

I want to welcome you here. Last time you were here, we were talking about the Olympics. I told the Prime Minister I was confident that the Government would make sure the Olympics were secure. I was so confident I sent my family. And not only did you keep your word, my parents and my—some of my relatives had a fabulous time in a spectacular country.

I look forward to visiting with you on a variety of subjects, the freedom agenda, freedom in the greater Middle East, the Balkans. I look forward to talking to you about how best we can work together to continue to spread liberty. So I'm proud you're here, and welcome to the United States.

Prime Minister Karamanlis. Well, it's my second visit with President Bush within almost a year. And I'm happy to say that this reflects the excellent bilateral relations we have and, of course, our determination to further our partnership to promote the areas of mutual interest, the common goals we have. And I think that it's going to be the outcome of this meeting as well to keep working closely in matters which are very important to both of us in both countries.

President Bush. Good man. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:14 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message on the Observance of Cuban Independence Day, 2005

May 20, 2005

I send greetings to those celebrating the 103rd anniversary of Cuban Independence.

Freedom is the birthright of all mankind. Leaders across the Americas understand that the hope for peace in our world depends on the unity of free nations. America's continued support of democratic institutions, constitutional processes, and basic liberties gives hope and strength to those struggling in our hemisphere to reclaim the rule of law and their God-given rights. As we observe Cuba's independence today, we look forward to the day when Cuba is free, and my Administration supports efforts to hasten that day's com-

ing. The tide of freedom is spreading across the globe, and it will reach Cuban shores. No tyrant can stand forever against the power of liberty because the hope of freedom is found in every heart.

This milestone is an opportunity to celebrate the Cuban culture and the many contributions Cuban Americans have made to the United States. By sharing your proud history with all Americans, you enrich our society and contribute to the diversity that makes our Nation great.

May God bless the Cuban people.

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.

May 14

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

May 15

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

May 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to West Point, VA, where he participated in a tour of the Virginia BioDiesel refinery.

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

May 17

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi of the Iraqi Interim Government to thank him for his service and to

discuss the situation in Iraq. He then had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President met with former President Nelson Mandela of South Africa. He then met with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with judicial nominees Priscilla R. Owen and Janice Rogers Brown. Later, in the Rose Garden, he participated in a photo opportunity with a group from the Sunshine Kids Foundation. He then had a briefing on the national economy.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority to the White House on May 26.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles S. Ciccolella to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

The President announced his intention to nominate Reuben Jeffery III to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and to be Chairman of the Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate James A. Rispoli to be Assistant Secretary of Energy, Environmental Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate Linda Jewell to be Ambassador to Ecuador.

The President announced his intention to nominate John F. Tefft to be Ambassador to Georgia.

The President announced his intention to appoint Daniel H. Stone as a member of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships: Richard A. Bennett; Terry E. Branstad; Archie W. Dunham; P. Robert Fannin; Cathy Gillespie; Anne Heiligenstein; Carol Jean Jordan; David M. Roederer; Judy Baar Topinka; and William L. Webb III.

May 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then met in the Oval Office with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President met with Prime Minister Ahmed Mohamed Nazif of Egypt.

In the afternoon, in the Cabinet Room, the President met with Republican Members of the House of Representatives to discuss legislative priorities.

Later in the afternoon, the President dropped by a meeting with members of a coalition from the Dominican Republic supporting passage of the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

May 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then traveled to Milwaukee, WI. While en route aboard Air Force One, he participated in an interview with Craig Gilbert of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Later in the morning, upon arrival in Milwaukee, the President met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Sharon Semrow. Later, he met with employees of OnMilwaukee.com at their company office.

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

The White House announced that the President will travel to the United Kingdom to attend the G-8 Summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, on July 6-8.

May 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with leaders of the Cuban American community.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany to the White House for a meeting and working lunch on June 27.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tom Luce to be Assistant Secretary of Education (Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development).

The President announced his intention to nominate Arlene Holen to be a member of

the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Irma B. Elder as a member of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships.

The President announced his intention to appoint Charles Patrick Garcia and Nancy R. Kudla as members of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted May 16

Larry Miles Dinger,
of Iowa, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Fiji Islands, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Republic of Kiribati.

Eric S. Edelman,
of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, vice Douglas Jay Feith.

Janice B. Gardner,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis (new position).

Michael E. Hess,
of New York, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Roger P. Winter, resigned.

Terence Patrick McCulley,
of Oregon, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Pleni-

potentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mali.

Victoria Nuland,
of Connecticut, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be U.S. Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Sandra L. Pack,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Teresa M. Ressel, resigned.

Daniel R. Stanley,
of Kansas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Powell A. Moore.

Paul A. Trivelli,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Nicaragua.

Ann Louise Wagner,
of Missouri, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Luxembourg.

Submitted May 17

Charles S. Ciccolella,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, vice Frederico Juarbe, Jr., resigned.

Reuben Jeffery III,
of the District of Columbia, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, vice James E. Newsome, resigned.

Reuben Jeffery III,
of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2007, vice Barbara Pedersen Holum, term expired.

Linda Jewell,
of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United