

Remarks on the Resignation of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti *February 29, 2004*

President Aristide resigned. He has left his country. The Constitution of Haiti is working. There is an interim President, as per the Constitution, in place.

I have ordered the deployment of marines, as the leading element of an interim international force, to help bring order and stability to Haiti. I have done so in working with the international community.

This Government believes it essential that Haiti have a hopeful future. This is

the beginning of a new chapter in the country's history. I would urge the people of Haiti to reject violence, to give this break from the past a chance to work. And the United States is prepared to help.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:05 p.m. on the South Grounds at the White House.

Statement Calling for Congressional Action on Foreign Sales Corporations/ Extraterritorial Income Legislation *March 1, 2004*

I urge Congress to take up and pass FSC/ETI legislation that reforms the Tax Code, removes the underlying reason for the tariffs that have been imposed today on American exports, and further advances the competitiveness of American manufacturers and job creators. Over the past 3 years, my administration has worked with Congress to further increase the ability of American companies to succeed in the worldwide economy, laying the foundation for increased growth and job creation. If

we don't act to replace the current FSC/ETI provisions in the Tax Code, the tariffs that have been imposed today will, over the next year, impose an increasing burden on American exporters, their workers, and the overall economy. To support the continued strengthening of our economy and to create more jobs, the Congress should act now to end the threat of these tariffs and promote the competitiveness of American manufacturers and other job-creating sectors of the U.S. economy.

Message to the Congress on Extending Generalized System of Preferences Benefits to Algeria and Terminating Benefits of Certain Other Countries *March 1, 2004*

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 502(f) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Act"), I am writing to inform you of my intent to designate Algeria as a beneficiary developing country and to terminate the designa-

tion of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahrain, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

I have considered the criteria set forth in sections 501 and 502 of the Act. In light of these criteria, I have determined that it is appropriate to extend GSP benefits to Algeria. I have also determined that Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and Bahrain have become “high income” countries, and I therefore terminate their designation as beneficiary developing countries effective January 1, 2006. Furthermore, consistent with the Act’s prohibition on designation of European Union member states as beneficiary developing countries, I am termi-

nating such designation for the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia when they become European Union member states.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
March 1, 2004.

NOTE: The related proclamation of March 1 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on International Agreements
March 1, 2004

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

Consistent with subsection (b) of the Case-Zablocki Act, (1 U.S.C. 112b), I hereby transmit a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard G. Lugar, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the National Drug Control Strategy
March 1, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

I am transmitting the 2004 National Drug Control Strategy, consistent with the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1705).

Two years ago, my Administration issued its National Drug Control Strategy setting forth a balanced approach to reducing drug use among teenagers and adults. The Strategy set ambitious two- and five-year performance-based goals: (i) to lower the rate of drug use by 10 percent over two years; and (ii) to lower the rate by 25 percent

over five years. The success of the Strategy can be measured by its results.

I am pleased to report that we have exceeded our two-year goal of reducing drug use among young people. The most recent survey shows an 11 percent drop between 2001 and 2003 in the use of illicit drugs by teenagers. Among teens, some drugs—such as LSD—have dropped to record low levels of use. For others, we are seeing the lowest levels of use in almost a decade.

Despite this good news, drug addiction continues to challenge far too many