

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 14, and was published in the *Federal Register* on December 14.

Memorandum on Provision of Marine War Risk Insurance Coverage

December 12, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Transportation

Subject: Provision of Marine War Risk Insurance Coverage

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including 3 U.S.C. 301 and section 1202 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended (the “Act”), 46 U.S.C. App. 1282, I hereby:

Approve the provision by the Secretary of Transportation of insurance or reinsurance of vessels (including cargoes and crew) entering the Middle East region against loss or damage by war risks in the manner and to the extent approved in title XII of the Act, 46 U.S.C. App. 1281, *et seq.*, for purposes of responding to the recent terrorist attacks, whenever, after consultation with the Department of State, it appears to the Secretary of Transportation that such insurance adequate for the needs of the waterborne commerce of the United States cannot be obtained on reasonable terms and conditions from companies authorized to do an insurance business in a State of the United States. This approval is effective for 6 months. I hereby delegate to the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority vested in me by section 1202 of the Act, to approve the provision of insurance or reinsurance for these purposes after the expiration of 6 months.

The Secretary of Transportation is directed to bring this approval to the immediate attention of all operators and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

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Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat of Thailand and an Exchange With Reporters

December 14, 2001

The President. I want to welcome the Prime Minister of our longtime friend Thailand to the Oval Office.

Mr. Prime Minister, thank you so much for being here.

Prime Minister Thaksin. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. This is not the first time I’ve had a chance to have a meaningful discussion with the Prime Minister. We sat next to each other in Shanghai, and we had a couple of hours worth of very substantive discussions about our relationships, about our mutual concerns, about our desire to work closely together on a variety of fronts. The Prime Minister has assured me—and this visit is further confirmation—that our longtime friend will be a steady ally in the fight against terror.

Mr. Prime Minister, I thank you for that.

And secondly, today our Secretary of State and the Foreign Minister of his government are going to work on a framework for economic cooperation which will be completed. And it’s further evidence that this relationship is a strong, strong relationship.

And so, Mr. Prime Minister, I’m so thrilled you are here, and welcome to the Oval Office.

Prime Minister Thaksin. Thank you, Mr. President.

Thailand and the U.S. has been treaty allies since 1833. This is very right for me to visit and giving full support to U.S., which is our very long ally. And it’s very right for me to discuss war against terrorism and also economic issues that we should further enhance the cooperation among our two countries.

The President. Thank you.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters]—what we’re going to do is two questions from the