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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Editor's Note: The President was in Crawford, TX, on March 29, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

The President's News Conference With President Vicente Fox of Mexico in Monterrey, Mexico

March 22, 2002

President Fox. Good afternoon. Thank you very much. Yes, in fact, it has been a very productive meeting, a meeting where we have touched upon three subjects, three chapters. One deals with what we have called the border alliance, intelligent borders, and the smart border initiative.

The purpose is, firstly, to introduce the safety factor and hold it as an important priority and, at the same time, with the same emphasis, to seek for efficient borders, customs that are efficient as well, for an expeditious flow both of people, merchandise, products. And in this sense, what we seek is for those using these crossings, which are hundreds of thousands of people every day, to do so with that efficiency we are talking about. Likewise, within this same sense, we talked about a program to modernize, technologically speaking, our borders. And this would promote that efficiency.

Among other points within this same category, we have also spoken about opening in airports that have high traffic, both in the United States and Mexico, a line to take care of the Mexicans and Canadians coming into Mexico and, in the case of Mexico, taking care of U.S. citizens and Canadian citizens.

The second topic is what we have called the Partnership for Prosperity, where there are plenty of topics but the specific purpose is to generate opportunities for advancement, opportunities for income, and mainly in communities with high migratory rates in Mexico. For this purpose, we have spoken of joining efforts to facilitate resources for micro-, small-, and medium-sized companies, who are the ones generating the highest number of jobs.

We have spoken of also working to bring down the cost of migrators' remittances to their families in Mexico, and this way facilitating those resources becoming productive projects toward important generation of employment and opportunities.

We talked about important program of scholarships where, on the U.S. side, there will be investments up to $50 million, precisely to promote these scholarships and promote to the state level the creation of scholarships for universities. This is important in the purpose of creating, forming human resources.

And on the other hand, we have also spoken of generating and facilitating resources for infrastructure, especially at the border, infrastructure for an efficient use of water, for water treatment plants, infrastructure for ecological or environmental purposes at the border, and some other investments in infrastructure along the same lines, the border.

On the other hand, I believe it is very significant, and we have talked about it again, to have this great drive that has been announced by President Bush at the Financing for Development Conference. And it's the purpose to try to increase important resources for countries that are not as developed, for poorer countries. We have heard from many leaders present, many heads of state, who truly expressed this was welcome information, a welcome announcement. And of course, same goes for us. We are not a country to receive the help, but we clearly understand that there are countries who require this help to combat poverty very close to us, such as the case of Central America.

So we hope that these additional funds, I repeat, have been very welcome, well-received by the community of smaller countries present here. This time these same resources also, part of them, to be used in these countries of Latin America or Central America.

This effort of what has seemed to be called the participation in the millennium, the challenge of the millennium, is important for us.

And we have verified this importance it has for the community of countries.

Thank you. Now Mr. Bush will speak.

President Bush. Thank you for your hospitality, and thank you for hosting the important conference on reducing global poverty. It was a success, thanks to your leadership and your vision.

I'm so glad that the world could see Monterrey, Mexico. It is a really dynamic city. It's important for the world also to realize that as a result of President Fox's vision, this country is reforming. It's a vibrant place. It's an exciting place for people to live. People are finding jobs in Mexico.

And Mr. President, I am grateful to call you friend. Thank you for your leadership as well.

I try to remind people in my country, as many times as I can, a vibrant, prosperous Mexico is in the best interests of the United States of America. We were at the White House on September the 5th, and here's what I said then: "The United States has no more important relationship in the world than the one we have with Mexico." I believed it on September the 5th; I believe it today. And since September the 11th, those words have been tested and proven. I deeply appreciate President Fox's early support and his continuing advice. And on behalf of the American people, I thank the people of Mexico for their support and sympathy.

The relationship between the United States and Mexico is very strong, is very important, and it's growing stronger every day. America respects Mexico's culture and Mexico's achievements. By embracing markets and fiscal discipline, Mexico has created one of the most resilient economies in the region. And through NAFTA, our nations have forged one of the world's most dynamic trading relationships. Every day we exchange more than $650 million worth of commerce, creating wealth and opportunity for consumers and workers and families on both sides of the border.

President Fox and I are determined to extend the benefits of free markets to all our citizens. As part of our Partnership for Prosperity, we'll help focus private investment on less developed parts of Mexico, creating more jobs and more opportunities for more people.

President Fox and I are determined to make our shared border modern, efficient, and secure. The smart border declaration our countries have just signed will move us toward this important goal. Our common border must be closed to drugs and terrorists and open to trade and legitimate travel. America is grateful for Mexico's fight against the drug cartels, and I salute your many breakthroughs this year, Mr. President.

President Fox and I talked about migration. Last year, we established a process to address this issue. We're making good and steady progress. Migrants make a valuable contribution to America. It's also important for our Nation to recognize, as we discuss immigration, Mexico has got a unique place in this issue. Mexico is different from other countries not only because of our proximity but because of our special relationship.

We made some progress this year on an issue called 245(i). It's an important piece of legislation. It allowed families to stay together. It passed the House of Representatives. Unfortunately, it got stalled in the United States Senate. And my hope, Mr. President, is we're able to get it out of the United States Senate and to my desk so I can sign it.

President Fox and I agreed on measures to reform the North American Development Bank, known as NADBank. We will increase the Bank's ability to make low interest loans to address urgent environmental priorities along the border. We also agreed to expand the Bank's range, so more people can benefit.

Mexico and America are proud nations united by timeless values, by democracy, by faith, and by freedom. We have a modern relationship sustained by a mutual respect and trust. We've entered a new era of trade and cooperation and prosperity. And the United States and Mexico are building an historic partnership, one which will benefit both our peoples and provide a good example for the rest of the world.

Abortion Funding/Situation in the Middle East

Q. President Bush, have you or General Zinni heard anything from Chairman Arafat

that indicates that a meeting between him and Vice President Cheney could help catalyze an Israeli-Palestinian truce? And honoring President Fox's request that we focus on poverty over this summit, could I also ask you to explain why your administration is withholding the $34 million that Congress appropriated to the United Nations Population Fund, why it's—[*inaudible*]—this year's budget?

And President Fox, do you have any thoughts about the administration's decision on the United Nations Population Fund?

President Bush. Let me start with the latter. That violated the one-question rule, but—I said we're not going to use taxpayers' money to fund abortion. And we're going to make sure, before we spend taxpayers' money, that we're not funding abortion.

And as to your first question, as I have said all along, General Zinni will assess the situation in the Middle East. And a meeting could happen if and when Chairman Arafat performs, does what he's supposed to do. Those conditions have been laid out by Vice President Cheney. And now General Zinni is trying to determine whether or not he is going to do what he said he would do.

President Fox. The second question, what is the question to me?

Q. Your reaction to President Bush's decision to with hold $34 million from the United Nations Population Fund and their family planning work around the world.

President Fox. None. No comment. His decision is totally independent. No comment from my side.

President Fidel Castro of Cuba

Q. My question concerns both Mexico and the United States, in a way. President Bush, the Cuban Government claims that President Fidel Castro's early departure from the summit is a result of pressures from your Government. And Mr. President, I want to know if you really would have felt uncomfortable to encounter Fidel Castro here in Monterrey?

And for President Fox, Mr. President, what is the relationship between Mexico and Cuba now, after Ricardo Alarcon made the Government of Mexico responsible for President Castro's early departure?

President Bush. First of all, I know of no pressure placed on anybody. I mean, Fidel Castro can do what he wants to do. And what I'm uncomfortable about is the way he treats his people. There's only one country that's not a democracy in our hemisphere, and that's Cuba. And it makes me uncomfortable to realize that there is still one country that doesn't have free press, freedom to speak, freedom to realize your dreams. And I feel strongly about that, and I'm going to continue to speak out on the fact that this island is a place of repression, a place where the people don't have hope.

Q. Did you pressure anybody?

President Bush. I don't know what you're talking about, about pressuring anybody. I just said that.

President Fox. There has been no modification in our relationships. We said goodbye to Mr. Fidel Castro. His visit ended. And there is no modification or alteration.

U.S. Assistance to Peru

Q. Mr. President, President Bush, are you prepared to offer Peru new military assistance to help crack down on terrorism in the wake of the bombing in Lima? And is it time to resume drug surveillance——

President Bush. On the drug surveillance issue, we have yet—not made up our mind yet. We're analyzing not only what took place in the past but the most effective way to help Peru fight narcotics.

The first part of the question? I'm sorry, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Q. Helping Peru with terrorism with new military assistance.

President Bush. We're going to analyze all options available to help Peru. But the first place we need to help Peru is to get the Andean Trade Preference Act out of the U.S. Congress. One of the messages I'm taking to not only Peru but the other Andean nations is, ATPA is important. It's important to my administration, it's important to their future, and I'd like to see it renewed as quickly as possible.

President Fidel Castro of Cuba

Q. Thank you. Good afternoon. The Cuban Government says that the Mexican Government was pressured. The Mexican

Government said they had no pressure. Who is lying, Mr. President Fox? Who is lying, Mr. President Bush, the Cubans or the Mexicans? Thank you.

President Bush. I thought I just answered that question. [*Laughter*] Maybe I missed it—or you did. [*Laughter*]

President Fox. There is no such thing. Mr. Fidel Castro visited Mexico, visited the conference, the U.N. conference. He was here; he participated in the conference; and he returned to Cuba—nothing more.

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq

Q. President Bush, good evening. During his recent trip to the Middle East, the Vice President made it very clear that at each stop, he told our Arab allies that no military action against Iraq was imminent. Isn't it also true that this administration is telling our allies, Arab allies and others around the world, that this government is, however, committed—as committed to removing Saddam Hussein from power as the administration was for removing the Taliban?

President Bush. Let me put it to you this way, David [David Gregory, NBC News]: What we're telling our friends is that Saddam Hussein is a man who is willing to gas his own people, willing to use weapons of mass destruction against Iraq's citizens. Evidently, there's a new article in New York magazine or New Yorker magazine—some east coast magazine—and it details about his barbaric behavior toward his own people. And not only did he do it to his own people; he did it to people in his neighborhood. And this is a man who refuses to allow us to determine whether or not he still has weapons of mass destruction, which leads me to believe he does. He is a dangerous man who possesses the world's most dangerous weapons. And it is incumbent upon freedom-loving nations to hold him accountable, which is precisely what the United States of America will do.

I haven't had a chance to explain this to our Mexican friends, but a nightmare scenario, of course, would be if a terrorist organization such as Al Qaida were to link up with a barbaric regime such as Iraq and thereby, in essence, possess weapons of mass destruction. We cannot allow that to happen.

And so, David, what I've told others, including President Fox, is we have no imminent plans to use military operations. We'll be deliberate; we'll consult with our friends and allies. But we'll deal with Saddam Hussein. And he knows that. And this is exactly what I've been saying ever since I've been the President.

Q. Does that mean you will remove him——

President Bush. As I said, yes, we'd like to see a regime change in Iraq. That's been the longstanding policy of the U.S. Government. Nothing is new there. That's precisely what has been said since I became President of the United States. But close consultations with our friends from all around the world—and they—I think people have got a pretty good sense of how I view him. And I hope that, of course, he allows inspectors to go into his country, like he promised he would do, not for the sake of letting inspectors in but to showing the world that he has no weapons of mass destruction.

Immigration

Q. Good evening, Mr. President. If truly your government has contemplated some date about the migratory agreement with Mexico? And also, here at the forum there was something from former President Carter for amnesty for 3 million Mexican workers in the U.S. Your government would consider legalizing them, or are you saying no?

President Bush. I think the best way to describe what is possible in the United States is that beyond 245(i), which is the family reunification, is, first of all, understanding the unique nature of the Mexican in our country, that the Mexican national is different by virtue of the fact of the proximity to the United States and that we do have a special relationship between our countries, not only defined by NAFTA but defined by cultural ties and historic ties. And so I think that ought to be a part of any discussions.

But here's my attitude. I think what our country ought to do is help match any willing employer with any willing employee, so that if somebody is looking for somebody who wants to work and somebody wants to work, we can facilitate that arrangement.

And we've got a lot of discussions and work to do. But what I've assured President Fox and his administration is that we will continue working on this issue. We've got technical groups working on it, and he and I will continue working on it.

President Fox. Thank you very much. Good evening.

NOTE: The news conference began at 6:57 p.m. at the Palacio de Gobierno. President Fox spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and President Fidel Castro of Cuba. A reporter referred to Cuban National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

"The Monterrey Commitments": Joint Statement by the Presidents of the United States and Mexico

March 22, 2002

Our meeting today was a valuable opportunity to celebrate the strength and vitality of the U.S.-Mexican bilateral partnership over the past year, and discuss our priorities for the year ahead.

Our two nations have developed a historic level of trust and mutual respect, strengthened by common values and purposes, that has facilitated an unprecedented degree of bilateral cooperation over the past year. It is a high national priority of both nations to continue building on that cooperation over the coming years and harnessing it for the achievement of the important goals of economic and social development, security, and rule of law that are essential to both countries' wellbeing.

In this context, we agreed that the international campaign to eradicate terrorism requires us to address pressing new priorities and shared goals central to defending our societies and ways of life. At the same time, we recognized that the events of September 11 underscore more than ever the importance of the U.S.-Mexican relationship, as partners and neighbors, in the attainment of those goals and in realizing the vision we have set forth for our countries' future. Hence, we reviewed what we are doing together to create a "smart border" for the 21st century. We will build a border that protects our societies against those who would do us harm, and that truly serves the human and economic needs of our dynamic relationship. We share a vision of a modern border that speeds the legitimate flow of people and commerce, and filters out all that threatens our safety and prosperity.

The "smart border" declaration and action plan we have just adopted sets out a series of specific steps we will take to move concretely toward that vision. The twenty-point action plan comprises measures that will enhance the secure flow of goods and people, and build a modern and efficient infrastructure that keeps pace with commerce. We intend to monitor this process closely to ensure the fastest possible implementation of these and other steps on which we may agree. Both governments will work expeditiously to prioritize infrastructure investment needs and cooperate to identify funding sources.

Slightly more than one year ago, in Guanajuato, we talked about migration as one of the major ties that join our societies. We launched then the frankest and most productive dialogue our countries have ever had on this important and challenging subject. Those talks have continued over the past year, and have yielded a clearer assessment of the scope and nature of this issue. This bond between our nations can render countless benefits to our respective economies and families. Over the past year, important progress has been made to enhance migrant safety and particularly in saving lives by discouraging and reducing illegal crossings in dangerous terrain.

On September 7, 2001, during President Fox's historic State Visit to Washington, we issued a joint statement instructing our cabinet-level working group to provide us with specific proposals to forge a new and realistic framework that will ensure a safe, legal, orderly, and dignified migration flow between our countries. We have today agreed that our Cabinet level migration group should continue the work we charged it with in Guanajuato and Washington.

When we first met as Presidents, we described our shared vision to help unfetter the economic potential of every citizen, so each may contribute fully to narrowing the economic gaps between and within our societies. To help implement that vision, we launched the "Partnership for Prosperity." The Partnership seeks to leverage private resources to create jobs and promote prosperity in less developed areas of Mexico. Today, we welcomed the Partnership's action plan of concrete and innovative initiatives on housing, agriculture, infrastructure, remittances, communications, development financing and information technologies. Some examples include:

- Lowering the cost to Mexicans and Mexican-Americans in the United States of sending money home so that their families get to keep more of their hard-earned wages;
- Increasing the accessibility of capital to Mexican entrepreneurs so that they can grow their businesses and create more and better jobs.
- Increasing investment in housing, and the creation of a secondary mortgage market, so more Mexicans can become homeowners.

Our aim is to foster economic development so that no Mexican feels compelled to leave his or her home for a lack of a job or opportunity. While achieving the Partnership's goals will require time and persistent effort, the initial steps detailed in this report will build a strong foundation for long-term success. We will closely follow implementation of these promising steps. We are confident that the high level officials we have tasked with turning our vision into reality will produce results that will make us both proud and benefit both our countries.

