

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:46 a.m. in Room 450 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to the Emergency Conservation

Program (ECP) administered by State and county Farm Service Agency committees. H.R. 2646, approved May 13, was assigned Public Law No. 107-171.

Statement on Signing the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 May 13, 2002

I am today signing into law H.R. 2646, the “Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.” This Act will provide a safety net for America’s farmers, who feed America and much of the world. The Act also will expand nutrition programs and improve the conservation and effective use of our natural resources.

A few provisions of the Act raise constitutional concerns. The method of appointment of the board of trustees of the fellowship program prescribed in section 4404 of the Act is inconsistent with the requirements of the Appointments Clause of the Constitution. I am prepared to work with the Congress to enact legislation to cure this constitutional defect before the effective date of the program.

Sections 6027 and 6028 of the Act establish and continue multi-member regional authorities to implement development pro-

grams. Serious doubts arise concerning the constitutionality of these regional authorities because the members are likely Federal officers for purposes of the Appointments Clause, but many of the members are not appointed in the manner required by that Clause. Again, I am prepared to work with the Congress to enact legislation that will cure this constitutional shortcoming by establishing the role of the members as advisory only, or by providing for appointment of all the members in accordance with the Appointments Clause.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
May 13, 2002.

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Remarks on the Russia-United States Strategic Offensive Reductions Agreement May 13, 2002

The President. Good morning.

The Press. Good morning.

The President. Today I’m pleased to announce that the United States and Russia has agreed to a treaty which will substantially reduce our nuclear arsenals to the agreed-upon range of 1,700 to 2,200 warheads. This treaty will liquidate the legacy of the cold war.

When I sign the treaty with President Putin in Russia, it will begin the new era of U.S.-Russian relationships. And that’s important. The new era will be a period of enhanced mutual security, economic security, and improved relations.

I look forward to going to Moscow to sign this treaty. It is—it will be the culmination of a lot of months of hard work and a relationship built on mutual trust that