scott [Scott Lindlaw, Associated Press], why don’t you start it off.

Future Cooperation With the Palestinian Authority

Q. Thanks, Mr. President. In June 2002, you urged the Palestinian people to replace Yasser Arafat with a leader, in your words, “not compromised by terror.” Arafat today is gravely ill. In fact, Palestinians have already selected his successor. Do you see a new opening for peace here?

President Bush. I do. There will be an opening for peace when leadership of the Palestinian people steps forward and says, “Help us build a democratic and free society.” And when that happens—and I believe it’s going to happen, because I believe all people desire to live in freedom—the United States of America will be more than willing to help build the institutions necessary for a free society to emerge, so that the Palestinians can have their own state. The vision is two states, a Palestinian state and Israel, living side by side in peace. And I think we’ve got a chance to do that. And I look forward to being involved in that process.

Adam [Adam Boulton, Sky News].