

The White House,
January 15, 2009.

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

Message to the Congress Transmitting the 2009 National Drug Control Strategy

January 15, 2009

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the 2009 National Drug Control Strategy, consistent with the provisions of section 201 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006.

My Administration released its first National Drug Control Strategy in 2002 with the commitment to turn the tide against a problem that truly threatens everything that is good about our country. As we prepare to pass this noble charge to a new team of leaders, we can look back with satisfaction on what we have achieved together as a Nation. From community coalitions to our international partnerships, we pursued a balanced strategy that emphasized stopping initiation, reducing drug abuse and addiction, and disrupting drug markets.

The results of our efforts are clear. Together we have helped reduce teenage drug

use by 25 percent since 2001. This means 900,000 fewer American teens are using drugs. The Access to Recovery program alone has extended treatment services to more than 260,000 Americans. Through law enforcement cooperation and international partnerships, the United States has caused serious disruptions in the availability of drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamine, reducing the threat such drugs pose to the American people, while also denying profits to drug traffickers and terrorists.

Our work is by no means complete—we must build on these efforts both to further reduce drug use and to rise to new challenges. I thank the Congress for its support and ask that it continue to support this critical endeavor.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
January 15, 2009.

Message to the Congress Transmitting an Extension of the Russia-United States Mutual Fisheries Agreement

January 15, 2009

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), I transmit herewith an Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation Extending the Agreement Between the Government of the United States

and the Government of the Russian Federation on Mutual Fisheries Relations of May 31, 1988, with annex, as extended (the “Mutual Fisheries Agreement”). The present Agreement, which was effected by an exchange of notes in Moscow on March 28, 2008, and September 19, 2008, extends the Mutual Fisheries Agreement until December 31, 2013.

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In light of the importance of our fisheries relationship with the Russian Federation, I urge that the Congress give favorable con-

sideration to this Agreement at an early date.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
January 15, 2009.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Malta-United States Taxation Convention

January 15, 2009

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Malta for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion With Respect to Taxes on Income, signed on August 8, 2008, at Valletta (the “proposed Convention”). I also transmit for the information of the Senate the report of the Department of State, which includes an Overview of the proposed Convention.

The proposed Convention provides for reduced withholding rates on cross-border payments of dividends, interest, royalties, and other income. The proposed Conven-

tion contains a restrictive provision designed to prevent “treaty shopping,” which is the inappropriate use of a tax treaty by third-country residents. The proposed Convention also provides for the exchange of information between the competent authorities to facilitate the administration of each country’s tax laws.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the proposed Convention and give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
January 15, 2009.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Review of Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996

January 15, 2009

Dear _____:

Consistent with section 306(c)(2) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–114) (the “Act”), I hereby determine and report to the Congress that suspension for 6 months beyond February 1, 2009, of the right to bring an action under title III of the Act is necessary to the national inter-

ests of the United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to David R. Obey, chairman, and C. Jerry Lewis, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations; Daniel K. Inouye, chairman, and W. Thad Cochran, ranking member, Senate