

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:13 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Bulgaria's Ambassador to the U.S. Elena Borislavora Poptodorova; Cyprus' Ambassador to the U.S. Andreas Kakouris; Greece's Ambassador to the U.S. Alexandros P. Mallias; Malta's Ambassador-designate to the U.S. Mark Miceli-Farrugia; Poland's Ambassador to the U.S. Robert Kupiecki; and Romania's Ambassador to the U.S. Adrian Cosmin Vierita.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Social Security Administration to Act as the Commissioner of Social Security

October 17, 2008

Memorandum for the Commissioner of Social Security

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Social Security Administration to Act as the Commissioner of Social Security

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Order of Succession. Subject to the provisions of section 2 of this memorandum, the following officials of the Social Security Administration, in the order listed, shall act as and perform the functions and duties of the office of the Commissioner of Social Security (Commissioner), during any period in which both the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner have died, resigned, or become otherwise unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of the Commissioner, until such time as the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner are able to perform the duties of that office:

- (a) Chief of Staff;
- (b) Deputy Commissioner for Operations;
- (c) Deputy Commissioner for Budget, Finance and Management;
- (d) Deputy Commissioner for Systems;
- (e) Deputy Commissioner for Quality Performance;
- (f) Regional Commissioner, Atlanta; and
- (g) Regional Commissioner, Dallas.

Sec. 2. Exceptions. (a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Commissioner pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) No individual listed in section 1 shall act as Commissioner unless that individual is otherwise eligible to so serve under the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains the discretion, to the extent permitted by law, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Commissioner.

Sec. 3. This memorandum supersedes the President's Memorandum of April 17, 2006 (Designation of Officers of the Social Security Administration).

Sec. 4. This memorandum is intended to improve the internal management of the executive branch 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.

Sec. 5. You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., October 20, 2008]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 21.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, at the International Monetary Fund building, the President met with G-20 finance ministers and central bank governors.

October 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, on the North Portico, the President and Mrs. Bush greeted Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy. Later, in the East Room, they and Prime Minister Berlusconi viewed entertainment.

October 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom, Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, and President Nicolas Sarkozy of France to discuss the global financial markets situation. Then, in the Roosevelt Room, he met with the President's Working Group on Financial Markets.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a bill signing ceremony for S. 3001, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009. Later, he traveled to Arlington, VA, where, at the Pentagon, he participated in Defense Department briefings.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia to the White House on October 22.

October 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing followed by a meeting with Vice President Dick Cheney, who updated him on his heart condition and his upcoming hospital visit. Later, he traveled to Grand Rapids, MI, arriving in the afternoon. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada to congratulate him on his October 14 election victory and discuss the global financial markets situation.

Later in the afternoon, the President met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Cindy

Leep. He then traveled to Ada, MI, where, at Schnitz Ada Grill, he had lunch with local business leaders. Later, at a private residence, he attended a Congressional Trust 2008 reception. He then returned to Washington, DC.

October 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the State Department, he attended several briefings and met with State Department employees.

October 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released October 13

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1532, H.R. 5350, H.R. 5618, H.R. 6199, H.R. 6229, H.R. 6338, H.R. 6849, H.R. 6874, S. 431, S. 1738, S. 3296, S. 3325, S. 3477, S. 3536, S. 3569, S. 3598, and S. 3605

Fact sheet: Protecting American Innovation

Released October 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino