

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:27 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Former Chief Justice John L. Hill, Jr., former Associate Justice Greg Abbott, former Associate Justice James A. Baker, former Associate Justice Eugene A. Cook, former Associate Justice Craig T. Enoch, and former Associate Justice Raul A. Gonzalez, Texas Supreme Court, participated in the meeting.

Notice—Intention To Enter Into a Free Trade Agreement With Oman

October 17, 2005

Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act of 2002, I have notified the Congress of my intention to enter into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Sultanate of Oman.

Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(A) of that Act, this notice shall be published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 17, 2005.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:34 a.m., October 18, 2005]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on October 19.

Message to the Congress Giving Notice of Intent To Enter Into a Free Trade Agreement With Oman

October 17, 2005

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act of 2002, (Public Law 107–210)(the “Trade Act”), I am pleased to notify the Congress of my intention to enter into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Sultanate of Oman.

The Agreement will generate export opportunities for U.S. companies, farmers, and ranchers, help create jobs in the United States, and help American consumers save money while offering them more choices. Entering into an FTA with Oman will build on the FTAs that we already have with Israel, Jordan, and Morocco, as well as the FTA that we have concluded with Bahrain, and will be

an important step on the path to fulfilling my vision of developing economic growth and democracy in the Middle East and creating a U.S.-Middle East Free Trade Area (MEFTA) by 2013.

Consistent with the Trade Act, I am sending this notification at least 90 days in advance of signing the FTA. My Administration looks forward to working with the Congress in developing appropriate legislation to approve and implement this Agreement.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 17, 2005.

Remarks at the Iftaar Dinner

October 17, 2005

Please be seated. Thank you. Welcome to the White House. This is the fifth year in a row that it’s been my honor to host an Iftaar in the State Dining Room.

Our distinguished guests represent the millions of Muslims that we’re proud to call Americans, and many Islamic nations are represented here that America is proud to call friend. We welcome the representatives from many countries with large Muslim populations. I want to thank you all for coming to celebrate an honored tradition of the Muslim faith and wish you a *Ramadan Mubarak*.

I want to thank those in my administration who have joined us. I want to thank the Imam for joining us today, and thank you for leading us in prayer after these short remarks. I want to thank all the ambassadors from the Organization of the Islamic Conference. I welcome other members of the diplomatic corps. And I want to thank the Muslim—American Muslim leaders who are with us today. Thanks for taking time out to celebrate this important dinner.

Ramadan is the holiest time of the Muslim year. According to Islamic teaching, this month commemorates the revelation of God’s word to the prophet Mohammed in the form of the Koran. For more than a billion Muslims, Ramadan is a time of heartfelt prayer and togetherness. It is a time of fasting and personal sacrifice. It’s a time to give thanks for God’s blessings through works of charity.