

United States is not paying attention, nor do they care about us.” That’s just simply not the case. In my recent trip down there, I did go to Brazil, Uruguay, Colombia, and Central America and emphasized our humanitarian programs, the health programs, the education programs. I wanted to make it clear to the people of South and Central America that the United States cares deeply about the human condition and that we believe that on the one hand, our Government aid ought to make sure that we battle corruption—we just don’t give money to corrupt societies, that we ought to say that in return for our aid, change your habits if you’re corrupt, otherwise you’re not going to get additional money.

And at the same time, we believe we ought to foster programs aimed at the individual. And it’s—and we are. We’re spending a lot of money in South America. Now, we’re not doing a very good job with the propaganda battle around the world. We created it, and we’re losing. And that’s one thing we’ve got to spend a lot of time on, is to make sure that the image of the United States corresponds to the realities on the ground.

Yesterday I went to a mosque—or Islamic Center in Washington, DC. It’s the 50th anniversary of the Islamic Center. It was a place where Dwight Eisenhower went to dedicate, and I went to rededicate it. And my message was, one, freedom is a beautiful thing, and that we expect societies to work toward freedom, and we want to do that. And at the same time, we honor all religion. That’s what we do in America. And it is really meant to counter this notion that somehow America is in war against Islam. We’re not. We’re at war against killers who subvert a great religion in order to achieve their political objectives. And we’ll keep working as hard as we can.

Anyway, great question. Look, I’ve got to go. I thank you all for coming by. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:22 a.m. at Connelly Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Donald L. Carcieri of Rhode Island; Rear Adm. Jacob L. Shuford, president, Naval War College; Gov. M. Jodi Rell of Connecticut; Gov. Mark Sanford of South Carolina; Gov. Matt Blunt of Missouri; Lt. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, USA, commander, Multi-National Corps—Iraq; Prime Min-

ister Nuri al-Maliki, Minister of Defense Abd al-Qadir al-Mufriji, and Minister of the Interior Jawad al-Bulani of Iraq; President Mahmud Ahmadi-nejad of Iran; Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates; Adm. William J. Fallon, USN, commander, U.S. Central Command; President Fidel Castro Ruz of Cuba; and former President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic.

Remarks on the Senate’s Failure to Pass Immigration Reform Legislation in Newport

June 28, 2007

I thank the Members of the Senate and members of my administration who worked so hard on the border security and immigration reform bill. I’m sorry the Senate was unable to reach agreement on the bill this morning.

Legal immigration is one of the top concerns of the American people, and Congress’s failure to act on it is a disappointment. The American people understand the status quo is unacceptable when it comes to our immigration laws. A lot of us worked hard to see if we couldn’t find common ground, and it didn’t work.

Congress really needs to prove to the American people that it can come together on hard issues. The Congress needs to work on comprehensive energy policy and good health care, making sure health care is affordable without inviting the Federal Government to run the health care system. We’ve got to work together to make sure we can balance this Federal budget and not overspend or raise taxes on the American people. We’ve got a lot of work to do.

When they come back from the summer—from the July recess, before the summer break begins, we’ll be focusing on the appropriations process. And I look forward to working with Congress to balance our budgets and to be wise about how we spend the people’s money.

Thank you for your time.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:38 p.m. in Connelly Hall at the Naval War College. In his remarks, he referred to S. 1639. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on the Removal of the Bald Eagle From the List of Endangered Species

June 28, 2007

I am pleased that the bald eagle—our Nation’s symbol for more than 225 years and an image of inspiration and freedom to all Americans—is now being removed from the list of endangered species.

Forty years ago, only 400 nesting pairs were living. Today, nearly 10,000 nesting pairs are thriving in the lower 48 States. This number is more than triple the recovery goal set in the Endangered Species Act.

The overwhelming success of bald eagle recovery was made possible by a strong partnership between Federal and State governments and private landowners. The eagle will continue to flourish under Federal protection through the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

This great conservation achievement means more and more Americans across the Nation will enjoy the thrill of seeing bald eagles soar. What a wonderful way to celebrate this Fourth of July.

Proclamation 8157—To Modify Duty-Free Treatment Under the Generalized System of Preferences, Take Certain Actions Under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, and for Other Purposes

June 28, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(A) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “1974 Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)), beneficiary developing countries, except those designated as least-developed beneficiary developing countries or beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries as provided in section 503(c)(2)(D) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(D)), are subject to competitive need limitations on the preferential treatment afforded under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to eligible articles.

2. Section 503(c)(2)(C) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(C)) provides that a country that is no longer treated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to an eligible article may be redesignated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to such article if imports of such article from such country did not exceed the competitive need limitations in section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act during the preceding calendar year.

3. Section 503(c)(2)(F)(i) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(F)(i)) provides that the President may disregard the competitive need limitation provided in section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)(i)(II)) with respect to any eligible article from any beneficiary developing country if the aggregate appraised value of the imports of such article into the United States during the preceding calendar year does not exceed an amount set forth in section 503(c)(2)(F)(ii) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(F)(ii)).

4. Pursuant to section 503(d)(1) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(d)(1)), the President may waive the application of the competitive need limitations in section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)) with respect to any eligible article from any beneficiary developing country if certain conditions are met.

5. Pursuant to section 503(d)(5) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(d)(5)), any waiver granted under section 503(d) shall remain in effect until the President determines that such waiver is no longer warranted due to changed circumstances.

6. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that in 2006 certain beneficiary developing countries have exported certain eligible articles in quantities exceeding the applicable competitive need limitation, and I therefore terminate the duty-free treatment for such articles from such beneficiary developing countries.

7. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(C) of the 1974 Act, and subject to the considerations set forth in sections 501 and 502 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2461 and 2462), I have determined to redesignate certain countries as beneficiary developing countries with respect to certain eligible articles that previously had been imported in quantities exceeding the