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NOTE: The President spoke at 9:40 a.m. in the Preston Auditorium at the World Bank. In his remarks, he referred to James D. Wolfensohn, president, World Bank Group.

Statement on the Death of Katharine Graham

July 17, 2001

The Nation's Capital and our entire Nation today mourn the loss of the beloved first lady of Washington and American journalism, Katharine Graham. Her legacy and influence spanned many different arenas, from powerful publisher to quiet philanthropist, to accomplished businesswoman, to Pulitzer Prize winning author, to gracious and loyal friend. Presidents come and go, and Katharine Graham knew them all. When Laura and I moved to Washington, she was the first to welcome a new President to the Nation's Capital with a dinner at her home. Mrs. Graham became a legend in her own lifetime because she was a true leader and a true lady, steely yet shy, powerful yet humble, known for her integrity and always gracious and generous to others. Her life, chronicled in her Pulitzer Prize-winning autobiography, presents a tremendous example for our generation and generations to come. Laura and I send our prayers to her children and grandchildren, to her colleagues at the Washington Post Co., and to her many friends throughout Washington, America, and the world. She will be sorely missed.

Statement on Action by Committees of the House of Representatives on a National Energy Policy

July 17, 2001

Today's actions in the House Resources Committee and in the House Energy and Commerce Committee represent important steps toward implementing a comprehensive and balanced energy policy. I am pleased that the committees are acting swiftly to increase energy efficiency, expand use of renewables, and open a small portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for environmentally responsible exploration.

For too long America has lacked a comprehensive national energy policy. My administration has proposed a plan that will reduce America's reliance on foreign oil through increased conservation and efficiency, improved infrastructure, and increased exploration. I commend the House committees for moving forward on these goals.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Sierra Leone

July 17, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sierra Leone that was declared in Executive Order 13194 of January 18, 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 17, 2001.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Interview With Foreign Journalists

July 17, 2001

The President. I'll make a few comments. Did anybody hear what I said at the World Bank? Nobody? [*Laughter*] You're kidding me. I spend all this time writing this speech, and nobody listens.

Here's what I said. I said that in Europe I talked about a house of freedom; I talked about opening doors—that means expanding freedom by enlarging NATO and the European Union—I also talked about opening windows, so that America, our allies, and friends can more clearly see the problems that face those who are the developing world.

And so I laid out a strategy that I'm going to pursue in Genoa that, one, says that those of us who are prosperous must continue to