

Much of the United Nations' work is carried out by its technical and specialized agencies, such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). This year marks the 45th anniversary of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, which provided for the establishment of the ICAO. Since its inception, the ICAO has led efforts to promote safety in international air navigation and to ensure the orderly growth of international civil aviation throughout the world.

In recent years, the ICAO has devoted increasing attention to the threat of terrorism. Earlier this year, it adopted a plan of action to thwart terrorists attempting to place bombs on board passenger aircraft. The Organization is currently developing a regimen for the marking and detection of plastic explosives. The ICAO has long been a useful forum in which to address the problem of aircraft hijackings. In fact, the incidence of aircraft hijackings around the world has decreased markedly—in large part as a result of improved security measures recommended by the ICAO and implemented by its member states.

The International Civil Aviation Organization is one example of the positive role played by the technical and specialized agencies of the United Nations. Throughout the United Nations system, men and women from around the world are working together to help make the world a safer, healthier place in which to live. Their efforts reflect the vision of those who, in signing the United Nations Charter, "reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, [and] in the dignity and worth of the human person."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 24, 1989, as United Nations Day. I urge all Americans to observe that day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6053 of October 24, 1989

National Red Ribbon Week for a Drug-Free America, 1989

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

The consequences of illegal drug use have reached epidemic proportions in the United States. Excessive consumption of alcohol and other forms of drug abuse are among the largest causes of preventable illness, disability, and death in our society. Drug use is a public health threat that endangers our society at every level—in our homes, schools, and communities. It weakens our work force and businesses, threatening our Nation's productivity and economic strength. It also threatens

the minds, health, and character of our Nation's most valuable resource—our youth.

The problem is not insurmountable, however. Americans have begun to confront the scourge of substance abuse, and we can be pleased with the important, positive strides we have made. Through the dedicated efforts of teachers, parents, celebrities, social service professionals, and volunteers, more and more young children are learning about the dangers of substance abuse. Experience has shown us that education and prevention programs are valuable tools in the fight against drugs. Many of our young people are choosing never to even try them.

Public opinion polls continue to indicate that the American people believe illicit drug use is the most serious domestic problem facing the Nation. With concern at a high level, public and private organizations, businesses, concerned parents, young people, and educators all across America are rallying to host town meetings, conferences, and other activities in support of community drug abuse prevention and education. We must build upon these efforts.

The National Federation of Parents for Drug-Free Youth has seized upon this momentum by promoting the observance of the week beginning October 22, 1989, as "National Red Ribbon Week for a Drug-Free America." This week highlights a comprehensive public education drive involving thousands of parents' groups across the country. It is a time when we encourage all national and community service groups, as well as individual Americans, to exercise leadership, creativity, and determination in achieving a drug-free America. Through their efforts, we reaffirm the right of each and every American to live in a drug-free family, to dwell in a drug-free community, to learn in a drug-free school, to work in a drug-free workplace, and to drive on drug-free highways. Such campaigns are critical in our struggle to liberate the United States from the dangerous cycle of substance abuse and drug-trafficking.

We must get the message across that any use of an illegal drug, the excessive consumption of alcohol, and the use of alcohol by an under-aged youth, is unacceptable. At every level, our society must develop an absolute intolerance for illicit drug use.

To mobilize and involve all Americans in efforts directed at preventing and eliminating drug use, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 213, has designated October 22 through October 29, 1989, as "National Red Ribbon Week for a Drug-Free America."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week beginning October 22, 1989, as National Red Ribbon Week for a Drug-Free America. I call upon all Americans to join me in observing this week by supporting community drug abuse prevention efforts. I also encourage every American to wear a red ribbon during this week as an expression of his or her commitment to a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and

eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6054 of October 25, 1989

Polish American Heritage Month, 1989

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

This month, we Americans honor the millions of men and women of Polish descent who have helped build our Nation and keep it strong and prosperous. Many important chapters in American history—and even the story of hope now unfolding in their ancestral homeland—provide moving testimony to the faith, courage, and hard work of Polish Americans.

During the Revolutionary War, courageous Poles such as General Casimir Pulaski and Tadeusz Kosciuszko helped to win the American struggle for independence. These two men clearly understood that liberty is the God-given right of all men, and the cause of freedom is universal. Like many of their contemporaries, they knew that the hopes of freedom-loving peoples around the world were invested in our Nation's great experiment in self-government.

Today, we pay tribute to the millions of Polish immigrants who—even though they arrived in this country with little more than the clothes on their backs—have built strong families and thriving communities across the United States. With great faith in God and in America's promise of freedom and opportunity for all, they have worked with pride and diligence. All of us have been enriched by their success.

Polish Americans have not only prospered, they have also become responsible citizens and true patriots. Many Polish Americans were among the thousands of men and women who served our Nation with distinction during World Wars I and II. As we gratefully remember their courage and selflessness, we also recall the contributions of our Polish allies in the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Throughout our Nation's history, the people of the United States and Poland have been united not only by cultural and familial ties, but also by our common love for freedom and representative government. Poland's history chronicles the struggles of a people who would not be deterred in their fight for liberty and the right to self-determination. The Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791, drafted only a few years after our Nation's own, was one of the first written national constitutions in the world. Its creation vividly demonstrated the Poles' determination to secure a free and just system of government.

Despite years of repression by ruling officials, military invasion by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union in 1939, and the declaration of martial law in 1981, that resolve has remained unshaken. Indeed, after years of struggle and sacrifice, the persistence of the Polish people is