

Nation's currency to stopping the flow of money to terrorist groups.

I appreciate the good work of the dedicated men and women throughout this Department. And you can rest assured that your new boss is a superb executive and a fine man, with a good heart. John will be an active advocate for policies that encourage economic growth. And he'll be a good steward of the taxpayers' dollars. And that is fitting, because very soon each one of those dollars will bear the signature of Secretary John Snow.

Congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the Cash Room at the Treasury Building. In his remarks, he referred to Chief Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and his wife, Lossie; and Carolyn Snow, wife of Secretary Snow. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary Snow.

## The President's Radio Address *February 8, 2003*

Good morning. On Wednesday, Secretary of State Powell briefed the United Nations Security Council on Iraq's illegal weapons programs, its attempts to hide those weapons, and its links to terrorist groups.

The Iraqi regime's violations of Security Council resolutions are evident. They are dangerous to America and the world, and they continue to this hour.

The regime has never accounted for a vast arsenal of deadly biological and chemical weapons. To the contrary, the regime is pursuing an elaborate campaign to conceal its weapons materials and to hide or intimidate key experts and scientists. This effort of deception is directed from the highest levels of the Iraqi regime, including Saddam Hussein, his son, Iraq's Vice President, and the very official responsible for cooperating with inspectors.

The Iraqi regime has actively and secretly attempted to obtain equipment needed to produce chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. Firsthand witnesses have informed us that Iraq has at least seven mobile factories for the production of biological agents, equipment mounted on trucks and rails to evade discovery.

The Iraqi regime has acquired and tested the means to deliver weapons of mass destruction. It has never accounted for thousands of bombs and shells capable of delivering chemical weapons. It is actively pursuing components for prohibited ballistic missiles. And we have sources that tell us that Saddam Hussein recently authorized Iraqi field commanders to use chemical weapons, the very weapons the dictator tells us he does not have.

One of the greatest dangers we face is that weapons of mass destruction might be passed to terrorists who would not hesitate to use those weapons. Saddam Hussein has longstanding, direct, and continuing ties to terrorist networks. Senior members of Iraqi intelligence and Al Qaida have met at least 8 times since the early 1990s. Iraq has sent bombmaking and document forgery experts to work with Al Qaida. Iraq has also provided Al Qaida with chemical and biological weapons training. And an Al Qaida operative was sent to Iraq several times in the late 1990s for help in acquiring poisons and gases.

We also know that Iraq is harboring a terrorist network headed by a senior Al Qaida terrorist planner. This network runs

a poison and explosives training camp in northeast Iraq, and many of its leaders are known to be in Baghdad.

This is the situation as we find it: 12 years after Saddam Hussein agreed to disarm and more than 90 days after the Security Council passed Resolution 1441 by a unanimous vote, Saddam Hussein was required to make a full declaration of his weapons programs. He has not done so. Saddam Hussein was required to fully cooperate in the disarmament of his regime. He has not done so. Saddam Hussein was given a final chance. He is throwing away that chance.

Having made its demands, the Security Council must not back down when those demands are defied and mocked by a dictator. The United States would welcome and support a new resolution making clear that the Security Council stands behinds

its previous demands. Yet, resolutions mean little without resolve, and the United States, along with a growing coalition of nations, will take whatever action is necessary to defend ourselves and disarm the Iraqi regime.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:15 a.m. on February 7 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 8. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 7 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and his son Qusay; and Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan and presidential adviser Lt. Gen. Amir Al-Saadi of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Colombia *February 8, 2003*

Last night, terrorists attacked a nightclub in Bogota, Colombia. The latest reports are that 25 innocent men and women were killed and more than 150 wounded.

On behalf of the United States, I condemn this barbaric act of terrorism. I offer our deepest condolences to the Colombian families and friends of all who were murdered. We also hope and pray for the quick recovery of those that were injured.

I extend to President Uribe and the people of Colombia our deepest sympathy for this horrible tragedy.

We stand with the Colombian people in their fight against narcoterrorists who threaten their democratic way of life.

We will offer all appropriate assistance to the Colombian Government in bringing to justice the murderers responsible for this act.

## Remarks at the “Congress of Tomorrow” Republican Retreat Reception in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia *February 9, 2003*

Thank you. Please be seated. Nothing like about an hour’s speech for a Sunday

lunch—[laughter]—trying to loosen up my vocal cords for the week.