We commend the ongoing success of the Training, Internship, Education and Scholarship program (TIES), designed to support the Partnership for Prosperity by enhancing conditions for sustained development in Mexico. Over the next five years this $50 million initiative is expected to implement 35 partnerships between Mexican and U.S. higher education institutions and to provide hundreds of scholarships for undergraduate exchanges and graduate studies in the United States.

When we met in Washington in September we talked about the importance of addressing urgent environmental priorities on the border. After a series of discussions with border states, the local communities, and other stakeholders, our binational working group has finalized a series of specific recommendations to strengthen the performance of the North American Development Bank (NADBank), and its sister institution the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC).

As these institutions continue to work on urgent environmental infrastructure priorities in the border areas, both governments will work with their legislatures to make the recommendations a reality. The recommendations include measures to make financing more affordable, expand the geographic scope on the Mexican side of the border in which projects can be financed, replacing the two institutions' separate boards of directors with a single board to oversee their work, and facilitate efforts to work with and co-finance environmental projects with the private sector.

Cooperation against organized crime remains a cornerstone of the bilateral agenda. We acknowledged major successes achieved by Mexico in the fight against narco-trafficking. We agreed on the importance of redoubling judicial cooperation aimed at bolstering the rule of law in both countries and strengthening our ability to ensure the safety of our citizens.

We also reviewed regional political issues of interest to both countries, including sharing assessments of the situations in Argentina, Colombia, Cuba and Venezuela.

We have consulted frequently, as friends and neighbors, over the past six months as we have sought to advance a vision of growing partnership aimed at increasing prosperity, greater economic convergence between our two economies, raising living standards, and ensuring the security of both societies. Our commitment to this fundamental agenda, and to the importance of our partnership, is stronger than ever. We will continue our close and productive dialogue in the months and years ahead as we take

full advantage of the great opportunities before our two nations.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement. The Office of the Press Secretary also released this joint statement in Spanish. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by President Fox in Monterrey

March 22, 2002

Señor Presidente, Marta, *Gobernador*, distinguished guests, Laura and I thank you for this dinner. And thank you for inviting us to Monterrey, a city that is home to so much of Mexico's industry and enterprise and a city that embodies Mexico's prosperous future.

Monterrey has hosted a number of U.S. Presidents over the years, *mi papá*, President Clinton, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt. When Presidents Camacho *y* Roosevelt met here in April of 1943, they affirmed our two nations' World War II alliance and agreed to closer economic cooperation. Today we meet with a similar purpose. We affirm our shared struggle against terror, and we work to promote the great alternatives to terror: prosperity and freedom and hope.

President Fox, I deeply appreciate your friendship and counsel, especially since September the 11th. And the people of the United States are grateful for your visit to Ground Zero in New York to honor the victims. And the world appreciates Mexico's support for the international coalition against terrorism. The terrorists have declared war on civilization itself, and the civilized world will defeat them.

It wasn't all that long ago that Laura and I used to live right next door to Mexico. During that time, I saw the steady emergence of a more confident and more hopeful nation. I saw the strong and growing ties of culture and trade and kinship between our countries. Mr. President, your election symbolized these changes and has reinforced them. You're a true patriot with a compelling vision for a stronger and more prosperous Mexico.

I tell the people of my country that a strong and prosperous Mexico is good for the United States. We're working well together, and I am confident our important work is just the beginning. We will build on the success of the North American Free Trade Agreement, to expand the benefits of trade and markets to all of our people. We can build on our political cooperation to make real progress on drug trafficking, environmental protection. And we will build a border that is more open and more secure, and we will confront the issue of migration in a spirit of mutual respect.

The Mexican proverb tells us, *Tenemos mal los momentos, es cuando se conocen al los amigos.*

Señor Presidente, the United States knows who our friends are, and your enduring friendship allows me—causes me to say, *muchas gracias*. Today, we have a relationship of unprecedented closeness and cooperation. By continuing to work together, we can improve the lives of the people in our two nations, in our hemisphere, and in our world.

Mr. President, I offer a toast to you, your gracious wife, and the great friendship between our two countries.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8 p.m. at the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey. In his remarks, he referred to President Fox's wife, Marta Sahagun de Fox; and Gov. Fernando Canales of Nuevo Leon, Mexico. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

March 23, 2002

Good morning. This week I'm traveling in Latin America, visiting three strong American allies—Mexico, Peru, and El Salvador—to reaffirm the central importance I place on American relations with the rest of our hemisphere.

Our country's future is closely tied to the success and security of our closest neighbors. Problems like drug trade and poverty

produce terrible consequences for all our countries, and prosperity in our hemisphere will produce profound benefits for all our countries. The United States is strongly committed to helping build an entire hemisphere that lives in liberty and trades in freedom.

The NAFTA trade agreement is a model for the world. NAFTA has created jobs and lifted lives in Mexico and Canada and the United States. During NAFTA's first 7 years, 15 million jobs were created in the United States. Our trade with Mexico now averages more than $650 million a day. And that's why our border is one of the busiest in the world, and keeping trade and traffic moving freely is essential to America and American jobs.

Yet, we must also prevent our terrorist enemies from using the openness of our society against us. Even our welcoming country must be able to shut its doors to terrorists and drugs and weapons at our own borders. So America, working closely with Canada and Mexico, has set a goal: We are working for a common border that is open to commerce and legitimate travel and closed to drug trafficking and terror. We want to speed the movement of legal goods and people across the border and stop the illegal movement of goods and people. And we will use the most up-to-date technology to achieve this goal.

This week I saw some of that technology at work on a visit to a border near El Paso, Texas. X-ray machines are being used to thoroughly screen cargo more efficiently than ever before.

During my visit to Mexico, President Fox and I announced an agreement to move toward a smart border between our countries. Through close cooperation and advanced technology, we'll make our shared border more open and more secure. We'll work with the Mexican Government to identify individuals who pose threats to North America before they arrive here. We will share technology to inspect traffic on cross-border rail lines and at major ports of entry. We will make sure that people with legitimate business who travel regularly across the border can cross easily, so border authorities can focus on greater risks. And we will share information more quickly and efficiently with our Mexican friends.

America's border with Mexico is a region of tremendous economic vitality, and that must not change. Both our nations benefit from close ties of family and culture and commerce. Our new approach to strengthened border security will preserve that openness and increase the safety of our country. America will defend ourselves against new threats at the same time that we build closer relationships with our neighbors.

Thank you all for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 4:04 p.m. on March 20 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 23. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 22 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

The President's News Conference With President Alejandro Toledo of Peru in Lima, Peru

March 23, 2002

President Toledo. This is an historic visit made by a friend representing a country with which we have had a historical relationship. It is not a merely diplomatic visit; it is an official working visit. And we have touched on substantive issues which range from the open struggle against poverty, a war without quarter against terrorism and drug trafficking. I repeat, a war with no ambiguities whatsoever, against terrorism and drug trafficking. We've touched on issues of trade, education, even the Peace Corps.

But my friend George Bush, this Peru is a country that welcomes you with open arms. We are renewing our friendship, and this is the beginning of a new era in the relationship between Peru and the United States. And I'm extremely happy that the two of us are able to begin this relationship.

I know you seem younger than I am, but we are both 55 years old, and we have a long way ahead of us to work together. I know that we both have the energy and the stubbornness, particularly with regard to the issue of terrorism and drug trafficking, because your country, just like mine, loves peace. It appreciates life. And we are united on this.

And as of today, we have a strategic alliance of hope for the future.

My friend, welcome to my country.

President Bush. *Gracias, Señor Presidente.* It is an honor for me to be the first sitting President of the United States to visit Peru. I want to thank you for the invitation. It's a greater honor for Laura and me to come here as guests of a leader who symbolizes Peru's revitalization.

President Toledo and I have now met three times. At each meeting, I've been impressed by his commitment to democracy and his determination to improve the lives of the people of Peru. Peru is on the path toward greater freedom and greater prosperity, and America will be the partner in this progress, Mr. President.

Earlier today our two Governments signed an agreement that will reintroduce the Peace Corps to Peru, after an absence of nearly 30 years. The first volunteers will arrive in August, a symbol of the stronger ties between our people and the stronger relationship between our Nations.

This relationship is based on common values and common interests. Our nations understand that political and economic progress depends on security and that security is impossible in a world with terrorists. Peruvians have been reminded again this week of the terrible human toll of terror. On behalf of the people of the United States, I express our deep sympathy for the victims of the recent bombing and our deep sympathy for their loved ones.

President Toledo and I share a common perspective on terrorism: We must stop it. Since September the 11th, Peru has taken the lead in rallying our hemisphere to take strong action against this common threat. And I want to thank the President for his leadership and his strong support.

Our nations understand that freedom is only as strong as the institutions protecting it. The United States is actively supporting the President's efforts to strengthen Peru's democratic foundations. And we will continue to support the work of Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which is helping correct the abuses of the past and set the course for a better future.

President Toledo and I both understand the importance of providing economic opportunity to all our citizens as a hopeful alternative to the drug trade. We discussed ways to make the assistance that the United States provides under the Andean Regional Initiative more effective. And I emphasized to the President my commitment to renew and extend the Andean Trade Preferences Act. The United States House of Representatives has moved this legislation. It is stuck in the Senate, and I urge the Senate to act.

President Toledo and I have agreed to renew discussions on a bilateral investment treaty and to complete a debt-for-nature agreement to help Peru reduce debt payments while it protects its biodiversity. I also informed the President that Secretary of Commerce Don Evans will lead a trade mission to Peru and the Andean region later this year. By building these ties of commerce, both our nations create more jobs, more investment, and more benefits for workers and consumers.

President Toledo and I believe that education is the key to participation in the global economy. The President's own path in life is a lesson in how education opens up doors to opportunity. He is passionate on the subject. I love his passion, and I appreciate his commitment. And I'm pleased to announce that our country will help establish an Andean Center of Excellence for Teacher Training, with a base here in Peru. The center will support President Toledo's goal of quality schools with quality teachers, that give more Peruvians the literacy and learning they need to succeed.

I've also directed the U.S. Commerce Department and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency to establish an Andean E-Business Fellowship Program, to give more high-tech professionals from this region the chance to learn more about information technology.

President Toledo and I have a strong relationship. I'm inspired by his life; I'm inspired by his story; I'm inspired by his leadership. I'm impressed by Peru's progress, and I'm very confident of Peru's future.

Thank you, sir.

Q. Mr. President——

President Bush. Which one? [*Laughter*]

Counterterrorism Efforts

Q. You, sir. Given increasing evidence that the FARC is now operating in Peru, will you be willing to provide President Toledo extra assistance in fighting the war against terrorism here, should he ask for it? And are you concerned that what was once a regional problem in Colombia or something restricted to Colombia is now spreading across Colombia's borders and threatening its neighbors?

President Bush. We discussed the neighborhood at length today. President Toledo told me that he is—now that he's done a very good job, or the country's done a good job, of making sure that relations with neighbors north and south are peaceful, that he is moving troops and making decisions to prevent terrorists from coming into his country from Colombia. And we will help him in this effort. That's part of the reason why we're here—is to support our mutual desire to fight terror and to help this good democracy thrive.

Later on today we'll be talking with Presidents from—and one Vice President—from the Andean nations. And we'll be discussing our common desire to prevent terrorist groups like the FARC from holding people and nations hostage. And I'm absolutely convinced, having talked to the President three times, that he will do everything in his power to rout out terror, not let it take hold, and preserve the institutions that make Peru a beacon for democracy.

Q. [*Inaudible*]

President Toledo. No, the evidence that we have is—I repeat, the evidence that we have indicates that there is no transfer of the FARC into Peru. However, we are adopting every measure possible. The Minister of Defense was at the border very recently. We took our bases that were along the border with Ecuador—where, after signing the peace agreement, there is no need for their presence—we removed them, as a precautionary measure, over to the border with Colombia.

As President Bush just indicated, this is a joint task. What happens to Colombia affects us, and vice versa. But here, too, we're partners. And I think that the issues that have to do with the Andean community are issues on which President Bush is extremely interested, and I'm sure that we will be working together on these. We are going to work together on this; I'm sure of that.

Peru-U.S. Relations

Q. President Bush, you granted an audience recently to my daily, *El Comercio,* at the White House, and you said in that interview that Peru, for the United States, is not only a friend but an ally. I'd like to ask you, beyond trade preferences and the commitment to struggle against drug trafficking, what will be the major elements in your administration that would highlight this different relationship you want to have with Peru? For example, would you open up an antechamber, so to speak, for Peru to come into a free trade agreement negotiation with the United States?

And let me ask President Toledo, with regard to the issue of shared responsibility in the fight against drug trafficking, would you take on the commitment, before President Bush, to establish a control office that would monitor whatever the United States does not comply with?

President Bush. I listed quite a few things in my opening remarks about our relationship. I believe strongly that if we promote trade and when we promote trade, it will help workers on both sides of this issue—it will help Peruvian workers, help U.S. workers.

The Andean Trade Preference Act is a cornerstone of good policy, as far as I'm concerned, and it's a cornerstone of good relations. We talked about a treaty on investment; that could be the beginning of a trade treaty. The President brought it up. He asked whether or not we would consider it. I said we'll take it back and discuss the issue when I get back to Washington, D.C.

There's nothing more important than fostering good economic relations. I mean, the best way for people to get lifted out of poverty is a job. And the best way to encourage jobs is through trade. I mean, what we're beginning to realize in the world is, development aid is important, but development aid pales in comparison to the amount of capital that's generated through trade in the marketplace, in the private sector. And countries that open markets and countries that trade

freely are countries where the people are more likely to be able to succeed.

And I would not discount the importance of our relationship when it comes to fighting terror. The world has called us to action. This is a new era. We're fighting a new kind of war, and we're strong allies in that war. And when we win, our peoples will be better off. You can't alleviate poverty if there's terror in your neighborhood. It's impossible to achieve what we want if terrorists run free.

And so I think one of the best things we can do to lay the foundation for a better tomorrow is to be tough and firm and not yield to threat. And that's exactly the way the President feels, and I can assure you that's the way I feel.

President Toledo. I think that in the war against drug trafficking and terrorism, we are partners, not simply through conviction, my good friend, but because we, ourselves, have experienced it. We have experienced the effects of terrorism here for 20 years; the United States, on September 11th. And I have here my friend Colin Powell, with whom we have a very solid human relationship because, in this very palace, we were witnesses to the news of September 11th while we were having breakfast.

On this issue, we are partners; I am stubborn. I am stubborn, and I believe it is not incompatible to respect the law and to be strong-handed with regard to the issue of terrorism and drug trafficking. I do know there's been a decision from the U.S. Government to increase support for the struggle against drug trafficking, and I appreciate that enormously. We still have a long road ahead to walk together in this struggle, but we will do it.

And Mr. Journalist, I want to underscore something that was referred to by President Bush. Trade preferences is an issue on which President Bush has demonstrated—and I am a witness—his will for congressional approval in the United States. The separation of powers makes it impossible for Presidents to control congresses—just like I don't control mine. But that's the way democracy works.

Nonetheless, we have gone beyond trade preferences—Andean trade preferences. I have asked of President Bush that he consider an initiative for trade, for bilateral trade and investment within the framework of the Andean community. And we are going to be talking to our colleagues in just a few minutes.

I think it's important because trade is a synonym for work, and work is a way to deal with poverty. Through work, education, and health, we can eradicate poverty. We are partners on the issue of trade, on the issue of drug trafficking and terrorism, in the defense of democracy and of human rights, my friend—human rights.

Peru-U.S. Drug Control Cooperation

Q. Mr. President, the Peruvians have expressed an urgent desire for the resumption of U.S. drug interdiction flights in Peruvian airspace. You told us yesterday in Monterrey that the issue was under rigorous review. My question to you, sir, is it your ultimate goal to see a resumption of those flights? And what preconditions would you put on those flights before authorizing resumption?

