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(Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

We have directed all of our officials and experts working on these critical matters to expand their cooperation and to consult on strengthening related international efforts.

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

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on Cooperation in Combating Illegal Narcotics Trafficking

November 13, 2001

We note that illegal narcotics trafficking constitutes a serious threat to the health and well-being of individuals and to international security as a whole. The drug trade is one of the principle sources of financial support for international terrorism.

The United States and Russia are committed to intensifying cooperation on both a bilateral level and within the framework of international organizations and institutions, in order to combat this common threat.

We reaffirm the important role of the UN in strengthening anti-drug cooperation at the global level and reaffirm the two countries' intention to continue the efforts to implement the decisions of the 20th Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the problem of narcotics. At the same time, we wish to continue and expand our regional counternarcotics cooperation with the countries of Central Asia.

We wish to underscore the importance of putting into effect, as soon as possible, the mechanism of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

We intend to intensify the efforts of the Russian-U.S. Working Group on law enforcement, including the issues of combating illegal drug trafficking and the laundering of proceeds derived from criminal activities. We believe that early entry into the force of the Treaty Between the Russian Federation and the United States on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Moscow on June 17, 1999, will promote the expansion of bilateral cooperation and the coordination of efforts against transnational organized crime and narcotics trafficking.

We agree to seek areas of expanded cooperation between the United States and Russia with the goal of more effectively stopping illegal trafficking in narcotics and preventing and treating drug addiction.

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

Remarks on Departure for Texas

November 13, 2001

Visit of Russian President Putin/Aviation Security and Economic Stimulus Legislation

Laura and I are looking forward to our meeting with the Putins in Crawford—spend a couple of days down in Texas, working on international affairs.

And I hope the Congress works hard on two issues. First, they must work day and night to get an airline security bill to my desk. We're making good progress, and the Members of Congress must continue to work hard to get a bill. And secondly, I've laid out some ideas on an economic stimulus package, one that encourages consumer spending. Part of it is to encourage business investment, and part of it is to take care of workers who have been affected by the September 11th tragedy.

I hope the Senate will be able to move a bill quickly and to get it into conference and work out the differences. I look forward to signing legislation on both airline security and economic stimulus. My administration is willing to work with the parties to forge the compromise necessary to get a piece of legislation. The American people expect progress. And I do, too, and so I hope we can get something done.

In the meantime, we're making great strides for making the world more peaceful, as we work closely with Russia for security for all the people of the world as well as our own Nation.

We'll see you down there.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:05 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks,