

Feb. 27 / Administration of George Bush, 1992

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-