

*Aug. 14 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001*

I recognize there is a role for Government-sponsored programs, but our society must recognize there is also a role for faith-based initiatives and faith-based programs, programs that exist to help people change their heart and therefore change their behavior. We shouldn't fear faith in America; we ought to welcome the faith-based programs that help define our country as a unique land. And so, a responsible society is one that we all must aim for.

Now, this is a nation of character and values, and I'm so honored to be at a place that teaches values, that heralds character, that's not afraid to say there are right choices in life to make and wrong choices in life to make; a community of conscious and a community of character that aims to say to our young, "This American experience is a fantastic experience. Work hard, study hard, respect your family, and respect

your friends, and our Nation will be even greater than it is today." So thank you for giving me a chance to come and herald a wonderful program in an unbelievably beautiful setting.

It's a great honor to be the President of this country. And the main reason why is because our country is the greatest there is. And the reason why we are is because the people of America are so fantastic and so loving and so decent.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:25 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Tessa Murphy, camp counselor, Estes Park Center YMCA, who introduced the President; Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers of Colorado; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and David G. Thomas, executive director, YMCA of the Rockies.

## Statement Following a Telephone Conversation With President Boris Trajkovski of Macedonia

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This morning I spoke with my friend President Boris Trajkovski to congratulate him on his courage and leadership in negotiating the political settlement that was signed yesterday in Macedonia.

The settlement promises to strengthen democracy and avert civil war, while protecting Macedonia's territorial integrity and political unity. It addresses longstanding political aspirations of the citizens of Macedonia. It is now up to Macedonia's Assembly to adopt the constitutional amendments and legislation to implement the settlement.

As I have made clear from the outset of the fighting, the United States stands

strongly against those armed extremists who have tried to take democracy hostage in Macedonia. President Trajkovski and I agree that their tactics are despicable and their methods undemocratic. The time has come for these armed groups to turn over their weapons to NATO and disband.

A political settlement has been signed, and we now need to ensure the peace and put Macedonia back on the road to Europe. The United States offers its strong support to President Trajkovski and to the democratic Government of Macedonia as they move forward to achieve this goal.