

Week Ending Friday, February 1, 2002

The President's Radio Address

January 26, 2002

Good morning. A few days from now I will go before Congress to report on the State of the Union and lay out my priorities for the coming year and beyond. These priorities reflect a single, overarching commitment to enhance the security of America and its people.

Government's responsibilities begin with the defense of our Nation. Our fight against terrorism began in Afghanistan, but it will not end there. America must not rest until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped, and defeated. In this work, our military must have every resource, every weapon needed to achieve full and final victory.

My budget calls for the largest increase in defense spending in the last 20 years, investing in more precision weapons, missile defenses, unmanned vehicles, and high-tech equipment for our soldiers on the ground. I will also seek another pay increase for the men and women who wear our country's uniform. We will spend what it takes to win the war against terrorism.

A related priority is homeland security. We will pursue a sustained strategy to protect our people from the threat of terrorism. The Federal Government has already acted to increase airport security, investigate terrorist activity, and improve our response capability. In the next budget, we will do even more. I'll be calling on Congress to nearly double funding for homeland defense to \$38 billion. We will complete the hiring of tens of thousands of new Federal airport security workers. We will strengthen the border patrol, hire another 300 FBI agents to help fight the war on terror. We'll provide more money so that State and local firefighters, police officers, and EMTs have the equipment they need. The American people are on watch

against future attacks, and their Government will be, as well.

The third key of my budget is to fight the recession and build economic security for the American people. Government doesn't create jobs, but it can encourage an environment in which jobs are created. I'm glad the Senate is finally moving forward, and I urge it to pass a strong stimulus bill like one that passed the House last year.

Every budget reflects fundamental choices, and my administration has made choices to fit the times. We'll work to create jobs and renew the strength of our economy. We'll protect our people in every way necessary, and we will carry on the campaign against global terror until we achieve our goal, the peace that comes from victory.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:21 a.m. on January 25 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 26. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 25 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Memorandum on Waiver of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act with Respect to Assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan

January 25, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002-06

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act with Respect to Assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan

Pursuant to the authority contained in Title II of the "Kenneth M. Ludden Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002" (Public

Law 107–115), I hereby determine and certify that a waiver of section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–511):

- is necessary to support U.S. efforts to counter international terrorism;
- is necessary to support the operational readiness of U.S. Armed Forces or coalition partners to counter international terrorism;
- is important to Azerbaijan’s border security; and
- will not undermine or hamper ongoing efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan or be used for offensive purposes against Armenia.

Accordingly, I hereby waive section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act. You are authorized and directed to notify the Congress of this determination and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 28.

Remarks Honoring the 2001 National Basketball Association Champion Los Angeles Lakers

January 28, 2002

Please be seated. Mr. Commissioner, good to see you, sir. Thank you for coming. I appreciate the Buss family members for being here. Thank you. Welcome to the East Coast. I’m so honored that Phil Jackson has come with players from the mighty LA Lakers championship team. I want to welcome you all the to White House. We’re thrilled you’re here. This is one way for us to congratulate you for being champs.

I want to thank the members of the California congressional delegation. I think we’ve got six Members here. Thank you all for coming. I know you’re as proud of the team as the people of California are.

I also want to thank the Boys and Girls Clubs of Atlantic City in New Jersey and Maryland for being here. I’m just as excited as you are for meeting these players. [*Laughter*] And thanks for coming.

I first want to congratulate Coach Jackson on learning how to win championships for different teams. He’s got to be a pretty remarkable guy to figure out how to win on a consistent basis. And so, Phil, congratulations for coming back to the White House.

I also want to thank the players. Being champs on the court means you’ve got to be champs off the court, as well. And I know these players understand that every time they do something, some kid is watching. Every time they say something, some kid is listening. And I want to thank the players who understand that with victory comes huge responsibility to encourage people to make the right choices in life. To me, that’s the true sign of a champ. I also want to thank the LA Lakers for being involved in your community.

People ask me all the time after the attack of 9/11, “What can I do to help? How can I participate in the war against terror?” And the answer is, you fight evil with acts of decency and kindness. You fight evil by doing something good. You fight evil by teaching a child that somebody loves them. You fight evil by being an LA Laker that convinces somebody to be a mentor for some child in inner-city Los Angeles who wonders whether there’s any love or hope in the world. That’s how you fight evil. And so I want to thank the organization and the players and the coach for assuming a position of responsibility in our society.

I was hoping that on his birthday, Mark Madsen would dance for us. [*Laughter*] I actually—as I said, I was hoping. [*Laughter*] I’m afraid the Secret Service might react violently if you did. [*Laughter*]

But I’m glad you all are here. It’s an honor to welcome champs to the people’s house. LA Lakers, good luck this year. Congratulations for two fabulous seasons. Welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:10 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to David Stern, commissioner, National Basketball Association; Jerry Buss, owner, Phil Jackson, coach, and Mark Madsen, forward, Los Angeles Lakers.