

Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–61) (the “Act”) and supplemented that Act with additional restrictions. On October 18, 2007, I determined that the Government of Burma’s continued repression of the democratic opposition in Burma, manifested at the time in the violent response to peaceful demonstrations, the commission of human rights abuses related to political repression, and engagement in public corruption, including by diverting or misusing Burmese public assets or by misusing public authority, warranted an expansion of the then-existing sanctions. Executive Order 13448, issued on that date, incorporated existing designation criteria set forth in Executive Order 13310, blocked the property and interests in property of persons listed in the Annex to that Executive Order, and provided additional criteria for designations of certain other persons.

The order supplements the existing designation criteria set forth in Executive Order 13310, as incorporated in and expanded by Executive Order 13448. The order blocks the property and interests in property in the United States of persons listed in the Annex to the order and provides additional criteria for designations of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to be owned or controlled by, directly or indirectly, the Government of Burma or an official or officials of the Government of Burma; to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, logistical, or technical support for, or goods or services in support of, the Government of Burma, the State Peace and Development Council of Burma, the Union Solidarity and Development Association of Burma, any successor entity to any of the foregoing, any senior official of any of the foregoing, or any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to Executive Order 13310, Executive Order 13448, or the order; or to be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to Executive Order 13310, Executive Order 13448, or the order.

The order leaves in place the existing prohibitions on new investment, the exportation

or reexportation to Burma of financial services, and the importation of any article that is a product of Burma, which were put into effect in Executive Order 13047 and Executive Order 13310.

The order authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA and section 4 of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 30, 2008.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 1.

Remarks on the National Day of Prayer

May 1, 2008

Good morning. Welcome to the White House. And I am honored to join you for the National Day of Prayer. I’m sorry Laura’s not here. She’s out selling her book. [*Laughter*]

Shirley, thank you very much for being the chairman of the National Day of Prayer. Glad you brought old Jim with you. [*Laughter*] Dr. Zacharias, thank you for being the honorary chairman. I appreciate the members of my Cabinet who are here today. Thank you all for coming. It’s good to see Members of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. Appreciate you all taking time out of your busy schedule to come by. It’s always good to be with you.

I want to thank our military chaplains who are with us. Thank you for doing the Lord’s work with our troops. I’m proud to have prayer leaders here. Rabbi Fishman, thank you; it’s good to see you again, sir. Father Coughlin, from the United States House of Representatives, it’s good to see you, sir. I want to thank Pastor Mays, who will be following

me here shortly, for coming. I'm looking forward to hearing the choir of Saint Patrick's Cathedral of New York City, New York. It's going to be a great moment to have this East Room filled with joy of song. And so I welcome them here today.

On this day, Americans come together to thank our Creator for our Nation's many blessings. We are a blessed nation. And on this day, we celebrate our freedoms, particularly the freedom to pray in public and the great diversity of faith found in America. I love being the President of a country where people feel free to worship as they see fit. And I remind our fellow citizens, if you choose to worship or not worship, and no matter how you worship, we're all equally American.

I think one of the interesting things about a National Day of Prayer is it does help describe our Nation's character to others. We are a prayerful nation. A lot of citizens draw comfort from prayer. Prayer is an important part of the lives of millions of Americans. You know, it's interesting, when you think about our faith, you can find it in the Pledge of Allegiance, you can find an expression of American faith in the Declaration of Independence, and you can find it in the coins in our pockets. I used to carry coins—[laughter]—about 10 months, I'll be carrying them again. [Laughter]

The fidelity to faith has been present in our Nation's leaders from its very start. Upon assuming the Presidency, George Washington took the oath of office and then added the famous plea, "So help me God." On John Adams's first day in the White House, he wrote a prayer that is now etched in marble on the fireplace in the State Dining Room. And he prayed, "May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof." Now, we'll leave it to the historians to judge whether or not that happened throughout our history. [Laughter]

During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln turned to prayer. His second Inaugural Address quoted from Scripture. He stood before the United States people and quoted from Scripture. And he sought to heal a people who "read the same Bible and prayed to the same God"—his words.

As William McKinley lay dying from an assassin's bullet, one of his final words on Earth focused on the Almighty. On his deathbed he was heard to say, "Nearer, my God, to thee."

As American forces risked their lives on D-day, Franklin Roosevelt delivered a Presidential prayer over the radio. He asked God to protect our troops as they liberated "a suffering humanity," and he prayed for "a peace that will let all men live in freedom." When Roosevelt died, his successor, Harry Truman, said he "felt like the moon, the stars, and all the planets" had fallen on him. He told reporters: "Boys, if you ever pray, pray for me now."

