

Proclamation 8274—Captive Nations Week, 2008

July 18, 2008

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Freedom is the longing of every soul and the birthright of all mankind. During Captive Nations Week, we underscore our commitment to advancing democracy, defending liberty, and protecting human rights around the world.

It is in our Nation's interest to help those who are suffering under oppressive regimes defeat the ideologues of hate with an ideology of hope. Advancing the cause of liberty advances the cause of peace. A free society upholds justice and defends human dignity. Over the years, many have underestimated the power of freedom to overcome tyranny, but history has shown us that freedom will prevail.

In the 20th century, the evils of Soviet communism and Nazi fascism were defeated and freedom spread around the world as new democracies emerged. Today, our Nation faces new struggles with adversaries who murder the innocent and seek to subject millions to their violent, totalitarian rule. Still, we remain confident that the light of liberty will again overcome this darkness.

To bring that day about, we must support young democracies in places like Afghanistan and Iraq. In countries like Belarus, Burma, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Syria, and Zimbabwe, people continue to live under oppressive regimes, and we will work for the day when all these nations are free. By opposing these despots and helping young democracies grow, we will lay the foundation of peace and prosperity for generations to come. Throughout Captive Nations Week, we renew our pledge that as people across the world find their own paths to freedom, they will also find a friend in the United States of America.

The Congress, by Joint Resolution approved July 17, 1959 (73 Stat. 212), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week in July of each year as "Captive Nations Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 20 through July 26, 2008, as Captive Nations Week. I call upon the people of the United States to reaffirm our commitment to all those seeking liberty, justice, and self-determination.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 22, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 23. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this proclamation.

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.

July 12

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

July 13

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

July 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the home of former White House Press Secretary Tony Snow in Alexandria, VA, where they met with Tony's family and expressed their condolences for Tony's death on July 12. They then returned to Washington, DC.

During the day, the President met with Special Envoy to Sudan Richard S. Williamson.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso to the White House on July 16.

The President declared a major disaster in Michigan and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding from June 6–13.

July 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a photo opportunity with the 2008 MATHCOUNTS National Competition Award recipients.

The President declared a major disaster in Vermont and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding from June 14–17.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas J. Madison to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration at the Department of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to nominate David Reid Murtaugh to be Deputy Director for State, Local, and Tribal Affairs in the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Beverly Allen, Donald H. Dyal, and Jeffrey B. Rudman to be members of the National Museum and Library Services Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint Ronald R. Hall, David B. Jones, and James Lorand Matory as members of the Cultural Property Advisory Committee.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board: Edward H. Gee; Phillip D. Jenkins; Nancy Ann Starnes; and Hans A. Van Winkle.

July 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, in the State Dining Room, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a social dinner in honor of Major League Baseball. Later, in the Rose Garden, they attended a performance by entertainer Kenny Chesney.

July 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a video teleconference with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Redding, CA, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteers Mark Hendrick, Jake Wellman, and Alex Braden. Then, at the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region Headquarters, he participated in a briefing on wildfire damage and firefighting efforts. Later, he traveled to Napa, CA.

In the evening, at a private residence, the President attended a Republican National Committee dinner. Later, he traveled to Tucson, AZ.

The President announced his intention to nominate John A. Simon to be Representative of the United States to the African Union with the Rank and Status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

July 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at a private residence, he attended a Tim Bee for Congress and Arizona Trust reception. He then traveled to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, where he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Mary Frances Ward.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Houston, TX, arriving in the afternoon.

Later in the afternoon, at a private residence, the President attended an Olson for Congress and Texas Victory Committee reception. He then traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, arriving in the evening.

The President declared a major disaster in Nebraska and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, straight-line winds, and flooding on June 27.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 15

A. Brian Albritton,
of Florida, to be U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Florida for the term of 4 years, vice Paul I. Perez, resigned.

Beverly Allen,
of Georgia, to be a member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2013 (reappointment).

Benton J. Campbell,
of New Jersey, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York for the term of 4 years, vice Roslynn R. Mauskopf, resigned.

Michael G. Considine,
of Connecticut, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut for the term of 4 years, vice Kevin J. O'Connor, resigned.

Timothy G. Dugan,
of Wisconsin, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, vice Rudolph T. Randa, retiring.

Donald H. Dyal,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2013, vice Gail Daly, term expiring.

Thomas J. Madison,
of New York, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, vice Richard Capka.

David Reid Murtaugh,
of Indiana, to be Deputy Director for State, Local, and Tribal Affairs, Office of National Drug Control Policy, vice Scott M. Burns.

Jeffrey B. Rudman,
of Massachusetts, to be a member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2013, vice Harry Robinson, Jr., term expiring.

Submitted July 17

John A. Simon,
of Maryland, to be Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Anthony John Trenga,
of Virginia, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, vice Walter D. Kelley, Jr., resigned.

**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 July 13

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Corporations

Released July 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Michigan

Fact sheet: Allowing Offshore Exploration To Help Address Rising Fuel Costs

Fact sheet: PEPFAR: A Historic Commitment to Compassion

Released July 15

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Vermont