

12 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Ayad Allawi of the Iraqi Interim Government; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Resignation of Colin L. Powell as Secretary of State

November 15, 2004

Colin Powell is one of the great public servants of our time. He is a soldier, a diplomat, a civic leader, a statesman, and a great patriot. I value his friendship. He will be missed. On behalf of all Americans, I thank him for his many years of service, and I wish him and Alma all the best.

In his 4 years as Secretary of State, Colin forged new alliances that are helping America win the war on terror and reinvigorated old and honored friendships. He has helped to build two great coalitions that have liberated more than 50 million people in Afghanistan and Iraq from brutal dictators and which are now helping those nations emerge as successful democracies. He was a key architect of the Broader Middle East Initiative, which is helping to spread freedom and democracy in that region.

His diplomatic skills also helped to end regional conflicts and lower tensions on the Indian subcontinent. Through his advocacy, he focused the world's attention on the plight of the suffering in Sudan, Liberia, and Haiti. His role in resolving the EP-3 incident early in my administration showed the calm judgment and steady resolve he has brought to our foreign policy. Thousands of dedicated foreign policy professionals are grateful for his leadership in modernizing and strengthening the Department of State.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also made available Secretary Powell's letter of resignation.

Statement on the Resignation of Roderick R. Paige as Secretary of Education

November 15, 2004

Rod Paige has been at the forefront of fundamentally reforming and improving our Nation's public education system so that no child is left behind in America. His passion for taking on the status quo and fighting for reform underscores his strong commitment to our country's young people and his desire to give them a brighter future. Throughout his life, Rod has overcome great obstacles and achieved great success. He represents the best of America.

We have only begun the long-term transformation of education so that future generations can enjoy all of the promise and opportunity America has to offer. Thanks to the hard work of Rod Paige, we have a very strong start and are well on our way to fulfilling that promise.

I am thankful for Rod's leadership during this important time and am grateful for his friendship. I wish him all the best.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also made available Secretary Paige's letter of resignation.

Statement on the Resignation of Spencer Abraham as Secretary of Energy

November 15, 2004

Spence Abraham has been a valued member of the Cabinet and a strong and steady leader of the Department of Energy. He helped develop our National Energy Policy to reduce our country's reliance on foreign sources of energy and to provide reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound energy for America's future. He launched new technological research initiatives that will lead to the next generation of pollution-free automobiles and clean coal powerplants. In the war on terror, Spence Abraham played a pivotal role in keeping the most dangerous

weapons out of the hands of the most dangerous people through his work on nuclear nonproliferation.

I am very grateful for Spence's service and thank him for his sacrifice and hard work for America. I wish him and Jane all the best.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also made available Secretary Abraham's letter of resignation.

**Statement on the Resignation of
Ann M. Veneman as Secretary of
Agriculture**

November 15, 2004

Ann Veneman has been a strong advocate for America's farm and ranch families. As Secretary of Agriculture, she has been a valuable member of my Cabinet, working to ensure that we promote economic opportunities for farmers and ranchers, ensure a safe and wholesome food supply, and sell American farm products all around the world.

I commend Ann for her efforts to enact and implement a responsible farm bill with strong conservation provisions. I greatly appreciate Ann's leadership in ensuring that we responded quickly and effectively to protect the American food supply following the discovery of BSE in the United States and following September 11th. She has helped ensure commonsense forest management and skillfully implemented the Healthy Forests Initiative. She has played a key role in opening markets and in ensuring a level playing field for America's farm products.

Ann has served our country with distinction and integrity. I appreciate her fine work and wish her well.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also made available Secretary Veneman's letter of resignation.

**Statement on the Resignation of
Ed Gillespie as Chairman of the
Republican National Committee**

November 15, 2004

Ed Gillespie has done an outstanding job as chairman of the Republican National Committee. He helped bring many new peo-

ple to our cause by sharing our vision of a safer world and more hopeful America. His successful efforts in outreach, registration, and voter turnout will be an enduring legacy on which to build a long-lasting governing coalition.

Republicans now hold the Presidency, majorities in both Houses of Congress, and the majority of governorships and State legislatures. That's due to a lot of hard work by many people, and one of the most important contributions has been the personal commitment, creativity, and leadership of Ed Gillespie these past years.

I thank Ed for his exceptional service and friendship and wish him and Cathy all the best.

**Proclamation 7846—America
Recycles Day, 2004**

November 15, 2004

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Our Nation is dedicated to good stewardship of our natural resources. On America Recycles Day, we reaffirm our commitment to preserving our resources and recycling.

Our country produces more than 200 million tons of municipal solid waste—approximately 4 pounds of waste per person per day. As more garbage is generated, the demands on our landfills, natural resources, and environment continue to grow. Recycling helps conserve energy and natural resources, provides raw materials for key domestic industries, reduces air and water pollution, cuts greenhouse gas emissions, and promotes the development of cleaner technologies. Recycling and composting diverts millions of tons of material away from landfills and incinerators. Through curbside collection and recyclable drop-off centers, communities across our Nation are demonstrating their commitment to protecting our environment and to