

Your country also brings moral clarity to our NATO Alliance. You value freedom because you have lived without it. You know the difference between good and evil because you have seen evil's face. The people of Romania understand that aggressive dictators cannot be appeased or ignored; they must always be opposed.

An aggressive dictator now rules in Iraq. By his search for terrible weapons, by his ties to terror groups, by his development of prohibited ballistic missiles, the dictator of Iraq threatens the security of every free nation, including the free nations of Europe. The United Nations Security Council and now NATO have spoken with one voice: The Iraqi regime will completely disarm itself of weapons of mass murder, or we, the United States, will lead a coalition of willing nations and disarm that regime in the name of peace.

Every nation must confront danger. Every free nation has a responsibility to play its full and responsible role. And together, Mr. President, we will preserve our freedoms, and we will work together to keep the peace.

In the peaceful future we're building, Romania will strengthen our lives in another way, as a bridge to a new Russia. For centuries, Romania's geography was a source of danger. Now, you can help our Alliance to extend a hand of cooperation across the Black Sea. Russia has nothing to fear from the growth of NATO, because Russia needs peaceful, stable neighbors like Romania. As I told President Putin yesterday, a Russia that is fully part of Europe needs no buffer zone separating it from

Europe. America and Romania are friends to the Russian people, and so is the NATO Alliance.

Mr. President, citizens of Romania, Laura and my visit to your beautiful country has been short, but the friendship and soon the Alliance between our countries will endure.

On this historic square, among the monuments to Romania's greatness, there's also a building left in ruins, the former offices of the secret police. It is a fitting reminder of all the cruelties done there and the justice that rose up against oppression. That grim monument also recalls the many brave Romanians who did not live to see this day. Our prayers are for them and their families. Yet, today, their hopes are being fulfilled. The nation they love is rising. Romania has won its freedom. Romania is resolute in difficulty and moving toward greater prosperity. And Romania is finding its place in the greatest—history's greatest alliance for freedom.

I have come to tell you that the world and my country knows the character of the people of this great country. We respect your country. We love the fact that you love freedom. May God bless you and your families. May God bless Romania. And may God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:35 p.m. at the Piata Revolutiei. In his remarks, he referred to President Ion Iliescu of Romania, who introduced the President; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Statement on the West Coast Ports Agreement November 24, 2002

"I am very pleased that labor and management have reached an agreement concerning the West Coast ports. This agree-

ment is good for workers, good for employers, and it's good for America's economy. I congratulate labor and management for

working together to successfully resolve their disagreements, and I also commend the efforts of Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and the Director of the Federal Mediation

and Conciliation Service, Peter Hurtgen, for their tireless efforts in bringing this matter to a successful conclusion.”

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the Railroad Retirement Board

November 19, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board presented for forwarding to you for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2001, pursuant to the provisions of section 7(b)(6) of the Railroad Retirement Act and section 12(1)

of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
November 19, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 25.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Small Business

November 19, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

This report documents the state of small business at the end of the 20th century. Small businesses have always been the backbone of our economy. They perennially account for most innovation and job creation. Small businesses have sustained the economy when it is robust and growing as well as in weaker times when small businesses have put the economy back on the track to long-term growth.

We must work together to give small businesses an environment in which they can thrive. Small businesses are disproportionately affected by Government regulations and paperwork, and I am committed to reducing this burden. We should regulate only where there is a real need, fully justified through rigorous cost-benefit analysis and clear legal authority. And when Government must regulate, it must adopt commonsense approaches. Regulations

work best when agencies anticipate and analyze the effects of their proposals on small firms. Rules need to reflect the ability of small businesses to comply.

Another barrier to unleashing the full potential of small business is our tax code. I am committed to reducing taxes for all Americans—especially small businesses. We must eliminate permanently the estate tax, which so often has spelled the death of the business and the jobs of its employees after the death of its founder. Our tax code should encourage investment in small businesses, and particularly in new and growing businesses. Because the innovations that drive tomorrow's economy come from entrepreneurial small businesses today, we must help them enter the marketplace, not impede them before they get there. Above all, small businesses need a tax code that is understandable and stable. Fairness, simplicity, transparency, and accountability