

are you prepared to wait, and why aren't you losing patience?

*The President.* Because I'm a patient man. [Laughter] My mother and wife think that's hysterical when I say that, of course. [Laughter]

Let's see, because it takes a while to get things done in the U.N., I guess is the answer. I mean, we will—I've made the commitment to go to the U.N.; I've asked the U.N. to act. We have got to deal with members of the Security Council. There are differing opinions on members of the Security Council. And we've got to work hard to reach a consensus, a resolution that will, on the one hand, do everything it can to disarm Saddam Hussein and also has got the capacity for there to be consequences should he not disarm. And therefore, we're working closely with the Perm Five as well as others on the Security Council to reach this resolution.

I am a patient man. I think it's important. I made the decision to go to the U.N., and therefore, we're willing to work with the U.N. If the U.N. can't act, however, if they're unable to act, if once again after 11 years and 16 resolutions they cannot bring themselves together to disarm Saddam Hussein, then we will lead a coalition to do just that. But in the meantime, we're giving the U.N. time to listen to the arguments and to, hopefully, come together soon to get a resolution which will achieve the objectives.

Q. Mr. President—

*The President.* Yes. The Prime Minister is looking for a question or two. [Laughter]

Q. If you will allow me, I will ask him about—

*The President.* No, I'm sorry, strict guidelines. We must be disciplined.

#### *Possible Terrorist Attacks on Israel*

Q. Mr. President, the Hezbollah is threatening to escalate the situation in the Israeli northern border, and Israel has intelligence information that Palestinian terror organizations are also planning to escalate and have more terror attacks because the United States might attack Iraq to disarm Saddam Hussein. Is there any limitations on Israel to defend itself? Did you ask the Prime Minister not to do certain—not to take certain measures if he's attacked by Hezbollah or by the terror organizations, the Palestinian terror organizations?

*The President.* We certainly want to work with Israel, and we'll make it clear to Hezbollah, nations housing Hezbollah, whether in the context of Iraq or not, we expect there to be no attacks. This is terrorist activity, and we will fight terror wherever terror exists.

I find it—the doctrine that says “if you harbor a terrorist” still exists. And we expect—again, apart from Iraq, we expect Hezbollah not to attack our friend. And so we will work with Israel and work with other nations, making it clear to them our position on harboring terrorist activities.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:24 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs William J. Burns; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

## Joint Statement Between the United States of America and Israel October 16, 2002

As part of the effort to further Palestinian reform, the President of the United

States and the Prime Minister of Israel agreed that the Government of Israel would

consider favorably the gradual return and scheduled transfer of all PA tax funds collected by Israel on the unequivocal condition that there would be full U.S.-led monitoring to ensure that these funds will only be used for the economic and civil activities of the Palestinian community and to pre-

vent the use of these funds for terrorist activity of any kind.

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

### Statement on Congressional Action on Election Reform Legislation *October 16, 2002*

The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy. I commend the House and Senate for passing legislation to improve our election process. The legislation is consistent with the principles outlined by the bipartisan Ford-Carter Commission that re-

spect the primacy of State and local governments and envision a limited but responsible role for the Federal Government. I look forward to signing these important election reforms into law.

### Statement on Congressional Action on Defense Appropriations Legislation *October 16, 2002*

I commend the House and Senate for responding to my call to pass the defense appropriations bill. This defense budget will provide our troops with the best pay, the best equipment, and the best possible training. It also sends an important signal that

we are committed to defending freedom and defeating terror. The Congress acted responsibly in passing the defense appropriations bill first, and I look forward to signing it.

### Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia *October 16, 2002*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond

the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia is to continue in effect beyond October 21, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency