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foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the loss of benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries.

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a comprehensive report prepared by the Department of Health and Human Services, which explains the provisions of the Agreement and provides data on the number of persons affected by the Agreement and the effect on social security financing as required by the same provision

of the Social Security Act. I note that the Department of State and the Department of Health and Human Services have recommended the Agreement and related documents to me.

I commend the United States-Austria Social Security Agreement and related documents.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
March 7, 1991.

Appointment of Judy A. Smith as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Press Secretary

March 7, 1991

The President today announced the appointment of Judy A. Smith as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Press Secretary at the White House.

Since 1989 Ms. Smith has been Special Counsel to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, serving as principal adviser to the U.S. Attorney on media relations and chief spokesperson. Prior to this Ms. Smith was Deputy Director of Public Information and Associate Counsel in the

Office of the Independent Counsel, 1987–1989. In addition she was assistant editor for the Nurses Association of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in Washington, DC, 1983–1984.

Ms. Smith graduated from Washington College of Law, the American University, (J.D., 1986) and Boston University (B.A., 1980). She was born October 27, 1958, in Washington, DC. She is married and resides in Washington, DC.

Message on the Observance of St. Patrick's Day, 1991

March 7, 1991

I am delighted to send warm greetings to everyone celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

Although the greatest wave of Irish emigration took place during the mid-19th century, the United States has enjoyed the contributions of Irish immigrants and their descendants since the beginning of the Colonial Era. Serving in our Nation's War for Independence and later helping to build its railroads, canals, and industries, Irish Americans have long demonstrated a capacity for hard work, as well as a strong penchant for full, spirited, and upright living. The American author and abolitionist, Lydia M.

Child, once fondly observed: "Not in vain is Ireland pouring itself all over the Earth . . . The Irish, with their glowing hearts and reverent credulity, are needed in this cold age of intellect and skepticism."

Today, those tender sentiments still ring true. Thus, St. Patrick's Day is more than a time of stirring memories and good cheer; it is also a time when we honor those sons and daughters of Ireland who, inspired by a passion for liberty and opportunity, crossed the Atlantic to build new lives on these shores. Indeed, on this day, Americans of every background join with Irish Americans

to celebrate their rich cultural heritage and our Nation's continued friendship with the people of the Emerald Isle.

Barbara joins me in sending our best wishes to all for an enjoyable and memo-

orable St. Patrick's Day. God bless you.

GEORGE BUSH

Note: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks Upon Presenting the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Margaret Thatcher

March 7, 1991

The President. Welcome, welcome, Margaret. Please be seated. Ladies and gentlemen and so many distinguished guests, and members of this administration, and friends of what is indeed a special relationship. Particularly to Sir Denis Thatcher and Mark and Diane Thatcher, and above all, the greengrocer's daughter who shaped a nation to her will.

America's highest civilian award is the Medal of Freedom. And we're here to present it to one of the greatest leaders of our time. For over 11 of the most extraordinary years in British history, she helped freedom lift the peoples of Europe and the world. Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, we are delighted you are with us today.

She's been called the Iron Lady—irrepressible, at times incorrigible, always indomitable. [*Laughter*] And she summoned the best in the human spirit, speaking for our values and our dreams. Once she said, "Turn if you like; the lady's not for turning." And she wasn't. Instead, the free world turned to her—for counsel, for courage, for leadership that proclaimed a belief in right and wrong—not a devotion to what is popular.

It has been said that great leaders reflect their time. Margaret Thatcher did. She also transformed her time as few leaders ever have. Consider the 1980's and early nineties—a golden age of liberty. Remember what she meant and how she mattered. Hers was not merely among Britain's finest hours. She helped mold perhaps democracy's finest era.

Think first of what she meant to the place

that Shakespeare called "this blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England." She didn't create spirit in the British people; it's been there for a millennium. But Margaret Thatcher believed in it and once again unleashed it.

She cherished human dignity and self-determination. So, when an antidemocratic military moved against the Falkland Islands, Britain met the challenge. And she sought to decrease what government must do and increase what the individual may do. So she put private roofs over British heads—and restored economic pride to British hearts. Like her successor, John Major, she believed passionately in free enterprise. And so she used it to renew British initiative and national pride. Margaret Thatcher didn't merely make Britain a leader in the new world order; she defined the essence of the United Kingdom.

Think next of what she meant to us—what she meant to America. Mrs. Thatcher understood the ties that bind our nations—moral and economic, political and spiritual—so she defended America, helped inspire it. No country could have had a more valiant comrade in arms. No President—as another great leader, Ronald Reagan, could attest—could ask for a better friend.

We will never forget her courage in helping forge a great coalition against the aggression which brutalized the Gulf. Nor will I forget one special phone conversation that I had with the Prime Minister. In the early days of the Gulf crisis—I'm not sure you