

in Central America and in South America. But there's a couple of them that need to be approved by the United States Congress. We approved the free trade agreement with Peru, but we're waiting on Congress to approve the free trade agreements with Panama and Colombia.

I'm confident in our economy's long-term prospects. We'll get through this deal. And the reason why I'm confident is because we got the most talented and productive workers in the world. And many are Hispanic men and women who work hard every single day to support their families.

One promise of America is the compassion of our people. During my time in office, I've been proud to work with Hispanic Americans to lift up *nuestros hermanos y hermanas* in need. I established the USA Freedom Corps to foster a culture of citizenship and responsibility and service. And today nearly 61 million Americans volunteer their time to help our fellow citizens—many of them Hispanics.

Through our Faith-Based and Community Initiative, we are harnessing the compassion of religious groups to reduce homelessness and break the chains of addiction, give prisoners a second chance, and alleviate suffering at home and abroad.

Recently I met a woman from San Diego whose life has been transformed by America's armies of compassion. Edith Espinoza suffered terrible abuse from her husband. She turned to El Nido program, an interfaith shelter network supported by the Faith-Based and Community Initiative. El Nido is a place where Edith received counseling and learned how to get a job and save money. She and her daughters now live in an apartment that she pays on her own. Her goal is to become a social worker so she can help other families like hers. She is showing that because of the good hearts of our citizens, *el Sueno Americano es por todos*.

One promise of America is freedom—freedom for all. Hispanic Americans are extending this country's promise of freedom and liberty to others. Hispanics serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, to help those young democracies realize the blessings of freedom. I particularly want to thank those who are working to hasten the day of freedom for the Cuban people.

I'm especially proud to be the Commander in Chief of a military in which there's 225,000 Hispanic men and women. One of these *hispanos* is an Army Lieutenant Colonel named Enrique Guerra. Listen to his story: Enrique fled Cuba with his parents when he was an infant. They wanted their young child to grow up in a society that was free and hopeful. He spent more than 22 years in the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve. Today, he is a battalion commander at Camp Cropper in Iraq, helping the people in the Middle East secure their own freedom and, therefore, lay the foundation of peace for generations to come.

Enrique puts it this way: "As a Cuban America, I was born with a strong sense of patriotism, and that is why I serve." And today I'm proud to honor his service, and the service of all Hispanic Americans, who ensure that freedom is available to all. Enrique, *bienvenidos*. Thank you for coming. Thank you, sir.

And so today we celebrate the many contributions that generations of Hispanics have made to the American Dream. Their creativity and determination help our country to live up to its promise of opportunity and prosperity and freedom for all our citizens.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, we give thanks for these blessings, and we ask for God's continued blessings on you and your families, *y los Estados Unidos*.

And now it's my honor to welcome one of Latin America's most popular young vocalists, Colombia's Andres Cabas.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:10 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida and his wife Columba. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Executive Order 13476—Facilitation of a Presidential Transition

October 9, 2008

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 7301 of title 5, United States Code, and the

Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–458) (IRTPA), and in order to further the purposes of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963, as amended, and to assist the presidential transition, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Presidential Transition Coordination. (a) To assist and support the transition efforts of the transition teams for the “major party” “candidates,” as those terms are used in the IRTPA and defined in section 9002(2) and (6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 9002(2), (6)), and the President-elect, there is established a Presidential Transition Coordinating Council (Council).

(b) The Council shall be composed of the following officials or their designees:

- (i) Chief of Staff to the President, who shall serve as Chair;
- (ii) Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, who shall serve as Vice Chair;
- (iii) Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy;
- (iv) Counsel to the President;
- (v) Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel;
- (vi) Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs;
- (vii) Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism;
- (viii) Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director, National Economic Council;
- (ix) Attorney General;
- (x) Director of National Intelligence;
- (xi) Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
- (xii) Director of the Office of Personnel Management;
- (xiii) Administrator of General Services;
- (xiv) Archivist of the United States;
- (xv) Director of the Office of Government Ethics; and
- (xvi) Such others as the President or the Chair of the Council may select.

