

prove our own competitiveness.

I've made it clear, and I'll continue to make it clear, that this administration and the American people are absolutely committed to trade that is both free and fair. Protectionism simply is not the answer. The record is clear. Our efforts the past 3 years have substantially increased American exports to Japan. And I will work to support the efforts of America's private sector to create an export vision to open foreign markets that mean more American jobs.

So we need to continue expanding, not closing, our trade relations. And whether it's protectionist measures in this country or in Japan, the result is the same thing. Protectionism punches a hole in a healthy economy.

So I'm confident that the Prime Minister and I depart here today knowing that we do not help our respective nations by hurting each other. He stood for that principle for a long, long time in various positions that he's held in Japan. I hope that I stand for that principle.

As important as our economic interaction

is, I think it's also important for us to remember that America and Japan share three very important values: our support for the free market economic system, our love of political democracy, and our mutual interest in global peace and security. I am optimistic that our two nations can work closely to advance and protect these values in the Pacific Rim and elsewhere across the globe. And when these values are threatened, it's critical that our two nations unite. Our unity will be vital if these three key values are to survive and prosper in the new world that we see.

So let me say, Mr. Prime Minister, that I believe that this new period in world affairs holds great promise for the American-Japanese relationship. And once again, it is an honor to host you here in Washington to reaffirm our partnership, the respect and trust between our people, and to welcome you as a friend.

Thank you, sir.

Note: The President spoke at 4:31 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Message on the Observance of Independence Day

July 1, 1992

As we Americans celebrate this 216th anniversary of our Nation's independence, we give thanks not only for our enduring heritage of liberty under law but also for the continuing expansion of democratic ideals around the globe. Blessed with an unbroken legacy of freedom and with unparalleled peace and prosperity, the United States stands today as a testament to the wisdom of its Founders—and as a model to all those peoples who aspire to systems of representative democracy and free enterprise. More than 200 years after our Declaration of Independence was signed, we know that no political creed has proved more just or powerful than the belief “that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

On this occasion, however, we are also mindful that America's freedom and security were not always readily taken for granted. When our Nation's Founders sought “separate and equal station” for this country and proclaimed the American colonies free and independent States, they did so without the assurance of success. Ahead of them lay an uncertain future, and each understood the great risk that he and his compatriots were taking by signing the Declaration of Independence. Today, we can imagine the sense of trepidation that passed in the Signers' hearts as they pledged in support of that document their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

Yet, with a hope that was stronger than any fear and with a courage worthy of their great convictions, our ancestors launched a revolution of ideas that has continued to

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sweep the world. Independence Day is, therefore, a time of tremendous pride and inspiration for all Americans.

This year, we have added cause for celebration as Independence Day coincides with the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's first journey to the Americas. The Columbus Quincentenary likewise recalls courage in the face of the unknown, and as we look to the future of the United States, we are heartened by the example and the achievements of the many pioneers

and patriots who have gone before us. The continued preservation of our freedom will require no less industry and resolve on our part, and on this occasion, I offer a special salute to American service members everywhere, who are helping to chart they way to a safer, more peaceful world.

Barbara joins me in sending best wishes to our fellow Americans for a safe and enjoyable Independence Day.

GEORGE BUSH

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the Federal Labor Relations Authority

July 1, 1992

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 701 of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-454; 5 U.S.C. 7104(e)), I have the pleasure of transmitting to you the Thirteenth Annual Report of the Federal Labor

Relations Authority for Fiscal Year 1991.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
July 1, 1992.

Statement on Maryland Welfare Reform

July 1, 1992

I am pleased that my administration has approved Maryland's request for welfare waivers. This will allow Maryland to put in place a new system of incentives for welfare recipients to make sure their children receive necessary health care and attend school.

Pregnant women receiving welfare would be required to obtain regular prenatal care or not receive a special additional allowance. Families with young children receiving welfare would be required to obtain preventive health care for their children. This prenatal and preventive health care is available without cost to these families through the Medicaid program.

Maryland's reforms also create incentives for parents to make sure their children attend school. Welfare parents who behave responsibly and fulfill these requirements would receive higher payments than those who fail to see to the health care and education of their children.

While some are talking about welfare reform, we are helping to make it happen. Reform is taking place from the bottom up, with the States constructively serving as laboratories of democracy. My administration will continue to work with Maryland and other States in reforming our welfare system.