

information to the Congress, or the public, in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch and to withhold information that could impair foreign relations, national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties. Such provisions include sections 8 and 12 of the Sudan Peace Act as amended by section 5 of the Act.

Provisions of the Act define a particular entity as the "Government of Sudan" for purposes of implementing the Act and section 12 of the Sudan Peace Act (Public Law 107-245). The executive branch shall construe the provisions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority for the United States to recognize foreign states and to determine what constitutes the governments of such foreign states.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 23, 2004.

NOTE: At the time of publication, S. 2781, approved December 23, had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of a Public Law number. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

**Message on the Observance of
Christmas 2004**

December 23, 2004

For 2,000 years, Christmas has proclaimed a message of hope: the patient hope of men and women across centuries who listened to the words of prophets and lived in joyful expectation; the hope of Mary, who welcomed God's plan with great faith; and the hope of wise men, who set out on a long journey guided only by a slender promise traced in the stars. Christmas reminds us that the grandest purposes of God can be found in the humblest places. And it gives us hope that all the love and gifts that come to us in this life are the signs and symbols of an even greater love and gift that came on a holy night.

The Christmas season fills our hearts with gratitude for the many blessings in our lives. With those blessings comes a responsibility to reach out to others. Many of our fellow Americans still suffer from the effects of illness or poverty. Others fight cruel addictions, cope with division in their families, or grieve the loss of a loved one. Christmastime reminds each of us that we have a duty to love our neighbor just as we would like to be loved ourselves. By volunteering our time and talents where they are needed most, we help heal the sick, comfort those who suffer, and bring hope to those who despair.

During the holidays, we also keep in our thoughts and prayers the men and women of our Armed Forces—especially those far from home, separated from family and friends by the call of duty. In Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere, these courageous Americans are fighting the enemies of freedom and protecting our country from danger. By bringing liberty to the oppressed, our troops are defending the freedom and security of us all. They and their families are making many sacrifices for our Nation, and all Americans are deeply grateful.

Laura joins me in wishing all Americans a Merry Christmas.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

**Message on the Observance of
Kwanzaa 2004**

December 23, 2004

I send greetings to those observing Kwanzaa.

During Kwanzaa, millions of African Americans and people of African descent gather to celebrate their heritage and ancestry. Kwanzaa celebrations provide an opportunity to focus on the importance of family, community, and history, and to reflect on the Nguzo Saba or seven principles of African culture. These principles emphasize unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

Kwanzaa strengthens the ties that bind communities across America and around the world and reflects the great promise and diversity of America.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a joyous Kwanzaa.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

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.

December 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

December 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

December 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Office of National Drug Control Policy Director John P. Walters, who presented him with the results of the 2004 Monitoring the Future survey.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey to discuss the European Union's decision to begin accession talks with Turkey on October 3, 2005, the situation in Iraq, and other issues.

In the afternoon, the President met with Kweisi Mfume, outgoing president and chief executive officer, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Germany and the Slovak Republic following his meetings on Feb-

ruary 22, 2005, with NATO and European Union leaders in Brussels, Belgium. Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany will host the President in Germany on February 23. In addition to a bilateral program in the Slovak Republic on February 24, the President will meet with President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

December 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

December 23

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: The Congress having adjourned *sine die* on Tuesday, December 7, 2004, 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 21

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's upcoming visit to Germany and the Slovak Republic

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 102, H.R. 480, H.R. 2119, H.R. 2523, H.R. 3124, H.R. 3147, H.R. 3204, H.R. 3242, H.R. 3734, H.R. 3884, H.R. 4232, H.R. 4324, H.R. 4620, H.R.