

### **Statement on Congressional Action on Counterterrorism Legislation**

*October 24, 2001*

I am pleased Congress has reached an agreement on counterterrorism legislation that will give our law enforcement officials the tools and resources necessary to disrupt, weaken, and defeat terrorists. I look forward to signing this strong bipartisan plan into law so that we can combat terrorism and prevent future attacks.

### **Proclamation 7490—United Nations Day, 2001**

*October 24, 2001*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

On June 26, 1945, representatives from 50 countries signed the charter creating the United Nations (U.N.), which inaugurated a new era of unprecedented international cooperation. The world had then just emerged victorious against the threat of global tyranny, and these representatives resolved to preserve peace through international cooperation and collective security. Officially coming into existence on October 24, 1945, the U.N. became the central organization charged with carrying out this mission. Since then, it has worked to maintain world peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations, to cooperate in solving international problems, and to promote respect for human rights.

Today, 189 countries belong to the United Nations. The organization's mission remains as urgent as ever, particularly as our world confronts new challenges in the 21st century. The recent terrorist attacks on the United States not only threatened Americans, they also threatened civilized people everywhere who believe in freedom and peace. These tragic events remind us all of the vitally im-

portant unified efforts necessary to building international security and to guaranteeing a more peaceful world for us and for our children.

Americans are a generous and compassionate people, willing to do all we can to help alleviate poverty and suffering around the world. These efforts include close cooperative ventures with the United Nations organizations through its many humanitarian programs. As our country observes United Nations Day, 2001, we pause to reflect on the noble history of the U.N. and to praise its many contributions toward providing a better quality of life for people around the globe. We also celebrate the U.N.'s commitment to promoting human rights, protecting the environment, fighting disease, fostering development, and reducing poverty. By reaffirming our desire to advance these goals, America looks forward to continued progress in addressing the challenges that face humanity and to achieving a brighter future for the world.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. 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, 2001, as United Nations Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:38 a.m., October 29, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 30.

**Proclamation 7489—National Red Ribbon Week for a Drug-Free America, 2001**

*October 24, 2001*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

Drug and alcohol abuse in America annually create staggering societal costs and prevent millions of people from reaching their full potential at school, on the job, and in their communities. The Department of Health and Human Services estimates that approximately 14 million Americans use illegal drugs and 17 million Americans are alcoholics or abusers of alcohol. To improve the well-being of our Nation and to protect our people, we must continue to make the prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse a national priority.

The rate of abuse of drugs and alcohol by our Nation's youth is cause for alarm. Currently, 3 million young people between the ages of 14 and 17 have an alcohol problem, and more than half of America's school-age children have tried illegal drugs by the time they have finished high school. Research indicates that youth who avoid the early use of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana are less likely to engage in other harmful behaviors such as crime, delinquency, and other illegal drug use. That is why we must clearly communicate to America's youth that drug and alcohol abuse is dangerous and harmful to both their health and their future.

Through the efforts of families, law enforcement officers, healthcare professionals, teachers, and dedicated community activists, we have made progress in the ongoing war against substance abuse. To continue this progress, my Administration is implementing a comprehensive, results-oriented strategy for reducing illegal drug use in America. We will work cooperatively with other nations to help eradicate illegal drugs at their source. We will increase border security to stop the flow of these drugs into America. And we will provide Federal support to local law enforcement agencies in combating drug trafficking networks.

The most effective way, however, to reduce the cycle of youth drug addiction and the crime it causes is to reduce demand. This effort begins at home; and it depends upon the active participation of families, schools, and community organizations in education and outreach programs that clearly communicate to children the dangers inherent in drug and alcohol abuse.

On the occasion of "National Red Ribbon Week for a Drug-Free America," Laura and I are pleased to serve as Honorary Chairpersons of the 2001 National Red Ribbon Campaign. We join all Americans in saying that we will no longer tolerate the destructive impact that drug and alcohol abuse have had on our homes, schools, workplaces, and highways. With strong resolve and creative leadership, we can protect our communities from the preventable dangers of substance abuse and restore dignity and character to millions of men, women, and children who are addicted to drugs and alcohol.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. 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 period beginning October 23 through October 31, 2001, as National Red Ribbon Week for a Drug-Free America. I encourage citizens to support activities that raise awareness and encourage prevention of substance abuse. I also call upon every American to wear a red ribbon throughout the week in recognition of their commitment to a healthy, drug-free lifestyle and our commitment to a drug-free America.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

**George W. Bush**

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