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sponsor of terrorism, and it hopes to destroy relations between Pakistan and India and to undermine Pakistani President Musharraf. To achieve its purpose, LET has committed acts of terrorism inside both India and Pakistan. LET is a terrorist organization that presents a global threat. And I look forward to working with the Governments of both India and Pakistan in a common effort to shut it down and to bring the killers to justice.

I'm optimistic about the future of our struggle against terror. I know we've accomplished a lot so far, and we've got a lot more to do. Over the past 100 days, we and our British allies and others in the coalition have destroyed at least 11 terrorist training camps inside Afghanistan, terrorist factories that produce thousands of trained operatives. We've also destroyed 39 Taliban command and control sites. Senior Al Qaida and Taliban officials have been captured or killed, and potential escape routes for the survivors are constantly being blocked to prevent the cowards from running.

American, Australian, and German aid workers held hostage by the Taliban have been liberated. We've dropped some 2.5 million humanitarian rations to the hungry people inside Afghanistan.

Our attack on terrorist finances is progressing. The assets of more than 150 known terrorists, their organizations, and their bankers have been frozen by the United States. One hundred forty-two countries have issued freezing orders of their own. The result: More than $33 million in terrorist assets have been blocked inside the United States; more than $33 million more have been blocked abroad by our partners in the international coalition.

At home, we've created a new Office of Homeland Security, under my friend Tom Ridge, and worked with Congress to provide more than $20 billion to safeguard our territory. New airline security legislation has been signed into law. Our law enforcement agencies are protecting our safety, while respecting the constitutional rights of our citizens. We listed the 22 most wanted foreign terrorists. We're reorganizing the INS so it can more effectively prevent the entry into the United States by those who want to threaten our national security.

We arrested one of the murderers of the September 5, 1986 hijacking of Pan Am Flight 73, showing would-be terrorists and current terrorists that we have a long memory, that we're patient, that if you think you can hide, we'll come and find you and bring you to justice. We made the first indictment against the terrorists, those murderers of September the 11th.

We and our coalition have done much in the past 100 days. And with the help of freedom-loving countries around the world, we will do much more to rid the world of evil and of terrorists.

Thank you very much.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us where you are, sir, on your deliberations over John Walker, and have you ruled out a charge of treason?

The President. I'm heading into the Oval Office.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:47 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Bushir-ud-Din Mahmood, founder and director, and Abdul Majeed and S.M. Tufail, directors, Umma Tameer-e-Nau (UTN); and President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan. A reporter referred to John Walker, a U.S. citizen who fought for the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the Economic Stimulus Package

December 20, 2001

I commend the House of Representatives for its leadership in passing an economic security package that will help workers and get our economy growing. This bipartisan plan will help ensure that workers have access to health care and unemployment benefits, that new jobs will be created, and that people will have more money in their pockets. For the sake of America's workers, I call on the Senate to act now on this plan, which can pass the Senate with a bipartisan majority if it is brought up for a vote. If this bipartisan bill gets to my desk, I will sign it.

Message on the Observance of Christmas 2001

December 20, 2001

Christmas is a time of wonder and joy, of generosity and peace, that brings family and friends together in celebration and song. We sing old hymns and familiar carols, we show love for others in the giving of gifts, and we observe the hallowed traditions that make the season special. This year in the midst of extraordinary times, our Nation has shown the world that though there is great evil, there is a greater good. Americans have given of themselves, sacrificing to help others and showing the spirit of love and sharing that is so much a part of the Christmas season.

According to the Gospel of Luke, two thousand years ago, the savior of mankind came into the world. Christians believe that Jesus' birth was the incarnation of God on earth, opening the door to new hope and eternal life. At Christmastime, Christians celebrate God's love revealed to the world through Christ. And the message of Jesus is one that all Americans can embrace this holiday season—to love one another.

This Christmas we remember those who are without their loved ones. They continue to be in our hearts and prayers. May they experience peace, and may they find hope. And as we again celebrate Christ's birth, may the glorious light of God's goodness and love shine forth from our land.

Laura joins me in wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God's blessings of peace be upon us and upon the world.

George W. Bush

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

Executive Order 13248—Establishing an Emergency Board To Investigate a Dispute Between United Airlines, Inc., and Its Mechanics and Related Employees Represented by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

December 20, 2001

A dispute exists between United Airlines, Inc., and its employees represented by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

The dispute has not heretofore been adjusted under the provisions of the Railway Labor Act, as amended (45 U.S.C. 151–188) (the "Act").

In the judgment of the National Mediation Board, this dispute threatens substantially to interrupt interstate commerce to a degree that would deprive sections of the country of essential transportation service.

Now, Therefore, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including sections 10 and 201 of the Act (45 U.S.C. 160 and 181), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Establishment of the Board (Board).* There is established, effective December 21, 2001, a Board of three members to be appointed by the President to investigate and report on this dispute. No member may be pecuniarily or otherwise interested in any organization of airline employees or any air carrier. The Board shall perform its functions subject to the availability of funds.

Sec. 2. *Report.* The Board shall report to the President with respect to this dispute within 30 days of its creation.

Sec. 3. *Maintaining Conditions.* As provided by section 10 of the Act, from the date of the creation of the Board and for 30 days after the Board has submitted its report to the President, no change in the conditions out of which the dispute arose shall be made by the parties to the controversy, except by the agreement of the parties.