And for President Toledo, if I could, sir, if you are to expect a maximum effort at a partnership with the United States to eradicate drug trafficking, why won't you make the same commitment to coca eradication as your neighbors Bolivia have? You've talked a lot about the problem being drug trafficking, but you have not made the same commitment on coca production, sir.

President Bush. We are reviewing all avenues toward an effective policy of interdiction. As you know, we had a terrible situation where a young mom and her daughter lost their life; that caused us to step back to take a look at our policy at home and then to work with the Peruvian Government to figure out how best to be effective at interdicting drugs.

And so the discussions are ongoing. And we want to make sure that when we work with countries like Peru, that we achieve the common objective, which is to make it hard for those narcotraffickers to move through their airspace, across their land, or in oceans.

I want to say something about—there's a lot of talk about interdiction, and there should be. And there's a lot of talk about battling the narcotraffickers here in the Andean area, and we will. But our country has

an obligation as well, not only to provide support and help. The President mentioned that we have expanded the direct aid to Peru on this issue, which we have. We've tripled it, up to about $200 million—about 195 million, I think it is. But the best thing that America needs to do is reduce demand for drugs. We've got to do a better job of convincing our own country to quit using them. As demand for drugs goes down, it will take the pressure off of our friends in Peru.

So we've got a double obligation, it seems like to me: on the one hand, to provide help and aid that's effective and will work. And that's exactly what we spent a long time talking about, in all three of our meetings. But I want to remind our Peruvian friends that we've got to do a better job at home of convincing Americans to stop using drugs. And part of our drug initiative will be to focus on the demand side. Less demand for drugs will mean that the supply for drugs will be less urgent. And that will in turn help the region.

President Toledo. Look, my friend, let me deal with your question head on. In 1990, the number of hectares with coca cultivation was approximately 140,000 total. Today, we are down to 34,000 hectares, where we have coca cultivation. Enormous progress has been made.

I know it's not enough. We have a long path ahead of us yet. And we have to do this together. I know that the drug traffickers have become more sophisticated over time; they have more high-tech capabilities. And now we, too, have to push forward in that direction.

I want to be very open, and I apologize to my friend President Bush now. We are not fighting against drug trafficking in order to satisfy the United States or Europe. Drug trafficking, in partnership with terrorism, is an issue of national security. It's an issue of national security. On Wednesday they killed 9 people, 9 of our brothers and sisters, and there are 30 people wounded. I have publicly stated, and I want to repeat this: We are not going to let this stand.

So let me respond to you. We have met a substantial reduction. We still have 34,000 hectares to go. But we are going to do this together.

Final point. I think President Bush is extremely sincere—he's extremely sincere and honest when he recognizes that as long as there is a demand out there, there will be a supply. As long as there are consumers, there will be producers. And so, together, we need to work on reducing the number of consumers, cure them better, make them better. And we need to reduce the amount of hectares under cultivation.

And, footnote here, it's also true that the statistics indicate that although levels are still low, there is an increase in the consumption of cocaine among youth in Peru. And that is also part of our concern, with regard to national security.

U.S. Assistance to Peru

Q. President Bush, you are in a region now that's been devastated by terrorism and subversion and drug trafficking for over three decades. You're offering us the Peace Corps. I would ask you if you're willing, as President of the most powerful nation on Earth, to lead a Marshall plan for South America?

President Bush. I appreciate that. I think I said more than just the Peace Corps, if I'm not mistaken, in my opening comments. Obviously, our nation is committed to this part of the world. I've come to Peru, as the first sitting President, to express our solidarity with Peru and the people, as well as express my appreciation for a reformer who got elected who's willing to defend the institutions that make democracy go.

I repeat, if you'd like me to—go through the litany of things I just said: the Andean Trade Preference Act; the bilateral action on investment; money for education; money to fight drugs. We've tripled the amount of money—I believe it's from $50 million up to $195 million available. And so I think our commitment is—I think our commitment speaks for itself. And I appreciate so very much the chance to come and explain it to the Peruvian people, that ours is more than just words; ours is deeds and action.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Good afternoon, President Bush. *Buenas tardes, Señor Presidente.* President Bush, many lawmakers in Congress are growing increasingly concerned about your policy in the

Middle East, wondering if the very talk of potential high-level negotiations involving Vice President Cheney, specifically, with the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, might not in fact send a signal that terrorism against Israeli civilians can achieve some limited political aims. I'd like to ask you, sir, why you're contemplating that, and why those who wonder if that is not the case are incorrect?

President Bush. Well, first of all, I think there's been no question that the United States has stood strong with Israel. And we've made it very clear to Mr. Arafat that he is not—he's not doing all he can do to fight off terror. I can't be any more clear than that. Vice President Cheney said, depending upon the Zinni mission and General Zinni's recommendation, he might go back, if and when Arafat performs.

Surely those in the Congress you talk about appreciate the fact that the administration is engaged and sent General Zinni into the region. We laid out the Tenet plan, which is the way to bring some security to the region, which would then lead to the Mitchell plan. And we're doing everything in our power to get the parties into Tenet. And we'll continue working hard to get them to Tenet.

Q. Even if the violence continues——

President Bush. If and when—if and when Mr. Arafat—if and when——

Q. [*Inaudible*]

President Bush. Excuse me. If and when Chairman Arafat performs, that's what we have said. General Zinni went to the Middle East; he's leading discussions. But people shouldn't mistake our desire to get into Tenet as anything more than a desire to get to peace. And we'll continue working to do so.

And Prime Minister Sharon knows where the United States stands. We're strong allies with Israel. We have been ever since I've been the President, and we'll continue to be strong allies with Israel.

U.S. Assistance to Peru

Q. Good afternoon to both Presidents. President Bush, just a few days ago I was able to ask you in Washington about leadership in the fight against poverty. And on this—aside from the issue of being 55 and the fact that you're wearing the same color ties—you are in agreement with President Alejandro Toledo, who also insists on fighting against poverty. But the fight against poverty presupposes—and this has been stated by Dr. Toledo—thinking of reducing arms in Latin America, because for every tank or F–16, we could buy a lot more schools. Mr. President, I'd like to know your views on this and the views of President Toledo with regard to this issue, the possibility of arms control in the South American part of the hemisphere. And the same question for President Toledo.

President Bush. We may be the same age, but *el tiene pelo negro.* [*Laughter*] *Yo tengo pelo gris.* [*Laughter*]

I appreciate President Toledo's work to have a security arrangement in place in the neighborhood, amongst the countries bordering Peru, that will then allow him to reinvest in education. We talked about that. And I think that is a strong commitment and a wise commitment.

As far as my country's commitment goes, I gave a speech in Monterrey, Mexico, 2 days ago, where I committed our country to a 50 percent increase in development aid. But I said, it's time for the world to stop looking at inputs and to focus on outputs and that the United States, developed nations, must do more financially. And we're leading the way.

But we expect other nations to develop the habits that will lead to a better opportunity for their people: rule of law, a focus on education, and good health care. President Toledo understands that; he's been a leader in that effort. And I think what I said in Monterrey was very important, that unless we all focus on how programs benefit people directly, no matter what the efforts or strategy is, it's likely to lead to failure. But programs and policies that understand the worth of each human being, that each individual matters, are those programs which will be successful. And so our country will try to foster that. And this President has made that commitment, for which I am grateful.

President Toledo. Aside from the fact that President Bush has very good taste with regard to color in ties, he's also taller than I am. [*Laughter*]

On this issue of military expenditure, we discussed it with him. And here I

want to strike a difference between military expenses for armed conflicts between countries and military expenditures for defense against terrorism and drug trafficking, because these are two separate issues.

I think that there is a major challenge in the world. In order to survive in this globalized and savagely competitive world we live in, we need to invest more in the minds of our people. Basically, what this means is investing more in nutrition, health, education, and justice for the poor. We won't be able to deal with the challenges of this globalized world unless we invest in the knowledge of our societies.

The question immediately arises, and obviously so, in an economy that is growing, that is overcoming a recession, where do you get the money to invest in nutrition, health, and education? Well, we've made an appeal to countries at the bilateral level. And there the United States has played a very generous role, at the donors table in Madrid. And I want to publicly express my appreciation, Mr. President. There has been debt conversion, external bilateral debt swap, for social investment. And there we have been able to get a commitment of about $1 billion. This is one way to establish a financial space to invest in health, nutrition, and education.

The other thing is that I believe it makes no sense in this world that as long as we have a country with 54 percent of Peruvians who live below the poverty line or 16 percent who live below the dire poverty line—when I was born, the very first minute of my life when I opened my eyes, I saw the face of dire poverty. I know what this means. That's why I am convinced that we can make an effort to reduce military spending, to reorient those resources towards investment in justice and education and health, because the defense of a country no longer depends on how many tanks or ships or aircraft we have. It's all about how strong our economy is, how educated our people are. And please excuse me for being so passionate on this subject, but there is absolutely no doubt on this. And the empirical evidence is very harsh with regard to the return on investment on education and health and nutrition for our people.

And here, once again, we have another point of coincidence that leads us down the same path together. I conveyed something that's very close to my heart, with regard to the Huascaran education program, and I asked our friend to support us on this. And I will be going to New York, and I'm going to talk to Mr. Bill Gates to try to promote the Huascaran project even more. But if we reduce military spending, we're going to have some financial leeway to reorient this money towards the poor, who want to overcome poverty, who want freedom. And we'll be able to deal with the challenges of the future even better.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much.

NOTE: The news conference began at 6 p.m. at the Presidential Palace. President Toledo spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to Veronica Bowers and her daughter, Charity, who were killed in the accidental shootdown of a U.S. missionary plane in Peru on April 20, 2001; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. President Bush also referred to FARC, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia; the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. President Toledo referred to Minister of Defense Aurelio Loret de Mola of Peru; and William H. "Bill" Gates, chairman and chief software architect, Microsoft Corp.

Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by President Toledo in Lima

March 23, 2002

Mr. President, we're so honored to be here. We want to thank you for your invitation. We want to thank you for the hospitality that you and the First Lady have shown us. And we want to thank you all for coming.

I want to thank my friends the President of Colombia *y de* Bolivia *y tambien el vice presidente de* Ecuador. Thank you all for being here as well.

I have come to Peru to congratulate the President and the people of Peru for embracing the institutions of democracy. It is such an important example for the world to see. I have come to Peru to thank the people of Peru and the President of Peru for the condolences that you sent to *mi pais* on September the 11th. We appreciate your prayers; we appreciate your condolences; and we appreciate your firm stand in the fight against terror.

And I bring with me the condolences of the American people for those lives and the families whose lives were affected as a result of the cowardly bombing that took place in Lima last week.

I come in the spirit of respect and cooperation, respect for the people of Peru and the desire to cooperate to advance trade and commerce and prosperity and education and health. I see a great future in our relationship, and I see a great future for the great country of Peru.

So it's my honor to be here tonight to toast my friend *el Presidente*, the First Lady, and the people of this *gran pais*.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:41 p.m. in the Presidential Palace. In his remarks, he referred to President Toledo's wife, Eliane Karp Toledo; President Andres Pastrana of Colombia; President Jorge Fernando Quiroga Ramirez of Bolivia; and Vice President Pedro Pinto Rubianes of Ecuador. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's News Conference With President Francisco Flores Perez of El Salvador in San Salvador, El Salvador

March 24, 2002

President Flores Perez. Good afternoon. It is an honor for us to be here with you and to be able to answer the questions that you want to ask President Bush and myself. I would like to start by saying that for El Salvador, it is an immense honor to have President Bush in our land.

El Salvador has been a country that has faced enormous difficulties—the war, combat against poverty, earthquakes. And El Salvador has done this through a system of freedoms in the search of a democracy, the search of economic freedom as well—giving people the opportunity—the opportunity to get education, to trade of their products, and to integrate into the new world.

So a country like ours that believes in freedom feels especially honored to have a world leader that has built a leadership based on values and principles, values that have to do with the rights of human beings. And this allows us, countries that are so different like the United States and El Salvador, to find each other in a common point.

So welcome to our country, President Bush. It is an immense honor to have you here in our country.

President Bush. *Gracias, Señor Presidente, mi amigo*. Thank you, President Flores, for providing such warm hospitality in this beautiful country. Laura and I were struck, when we flew in, about your beautiful mountains and your beautiful sea. I'm honored to be here for the first time in my life.

We've just completed our fifth meeting—this is the fifth time that the President and I have met. And in each of them, I have come away from our meetings most optimistic about the future of El Salvador. I truly believe this country has got a unique President and a great President. El Salvador—and the reason why I believe that is because of the success of the country.

El Salvador is one of the really great stories of economic and political transformation of our time. Just over a decade ago, this country was in civil war. For millions of Salvadorans, violence was a daily reality, and prosperity was just a distant dream. Today, El Salvador is at peace. The country has renewed its commitment to democracy and economic reform and trade. It is one of the freest and strongest and most stable countries in our hemisphere.

The United States considers El Salvador a close friend and strong ally. As friends, we come to each other's aids in times of crisis. Since September the 11th, El Salvador has been unwavering in its support for the international coalition against terrorism. I want to thank the President and the people of El Salvador for their prayers for the American people during this crisis. I want to thank you

as well for ordering a freeze on suspected terrorist assets and for strengthening your border security.

And when the devastating earthquakes hit El Salvador last year, the United States immediately dispatched rescueworkers and relief assistance. We proudly contributed millions of dollars to El Salvador's reconstruction effort. And we will spend even more in the year 2002.

Our countries are united by ties of commerce and culture and kinship. The large number of Salvadorans who live in the United States make valuable contributions to our economy and send approximately $2 billion back home to family members in El Salvador each year, *cada año*. Trade between our countries now approaches $4 billion annually. That is up 140 percent. And trade means jobs. Trade means people who want to work are more likely to find jobs in both countries.

El Salvador is one of the really bright lights in Latin America. Many countries in this region have changed old ways and have found new wealth and new freedom. In this coming decade, El Salvador and the United States and nations throughout this hemisphere are committed to maintaining and extending this progress.

Greater trade can help us accomplish this goal. In January, I announced we would pursue a free trade agreement with Central American nations. And the President and I, after this press conference, will be having lunch with other leaders in Central America to discuss this very proposition. And we're also going to continue to pursue the Free Trade of the Americas, which aims to encompass the entire hemisphere in a free trade agreement. Completing these agreements will promote prosperity throughout the hemisphere and reinforce the region's progress toward political and economic and social reform.

I just met with two El Salvadorans, who are seated right here, who personify the cause of reform. One's an architect, and one's an economist. They are El Salvador's first two participants in the Americas Fellows Program. Soon, they will be coming to Washington to spend time working in the United States Government offices, where I believe they will acquire new skills and training. And they can bring them back home and share them with others. And thank you all so very much about participating in the program.

I'm also optimistic about this country's future. There's no doubt in my mind that because of this man's leadership, there are bright days ahead for El Salvador. And it's an honor to be invited here, and it's an honor to call him friend. And I want to confirm the fact that this nation remains a strong ally with the great people of El Salvador.

Señor Presidente, gracias.

Questions.

El Salvador-U.S. Trade/Immigration

Q. Good afternoon, President Bush. Good afternoon, President Flores. As you said, I'm William Melendez from Channel 12, and I have the honor of trying to summarize the questions of all my other colleagues and the mass media of El Salvador.

Presidents, the benefits, the needed benefits of a free trade agreement can delay themselves, if we are not mistaken, to arrive to our countries, maybe 5, 6 years, because the mechanism is a bilateral mechanism, bilateral negotiation. And so the migration could continue working hard during that phase.

I would like to know, what will the treatment be of the United States of America for those fellow men of ours, so that they can regulate their migration status immediately? And besides, since poverty is the weakness, what conditions could be applied so that the countries, the poorer countries of our region, especially El Salvador, can optimize their resources and avoid that the states could become main allies of the economic oligopolies?