(c) The Council shall assist the major party candidates and the President-elect by making every reasonable effort to facilitate the transition between administrations. This assistance may include, among other things, providing

information relevant to facilitating the personnel aspects of a presidential transition and such other information that, in the Council’s judgment, is useful and appropriate, as long as providing such information is not otherwise prohibited by law.

(d) In order to obtain a wide range of facts and information on prior transitions and best practices, the Council, its members, or their designees may, from time to time, seek information from private individuals, including individuals within outside organizations, who have significant experience or expertise in presidential transitions. The Council, its members, or their designees shall endeavor to obtain such facts and information from individuals representing a range of bipartisan or nonpartisan viewpoints. If the Council, its members, or their designees find it necessary to seek advice from private individuals or outside organizations, such counsel should be sought in a manner that seeks individual advice and does not involve collective judgment or deliberation.

(e) It shall be the policy of the Council to provide appropriate information and assistance to the major party candidates on an equal basis and without regard for party affiliation.

Sec. 2. Transition Activities and Materials.

(a) At the direction of the Council or its designee(s), the Administrator of General Services shall coordinate orientation activities with the appropriate agencies, including the Office of Government Ethics and the Office of Personnel Management, for key prospective presidential appointees.

(b) At the direction of the Council or its designee(s), the White House Office of Presidential Personnel shall supplement as appropriate and necessary the electronic record of all title 5 presidentially appointed positions provided by the Office of Personnel Management to the major party candidates pursuant to section 8403(b) of IRTPA.

(c) The Suitability and Security Clearance Performance Accountability Council shall coordinate with the Council when performing those functions authorized by Executive Order 13467 of June 30, 2008, that are necessary to assist in transition-related activities.

(d) At the direction of the Council or its designee(s), executive departments and

agencies shall prepare a set of briefing materials for new political appointees before the inauguration of the President-elect. The current Administration shall work with the incoming transition team to provide copies of all such materials.

(e) At the direction of the Council or its designee(s) and consistent with the Presidential Transition Act of 1963, as amended, the Administrator of General Services, in consultation with the Archivist of the United States and other appropriate agencies, shall develop a Transition Directory. This directory shall include Federal publications and other materials that provide information on each executive department and agency.

Sec. 3. Transition Agreements. To assist and support the transition, transition agreements between the White House or appropriate executive branch departments and agencies and the transition teams for the major party candidates and the President-elect will be entered into, as necessary, regarding transition procedures and identification of transition contacts.

Sec. 4. General Provisions. (a) In order to take appropriate account of the transition reforms made by IRTPA and to further update and clarify the presidential transition process, this order supersedes Executive Order 13176 of November 27, 2000.

(b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) authority granted by law to a department or agency, or the head thereof; or
- (ii) functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(c) This order is intended only to facilitate the transition and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any party against the United States, its agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(d) Unless extended by the President, this order shall expire on February 20, 2009.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 9, 2008.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 10, 2008]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 14.

Memorandum on Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization Office

October 9, 2008

Presidential Determination No. 2009-03

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization Office

Pursuant to the authority and conditions contained in section 634(d) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008 (Division J, Public Law 110-161), as carried forward by the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2009 (Division A, Public Law 110-329), I hereby determine and certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provisions of section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987, Public Law 100-204.

This waiver shall be effective for a period of 6 months from the date hereof. You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Remarks on the National Economy

October 10, 2008

Good morning. Over the past few days, we have witnessed a startling drop in the stock market, much of it driven by uncertainty and fear. This has been a deeply unsettling period for the American people. Many of our citizens have serious concerns about their retirement accounts, their investments, and their economic well-being.

Here's what the American people need to know: That the United States Government is acting; we will continue to act to resolve