John F. Kennedy attended mass in Florida during the last week of his Presidency—and during the last week of his life. It was at that mass that he heard the parable where the—our Lord compared the Kingdom of Heaven to a mustard seed that grew into a large tree and offered shelter to God's creatures.

Three days after the worst terrorist attack on American soil, Laura and I joined our fellow citizens in prayer before the Lord. It was in the middle hour of our grief. We prayed for those who were missing. We prayed for the dead. We prayed for those who loved them. I recall the words of a woman from New York, who said, "I prayed to God to give us a sign that He is still here."

Well, sometimes God's signs are not always the ones we look for. And we learn in tragedy that His purposes are not always our own. But we also know that in adversity, we can find comfort through prayer.

Over the last 7 years, our country has faced many trials. And time and time again, we have turned to prayer and found strength and resilience. We prayed with those who've lost everything in natural disasters and helped them heal and recover and build. We prayed for our brave and brilliant troops who died on the field of battle. We lift up their families in prayer. And as we pray for God's continued blessings on our country, I think it makes sense to hope that one day there may be an international day of prayer; that one day the national prayer—[applause]. It would be a chance for people of faith around the world to stop at the same time to pause to praise an Almighty. It would be a time when we

could prayer together for a world that sees the promise of the Psalms made real: “Your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth.”

I want to thank you all for coming. I particularly want to thank you for your prayers. You know, somebody asked me one time when I was there—over seeing the Sea of Galilee, they said, “What did you think about when you were there, Mr. President?” I said, “I have finally understood the story of the calm on the rough seas.” I may have been a little hardheaded at times, but I’m absolutely convinced it was the prayers of the people who helped me understand, in turbulence you can find calm and strength. And I thank you for those prayers.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:12 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Shirley Dobson, chairman, National Day of Prayer Task Force, and her husband, James; Ravi Zacharias, honorary chairman, National Day of Prayer Task Force; Rabbi Lyle Fishman, Ohr Kodesh Congregation, Chevy Chase, MD; and Pastor Steve Mays, senior pastor, Cavalry Chapel South Bay, Gardena, CA. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on the Observance of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

May 1, 2008

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you. Good afternoon. And welcome to the White House. The East Room is a fitting place to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. I say fitting because in 1860, this was where James Buchanan first—became the first President to receive an official delegation from Japan. It was a great meeting, except for one slight wrinkle. The interpreter the Japanese brought with them couldn’t speak English. [*Laughter*] So he translated Japanese into Dutch—[*laughter*]—and then another interpreter translated Dutch into English. [*Laughter*] I thought that was pretty interesting. People say when I speak, it sounds like Japanese translated into Dutch translated into English. [*Laughter*] I’m just upholding a diplomatic tradition. [*Laughter*]

During Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, we honor citizens whose families have come from halfway around the world, but who are now an integral part of America. I want to thank former Secretary and my dear friend Norm Mineta, who, when he was in Congress, introduced legislation that led to this celebration. And I thank each of you for coming to be a part of it.

Madam Secretary, we’re proud you’re here. Elaine Chao has been a member of my Cabinet since day one, and I think America is better off for it. So thank you for coming, Madam Secretary. Members of Congress—Congressman Wu, thank you for being here, sir. Members of my administration, I’m glad you all are here. Members of the diplomatic corps, it’s so kind of you to take time out of your day to come. We got our veterans here and, of course, members of the United States military. Proud to call you Commander in Chief, and thank you for being here today.

More than 15 million Americans claim Asian or Pacific ancestry. They make America’s culture more vibrant, and we’re a better place—and a more lively place, I might add, from Songkran celebrations in Los Angeles to Chinese New Year parties in Chicago to Diwali festivals right here at the White House.

Asian Pacific Americans make our country more competitive. It turns out, there’s a great entrepreneurial streak that runs throughout the citizens whom we honor today. Small-business owners all over America are creating new jobs and are living the dream. They enrich America because of their love for America.

Many Asians have settled in this country after fleeing oppressive regimes. They looked at America as a hopeful place. They include the boat people of Vietnam, men and women who escaped the killing fields of Cambodia, those who endured the Cultural Revolution in China, and victims of the regime in North Korea.

America must always remember that we are a place of hope and freedom for people who live in oppressive societies. Throughout the Asian American community, there is a special appreciation of liberty known only to those who’ve been denied it. If you’ve been