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NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 7.

## **Remarks Following a Briefing on the Security Situation in Afghanistan**

*October 1, 2008*

I want to thank General McKiernan for giving me a briefing on Afghanistan.

### ***Economic Stabilization Legislation***

Before I talk about our visit, I do want to say this: I appreciate Senator Harry Reid's leadership in the United States Senate when it comes to the financial rescue plan. I also appreciate Mitch McConnell's leadership as well. The Senate will be voting on a very important measure tonight. It's a—the rescue plan—the bill has been improved by raising—well, by other things, raising—temporarily raising the cap of—on FDIC insurance.

It's very important for Members to take this bill very seriously. It's important to get credit flowing again so that small businesses in our communities will be able to finance their operations, so that local municipalities will be able to get the money they need to take care of the needs of local citizens, so that States will be able to meet their needs.

It's very important for us to pass this piece of legislation so as to stabilize the situation, so that it doesn't get worse and that our fellow citizens lose wealth and work.

The Senate is going to take this bill up tonight. I'm hopeful they'll pass it, and then the House will have a chance to vote on it Friday morning. As I say, the bill is different, it's been improved, and I'm confident it will pass.

### ***Situation in Afghanistan***

General, thank you for coming. I appreciate your service to the country. General McKiernan is briefing me on the situation in Afghanistan, what he is going to need to make sure that we continue helping this young democracy succeed.

Obviously, this is a situation where there's been progress, and there are difficulties. There's been progress when you consider the

fact that millions of young girls go to school that didn't have a chance to go to school before in Afghanistan. That's incredible progress. There's progress when you realize that health care needs are being met for the first time in—around Afghanistan. There's progress when there are roads being built so farmers can get product to market. That's progress.

There's difficulties, of course, because killers can't stand this progress. And the general's job is to work with, obviously, not only our troops but the thousands of troops from NATO countries there to provide the security so the progress continues. And there's been some tough fighting, and we honor our American troops who have sacrificed so that Afghanistan never becomes a safe haven again for extremists who would harm our citizens.

We talked about the comprehensive strategy necessary to succeed. I've announced more troops for Afghanistan, and the general, of course, is continuing to assess his needs. But we also must make sure there's a civilian component that runs alongside our military, that there's good governance, and that there's aid programs that are effective and focused on the people of Afghanistan, and that the infrastructure progress continues to be made.

And so I want to thank you for your service; thank you for your candid briefing, General. I want to thank your family as well as all the other families who are standing by the—those who wear the uniform, as this Nation continues to defend her own security and defend young democracies.

General, you and your troops are laying the foundation for peace. You're making a sacrifice today so that future generations of Americans don't have to worry about harm coming from a place like Afghanistan, and future generations of Afghans can grow up in a hopeful society. And I'm proud to be your Commander in Chief.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:01 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. David D. McKiernan, USA, commander, NATO International Security Assistance Force, Afghanistan. He also referred to H.R. 1424.

**Statement on Senate Action on Economic Stabilization Legislation**

*October 1, 2008*

I applaud the Senate for its strong bipartisan vote in favor of the financial rescue plan. I especially appreciate the efforts of Majority Leader Harry Reid, Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senators Chris Dodd and Judd Gregg, and the senior members of the relevant committees from both parties. They worked across the aisle to make vital improvements to the rescue package I sent Congress last month, including an expansion of deposit insurance that will help protect the savings of American families and small businesses.

The bill the Senate passed is essential to the financial security of every American. It is aimed at helping American families who need to borrow money to buy a car or fund a college education. It is aimed at helping small businesses that depend on financing to meet their payrolls and stock their shelves. And it is aimed at helping State and local governments that rely on the credit markets to fund basic services and meet the needs of their citizens.

The House will now take up this rescue legislation. With the improvements the Senate has made, I believe members of both parties in the House can support this legislation. The American people expect, and our economy demands, that the House pass this good bill this week and send it to my desk.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 1424.

**Statement on Senate Passage of India-United States Nuclear Cooperation and Nonproliferation Legislation**

*October 1, 2008*

I congratulate the Senate on passing the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act, H.R. 7081. In particular, I commend the members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for their leadership in crafting this important bipartisan legislation. I also thank Majority Leader Reid and Mi-

nority Leader McConnell for bringing this bill to a vote prior to the Senate's adjournment. This legislation will strengthen our global nuclear nonproliferation efforts, protect the environment, create jobs, and assist India in meeting its growing energy needs in a responsible manner.

I look forward to signing this bill into law and continuing to strengthen the U.S.-India strategic partnership.

**Proclamation 8297—National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, 2008**

*October 1, 2008*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

During National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we underscore our commitment to fighting and preventing this devastating disease. Breast cancer is one of the most common types of cancer among women, and we must strengthen our support of those who are living with this disease while continuing to work toward a cure.

Breast cancer can be attributed to many factors, including age, genetics, obesity, and family history. Women who exercise regularly, maintain healthy diets, and have yearly visits with their doctors are less likely to get breast cancer. Various screening measures such as mammograms, regular breast self-exams, and clinical breast exams can help detect cancer before it has a chance to spread. Early detection allows for early intervention, helps make treatment more effective, and gives hope to patients and saves lives.

America leads the world in medical research, and my Administration will continue to support efforts to treat and cure breast cancer. Since 2005, the Cancer Genome Atlas has studied the genetic sources of all types of cancer, and last year, I signed the "National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program Reauthorization Act of 2007," which will help millions of low-income and uninsured women get the screenings they need to detect cancer early. First Lady Laura Bush has encouraged women around the world to take charge of