

Statement on Senate Action on a Bilateral Trade Agreement With Vietnam October 3, 2001

Today's Senate action to establish a bilateral trade agreement with Vietnam is a significant step toward strengthening the ties between our two countries and promoting strength and stability in this important region. The agreement will provide American companies with access to a large and grow-

ing market and, through the reforms it promotes, it will help create a more prosperous and engaged Vietnam. The trade agreement also brings hope for improving human rights. I look forward to signing this legislation into law.

Remarks to Department of State Employees October 4, 2001

Thank you very much. Please be seated. Thank you all. Mr. Secretary, I'm honored you invited me back. [*Laughter*] I'm glad to be back to be able to say thanks, on behalf of the American people, to the patriots who work for our Department of State. Thanks for your hard work. Thanks for your dedication. Thanks for your love of America.

I'm also here to announce an initiative to help the Afghan people in a time of crisis and in a time of need. America will stand strong and will oppose the sponsors of terror, and America will stand strong and help those people who are hurt by those regimes.

Mr. Secretary, I am proud of your leadership. Last time I came, I predicted you would be a great Secretary of State. You have not let me down. And neither have the folks who work at the State Department, not only here in Washington but in Embassies throughout the world. America is proud of your service. And America is comforted by the fact that we are united as we stand to fight terror.

We are engaged in a noble cause, and that is to say loud and clear to the evildoers that we reject you, that we will stand firm against terror, and that this great Nation,

along with many other nations, will defend freedom.

I want to thank those of you who have worked extra long hours to help forge this fantastic coalition that we're building, a coalition of people all around the world who understand that the evil acts could have happened to them, just like they happened to us. People understand that now is the time to take a stand, to seize this moment, to say that out of this evil act will come good. And the State Department has helped lead the way. And I'm proud of your efforts, and I'm proud of your hard work.

After all, many of you understand the effects of terror. We had two of our Embassies bombed. Your colleagues were injured and died. I mean, the State Department has been on the frontline of battling terror and the frontline of seeing the effects of terror. And the American people appreciate the heroism of the people who serve our country overseas.

This is a unique type of war. It's a war that is going to require us building a broad coalition of nations who will contribute, one way or the other, to make sure that we all win. Some nations may be willing to commit troops, if that's a decision that we