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and the world as it looked 25 years ago, when my dad was the DCI.

To say that a lot has changed is an understatement. Back then, America faced an overarching threat, and everything we did, from strategy to resource allocation, was oriented to defending against that threat. Today, that single threat has been replaced by new and different threats, sometimes hard to define and defend against; threats such as terrorism, information warfare, the spread of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them. Back then, freedom was in peril. Today, freedom is taking root in more and more lands around the world.

In retrospect, the world of 1976 looks staid and static compared to the revolutions of change that characterize our times. But what hasn't changed, what isn't different is the fact that sound intelligence is still critically important to America's national security. The challenges are new, but we still need your work to help us meet them. The opportunities are new, but we need your help to take advantage of them. But perhaps most of all, in a world where change, itself, seems to be the only constant, we need your help to anticipate change and to shape it in a way that favors freedom.

Yours is a mission of service and sacrifice in a world of great uncertainty and risk. America's commitments and responsibilities span the world and every time zone. Every day you help us meet those responsibilities with your quiet excellence. And nothing speaks louder to your legacy of service and sacrifice than the 77 stars on the wall behind me.

The American people aren't told much about your labors. In fact, you might be the only Federal agency where not making the newspapers or network news qualifies as good news. [*Laughter*] This is by necessity. But you need to know your President knows about your fine contributions to our Nation's security. And you also need to know that Americans are proud of you and the vital work that each of you does for your country. The operations officers, the analysts, the scientists, the technical experts, the intelligence officers who work for other agencies—each of you is important to the cause of freedom. And for that I say, God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:25 p.m. in the original headquarters building lobby at the George Bush Center for Intelligence.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Repeal Federal Ergonomics Regulations

March 20, 2001

Today I have signed into law S.J. Res. 6, a measure that repeals an unduly burdensome and overly broad regulation dealing with ergonomics. This is the first time the Congressional Review Act has been put to use. This resolution is a good and proper use of the Act because the different branches of our Government need to be held accountable.

There needs to be a balance between and an understanding of the costs and benefits associated with Federal regulations. In this instance, though, in exchange for uncertain benefits, the ergonomics rule would have cost both large and small employers billions of dollars and presented employers with overwhelming compliance challenges. Also, the rule would have applied a bureaucratic one-size-fits-all solution to a broad range of employers and workers—not good government at work.

The safety and health of our Nation's workforce is a priority for my Administration. Together we will pursue a comprehensive approach to ergonomics that addresses the concerns surrounding the ergonomics rule repealed today. We will work with the Congress, the business community, and our Nation's workers to address this important issue.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 20, 2001.

NOTE: S.J. Res. 6, approved March 20, was assigned Public Law No. 107–5.

Exchange With Reporters at the George Bush Center for Intelligence in Langley

March 20, 2001

Visit to the Central Intelligence Agency

Q. Good briefing, Mr. President?

The President. It was really interesting. Our Nation is fortunate to have so many dedicated men and women serve the country, and a lot of really good folks who work here. They've got one thing in mind, and that is how to serve America, how to provide the best information possible so that we can live in a peaceful world.

There are a lot of people in this world that really resent our country and resent what we stand for. The good folks in this building are doing everything they can to provide enough information for us to be able to protect our way of life and protect our people. And I'm really touched by being here. And I'm so grateful for the hospitality, Mr. Director.

Situation in Macedonia

Q. Mr. President, a quick question on Macedonia. What should the United States do about the fighting that is taking place?

The President. Well, we're going to work with our allies to bring peace to that region. We're very much involved through the NATO process, and we'll work with the Macedonian Government to help Macedonia protect its own borders.

Q. Should the U.S. be giving the Macedonian military assistance?

The President. We'll work with NATO to develop a strategy that will help Macedonia protect herself.

NOTE: The exchange began at 6:26 p.m. at CIA headquarters. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Letter to Governor Angus S. King, Jr., on Disaster Assistance to Maine

March 20, 2001

Dear Governor King:

As requested, I have declared an emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 USC 5121 (Stafford Act), for the State of Maine due to the emergency conditions resulting from record/near record snow on March 5–7, 2001. I have authorized Federal relief and recovery assistance in the affected area.

Emergency protective measures (Category B) under the Public Assistance program to save lives, protect public health and safety, and property will be provided. This emergency assistance will be provided for a period of 48 hours. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs in the designated areas.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will coordinate Federal assistance efforts and designate specific areas eligible for such assistance. The Federal Coordinating Officer will be Mr. David Rodham of FEMA. He will consult with you and assist in the execution of the FEMA-State Disaster Assistance Agreement governing the expenditure of Federal funds.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 21.

Remarks at the American College of Cardiology Convention in Orlando, Florida

March 21, 2001

Thank you all. Thank you very much. George, thank you very much for your kind introduction. Doctor. Doctor. [*Laughter*] I'm honored to be here, and it's an honor to be your President.

I thought about inviting Vice President Cheney to travel with me today. [*Laughter*] He said he's seen enough cardiologists lately. [*Laughter*] I'm pleased to report that he's feeling great, and you'll be happy to know that when it comes to following doctor's orders, he's a model patient.

I appreciate so very much the leadership of this august organization having me here, and I appreciate the fact that they invited