President Bush. A couple points. One, you're right, trade agreements sometimes take too long. And we intend to push as hard as we possibly can to get the trade agreement done. I was very serious when I announced the trade agreement, and we're going to work hard to expedite the agreement.

Secondly, the President made an interesting suggestion, which I will take very seriously. He said, "Make sure that a country is allowed to accelerate its moving into a free trade agreement." In other words, if the country meets conditions and—conditions of

rule of law and private property, conditions that I'm confident El Salvador will meet early—let us make sure that if another nation hadn't met those conditions, El Salvador can ascend to the free trade agreement early.

So one way to cut the time is to analyze the President's request. It made a lot of sense to me, and we'll take a good look at it.

There's no question there's a lot of hard-working Salvadorans in the United States. And the first thing I want to assure the people of this good country is that we want to make sure they're treated with respect. We want them to be—we recognize—I recognize that family values, something we talk a lot about in America, don't stop at the Rio Bravo.

There are people who care deeply about their families in El Salvador. They want to work. They're looking for jobs. And so the cornerstone of good economic policy, or good immigration policy, is to match a willing employer with a willing worker, to make that happen, to facilitate that arrangement. And that's going to be the cornerstone of immigration reform in the—as this issue comes up in Congress.

On the other hand, there are specific areas of immigration policy that affects the people of El Salvador, starting with TPS. My administration granted TPS last time the issue came up. And it doesn't come up until September, and we'll take a very hard look at it this summer.

And the second issue is a bill that's working through the Congress, introduced, if I'm not mistaken, by a Democrat and a Republican—one named Berman, one named Davis—that would grant the same status to Salvadorans, Hondurans, Guatemalans, as those granted to Nicaraguans and Cubans. And we will take a look at that bill as well.

In terms of oligopoly, the best way to avoid oligopolies is to encourage open markets and competition. The best way to make sure that oligopolies do not dominate an economy to the detriment of the people is to do what the President's done: Insist that the markets be open; insist that competition allowed—is encouraged. And another way to enhance open markets and competition is through trade, honest, open trade.

And so that's what I've come to talk about today. And I believe President Flores is on the absolute right track to making sure oligopolies don't dominate this economy.

Ken Walsh, U.S. News, fine American. [*Laughter*]

Campaign Finance Reform

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, when you return home, new campaign finance legislation will be awaiting your signature. I wonder if you could tell us if you're going to, given your criticisms of campaign finance legislation in the past, if you're going to sign this bill reluctantly or wholeheartedly; what the impact you think will be on our political system; and how you regard the impending legal challenge to the legislation?

President Bush. I sign it—I have a kind of a firm, semifirm signature, as it moves across the page—[*laughter*]. I wouldn't be signing it if I didn't think it improved the system. And I think it improves the system this way: One, individuals will be allowed to contribute more to the campaigns. I've always been skeptical of a system where monies were put into the system where people didn't have a choice, whether it be a labor union worker or a shareholder of a corporation. Sometimes shareholders of corporations—they might make an investment for, hopefully, a good rate of return, and yet they wake up and realize that some CEO or somebody's made the decision to support a political party or a candidate not of their choosing. And I've always thought that the individual ought to have a choice. And so, therefore, the fact that the system encourages more individual participation, I think, is positive.

Finally, they've raised individual limits. I also think this will help challengers. And as much as I now love incumbency—[*laughter*]—I think it's important to encourage challenges in the system.

I am worried about some of the provisions; I stated so in my signing statement. One such provision was that you can't—they're going to try to control who can participate in the election process in the last 60 days. And we'll see whether or not that stands up. I'm going to stay, by the way, totally apart from the legal matters.

One of the things I'm disappointed in the law is—and again, this may not stand a court challenge—but I've always thought that people who pump money into the political system—we ought to know who they are. I was a little discouraged—not discouraged—I was quite discouraged at the end of the 2000 campaign to see tons of dollars flowing into the political campaign at the last minute, on these so-called independent groups, and we didn't know who was funding them. And you know the kind of ads I'm talking about, scurrilous, untrue ads, coming into the campaign—a so-called front group, independent, and we don't have any idea who's putting the money in. And that's not good for democracy.

And so I didn't particularly appreciate the fact that this campaign bill didn't adequately address full disclosure. Now the excuse, evidently, was the courts won't allow it. Well, I would have liked to have seen them challenge the system, to see whether the courts might allow it now that we're going into the 21st century.

But nevertheless, the bill is a better bill than the current system, and I'm going to sign it. And there will be—I take it back; it will be a signature. I won't hesitate. It will probably take about, you know, about 3 seconds to get to the "W"; I may hesitate on the "period" and then rip through the "Bush". [*Laughter*] Thank you.

Free Trade Agreements

Q. Good afternoon to both Presidents. The first question is for President Bush, because we're talking about taking very seriously the free trade agreement with Central America. President, you're also saying and talking about openness. You said that we were going to eliminate subsidies, in the International Conference for Development in Monterrey. But the market of the United States continues being a protectionist with your national— there are subsidies for agriculture. I don't know how much it would be willing—that is, your government—to eliminate these subsidies that are really disrupting the market of the small producers. And also, if the Senate is going to approve, in the short term, the permit to start the negotiations, because it also—the advancement of the free trade agreement will depend on this also.

President Bush. Let me just say one thing. Look, we buy more goods from all around the world than any nation. And of course, we're the biggest nation; we're the biggest market. But nevertheless, we buy billions of dollars of goods on an annual basis—billions. I think it's like 650 billion a year the United States purchases from countries. And Africa alone—we signed a free trade agreement with Africa, and we had a billion dollars of purchases last year, which significantly increased employment in Africa.

And there are some instances where we've got—farm policy, for example, where people—where the Congress has decided to fund certain programs. But this—our market is wide open. And by the way, any time there's unfair trade, we will respond. And I have done so, and will continue to do so, because free trade must be fair trade as well. But I think if you look at the facts and statistics, you'll find that the U.S. market is one of the most open markets in the world, and we intend to keep it that way.

President Flores Perez. I would like to say the following: Never, never, in the history of El Salvador, El Salvador has had the opportunities that they have with the United States of America, thanks to the Initiative of the Caribbean Basin. And never has El Salvador had the possibility of signing a free trade agreement with the United States before. So the possibility of openness that the region has with the United States has no precedent in the history.

Today, that we were flying with President Bush from the airport to this site, I was telling him what this openness is doing in El Salvador. And I was explaining to him that many women in the rural areas have opportunities to work today, thanks to that openness of the United States. And it is producing a dramatic change throughout the rural areas of our country.

Undoubtedly, the comparison between donated funds and trade is a comparison that is very different, because it is so much more important to have trade than donations. So in this sense, we believe that the focus of President Bush is absolutely true, that the only way to come out of poverty is through work. And the way to generate employment

in our region is, giving the possibility of investment and work and labor.

Obviously, the agricultural topic is a topic—is an issue, but this has had an enormous advance for——

Q. [*Inaudible*].

President Flores Perez. ——the Salvadorans and the region.

President Bush. Are you asking another question?

Q. Yes.

President Bush. Okay. What is it?

Q. Excuse me. My colleagues from Guatemala are asking that in Guatemala there has been the withdrawal of the visas to some militaries. And they want to know if this is part of the control or the enforcement of the improvement of economies that the countries are asking for.

President Bush. [*Inaudible*]

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, what is——

President Bush. Raise the mike a little.

Q. Don't think it goes that high.

President Bush. Okay. [*Laughter*]

Democratic Party's Radio Address

Q. What is your reaction to the Democratic Party using its national radio address to criticize you on foreign soil, saying you made this trip to Latin America merely to pander to Hispanic voters?

President Bush. Wow. That was the ad?

Q. Yes.

President Bush. Or not the ad, but the—well, I guess I'd say, I'm disappointed. When I first got elected, I said, the best foreign policy for the United States is to have a prosperous, peaceful, and free neighborhood. My first trip as President of the United States, out of the United States, was to Mexico. And my longstanding interest in this—in Mexico and Central America is well known.

I firmly believe that the best policy for the United States is to pay attention to our friends, is to promote trade. Trade produces liberty and freedom. And sometimes in Washington, DC, people cannot get rid of old habits—which is petty politics, Mr. President. But that's just what happens. But people in America know that our administration is focused on what's best for America. And what's best for America is a prosperous and peaceful El Salvador, *y Mexico, y tambien los paises in Sur de América*. There is a great opportunity for all of us to be equal partners, to work *otros para todos los personas que viven in nuestros paises*.

Señor Presidente, gracias. El honor es mio de está en este pais. It has been my honor to be in this country. Thank you very much. We have to all work together to make this happen.

President Flores Perez. I just wanted to say, just to close this conference, that El Salvador, through myself, wants to express their profound appreciation to the United States of America for having accompanied us in so many difficult times. And this has to do with the leadership of President Bush. And Salvadorans want to recognize you at this moment.

And I would like to end by saying this—and this is very personal—I have had some honors in my life, but never had I had such a high honor as President Bush calling me his friend.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The news conference began at 1 p.m. at the Casa Presidencial. President Flores Perez and some of the reporters spoke in Spanish, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to TPS, temporary protected status for immigrants.

Proclamation 7533—National Bone and Joint Decade, 2002–2011

March 21, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Living a life free from daily bone pain or joint discomfort is something most people take for granted. Our bones, joints, and connective tissues are the structure upon which all other systems of the body depend. They give us strength, mobility, protection, and stability. And they permit us to perform a great variety of physical activities that shape our daily lives.

Our musculoskeletal structure is a complex system of tissue and bone that is regularly

subjected to trauma, metabolic and genetic processes, and the gradual wear and tear of an active life. When these bones and tissues become damaged or diseased, they can create chronic conditions that may seriously impede and sometimes permanently affect one's health and well-being.

In the United States, musculoskeletal disorders are a leading cause of physical disability. Conditions such as osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, back pain, spinal disorders, and fractures, also affect hundreds of millions of people around the world. And many children suffer from crippling bone and joint diseases and deformities, impeding normal development and preventing them from experiencing a full and healthy life.

The incidence of musculoskeletal conditions will increase as the average age of our population increases. And our culture's increasing emphasis on physical activity, while important to society's overall well-being, will also increase the stress factors on bones and joints. Ensuing disorders, if left untreated, could result in significant pain and suffering that would affect employment, well-being, and healthcare costs.

National Bone and Joint Decade, 2002–2011, envisions a series of international initiatives among physicians, health professionals, patients, and communities, working together to raise awareness about musculoskeletal disorders and promoting research and development into therapies, preventative measures, and cures for these disorders. Advances in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and research of musculoskeletal conditions will greatly enhance the quality of life of our aging population.

The National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, and other Federal agencies support many bone and joint studies. Industry and private professional and voluntary agencies support other initiatives. This work involves scientists examining the possible genetic causes of bone and joint diseases and studying how hormones, growth factors, and drugs regulate the skeleton. Other researchers are studying bone density, quality, and metabolism, and other ways to increase the longevity of joint replacements for those whose daily activities have become painful, difficult, or even impossible. These research efforts can help relieve pain and suffering and give countless children and adults the opportunity for a better life.

Thanks to the hard work of these dedicated researchers, we have made great progress in understanding and treating musculoskeletal disorders. I commend their efforts and encourage them to pursue diligently further research that will help those suffering from these disorders. And I hope that all Americans will learn more about musculoskeletal problems, their long- and short-term effects, and the therapies and treatments available to help them.

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 years 2002–2011, as National Bone and Joint Decade. I call upon the people of the United States to observe the decade with appropriate programs and activities; and I call upon the medical community to pursue research in this important area.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, 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, 8:45 a.m., March 25, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 25, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on March 26.

Proclamation 7534—Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 2002

March 21, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's future depends in part on ensuring that every child in America receives a

quality education. And by teaching our children the importance of serving those in need, we will help fulfill an important part of their education, showing them the rewards that come from compassionate outreach.

Education has always played a vital role in the success of our Nation. It has provided hope through the principle that any citizen can realize the American dream, regardless of background, ethnicity, or faith. By challenging young people to set high goals and to work hard to achieve them, we prepare our youth to carry on the success of the American story and to become leaders of this great Nation. A core foundation of knowledge and values is essential for students to excel and contribute to the well-being of our communities, our country, and the world.

Parents are a child's first and most important teachers, and they provide the cornerstone of a child's early education. Quality teachers, however, also play an important role in a child's personal and intellectual development. The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, which I signed into law in January 2002, requires that, by the end of the 2005–06 school year, there must be a "highly qualified" teacher in every classroom. Through this new law, States and school districts will have multiple tools to help them meet the new teacher quality requirements. Key elements of this effort include providing State grants to recruit and train teachers, and recruiting high-quality individuals to become teachers, offering expanded student loan forgiveness for teachers. And we must encourage Americans to volunteer their time to serve as mentors to our young people.

Great teachers are also found outside the classroom, making a positive impact on children and on local families. For example, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, demonstrated the power of teaching others to pursue both intellectual and moral excellence. For this purpose, he established education and outreach centers that offered social services and humanitarian aid. Today, more than 1,400 of these centers operate in 35 countries, meeting the spiritual and material needs of local communities. These beacons of hope communicate the Rebbe's ideal of living a meaningful life through personal responsibility and dedication to those in need. On the 100th anniversary of the Rebbe's birth, I encourage Americans to help teach our young people. In classrooms, homes, and places of worship, we can all make a lasting impact on individual children and thus invest in our country as a whole.

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 March 24, 2002, as Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 2002. I call on all Americans to help our young people better understand the importance of character and develop a true love of learning. By doing so, we invest in the future of our country.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, 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, 8:45 a.m., March 25, 2002]

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Remarks at a Celebration of Greek Independence Day

March 25, 2002

Your Eminence, I can't spend enough time with you. [*Laughter*] I love your gentle soul, and I love your guidance and your advice. And any time you want to come back, just give me a call. [*Laughter*] I'm so glad you're here. And I want to thank you all for joining us to celebrate this important day for Greece.

I want to honor the heritage of liberty that both the Greeks and the Americans share. There's no better place to do this than in the White House, the symbol of liberty and the symbol of freedom.

I want to thank the Greek Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs for being here as well. I appreciate you coming. I want to thank the Ambassador—the Greek Ambassador to the

United States and the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the United States as well. You all are welcome here. Thank you for coming. It's great to see you again. I'm glad to see Ambassador George Argyros is here as well. I never thought he'd get through the confirmation process. [*Laughter*] But he is my Ambassador to Spain and is doing a very fine job. I appreciate so much the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, George Tenet, for being here as well.

One hundred and eighty one years ago, our Nation supported the cause of Greek independence. And we have admired the progress Greece has made since. Yet well before we recognized the independence of modern Greece, the Greek heritage had a great impact on American independence. Many of America's founders knew Greek history better than our own. They drew on Greece's political heritage in framing our Constitution. America's love for liberty has deep roots in the spirit of Greece.

The spirit of liberty has always had enemies. It's important for us to remember our history, that there are some who can't stand liberty and freedom, as we learned so tragically on September the 11th. The terrorists who attack us hate the very idea of human freedom. They cannot stand the thought of freedom of religion. It must make them very nervous to know that a Methodist is standing next to His Eminence—[*laughter*]—in a free society, in a society that welcomes people to worship freely and as they so choose. They hate freedom of speech. They can't stand the thought of people speaking their minds. They hate our system.

They also thought we were weak and soft. And they're wrong, and they're learning it every day. They learned it in Afghanistan, where we went into that country not to seek revenge but to seek justice. And this weekend, little girls went to school for the first time—some little girls went to school for the first time in Afghanistan, showing the world that we didn't go into Afghanistan as conquerors but as liberators.

And they're going to find out how tough we are. Because I want to assure you all that we're going to hunt them down, one by one, until our homeland is secure, until freedom is secure, to make sure our children and our grandchildren can live in a free and peaceful world.

