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Message on the Observance of Eid al-Fitr
December 13, 2001

I am pleased to send greetings and best wishes to those across the globe who are celebrating Eid al-Fitr.

For Muslims, the Eid is a festive occasion, celebrating service rendered to God during the holy month of Ramadan. During this special time, it is also a tradition to help those in need. Performing acts of charity remains a tradition common across many faiths, challenging each of us to make a positive difference in the lives of others through generosity, kindness, and compassion.

Today, due to drought and dictatorship, millions of people in Afghanistan are hungry and face the prospect of a harsh winter. Americans are working with many nations to provide food, medicine, and clothing to the people of Afghanistan. We resolve to work in partnership with other nations to assist with rebuilding their nation.

The teachings of many faiths share much in common. And people of many faiths are united in our commitments to love our families, to protect our children, and to build a more peaceful world. In the coming year, let us resolve to seize opportunities to work together in a spirit of friendship and cooperation. Through our combined efforts, we can end terrorism and rid our civilization of the damaging effects of hatred and intolerance, ultimately achieving a brighter future for all.

Laura and I wish Muslims around the world a joyous Eid, and peace, health, and prosperity in the year ahead.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks at a Holiday Reception for the Special Olympics
December 13, 2001

The President. Good evening. Good evening, everyone. Laura and I are so pleased to welcome you to the White House as we pay tribute to a great organization and the really good people behind it.

In a moment, we will hear from Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who has made the Special Olympics her life's work. If you ever had any doubt about how much good that one person can bring into the world, look no farther than this kind and gracious lady. And she married pretty well, too. [*Laughter*] Sure glad you're here, Sargent. And they've done a good job of raising their family. We are so pleased to welcome the—I hate to say the word "children"—the offspring of Sargent and Eunice Shriver. Obviously, you've done a good job of instilling the sense of public service in your children, and they're compassionate people. I particularly want to thank Tim for being the president of Special Olympics.

With us as well is Eunice's little brother—well, younger brother—[*laughter*]—a man I have grown to admire as a fine United States Senator. And Orrin Hatch, another fine Senator, is here, as well. Thank you both for coming.

I appreciate my Commerce Secretary, Donny Evans, for being here, and I want to thank the Surgeon General, David Satcher, for coming, as well.

I also want to welcome the cochairs of the campaign for the Special Olympics, Steve Case and Peter Lynch, and all of those who support this fine organization. Thank you for coming tonight.

And the highest title of all is held by the King of the Blues, B.B. King. Thank you for coming.

We gather here to celebrate achievement of the Special Olympics, itself, and those who compete. Before we lived here, Laura and I were fortunate to be involved with the Special Olympics in Texas. And I'll never forget being a hugger at Texas Memorial Stadium—such a wonderful experience. We're so grateful for the Special Olympics.

And so is America, because America at its best upholds the values of every person and the possibilities of every life. And Special Olympics is an example of America at its best, sharing with the entire world a spirit of joy and kindness. The story of our country is an ever-widening circle, a society in which everyone has a place and everyone has something to give. You brought that spirit into the lives of more than a million children and adults across the world, and I thank you for that.

Most of all, I congratulate the global messengers and athletes with us this evening: Cindy Bentley, Henry Moretti, Mohammad Nassar, Jia Sirui, Victor Stewart, Katy Wilson, Loretta Claiborne, and Ricardo Thornton. Each one of you has been recognized for giving your best, for sharing your many gifts with others, and for living out the Special Olympics oath: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." Each one of you has set high goals, and you have met them through hard work and courage.

We are all so proud to have you with us tonight and ask all of our guests to join me in toasting the brave and generous spirit of the Special Olympics.

[*At this point, the President offered a toast.*]

The President. And now it is my honor to welcome Mrs. Eunice Shriver.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:47 p.m. on the State Floor at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder and honorary chairman, Sargent Shriver, chairman of the board, and their son Timothy P. Shriver, president and chief executive officer, Special Olympics; and Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

Memorandum on Provision of Marine War Risk Insurance Coverage
December 12, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Transportation

Subject: Provision of Marine War Risk Insurance Coverage

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including 3 U.S.C. 301 and section 1202 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended (the "Act"), 46 U.S.C. App. 1282, I hereby:

Approve the provision by the Secretary of Transportation of insurance or reinsurance of vessels (including cargoes and crew) entering the Middle East region against loss or damage by war risks in the manner and to the extent approved in title XII of the Act, 46 U.S.C. App. 1281, *et seq.,* for purposes of responding to the recent terrorist attacks, whenever, after consultation