

Week Ending Friday, March 16, 2007

**Remarks Prior to a Discussion With
Members of the Community in
Sao Paulo, Brazil**

March 9, 2007

Well, first I'd like to thank Flavio for his hospitality. Laura and I are so thrilled to be in Brazil. We love your beautiful country, but I also love the fact that there are people who are deeply concerned about the plight of the least of us. And I am very proud of my country's contribution to helping social entrepreneurs who are helping people help others. I believe you can change society one heart at a time; that's what I believe. But I know in order to do so, it requires people who are willing to make sacrifice.

Flavio runs a place of love and compassion, all aimed at being a part of that social fabric that helps heal the broken heart and provides hope for the future.

And so I thank you all for joining Laura and me. I'm really looking forward to hearing about what you have done, how others can help. But the main reason I'm here is to thank you. We're all members of God's family, and when one of us hurts, we also hurt. And there are a lot of hurting people in the world, a lot of hurting people in Brazil. And the people in the United States care.

So I'm honored to be with you. I look forward to the roundtable. Flavio, I guess this is your place, so you start, right?

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:41 p.m. at Meninos do Morumbi. In his remarks, he referred to Flavio Pimenta, president and director, Meninos do Morumbi. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Letter to the Speaker of the House of
Representatives Transmitting a
Request for Fiscal Year 2007
Department of Defense
Supplemental Budget Revisions**

March 9, 2007

Dear Madam Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed revisions to the FY 2007 Department of Defense supplemental request proposed in my FY 2008 Budget. This revised request would better align resources based on the assessment of military commanders to achieve the goal of establishing Iraq and Afghanistan as democratic and secure nations that are free of terrorism. Overall, the discretionary budget authority in my FY 2007 supplemental proposal would not be increased by these requests.

The details of these amendments are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 10.

**Letter to the Speaker of the House of
Representatives Transmitting
Proposed Budget Cancellations**

March 9, 2007

Dear Madam Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2007 request to cancel \$3.1 billion of funding from lower-priority Federal programs and excess funds. This request would offset fully the funds needed to address the \$3.1 billion FY 2007 funding shortfall for the Department of Defense to implement the

recommendations of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission. The proposed cancellations would affect the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, the Interior, and Transportation, as well as the Corps of Engineers.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 10.

The President's Radio Address

March 10, 2007

Good morning. Today Laura and I are in Latin America, where we are visiting five countries: Brazil, Uruguay, Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico. These countries are part of a region that has made great strides toward freedom and prosperity in the past three decades. They have raised up new democracies, and they have undertaken fiscal policies that have brought stability to their economies.

Yet despite the progress we have seen, many citizens in our hemisphere remain trapped in poverty and shut off from the promise of this new century. Nearly one out of every four people in Latin America lives on less than \$2 a day. Many children never finish grade school. Many mothers never see a doctor. The fact is that tens of millions of our brothers and sisters to the south have yet to see improvements in their daily lives, and this has led some to question the value of democracy.

Our Nation has a vital interest in helping the young democracies in our neighborhood succeed. When our neighbors prosper, they create more vibrant markets for our goods and services. When our neighbors have a hopeful future in their own countries, they can find work at home and are less likely to migrate to our country illegally. And when our neighbors feel the blessings of liberty in their daily lives, the appeal of radicalism de-

clines and our hemisphere becomes more secure.

The United States is doing its part to help our neighbors in Latin America build a better life for themselves and their families. We are helping these young democracies make their governments more fair, effective, and transparent. We are supporting their efforts to meet the basic needs of their citizens—like education, health care, and housing. And we are increasing opportunity for all by relieving debt, opening up trade, and encouraging reforms that will build market economies, where people can start from nothing and rise as far as their talents and hard work can take them.

On Monday, I will meet a Guatemalan citizen who has experienced the power of open trade and free economies. His name is Mariano Canu. Twenty years ago, he was an indigenous farmer whose land provided barely enough corn and beans to feed his family. No one in his family had ever been to college, and most of the people in his village never got past the sixth grade. And his own children's prospects for prosperity looked just as bleak.

Mariano was determined to do better for his family. So he organized an association of small farmers called *Labradores Mayas*. He persuaded his fellow farmers to switch their crops to vegetables they could sell overseas—high-value crops like lettuce, carrots, and celery. Soon they were selling to big companies like Wal-Mart Central America. Today, the business he helped establish is thriving, and it supports more than 1,000 jobs. It also has supported something else, a college education for Mariano's son.

Mariano is showing what the people of Latin America can accomplish when they are given a chance. We must help others like him gain the opportunity to build a better life for their families. The generosity of the American people is helping our neighbors in Latin America build free and vibrant economies. By doing so, we will increase living standards for all our citizens, strengthen democracy in our hemisphere, and advance the cause of peace.

Thank you for listening.