One ancient Greek statesman put it this way. He said, "We are free to live exactly as we please, yet we are ready to face any danger." He might as well have been talking about the United States of America. Fortunately, we don't face danger alone. There are other people who love freedom as well in this world. Greece and America have been firm allies in the great struggles for liberty. Greece was one of only a handful of countries that fought alongside the United States in every major 20th century war. And Americans will always remember Greek heroism and Greek sacrifice for the sake of freedom.

As the 21st century dawns, Greece and America are—once again stand united, this time in the fight against terrorism. Greece is a part of the coalition of nations helping bring justice to those who would harm us, harm the people of Greece, harm anybody who loves freedom. The United States deeply appreciates the role Greece is playing in the war against terror. We thank Greece for access to the military base in Souda Bay, Crete, and for providing a naval frigate for patrolling the Arabian Sea.

And just as Greece has stood side by side with the United States, the United States stands ready to encourage the continued warming of Greek and Turkish relations. We welcome the resumption of diplomatic talks on Cyprus and hope that they will lead to a final settlement that strengthens regional peace and stability.

America and Greece are strong allies, and we're strategic partners. Our Nation has been inspired by Greek ideals and enriched by Greek immigrants. Today, about one million Americans claim Greek origin. They've made a mark in every field. America is better for the one million Americans who live here. In my administration, John Negroponte heads our United Nations, and he's doing a fine job. And as a part of my war council, the National Security Council, sits George Tenet, whose advice and steady hand have been invaluable to our success.

Today we honor Greek independence and the Greek spirit, a spirit of liberty and a spirit of courage, a spirit that values family and

education and public service and faith, a spirit that has helped make America what it is today.

It is my honor to welcome you all here. May God bless Greece, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:27 p.m. in the Presidential Hall at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of America; Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs Yiannis Magriotis of Greece; Greek Ambassador to the U.S. Alexandros Philon; and Cypriot Ambassador to the U.S. Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis.

Proclamation 7535—Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy, 2002

March 25, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Ancient Greece was the birthplace of the democratic principles and thought that fundamentally shaped the growth of democracy in world history. Societies aspiring toward more democratic forms of government have found inspiration in the Greek tradition of representative government and free political discourse. As modern Greece celebrates the anniversary of its independence, won 181 years ago, Greeks can be proud that its vibrant democracy continues and that it is based upon the beliefs in freedom and self-rule first forged in classical Greece over 2500 years ago.

These ideals have been embraced by peoples of the world who aspire towards democracy, including the Founders of the United States; and they were tested by the attacks of September 11, 2001. The terrorists sought to destroy a political and economic system that promotes individual freedoms and tolerance, defends national liberty, and supports the full participation of its citizens in the democratic process. The terrorists failed; but rather than destroying us, their attacks strengthen our resolve to stand up to this evil. Along with the members of our worldwide coalition, including Greece, we are committed to defeating terrorism and protecting liberty.

The friendship between the United States and Greece continues to thrive and is based upon our common cultural bonds and our shared national values. Today, more than 3 million Americans proudly claim Greek heritage, representing a continuing link between our countries. From the arts and education to industry and science, Greek Americans have made significant contributions to the cultural, civic, and economic vitality of our land.

As we celebrate Greek independence, we remember the history of those who sacrificed their lives to preserve freedom and democracy. We value our friendship and continuing partnership with the government and people of Greece, and we commit to work together to provide greater opportunity and more freedoms for the citizens of the world. And we join the world in anticipating the momentous 2004 Summer Olympic Games, which will be held in Athens, the birthplace of Olympic competition.

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 March 25, 2002, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy." I encourage all Americans to take special note of Greece's rich history of democracy, the strong bonds of friendship and culture between our countries, and the important role that Greek Americans play in our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, 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, 8:45 a.m., March 27, 2002]

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Remarks Announcing the Nominations of Dr. Elias Zerhouni To Be Director of the National Institutes of Health and Dr. Richard Carmona To Be Surgeon General

March 26, 2002

Well, thank you, Tommy, very much, and welcome to the White House for this historic announcement. I appreciate your leadership, Tommy, in leading this administration's strong efforts to improve our Nation's health care, to make sure that more Americans get affordable health care, better patient protections, that the system puts our patients first, the system understands the importance of our docs, and we value that relationship, patient and doctor.

I also want to assure our fellow Americans that we're going to make and are making an unprecedented commitment to medical research. And we're improving our public health system to make sure that we can respond quickly to any biological threat that our country may face. We're putting sound health care policies in place and, as importantly, putting a quality team in place. And that's what we're here to discuss today.

It's my honor to nominate two fine men to head important Government institutions, to take important jobs. My nominee to lead the National Institute of Health is Elias Zerhouni, and my nominee as the next Surgeon General is Richard Carmona. These are distinguished physicians who have worked tirelessly to save lives and to improve lives. They bring exceptional knowledge and skill to these critical jobs. And they are absolutely dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all Americans.

It is my honor to welcome their families here as well. Thank you all for coming, Nadia Zerhouni and her children, and Diane Carmona and her children. We welcome you all, and we're glad you're here. I want to thank the Acting NIH Director, Ruth Kirschstein, for being here as well. Where are you, Ruth? There you are. Thank you so much, Ruth, for a fine job. I appreciate the Acting Surgeon General. Ken, where are you? Ken, thank you for being here, and thank you for your find job as well.

I want to thank the former NIH Director, Harold Varmus, for being here. Antonia Novello is here. Thank you, Antonia. I remember you. [*Laughter*] She was a former Surgeon General under "41." [*Laughter*] And I'm so pleased that former House Minority Leader Bob Michel, former Senator Dennis DeConcini of Arizona, former Congressman John Porter, as well, from Illinois, is here. Thank you all for coming. We're honored you're here. And I also want to thank the Ambassador from Algeria for being here as well. Thank you all for coming.

The National Institutes of Health is entering a new era of medical promise. NIH researchers recently cracked the genetic code, an amazing achievement with enormous potential benefits. New diagnostic tools are alerting patients when they have an elevated risk of certain diseases, so they can take an active role in preventing them. New treatment therapies will be tailor-made for an individual's genetic makeup. And many medical treatments will become less invasive. American medicine is on the verge of dramatic progress against AIDS, against diabetes, and against heart disease. We're closing in on cancer's cause and cancer's cure.

The anthrax attacks against American citizens also demonstrated the need to strengthen our defenses against bioterrorism. Medical research will improve our ability to identify and respond and treat infectious diseases, whether they occur naturally or are used as terrorist weapons. The NIH has taken a leading role in this important front on the war against terror. The work of the National Institutes of Health have never been more promising and never been more important.

Leading the NIH is a great responsibility, and I have picked the right man to do so. Dr. Zerhouni and his wife immigrated to America from Algeria with $300 in their pocket, but a dream of opportunity. Today, he is the executive vice dean of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, the chairman of the department of radiology and radiological science at Johns Hopkins, and a professor of radiology and biomedical engineering. He is an expert in biomedical research and is committed to extending his benefits to all Americans and all humanity.

Dr. Zerhouni will also bring strong management skills to the NIH, and they are needed. This is a large and complex organization. The NIH budget has grown dramatically from around $2 billion in 1975 to more than $23 billion today. And my 2003 budget proposes an additional increase of nearly $4 billion. I urge Congress to approve this increase, and when they do, we will have completed my campaign commitment to double funding to this vital medical research over the next 5 years. Dr. Zerhouni is well prepared to manage this rapidly growing institution during times of great new opportunity and urgent biodefense needs. He has supervised research at Johns Hopkins, one of our Nation's leading research facilities. One former colleague calls him a quadruple threat: a doctor who excels at teaching, researching, patient care, and management.

Dr. Zerhouni shares my view that human life is precious and should not be exploited or destroyed for the benefits of others. And he shares my view that the promise of ethically conducted medical research is limitless. As Director of the NIH, Dr. Zerhouni will be at the forefront of our efforts to promote biomedical research with a careful regard for the bounds of medical ethics.

Dr. Zerhouni, thank you for accepting this incredibly exciting challenge.

Translating medical research into practical life-improving changes is a critical function of the Surgeon General. Since 1871, the Surgeon General has been America's chief health educator, giving Americans the best, most up-to-date knowledge on how to improve their health and reduce the risk of disease.

When I first learned that Dr. Richard Carmona once dangled out of a moving helicopter, I worried that maybe he wasn't the best guy to educate our Americans about reducing health risks. [*Laughter*] But that turned out to be just one of several times that Dr. Carmona risked his own life to save others. As an Army Green Beret in Vietnam, a decorated police officer in Pima County, Arizona, a SWAT team member, a nurse, and a physician, Dr. Carmona has redefined the term "hands-on medicine."

Dr. Carmona currently serves as the clinical professor of surgery and clinical assistant professor of family and community medicine at the University of Arizona. He is also the chairman of the State of Arizona Southern Regional Emergency Medical System. He will bring to the Surgeon General's Office a proven commitment to service and a strong management background.

The next Surgeon General will address three particularly urgent issues. First, the Surgeon General administers the 5,600-member Public Health Service Commission Corps, health care professionals who are on call for emergency duty. Members of this force were deployed in New York and Washington, DC, after the terrorist attacks of September the 11th and during the anthrax attacks that followed. Dr. Carmona has worked for many years in law enforcement and community preparedness, important preparation for any emergency that may come. Dr. Carmona is an experienced voice to help educate Americans about the best precautions and response to the threat of bioterrorism.

Second, I have asked Dr. Carmona to lead an important initiative focusing on prevention and lifelong healthy living as a key component to medical care. The research is overwhelming that simple improvements in diet and exercise would result in dramatic improvements in America's health. Studies show that overweight Americans who are at risk of developing type II diabetes or coronary heart disease can delay and possibly prevent these diseases with just moderate exercise and a healthy diet. Walking 30 minutes a day will dramatically improve your life. Playing a game with your children in your backyard will help. Walking in a park can make a difference to your health. These relatively small actions can dramatically reduce costs and strain on our health care system.

Fitness and a healthy lifestyle are a priority for me. I really like to run. It makes me feel better. The doc and I are going to encourage all our country to either run or walk or swim or bicycle for the good of their families, for the good of their own health, and for the good of the health of the Nation.

And thirdly, Dr. Carmona is going to speak regularly to the Nation about alcohol and drug abuse and the tremendous toll they take on our society. Substance abuse by students

undermines academic achievement and dims the great hope of the American Dream. Alcohol is a prime cause for many of our society's ills, not the least of which is domestic violence. And the long-term health effects of alcohol and drug abuse are devastating. If we want to live healthier and longer, we're going to have to tackle the problems of alcohol and drug abuse. And Dr. Carmona's going to make that one of his priorities.

Doctor, I thank you so very much for your willingness to serve our country.

I have found two fine Americans who are willing to serve our Nation, and I'm grateful for their service. It is now my honor to welcome to the podium Dr. Zerhouni, the nominee to run our National Institute of Health.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:47 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson; Nadia Zerhouni, wife of Elias Zerhouni, and their children, Will, Yasmin, and Adam; Diana Carmona, wife of Richard Carmona; and Idriss Jazairy, Algerian Ambassador to the United States.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters in Greenville, South Carolina

March 27, 2002

President's Visit

The President. I'm looking forward to getting down to Texas. But first, I'm really looking forward to campaigning here in South Carolina for Lindsey Graham. And I'm looking forward to making some announcements about homeland security, both in South Carolina and in Georgia. And then I'm going on from there to help my friend Saxby Chambliss. Then I'll be heading home tonight.

It's good to be back in South Carolina. I've got a lot of friends down here, and it's always good to stay in touch with your friends.

Campaign Finance Reform

Q. On campaign finance——

The President. Yes, I signed the bill this morning.

Q. But without much fanfare—a signal that you're really unhappy with it?

The President. No, I wouldn't have signed it if I was really unhappy with it. I think it improves the system. And it improves the system because it enables an individual to give more money. And I want to do—is have a system that encourages more individual participation as well as more disclosure.

I've always been concerned about a system where money is given to entities and stakeholders have no say. So I was concerned about shareholders of corporate America not having a say, as well as labor union members not having a say about how their money is being spent. This bill improves the system.

Q. Mr. President, the objection you raised in the last week of debate on the bill is that it didn't take effect immediately, the ban on soft money would not take effect until after the election. Do you find it ironic that given that that was your opposition, today, right after signing the bill, you're out raising——

The President. I'm not going to lay down my arms. I'm going to participate in the rules of the system. The Senate races are very important for me. I want the Republicans to take control of the Senate, and I want Denny Hastert to be the Speaker of the House. And these are the rules. And that's why I'm going to campaign for like-minded people.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Do you have any plans to talk to Prime Minister Sharon?

The President. I don't today. I'm sure the Secretary of State is in touch in the area, with the leaders of the area. But let me say this—and I think the important thing about the Middle East is that we're making very good progress on the Tenet accord. In other words, there's a chance we'll have an agreement on the security arrangements necessary to hopefully then get into Mitchell.

General Zinni is still in the area. Let me put it this way: I'm optimistic that progress is being made. And I've asked General Zinni

to continue to work with both parties, regardless of whether or not they're headed to Beirut or not. The most important thing is getting into Tenet, getting into a security arrangement. And we're optimistic, and we'll see.

Q. ——Arafat's absence today?

The President. That the most important thing for my administration is to—is to work with both parties to make progress on a settlement in the area. And the first stage of any progress is going to be an agreement on what's been called the Tenet agreement, which is the security arrangements. And I believe we're making—I know we're making very good progress. Whether or not we're able to sign an accord soon or not remains to be seen. But progress has been made, and that is where the focus of this administration is, to get into Tenet.

Textile Industry

Q. Mr. President, are you going to do anything for the textile industry, like you did for the steel industry, in terms of tariffs?

The President. One of the things that I want the people of Greenville to know is, I've worked very closely with Jim DeMint, and we've laid out a strategy to help the textile industry. And Representative DeMint, Congressman DeMint, has been very forceful about this. We had a very good agreement with the Commerce Department. The Commerce Department is now following through.

Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia

Q. Mr. President, what was your reaction to Crown Prince Abdullah's speech in Beirut?

The President. You mean the one this morning? I haven't seen the text yet. I haven't seen the speech—let me get the speech. I may have a comment later on, once I get the text of the speech.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:10 a.m. at the city's main firehouse. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; and U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.). The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. A reporter referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002

March 27, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2356, the "Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002." I believe that this legislation, although far from perfect, will improve the current financing system for Federal campaigns.

The bill reforms our system of financing campaigns in several important ways. First, it will prevent unions and corporations from making unregulated, "soft" money contributions—a legislative step for which I repeatedly have called. Often, these groups take political action without the consent of their members or shareholders, so that the influence of these groups on elections does not necessarily comport with the actual views of the individuals who comprise these organizations. This prohibition will help to right that imbalance. Second, this law will raise the decades-old limits on giving imposed on individuals who wish to support the candidate of their choice, thereby advancing my stated principle that election reform should strengthen the role of individual citizens in the political process. Third, this legislation creates new disclosure requirements and compels speedier compliance with existing ones, which will promote the free and swift flow of information to the public regarding the activities of groups and individuals in the political process. I long have believed that complete and immediate disclosure of the source of campaign contributions is the best way to reform campaign finance.

These provisions of the bill will go a long way toward fixing some of the most pressing problems in campaign finance today. They will result in an election finance system that encourages greater individual participation, and provides the public more accurate and timely information, than does the present

system. All of the American electorate will benefit from these measures to strengthen our democracy.

However, the bill does have flaws. Certain provisions present serious constitutional concerns. In particular, H.R. 2356 goes farther than I originally proposed by preventing all individuals, not just unions and corporations, from making donations to political parties in connection with Federal elections. I believe individual freedom to participate in elections should be expanded, not diminished; and when individual freedoms are restricted, questions arise under the First Amendment. I also have reservations about the constitutionality of the broad ban on issue advertising, which restrains the speech of a wide variety of groups on issues of public import in the months closest to an election. I expect that the courts will resolve these legitimate legal questions as appropriate under the law.

