

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

was published in the *Federal Register* on October 19, 2001 (66 *Fed. Reg.* 3073).

The circumstances that led to the declaration on October 21, 1995, of a national emergency have not been resolved. The actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause unparalleled violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain economic pressure on signifi-

cant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia by blocking their property or interests in property that are in the United States or within the possession or control of United States persons and by depriving them of access to the United States market and financial system.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,  
October 16, 2002.

NOTE: The notice of October 16 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia

*October 16, 2002*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report that my Administration has prepared on the national emergency with respect to

significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,  
October 16, 2002.

## Remarks at a Luncheon for Gubernatorial Candidate Sonny Perdue and Senatorial Candidate Saxby Chambliss in Atlanta, Georgia

*October 17, 2002*

Thank you all for coming. I'm glad you all are here. Thanks for coming, and thanks for such a generous Georgia welcome.

You know, coming down on the airplane today, we were visiting about the politics here in Georgia, and a couple of the citizens from this great State told me my picture seems to be on the TV screen a lot—[laughter]—that a lot of people are using my image during the campaign. Well, I'm

here to clarify a few things. The voters shouldn't be confused. For the sake of Georgia, for the sake of the United States, Saxby Chambliss needs to be the next United States Senator.

No, the voters shouldn't be confused. For the sake of Georgia and for the sake of a great public school system, Sonny Perdue needs to be the next Governor of Georgia.