

thing else we hold dear. At risk is the civilization we share, our common inheritance, and our common future.

So, let us renew our resolve. Let us strengthen our commitment to guarantee all people drug-free communities. And as we work to advance the quality of life in our own hemisphere in so many ways, let us win a lasting victory in the war against drugs.

And once again, a warm welcome to San Antonio, Texas. And may God bless you and all the peoples of the Americas. And may I raise a glass in honor of our distinguished guests and the important mission that all of us share.

Note: The President spoke at 8:01 p.m. at the Majestic Theater.

Nomination of Joseph Gerard Sullivan To Be United States Ambassador to Nicaragua

February 26, 1992

The President today announced his intention to nominate Joseph Gerard Sullivan, of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Nicaragua. He would succeed Harry W. Shlaudeman.

Mr. Sullivan has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC, 1989–1991. Prior to this,

he served as Director of the Office of Central American Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, 1988–1989. Mr. Sullivan served at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel, as Political Counselor, 1987–1988; and as a political officer, 1984–1987.

Mr. Sullivan graduated from Tufts University (B.A., 1966) and Georgetown University (M.A., 1969). He was born August 9, 1944, in Boston, MA. Mr. Sullivan resides in Oakton, VA.

Presidential Determination No. 92–17—Memorandum on Counternarcotics Assistance for Mexico

February 26, 1992

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Drawdown from Department of Defense Stocks for Counternarcotics Assistance for Mexico

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 506(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(2) (the “Act”), I hereby determine that it is in the national interest of the United States to draw down defense articles from the stocks of the Department of Defense and defense services of the Depart-

ment of Defense for the purpose of providing counternarcotics assistance to Mexico.

Therefore, I hereby direct the drawdown of up to \$26 million of such defense articles from the stocks of the Department of Defense and defense services of the Department of Defense, for the purposes and under the authorities of Chapter 8 of Part I of the Act.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication

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in the *Federal Register*.

GEORGE BUSH

Note: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 27.

Exchange With Reporters in San Antonio February 27, 1992

North American Free Trade Agreement

Q. Mr. President, did you make any breakthroughs on free trade this morning?

The President. No. We had good discussions on that with the President of Mexico. And we just reassured him that we want an agreement, a good agreement as soon as possible. No politics, no nothing is going to stand in the way of our doing what is right and what is best for the American peo-

ple. And what's best is to get a fair trade—free trade agreement through as soon as possible.

Q. Do you think there will be one this year, Mr. President?

The President. Well, we're hoping so, yes.

Note: The exchange began at 8:42 a.m. at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Text of Remarks at the Opening Session of the Drug Summit in San Antonio February 27, 1992

It is a great honor and pleasure to call to order an historic meeting, in a historic city, in a historic State, my home State of Texas. We are all here to make this San Antonio drug summit as successful as the first summit called by President Barco 2 years ago in beautiful, heroic Cartagena. It is fitting to begin this meeting with a warm tribute to the great, visionary man who first brought us together on this issue, Virgilio Barco.

In Cartagena, as President Paz Zamora, who is also here today, will recall, we faced a daunting, unprecedented, some thought hopeless challenge: How to unite against the scourge of drugs, violence, and corruption that was undermining our democratic societies, our institutions, our economies, and our environment.

That meeting gave birth to a new alliance to strengthen our democracies by attacking the drug trafficking and consumption with greater resolve than ever before. Cartagena was when we stopped the finger-pointing

and committed ourselves to cooperation, when we recognized that drugs are an international plague caused by both consumer and supplier.

Two years later the situation has markedly improved. We are facing the challenge. We are united. We are resolute. We are prevailing. We are now seven, not four. We welcome to this group Mexico, Venezuela, and Ecuador, all of whom have shown firm leadership and courage in this struggle. Others in the Americas and Europe are with us, seeing the threat more clearly. Progress is being made. We have courageously faced those who would subvert our societies, break our laws, and kill thousands of innocents. Top traffickers are dead or jailed. Record levels of cocaine and other drugs have been seized. Cultivation has leveled off. Interdiction is up worldwide. We have cracked down on drug users. Consumption is declining as our people increas-