As a policy matter, I would have preferred a bill that included a provision to protect union members and shareholders from involuntary political activities undertaken by their leadership. Individuals have a right not to have their money spent in support of candidates or causes with which they disagree, and those rights should be better protected by law. I hope that in the future the Congress and I can work together to remedy this defect of the current financing structure.

This legislation is the culmination of more than 6 years of debate among a vast array of legislators, citizens, and groups. Accordingly, it does not represent the full ideals of any one point of view. But it does represent progress in this often-contentious area of public policy debate. Taken as a whole, this bill improves the current system of financing for Federal campaigns, and therefore I have signed it into law.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 27, 2002.

NOTE: At the time of publication, H.R. 2356, approved March 27, had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register in time for assignment of a Public Law number.

Remarks to First-Responders in Greenville

March 27, 2002

Thank you very much. It is great to be back in South Carolina. I didn't realize I was going to be giving an address on my old jogging path. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Mayor, I have fond memories of your beautiful city. And thank you very much for your leadership and your hospitality, and thank you all for coming.

One of the things that I'm not surprised about was how the good folks of South Carolina responded on September the 11th, in the aftermath. The good people here hurt for the people of New York, because they realized an attack on one part of America was an attack on all of America. And I want to thank you all for donating a brand new firetruck to New York City. I want to thank you for sending men and women to New York City in response to the emergency. I know that firefighters and casualty experts, emergency management director headed up north to provide help, and I'm here to thank you for that. And I'm here also to thank you for what you do every single day.

You know, the evil ones hit us, but out of that evil has come some good. I'm going to talk to you about some of that good. And one of the good things that's come is a sincere appreciation and respect for the men and women who wear the uniform, the police and the fire and the emergency medical units all across the country. And I'm here to thank you as well for your dedication and your service to the people of your communities here in South Carolina.

I appreciate so very much Tom Ridge's service. You know, he was a Governor there in Pennsylvania, just kind of cruising along. Life was pretty good. And then the President called him and said, "I've got an assignment for you, to come and set a national strategy for our homeland security. The enemy's hit us, and we'd better be ready in case the enemy hits us again. And we need a strategy." And I'm telling you, he's come to Washington, DC, with a vision and a capacity. And we're developing and have got a strategy, some of which I will share with you today.

And Tom, I want to thank you for your service.

And I want to thank the other fellow on the stage here, Jim DeMint. He is a strong Congressman. He cares deeply about the people of this State. He is—he is an ally of mine in the House, because he is a man of integrity. He cares deeply about national issues and issues that affect the people here in his district. He understands the need for us to be tough and diligent and forceful when it comes to fighting terrorists. He understands the need for us to be strong at home as well. And that's why he has led a discussion on a strategy to make sure that the textile industry here in South Carolina gets not only the attention of the administration but a strategy to help people who work in the textile industry. This man is a leader, and he needs to go back to Washington, DC.

And we've got some other people from the fine South Carolina delegation. Lindsey Graham is here, and a little later on, I'm going to try to give Lindsey a little boost. And I appreciate Hank Brown for being here as well; thank you for coming.

And I want to thank members of the statehouse who have come. You've got a fine lieutenant governor and attorney general. Thank you both for coming, and of course, your speaker, homegrown boy, David Wilkins. I'm honored that you all have been here today.

I drove in and went by the BMW plant for about the hundredth time, and it was good that I was traveling by it with Carroll Campbell, who made sure that the BMW plant came here the first time around. Governor, it's good to see you. Thank you for coming.

I want to thank the high sheriff of Greenville County, Sam Simmons—I don't know if you call him the high sheriff around here or not, but play like you do, if you don't. [*Laughter*] But I want to thank the sheriff. I want to thank Willie Johnson, the chief. I want to thank Tom McDowell, chief of the fire department; John Zaragoza as well. And again, I want to thank you all for coming.

The interesting thing about September the 11th is that even though the attacks were on two major cities, it reminded us—and in the aftermath reminded us that we're all vulnerable as well. I mean, after all, you might remember that some of the initial discussions after September the 11th, about potential threat, was about crop dusters. Now, they don't have a lot of crop dusters, you know, in Manhattan. They've got a lot of crop dusters in South Carolina or Texas. In other words, some of the intelligence we were getting was that not only were the enemy willing to use airplanes, obviously, as weapons, but what we were concerned about was that they would use other methods, like using a crop duster to spray a weapon of mass destruction, if possible. It's an indication that we had to be on alert to defend all sites and all locations in our country.

We knew they were evil, and we're beginning to learn how really evil their intentions were, after September the 11th. And that's why Tom and I and many of you all and others around the country have got plans in place to defend power-generating plants, dams and reservoirs, livestock and crops, all kinds of areas. I mean, the truth of the matter is, homeland security in the heartland is just as important as homeland security in the big cities.

And that's what we're here to talk about today, to make sure that America is safe. See, that's my most important job. My most important job is to work with Federal, State, and local officials to prevent the enemy from hitting us again and taking innocent life. I think about it every day. And even though they're still under threat—and we are under threat—we're getting better prepared every day.

I sent a budget up to Congress that reflects my priority. The first-responders of America, all across America, must have the resources necessary to respond to emergencies and save lives. In the budget we sent up, there is a 1,000 percent increase for first-responders—requests $3.5 billion to make your jobs easier. I've requested $327 million right away, right off the bat, to provide critical training and equipment to first-responders; 327 will come this year, hopefully; 3.5 is for next budget cycle.

In places like Pickens, South Carolina, and Union and Greer—and by the way, I've been to all three and enjoyed every minute of it. One of the bedrock principles of smalltown

life is, you help a neighbor in need. A volunteer firefighter in Fort Mills, South Carolina, put it this way: "We may not be a big department like New York City, but we have the same goal, to help our neighbors in time of trouble." That's how you all feel too. That's how the Crawford, Texas, volunteer fire department feels as well. I'm a proud booster.

And one of the things we've got to do is to understand that we've got to strengthen security in smalltown America as well by helping smaller communities and smaller counties develop what we call mutual aid agreements. And in the budget that I've submitted to Congress, there's $140 million to do just that. If one town has got them a good hospital facility, another may be able to lend fire trucks; a third may be a home to hazardous material experts. But we've got to develop these mutual pacts so that we can coordinate efforts, pool resources—all aimed at helping a neighbor in need, if we need to.

So one of the things we're doing is focusing on the big cities, medium-sized cities like Greenville. But we understand we've got to have a strategy for rural South Carolina and rural America as well. And I'm here to assure the good folks of South Carolina that the strategies that we're putting out, the strategies that we're going to outline and work with the States and local authorities on, will also include rural South Carolina, to make sure that assets are pooled, personnel is coordinated—all aimed at buttoning up the homeland of the United States and preparing our country.

But I want you to know that the best homeland security, the best way to secure the homeland and protect innocent life, is to find the enemy wherever they hide and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what we're going to do. We will hunt them down one by one.

And after September the 11th, we started. And I said as plainly as I could speak, mustering up as much Midland, Texas, as I could find—I said, either you are with us, or you're against us. And I made it clear that if anybody harbored a terrorist or they fed a terrorist or they hid a terrorist, they're just as guilty as the murderers who took innocent life on September the 11th. And thanks to a mighty United States military, the Taliban found out exactly what I meant.

I'm proud of our military. And for those of you who have got a relative in the military, I want you to thank them on behalf of a grateful nation. But we've got to do more than thank them. We've got to make sure that they've got the best training, the best equipment, the best pay possible. And that's why the budget I submitted to the United States Congress not only includes a significant increase for first-responders and homeland security issues, but it is the largest increase in military spending in two decades. Because I understand that the price of freedom is high, but as far as I'm concerned, it is never too high when it comes to the defense of freedom.

And that's what we're defending. We don't seek revenge; we seek justice. But it's more than just justice. This Nation will defend freedom. We defend the freedom to worship; we defend the freedom to speak; we defend the freedom for all Americans, regardless of their background, to enjoy a country that says, if you work hard, you can realize your dreams. That's what we defend.

And this enemy of ours hates what we stand for. They can't stand us. They're ruthless murderers. And they must not have understood America when they attacked us. They thought we were weak. They thought we were so self-absorbed in our materialism that all we would probably do is just sue them. [*Laughter*] Man, were they wrong.

We've thrown the Taliban out. And this past weekend, for the first time, many young women went to school. We went into Afghanistan not as conquerors but as liberators, as people who are willing to sacrifice to defend our freedoms.

The first phase of the war is over—holding people accountable for harboring a terrorist—that message is now loud and clear. I think other governments have heard that message. And the next message is this: We're going to keep you on the run. If you're a killer, we're going to treat you for what you are, an international criminal with no place to hide, no place to sleep.

Oh, I know some of them think there's a cave deep enough. We're patient; we're determined; we're united. As proud and patriotic Americans, I can assure you that distance between September the 11th is not going to cause me to weaken in my determination to defend our country and to fight for freedom.

I also want to explain right quickly what I meant when I was talking about the axis of evil. Let me put it to you this way: We cannot allow nations that have got a history of totalitarianism and dictatorship—a nation, for example, like Iraq, that poisoned her own people—to develop a weapon of mass destruction and mate up with terrorist organizations who hate freedom-loving countries. We can't afford to do that, for the sake of our children and our children's children. History has called this Nation into action, and we're not going to let the world's worst leaders develop and maintain and deploy and aim, at us or our friends, the world's worst weapons.

My fellow Americans, we've got a lot at stake. We've got a lot at stake at home and a lot at stake around the world. We've been called, and I'm here to assure you this great country is prepared and willing and will answer the call to freedom.

And I believe there's another calling at home as well. I believe that we have an opportunity to fight evil at home in a different kind of way than people would have imagined. I'm asked all the time by people, "What can I do in a war against terror?" You all are answering that call. But there's something else I'd like for you and others in South Carolina and around America to do. You see, in order to fight evil, we can stand strongly in the face of evil with acts of kindness and compassion. We can better love our neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourself.

You see, the great strength of America is not necessarily our military might, and it's certainly not our Government, even though the system is great and the military is strong. The great strength of America are the hearts and soul—the great strength is the heart and soul of our country; that's the strength. The strength of the country comes when somebody walks across the street to a neighbor in need and says, "What can I do to help you"; when somebody walks in to a shut-in and says, "I care about you"; or somebody mentors a child, teaching that child how to read; or a church or a synagogue or a mosque comes up with a program based upon faith of the Almighty to help a person whip alcohol or drugs. That's the great strength of America.

And I believe out of this evil will come incredible goodness. I know this country can stand squarely in the face of evil by loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. And today we've got a high school student, Gus Samuel. Please stand up, Gus. Gus is here because he is a living example of what I'm talking about. This guy goes to high school, and yet he is active in the Salvation Army, and he finds time to work with youngsters in the Girls and Boys Club.

Our society can be changed one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And it's the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness, because of guys like Gus, that we will show the world the true heart of America, and we will stand squarely in the face of the evil ones who did not understand who they were attacking.

Out of the evil will come a more lasting peace, if we're tough and firm. And out of the evil will come a new renewal of heart in the greatest land on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. in the Wyche Pavilion at the Peace Center for the Performing Arts. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Knox H. White, Police Department Chief Willie L. Johnson, and Emergency Medical Services Director John Zaragoza of Greenville; Lt. Gov. Bob Peeler, Attorney General Charlie Condon, and former Gov. Carroll A. Campbell, Jr., of South Carolina; and David H. Wilkins, speaker, South Carolina House of Representatives.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Senatorial Candidate Lindsey Graham in Greenville

March 27, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thank you all. It is nice to be back in South Carolina. Please be seated. Thank you.

My only regret is I didn't bring Laura with me. I can't tell you how proud I am of her. She is—she is a fabulous wife and a great lady. She's flying Barney and Spot and the cat down to Crawford, Texas, as I speak. America is getting to see why I married her. A lot of people are wondering why she said yes. [*Laughter*] But Lindsey, thanks for mentioning Laura. She is—I love her dearly, and she's a great First Lady for country.

And you're going to be a great Senator for South Carolina. I'm here with one message: I want Lindsey Graham elected to the United States Senate. It is in South Carolina's interest that he get elected to the United States Senate, and it's in our Nation's interest that he get elected to the United States Senate. And frankly, it's in my interest that he get elected to the United States Senate, because I've got a lot I want to do. And I look forward to working with him to get it done. So I'm proud to be here on Lindsey's behalf, and I want to thank you all—the organizers of the event and you all for coming to support this good man for this important cause.

I also want to thank Jim DeMint. It's important that he win as well. Jim is the kind of fellow that I like to work with in Washington. First of all, he understands his district well. And he loves the people of his district. We've got the kind of relationship where I welcome him into the Oval Office to sit down and discuss important issues. And we can have frank discussions and come to agreement.

Now, I know there are some of them here picking on him because of textiles. Because of Jim DeMint's leadership, my administration has got a plan to strengthen the textile industry. And I want to thank him for his leadership on this issue, and so should the people of this district.

And I want to thank Congressman Henry Brown for coming all the way up from the coast. It's nice of you all to let him in. [*Laughter*] And he's doing a fine job as well.

As you know, I'm fortunate enough to make a lot of friends in your great State, and I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to be your President. But I also want to thank some of those that I spent a lot of time with in South Carolina for coming over today: Carroll Campbell and Iris, thank you all for being here. They tell me Beasley is around here somewhere. Beasley, how are you? Good to see you. I appreciate your coming. And the Speaker—I've got no better friend than the Speaker. Election day, he took me to the Ham House. [*Laughter*] I'm still running off the pancakes. [*Laughter*] And Lieutenant Governor Peeler and Attorney General Condon, two fine friends of mine, and I was proud to call them friends back in 2000, and I'm still proud to call them friends. And it's great to see you guys, and thank you all for being here as well. And I want to thank my friend Barry Wynn as well. Barry and I have been friends for awhile, and he helped me get to where I am, and so did many of you all.

I've got a lot to do in Washington. And we need somebody who can help get that done in the United States Senate from South Carolina. Listen, you've had a fine, fine man in Strom Thurmond representing you all, and what you need is a young visionary leader to take his place. He understands how Washington works. I want the voters of South Carolina to remember, he was for a strong military prior to September the 11th. He understood we need a strong military to defend our freedoms. He doesn't need to be educated, once he gets to Washington, on this issue. He's a member of the Armed Services Committee and has served proudly. And I look forward to working with Lindsey as we fight this war on terror.

He also has been a leader on education reform. For too long, our party was identified as being antischool, that we weren't for educating children. That's changed. I had the honor of signing a piece of legislation which recognizes the importance of education in our society; refuses to allow for mediocrity; challenges the status quo when children are simply shuffled through the system, regardless of whether they can read or not; insists that every child—I mean every child—can read in America.

And Lindsey Graham stood by my side on this important piece of education reform. And not only that, he's sponsoring a piece of legislation, which I strongly support, that will forgive loans to teachers who teach in the neediest areas in America. He's a reformer when it comes to education, and the

South Carolinians ought to be proud of his record.

Now, we've got a lot to do—we've got a lot to do. There's a lot to do at home. As you know—let me put it to you this way. I was campaigning in Chicago one time, and a fellow said, "Would you ever allow for deficit spending; would that ever enter your vocabulary?" I said, "Well, under certain circumstances: Only if we're at war, or there was a national emergency, or there was a recession." Little did I realize we'd draw the trifecta. [*Laughter*] But I want to make it clear about how we dealt with the latter, and then I'm going to talk about the first two.

