

Chambers, Dick Munro, everybody—Gregg—that I will do my level best to help in every way possible.

Thank you all very, very much for being with us today. Thank you.

Note: The President spoke at 3:54 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Raymond

G. Chambers and J. Richard Munro, co-chairmen of the Points of Light Foundation, and C. Gregg Petersmeyer, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of National Service. He also referred to public service announcements produced by Saatchi and Saatchi, a New York advertising firm.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Congo-United States Investment Treaty

March 19, 1991

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the United States of America and the People's Republic of the Congo Concerning the Reciprocal Encouragement and Protection of Investment, signed at Washington on February 12, 1990. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to this treaty.

The Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) program, initiated in 1981, is designed to encourage and protect U.S. investment. The treaty is an integral part of U.S. efforts to encourage the Congo and other governments to adopt macroeconomic and structural policies that will promote economic growth. It is also fully consistent with U.S. policy toward international investment. That policy holds that an open international investment system in which participants re-

spond to market forces provides the best and most efficient mechanism to promote global economic development. A specific tenet, reflected in this treaty, is that U.S. direct investment abroad and foreign investment in the United States should receive fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory treatment. Under this treaty, the Parties also agree to international law standards for expropriation and compensation; to free financial transfers; and to procedures, including international arbitration, for the settlement of investment disputes.

I recommend that the Senate consider this treaty as soon as possible and give its advice and consent to ratification of the treaty at an early date.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
March 19, 1991.

Message to the Senate Transmitting Protocols to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the International Convention on Load Lines

March 19, 1991

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, the Protocol of 1988 Relating to the Inter-

national Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, with Annex, and the Protocol of 1988 Relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, with Annexes.

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Both Protocols were done at London November 11, 1988, and signed by the United States April 6, 1989, subject to ratification. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Protocols.

These Protocols are designed to standardize the inspection intervals and the periods of validity of the certificates required under the 1974 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, as amended (SOLAS), and the 1966 International Convention on Load Lines (Load Lines Convention). Entry into force of the 1988 Protocols will reduce the number of ship visits by inspectors, as well as the time a ship must be withdrawn from service for inspection and survey, thereby representing a significant improvement to the existing system. The surveys and certifications of ships required by the SOLAS and Load Lines Conventions will be accomplished in a more efficient manner, bringing the international system to a level more consistent with U.S. domestic inspection requirements. The United States Coast Guard, the American Bureau of Shipping, shipyards, and, most important, shipowners and seafarers will benefit as a result. In addition, the additional survey requirements will improve the level of safety of foreign ships entering U.S. ports, thus having a positive impact on the environment.

The 1988 Protocol to the Load Lines Convention also contains amendments to the regulations of the Convention that replace amendments previously adopted, but that to date have not entered into force. I, therefore, desire to withdraw from the Senate the following treaties:

Amendments to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, adopted at London November 15, 1979 (Treaty Document 97-14, 97th Congress, 1st Session);

Amendments to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, adopted at London November 17, 1983 (Treaty Document 100-12, 100th Congress, 2nd Session).

The United States has played an active and vital role in the negotiation of the 1988 Protocols to the Safety of Life at Sea and Load Lines Conventions and in promoting and developing the concept of a harmonized system of certification. Early ratification of the 1988 Protocols by the United States should encourage similar actions by other nations.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to these Protocols and give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
March 19, 1991.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on United States Government Activities in the United Nations

March 19, 1991

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit herewith a report of the activities of the United States Government in the United Nations and its affiliated agencies during calendar year 1989, the first year of my Administration. The report is required by the United Na-

tions Participation Act (Public Law 264, 79th Congress; 22 U.S.C. 287b).

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
March 19, 1991.