

Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority.

## Statement on Senate Passage of Bankruptcy Reform Legislation March 10, 2005

I applaud the strong bipartisan vote in the Senate to curb abuses of the bankruptcy system. By reforming the system with this commonsense approach, more

Americans—especially lower income Americans—will have greater access to credit. I urge the House to act quickly on bankruptcy legislation.

## Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Iran March 10, 2005

*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. Consistent with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice stating that the Iran emergency declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2005, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on March 12, 2004 (69 *FR* 12051).

The crisis between the United States and Iran constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Iran, including its support for international terrorism, efforts to undermine Middle East peace, and ac-

quisition of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on March 15, 1995, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are contrary to the interests of the United States in the region and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Iran and maintain in force comprehensive sanctions against Iran to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,  
March 10, 2005.

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

Remarks in a Discussion on Strengthening Social Security in Memphis,  
Tennessee

March 11, 2005

*The President.* Gosh, thanks for the warm welcome. It's great to be here in Memphis, Tennessee. What a fabulous city you've got. One of our panelists here was saying that he got up at 4:30 a.m. this morning, trying to prepare some remarks for today, some interesting thoughts about Social Security. And I said, "I'm glad it wasn't you I heard at 4:30." Evidently there's a basketball tournament here? [*Laughter*] Some of the victorious fans were pleased with the results yesterday.

But I'm honored to be here. Memphis is a fabulous place. I wish Laura were with me today. She's doing great, by the way. She's obviously a patient woman to be married to me. [*Laughter*] She's a wonderful mom, a fantastic wife, and she's doing a whale of a job as our country's First Lady, and I'm really proud of her.

We're here to talk about Social Security. And I've got some other things on my mind I want to share with you. But before we talk about anything, I do want to thank Congressman Harold Ford for being here. I'm honored you're here, Congressman. I appreciate your service to this great city. Just about every time I see him, he says to me, "You need to get over to Memphis. We've got a great town full of fantastic people." Congressman, I'm honored you're here.

Mayor A.C. Wharton, thank you for being here. I appreciate you coming. Thank you, sir. Got a lot of friends—I see the sheriff; he's here. It's always important to say hello to the high sheriff.

Bishop G.E. Patterson is here. I'm honored you're here, Bishop Patterson. Thank you for coming. I want to thank a lot of the other friends of mine in the clergy who are here. You know, when we talk about the role of religion in society, it's always important to emphasize that one of the

things that makes us great is that we separate the church and the state, that you're equally American if you choose to worship or not worship. You're equally American if you're a Christian, Jew, Muslim, or Sikh, whatever you choose to do.

But one of the things I think is important is to include faith-based programs in the healing of hearts so that America can be a hopeful place. I do not fear the influence of faith in our society. I welcome faith.

And over the next 4 years, we'll continue to work with the generals and colonels and sergeants and privates in the army of compassion to help change our country one heart and one soul at a time. If you want to serve America, feed the hungry, find shelter for the homeless. If you want to do something patriotic, mentor a child and teach him or her how to read. If you want to make America a better place, put your arm around somebody hurt—who hurts and says, "I love you, brother," or, "I love you, sister, and I'm here to help you." No, America's great strength is the hearts and soul of our citizens. And we must continue to rally that great strength to make America a better place.

I do want to talk a little bit about foreign policy. For the youngsters here, I hope you pay attention to what you're seeing. What you're seeing is an amazing moment in the history of freedom. Because we acted to defend ourselves, we liberated Afghanistan from the Taliban. And millions of people voted in a Presidential election.

I met with one of the ministers, a female minister from Afghanistan the other day. She came into the Oval Office. She said she was looking forward to this moment to see me and Laura so that she could share with me her great gratitude about the fact that she could live in a free society.