The slowdown in our economy—the best way to make sure an economy recovers is to trust the people with their own money. You see, when people have more money in their pocket, when they've got more money to spend, that increases demand for goods and services. And when there's an increase in demand for goods and services, somebody is going to produce goods and services. And as they produce goods and services, it firms up the job base. We cut the taxes on the American people at exactly the right time, and our economy is improving because of it.

Lindsey understood that, and he was a strong proponent of the tax relief for the American people. He was describing the other fellow's position. He said he wouldn't have supported the tax increase. Yet another reason why Lindsey Graham ought to be in the U.S. Senate—it's because we trust people with their own money. The tax money is not the Government's money; it is the people's money. And when we can give it back and afford to give it back, we ought to do so.

Now, there are some of them up there that believe in times of a recession, you increase the taxes on the people. But that's not the textbook that Lindsey and I have been reading. Our textbook starts with, you trust the American people, particularly when it comes to their own money. So I need to have an ally in the United States Senate who understands how our economy works and who trusts the private sector and trusts the people with their own money.

We're going to have some issues coming up, and I'll tell you one. We got rid of the death tax, but because of the law, it can conceivably come back into life 9 years from now. We need to make the repeal of the death tax permanent. That's an important issue for small-business owners. It's a particularly important issue for South Carolina farmers, South Carolina ranchers. And we needed somebody in the U.S. Senate who will vote to make that tax relief permanent.

Listen, we don't need a tax system that encourages somebody to work all their life to build up an asset base and have it taxed again, have it taxed twice. What we need is a system that encourages hard work, the entrepreneurial spirit, and allows people to pass on their assets to whoever they want to pass on their assets to.

We need an energy plan in America. We need a plan that not only encourages conservation and the development of exciting new technologies, but we also need a plan that reduces our dependency on foreign sources of crude oil. We need a plan that encourages biomass, ethanol—interesting alternatives.

But I want you all to understand something Lindsey understands and I darn sure know, is that we now import over 50 percent of our energy from overseas. Sometimes we get it from nations that aren't really pleased with U.S. foreign policy. For the good of national security, we need to explore, in environmentally friendly ways, for energy in our own country so we can reduce dependency. It's in our national security interests that we do so.

We need to get a faith-based initiative out of the United States Senate. We need to rally the great compassion of our country in order to stand up in the face of evil. We need to understand that the best welfare programs sometimes are those that come out of our churches and synagogues and mosques. Our Federal Government must not fear faith in our society. We must welcome faith, faith programs that heal hearts, that provide hope to the hopeless, that give people the opportunity to realize the American Dream.

And that's incredibly important at this stage of our Nation's history. Because in order to win the war on terror, we must not let terror affect the hearts and souls of the American people—quite the opposite. It's important for me and all of us in positions

of responsibility to rally the great compassion of America so that we can stand squarely in the face of evil, so that we can say, out of evil acts of September the 11th have come incredible goodness. And that's what's going to happen in America. I firmly believe it. I believe that out of this evil will come great goodness because of the compassion of the American people.

I just had the honor of speaking to a lot of folks who wear the uniform in Greenville, South Carolina, and surrounding neighborhoods, the police and the fire and the EMS folks, to talk about a homeland strategy that Tom Ridge in my administration is developing, a strategy that provides a significant amount of money in the new budget to provide first-responders not only with a strategy but with ample money to be able to be prepared for any emergency that might arise. We've got money in our budget for bioterrorist attack—a possible bioterrorist attack. We've got money in the budget to make sure that the INS, the folks who are supposed to know who is coming in and out of our country, do a better job of understanding who is coming in and out of our country. We're buttoning up the homeland.

And I want to tell you that my biggest job is to make sure that we do everything in our power to make sure that innocent lives are not lost in America again. I want the moms and dads to know that my priority is to make sure your children can grow up in a peaceful country. And we're making progress.

The law enforcement—law enforcement at the Federal level and the State level and the local level are communicating a lot better than they have ever before. Every morning, like this morning, I ask the FBI Director Mueller, "What are you doing in running down leads? Are you hunting them down here on the homeland, if we get a hint that somebody might do something against us?" And we are. We're chasing down every single lead.

But I want to tell you all, the best way to secure the homeland is to hunt the enemy down wherever they hide and bring them to justice, and that's exactly what we're going to do. The budget I submitted to the United States Congress not only makes our homeland security a priority, it makes the defense of the United States a priority. It's the largest increase in defense spending in 20 years. And the reason why is twofold.

One, whenever we commit people who wear our uniform into battle, they must have the best equipment, the best training, the best pay possible. The price of freedom is high, no question about it. But it is not too high, as far as I'm concerned.

And the other reason why I've submitted a significant increase in the defense spending is because we're in this thing for the long haul. We defend freedom. We're fighting murderers, cold-blooded killers who hate what America stands for. They hate our religious tolerance. They hate the fact that we speak freely. They can't stand our democracy. And they want to hit us again. And we're going to chase them down one by one, until we rid the world of the global reach of terror. We have no other choice, my fellow Americans. We fight for our children's freedom.

They must have not understood who they were dealing with on September the 11th. I guess they thought we were so materialistic and so self-absorbed that all we would do is file a lawsuit. They found out we think differently here in America. They found out when it comes to defending our freedom, we will take whatever means are necessary. They found out what I meant when I said, either you are with us or you're against us. And they found out, in the first theater on the war against terror, what I meant when I said, if you harbor a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the murderers who attacked New York City and Washington, DC, on September the 11th.

Thanks to our mighty United States military and a vast coalition of freedom-loving countries, we upheld that latter doctrine. The Taliban found out exactly what I meant. They are no longer in power, thank goodness, for the people of Afghanistan.

I want to assure you that we did not go into that theater, or any theater, to seek revenge. We seek justice. And when we went into Afghanistan, we didn't enter as conquerors; we entered as liberators. This past weekend, young girls, many young girls, for the first time in their life, went to school.

And I am proud of a nation that is not only tough and strong but a nation that is compassionate and cares deeply about the lives of all citizens around the world.

Thankfully, our Nation is united and determined, because we've got a lot more work to do. There are still a lot of them out there that would like to harm our country. And the best way to deal with them is to treat them like international criminals—precisely who they are—and keep them on the run and deny sanctuary and be patient and deliberate and tough and determined. The world watches the United States of America. If we were to blink, I think they might go to sleep. But I can assure you, we're not going to blink. We're determined. No matter how long it takes, this administration will lead this nation in chasing down the killers.

And not only that, we must not allow and will not allow the world's worst leaders to develop the world's worst weapons that could conceivably hold the United States and our allies and friends hostage. There is an axis of evil in the world, and the United States of America will deal with it in a firm way.

We are patient; we are deliberate; we will consult with our allies. But the world must understand, we love freedom; we hold freedom dear to our hearts. And we will not let our freedoms be threatened or our freedoms taken away from us.

You know, one of the most interesting—not interesting, one of the most compelling and moving moments during this—from September the 11th on, was Flight 93. It was a time when America got to see that there are people in our society who are willing to serve something greater than themselves. This was an airplane flying toward who knows—the White House or the Capitol. Americans on that plane on their cell phones told their loved ones goodbye. They said a prayer. They told them they loved them and said, "Let's roll," and drove the plane in the ground so somebody else could live.

I believe out of this evil will come incredible good. On the one hand, if we're tough and strong and firm, the world will be more peaceful. I believe that when the United States leads with firm resolve, we have a much better chance to solve the world's most intractable problems.

But I also know that by unleashing the compassion and goodness of America, by following the example of others who are willing to sacrifice for something greater, that we can rally the great compassion of the country so that the American Dream extends its hope into every neighborhood in every corner of this great country. Out of evil will come great good, because the great strength of the Nation is in the hearts and souls of an incredible country.

Thank you all for being here. May God bless you all. Send Lindsey Graham to the United States Senate.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. at the Palmetto Expo Center. In his remarks, he referred to former South Carolina Governors Carroll A. Campbell, Jr., and David M. Beasley; Iris Campbell, wife of Governor Campbell; David H. Wilkins, speaker, South Carolina House of Representatives; Lt. Gov. Bob Peeler and Attorney General Charlie Condon of South Carolina; and Barry D. Wynn, former chairman, South Carolina Republican Party.

Remarks to First-Responders in Atlanta, Georgia

March 27, 2002

Thank you all very much. It is such an honor to be back in Atlanta, on the campus of one of the great universities in our country. I want to thank Wayne, the president of the university, for hosting us. And Saxby, thank you for your leadership and your strong support of our national effort to defend the homeland.

I want to thank the Governor and the first lady for being here. The last time I saw you was at Booker T. Washington High School. I was honored that you all came and took time out of your day to help us focus the Nation's attention on how best to secure the homeland.

I want to thank all who work at the Center for Emergency Response Technology, Instruction, and Policy. I have just seen a demonstration that helps prepare the emergency firefighters and—firefighters and the police how to take care of a disaster or an attack, how best to protect the citizens. This is an

innovative training center. And I want to thank all those involved with the center for your hospitality and for the chance to see firsthand how Atlanta and the State of Georgia are preparing for any possible attack. I particularly want to thank the guy who—they cut off his clothes and ran him through water. That goes beyond the call of duty to impress the President. [*Laughter*] There he is. Better you than me. [*Laughter*]

I'm also here to say thanks to those who wear the uniform, the policemen, policewomen, the firefighters, the emergency medical teams, all of whom work hours on hours to serve the people of Georgia and the United States of America.

My first responsibility as your President is to protect the American people and to provide a strategy that not only protects the American people but, should there ever be another incident, provides response, quick response for the American people.

I picked a good friend, a former Governor colleague of Roy and mine, to serve as the Director of Homeland Security. His job is to develop a strategy, a national strategy that uses national, State, and local assets to protect the homeland. And I picked a very good man to take on this assignment. Tom Ridge is doing a heck of a good job, and I'm so honored he left his job as Governor.

Part of that homeland security measure is to enhance the capacity of first-responders to deal with any kind of emergency. And that's what we're watching today, the training of first-responders. Those who have called into action must be able to save as many lives as possible. And that's why the budget I submitted for '03 has $3.5 billion available for State and local governments to enhance the capacity of our first-responders to deal with any crisis that might arise.

As well, I submitted what we call a supplemental budget request; that's an emergency request. And part of that emergency request is nearly $5 billion to make sure that we make our airports more secure and make our borders more secure. What we want to know in America is, who's coming into the United States and why and, if they're leaving, when they're supposed to leave, in order to make sure we protect the homeland.

So, in other words, what we've done is we're making the borders more secure. We're dealing with first-time responders to make sure they've got what's needed to be able to respond.

As well, I understand how it works in rural parts of our country, like Georgia. I've got a pretty good handle on what happens in rural Georgia. I cut my teeth on rural Georgia in 1968 and '69 as a pilot trainee in Valdosta, Georgia, home of the mighty Bulldogs, I think they're called. I also understand the role of the volunteer firefighter. You've got a lot of fine citizens serving as volunteer firefighters in your State. We've got a lot in my State. I'm a proud backer of the Crawford Volunteer Fire Department, Crawford, Texas.

And one of the things that I know is that not all rural counties, in Georgia or in Texas or anywhere else, can have all the equipment necessary to be an integral part of the first line of response. But I do know that neighbors like to work with neighbors. And I do know that one county might have a good hospital; another county might have the capacity to respond. So we've got money in our budget, Governor, for what I call mutual aid agreements. There's $140 million in the budget to encourage rural counties to pool their resources, their talents, their time to be able to respond to any kind of attack. We've got a big focus on the big cities like Atlanta and the surrounding counties. But we've also got to make sure that our rural areas all across America also have got a capacity to respond.

You also need to know that we are spending a great deal of time trying to gather as much intelligence as we possibly can to make sure that we follow every lead to protect the American people. If we get a hint that somebody is coming, we're going to respond. We're chasing down every—[*applause*]—and part of a modern homeland defense system is one that shares information more timely, not only amongst Federal agencies but amongst State and local authorities.

The enemy is a dangerous group of people. There's no way to rehabilitate these folks. They are murderers. And they hate what America stands for. See, they can't stand the thought that we're a society that welcomes

all religions, that we value freedom of religion as a part of our basic core. They hate the idea of political discourse and debate, freedom to speak. They don't even like the free press. They don't like much about what America stands for. And I want to issue this warning to the American people, that they're still after us.

But we're on alert. And I want to thank all the local law enforcement officials and everybody else who has got positions of responsibility for paying attention and for reporting anything that seems out of the ordinary, so we can follow it up to make sure it's not a real threat to America.

But the surest way that we protect the homeland is to run them down one by one and bring them to justice, and that's what we're going to do.

I want to thank you for giving me the chance to come and share with you some of my thoughts about this war against terrorists and terrorism. First, I see a lot of young folks here. I want to assure you of a couple of things about our country. First, we don't do this, take this action, out of revenge. We seek justice, not revenge. We seek justice. And secondly, we take this action because we believe so deeply in freedom. We love our freedom. And this Nation will stand strong and steady when it comes to defending our freedoms.

I also want you to know that I laid out a doctrine—and it's really important for when the United States speaks, it means what they say. And I said that if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist; if you feed one or hide one, you're just as guilty as those who came and murdered thousands of innocent Americans. It's an important part of any foreign policy to do what you say you're going to do. And we did. Thanks to the mighty United States military, the Taliban no longer is in power.

But I want to make two points to the young: One, we're not alone in this. There's a vast coalition of other countries that love freedom like we do. And secondly, your country went into Afghanistan not as conquerors, but we were liberators. It is hard to believe what I'm about to tell you, but there are hundreds of young girls in Afghanistan who weren't allowed to go to school. And thanks to the United States Government and the coalition we put together, last weekend children—boys and girls—got to go to school in Afghanistan.

But our defense of freedom is far from over. While we have held the doctrine in Afghanistan, the doctrine of "thou shall not harbor a terrorist," there still are killers running loose; there just are. And we must deal with that fact. And the best way to deal with it is to make sure there is no sanctuary, no haven, no place for them to group up or to train. The best way to deal with that is to cut off their money, is to insist that you're either with us or you're against us, insist that there be action when it comes to nations in the world, is to hold people accountable in the name of freedom.

And so the United States Government is today determined and steadfast and patient and resolved to chase down any criminal, any international terrorist, and bring them to justice. And the good news is the American people understand the cause. They understand the need. They understand that history has called us into action, and we must not blink. And we must not grow weary, because I repeat: We fight for freedom. We fight for values we hold so dear and precious.

Now, I believe that by being firm and disciplined and determined, we can achieve peace throughout the world. I believe out of this incredible evil that was done on September the 11th, we can realize good. And one of the good is going to be peace.

It is awfully hard to realize there can be peace in a place like the Middle East. My heart breaks for those innocent lives that are lost on a daily basis. And today there was another suicide bomber who murdered innocent Israelis. This callous, this coldblooded killing, it must stop. I condemn it in the most strongest of terms. I call upon Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian Authority to do everything in their power to stop the terrorist killing, because there are people in the Middle East who would rather kill than have peace.

If the United States is firm and strong in routing out terror, if the United States stays steady in our quest for peace, I believe we can achieve peace in places where people think we'll never have peace. The road is going to be hard, there's no question about

it. It'll test our will; it'll test our determination. But the enemy that struck us is going to find out what we're made out of. They've already found out a small taste about what we're made out of.

You know, when they hit us, they must have thought we were so self-absorbed and so materialistic that we would sue them. [*Laughter*] They were wrong. They're also wrong about one other thing. Our Nation—our Nation is not only a strong and determined nation, we are a compassionate nation. We're a nation who will show the world our true face by not only putting a military in place that's well paid, well trained, well equipped but also by loving a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourself.

Today I had two fine Americans—if you all would stand, please—come out to the airport. These good folks take time out of their lives. These are citizens that have heard a call to love a neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves. They spend extra time helping a neighbor in need. They've asked the question, "What can I do to make my society a better place"—you can sit down if you like—"how can I serve something—how can I serve something greater than myself?" Thank you all for coming to the airport. Thank you for your service to your community. Thank you for teaching children to read. Thank you for mentoring. Thank you for having served in AmeriCorps.

You see, if you want to help in the war against terror, find somebody whose heart may be broken and help mend it by loving them. Walk across the street and say to a shut-in, "I care for you." Mentor a child on how to read. If you're a mom or a dad, love your children with all your heart and all your soul. It's the accumulation of millions of acts of kindness and decency that define the true nature of our country. And by loving a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself, you help stand square in the face of evil.

The evil ones hit us. I believe the world can be more peaceful. I know our Nation can be more compassionate. And as a result, those who died on September the 11th and those who died subsequently defending freedom will not have died in vain.

Thank you all for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3 p.m. at the Georgia Institute of Technology. In his remarks, he referred to G. Wayne Clough, president, Georgia Institute of Technology; Representative Saxby Chambliss of Georgia; and Gov. Roy Barnes of Georgia and his wife, Marie.

Message on the Observance of Passover, 5762

March 27, 2002

I send greetings to all Americans and to all people around the world who are observing Passover this week, which begins at sundown on March 27.

Passover marks a uniquely special time in the Jewish calendar, commemorating Judaism's foremost traditions of freedom, faith, and family. In celebrating the Israelites' liberation from enslavement and their exodus from Egypt, Passover reminds Jews of their sacred tradition. It is a time for Jewish families to share together in long-established rituals and to offer prayers that celebrate the renewal of hope in the blessings of freedom.

The story of the Exodus speaks across the millennia. By God's power and blessing, the children of Abraham overcame Pharaoh's tyranny forty centuries ago and found freedom in the promised land. Every year at Passover, Jews relive the experience of the Exodus and remember the miracles that provided them their path to freedom.

As we seek peace throughout the world, we are reminded that freedom is a precious gift. At this Passover, I hope that people of every faith will affirm that freedom is the right of all people. And as Jews observe this sacred time, I hope that your faith will be strengthened in the remembrance of your miraculous and living heritage.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a blessed Passover.

George W. Bush

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

Message on the Observance of Easter, 2002

March 27, 2002

I send greetings to everyone observing Easter this year. During this joyful season of new life and renewal, Christians around the world celebrate the central event of their faith—the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, whom Christians believe is the Messiah, the Son of God.

The life and teachings of Jesus have inspired people throughout the ages to strive for a better world and a more meaningful life. Jesus' death stands out in history as the perfect example of unconditional love. The four Gospels of the Christian Bible recount Jesus' amazing life, his miraculous death, resurrection, and ascension, and his unending offer of salvation to all. The story of Jesus' wondrous resurrection comes alive again for Christians each year at Easter.

Easter Sunday commemorates in song and celebration the joy and promise of Christ's triumph over evil and death. Christians around the world gather together to sing well-loved hymns to God's glory, remembering the signs and wonders of God's grace revealed in Jesus. And they again will hear Gospel readings such as Saint Luke's rendering of that first Easter morning when the Angel asked: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!"

Easter's message of renewal is especially meaningful now during this challenging time in our Nation's history. On September 11, 2001, America suffered devastating loss. In the wake of great evil, however, Americans responded with strength, compassion, and generosity. As we fight to promote freedom around the world and to protect innocent lives in America, we remember the call of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*: "As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free."

Laura joins me in sending best wishes for a wonderful Easter.

George W. Bush

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

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Senatorial Candidate Saxby Chambliss in Atlanta

March 27, 2002

Thank you all very much. Saxby, thanks. I am honored that so many showed up. I want to thank you for such a warm welcome. I'm here to deliver this message: Saxby Chambliss needs to be in the United States Senate. And I'm so pleased you agree with me. [*Laughter*]

First, I want to thank Julianne. One of the things I've learned is that a life in the public arena is a lot easier when you've got a great wife. He married above himself, and so did I. [*Laughter*] We both married schoolteachers. And like Saxby is proud of Julianne, I'm really proud of Laura. I wish she were here tonight. She's in Crawford, Texas. The two dogs and the cat—[*laughter*]—went down to Crawford, because that's where I'm headed after this event. I love my job. But even though I've changed addresses, my home is still in the heart of Texas.

I want to thank Saxby's mother for being here. She informed me when she came through to get her picture taken that she was here, but she was a Democrat. [*Laughter*] I said that didn't bother me one bit. [*Laughter*] I never would have gotten to be the Governor of Texas had not a lot of Democrats voted for me. [*Laughter*] It doesn't matter whether you're Republican or Democrat when it comes to doing the right thing for the country and the right thing for our democracy. We welcome all people; we welcome anybody.

And looking at the mother reminds me to remind all the youngsters here to listen to your mother. I'm still listening to mine. [*Laughter*] I'm listening to her most of the time—don't tell her I said that. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank Bo Callaway for being the master of ceremonies. I appreciate his long service to the United States of America. I want to thank Congressmen Barr and Collins, Deal, Linder, and Norwood, fine, fine members of the congressional delegation from the great State of Georgia, members with whom I enjoy working, members who represent your State in a proud way. And I appreciate you letting somebody from the State of Ohio

in—[*laughter*]—the chairman of the Education Committee, John Boehner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I had the privilege of saying hello to one of Georgia's most distinguished citizens today, and that's Judge Griffin Bell. I'm so honored the judge is here. You all have produced a lot of fine leaders from your State, and Judge Bell is one of the finest. And I appreciate the party chairman, Ralph Reed. I appreciate his dedication to grassroots politics.

And I want to thank the R.B. Wright fifth grade choir. You read more than you watch TV. [*Laughter*] And thanks for coming.

And I want to thank all those who worked hard to make this a successful evening, and I want to thank you all for caring about your country and for doing what is right: getting involved in democracy and working hard. And when you find a good one like Saxby Chambliss, work your heart out, because there is no finer American than Saxby. He loves his family. He loves his country. He's a man of enormous experience. He's one of these can-do politicians, somebody who goes to Washington and tries to figure out how to make things better.

I value his advice on terrorism. He's sound when it comes to counterterrorism. He's been in the Oval Office to give me sound, solid advice. And I've listened to it every time he's come in there. I appreciate his love for education. He understands this: that if you can't read, you can't realize the American Dream. I like to put it this way: Reading is the new civil right, and we must have people who understand the profound impact quality education can have on the future of this country.

And I'm glad Boehner is here. I had the honor of signing a profound piece of education reform. It said a couple of things. One, it says we believe in high standards for everybody, not just a few but everybody; that we trust the people of Georgia to run your schools more than we trust the people in Washington, DC; that we're committed to spending Federal dollars on education, but for every dollar spent, we expect there to be results.

We believe—and I strongly believe—every child can learn. And, therefore, the system must focus on every child. The name of the bill that Saxby worked on and John Boehner worked on is, "No Child Shall Be Left Behind." And that's the way I feel. And that's the way America must be, that the promise of America must be extended to every single person. Saxby understands that, and I'm going to be proud to have him in the United States Senate working on these fundamental issues that will help change America.

There is no more fundamental issue than to—making sure we have a judiciary of people that do not interpret the law from the bench, people who do not try to write law from the bench, people who interpret the law and not try to write it. And I put up a good man from Mississippi the other day. And I don't remember the senior Senator from Georgia defending this man's honor. And we're going to have more fights when it comes to the judiciary. And I'm going to put strict constructionists on the bench. And I expect people in the United States Senate, from a great State like Georgia, to do what Zell Miller did and—stood up and defended the honor and integrity of Judge Pickering. And that's what Saxby Chambliss is going to do.

He also knows something about agriculture. This State will benefit by having somebody who knows something about agriculture in the United States Senate. Saxby knows what I know: that we're the best producers in the world, that Georgia farmers and American farmers are the best. And if you're the best, it benefits our farmers to fight to open up markets around the world. And that's exactly what I'm going to do. And I want his help. You see, it's a confident nation that tears down barriers. It's a confident nation that insists that people open up their markets to our food products. It's been my policy, and I need people in the United States Senate who's willing to back me on that policy. And so do the American farmers.

I'll never forget one time in Chicago when a reporter said, "Would you ever deficit spend?" And I said, "Well, only—only if we were at war, only if there were a national emergency, or only if there is a recession." Never did I believe we'd get the trifecta. [*Laughter*] But we're dealing with it.

And let me talk about this recession. We cut taxes at exactly the right time. We understand that if you let people keep their own money, they will demand more goods and services. And as they demand more goods and services, somebody will produce more goods and services. And when you produce more goods and services, you expand the job base.

Now, some folks evidently don't understand that. They've been reading a different textbook than Saxby and I read. You see, they either want to delay the tax cut or raise your taxes. We need somebody in Washington—a friend of the taxpayer, a vote we can rely on. And let me tell you a crucial vote that's going to come up. The tax reform act started the end of the death tax. However, we need to make getting rid of the death tax permanent in the Tax Code. We don't need anybody up there who's going to waver, somebody who's going to try to check in with a higher political authority on whether this is the right move or not.

Getting rid of the death tax forever is important for small-business owners. It's important for farmers. It is important for ranchers. The death tax is a bad tax. The death tax says that someone is going to have to work all their life to build up their assets and then leave most of it not to who they choose but to the Federal Government. Saxby Chambliss understands that. It's a vote that you can count on in the United States Senate, when it comes to tax policy.

And we're dealing with the other issues. We're dealing with the national emergency, and we're dealing with the war. I had the honor of going to Georgia Tech today to talk about our homeland defense. [*Applause*] I'm glad they let one graduate in—[*applause*]—two in. [*Laughter*] I talked about my administration's commitment to protecting the homeland, to doing everything we can do to keep American families safe. Part of that protection is to make sure that if there is any attack, that we can respond quickly, so I talked about a first-responders initiative. I had the honor of being with some of the finest folks in your State, the firefighters and those who work for the police and emergency medical teams, to lay out one of my budget priorities, which is a first-responders initiative. We've got $3.5 billion in the '03 budget to make sure that if there is an attack, we can respond quickly.

I've also talked to folks about how we're going to strengthen the Coast Guard to make sure our ports are more secure. We've got an airline security bill to make sure that air traffic is—air travel is as safe as it can possibly be.

I want you to know that our law enforcement is communicating better from the Federal to the State to the local level. Any time we get any whiff or hint that somebody may do something in America, we're reacting. We're doing everything we can.

We need better control of our borders. We want to know who's coming in and why they're coming in and are they leaving. So we're doing everything we can to bolster the homeland security. It's the most important job, is to be able to assure Americans we're doing everything we can to keep you safe. But the best homeland security, the best way to protect Americans for the long run, is to find the killers and bring them to justice one by one. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

I don't know what they were thinking on September the 11th. They must have taken a look at America and said, "All they'll do is sue us." [*Laughter*] They were wrong. They were wrong. I said right off the bat, you're either with us or you're against us. I meant every word of what I said.

I also said that if you harbor a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the murderers who hit New York and Washington and you will be held accountable. And thanks to a mighty coalition, led by a fantastic United States military, the Taliban found out exactly what I meant.

I like to assure my fellow citizens that we don't seek revenge; we seek justice. And it's important for the young in America to understand that when we went into Afghanistan, we went in not as conquerors but as liberators. Young girls went to school—many young girls went to school for the first time this past weekend, thanks to the United States of America.

I have submitted a budget that significantly increases our defense budget. It's the

largest increase in 20 years. I did so for two reasons. One, any time that we commit U.S. troops into action, they must have the best training, the best equipment, the best pay possible. We owe it to those who are willing to sacrifice for freedom.

I expect the United States Congress to pass the budget I submitted. I expect them to get the appropriations bill for defense out early, not late. Now is not the year to play games with the defense of the United States of America. And Saxby understands that. He knows what I'm talking about. I also have asked for a significant increase because we're in this for the long haul. We're fighting for freedom. We fight people who are killers, coldblooded murderers who hate America. They hate the fact that we worship freely in our country. They can't stand the fact that we have political discourse. They resent the fact that we're a free society. Freedom scares them.

And when it comes to defending freedom, they will find out that this Nation is determined and steadfast. And we will provide the resources necessary to chase them down. These are international criminals. They will be treated like international criminals. And we will not stop until we hunt them all down to make sure our children and grandchildren can grow up in a peaceful world.

And the task is more than one person or more than one terrorist organization. There are some nightmare scenarios that we must confront if we want to secure the peace and defend our freedoms. One such scenario is the fact that a terrorist organization could join up with some of the world's worst leaders, who harbor some of the world's worst weapons. I referred to some of those world's worst leaders as an "axis of evil." I meant exactly what I said. Now, our Nation is deliberate. We're steady. We're going to talk with our allies. But we will not let the world's worst leaders hold our Nation and our friends and our allies hostages with weapons of mass destruction.

And I believe that the fact that we will remain strong and united as a nation, that we will be determined, will yield a world that will be more peaceful. It's going to be rough at times, no question about it. And we'll call upon our citizens to sacrifice, particularly those who wear the uniform. But as a result of a steadfast, absolute determination to defend freedom, the world's going to be more peaceful.

Out of the incredible evil of September the 11th will come some lasting good. And nothing compares to peace. We fight for peace, we long for peace, but we will not relent. We will not weary until peace is secure.

And out of this terrible evil will come some good at home. And the reason why is because the great strength of our country lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens. What a fabulous nation we are; what a great country America is. You know, the thing that I love about our country is the fact that people are willing to help people in need, and it doesn't require a government law. You see, people ask me all the time, "What can I do to help in the war against terror?" You can be vigilant, you can be alert, but you can also love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

If you want to do something against evil, do some good. If you want to do something against evil, mentor a child who may need to learn to read. Walk across the street if there's a shut-in and say to that person, "I care for you." Feed the hungry. Go to your church or synagogue or mosque and convince a Sunday school class to get a project that will help somebody who hurts. Recognize the power of faith in our society, when it comes to healing the addiction of alcohol or drugs.

That's what we can do in America. We can capture a unique spirit in this land and stand squarely in the face of those who are evil. And that's what America is doing. And that's why it's such a huge honor to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the earth.

I'm honored you all are here. Thank you for supporting this good man. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Chambliss' wife, Julianne, and his mother, Emma B. Chambliss; former Representative Bo Callaway of Georgia; Griffin Bell, senior partner, King and

Spalding; Ralph Reed, chairman, Georgia Republican Party; and nominee for U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit Charles W. Pickering, Sr., of Mississippi. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Senatorial Candidate John Cornyn in Dallas, Texas

March 28, 2002

Thank you very much. Thank you all. Please be seated. Thanks. Everybody in Crawford says hello—[*laughter*]—starting with Laura. I wish she'd have come with me today, but—[*applause*]—she is doing a fabulous job. I tell people it's because she's from Midland, Texas. But I send her best. She's got a lot of friends here. And the country now realizes why I asked her to marry me. [*Laughter*] A lot of people are still wondering why she said yes, but nevertheless, she's doing great, and she sends her love. And I want to thank you all for coming here today as well.

It is my honor to come and campaign for the next United States Senator from the State of Texas. I'm going to miss Phil Gramm. He is a close friend. He is a strong, strong advocate for principles that are sound for our freedom. He has been a great United States Senator from Texas. I was disappointed he chose not to run again. I understand, but I was disappointed. But my disappointment waned when I realized my friend John Cornyn was running to take his place. I know John. I've seen him work. I've seen him in action. I've not only seen him as a campaigner but somebody who does in office what he said he is going to do. There is no question in my mind that he can do the job and bring a standard of excellence to the United States Senate. And there's no question in my mind we need him in the United States Senate to make sure our agenda moves forward.

I want to thank Bill and Rita Clements for being here. I like to call Bill the pathfinder for Republican Governors. I appreciate my friend Henry Bonilla for taking on the Texas Victory 2002 committee. It is important we send Henry back to the United States House of Representatives. I know Kay Granger from Fort Worth is here, and I appreciate so very much working with Kay. She is a great friend, a reliable voice for sound and commonsense policy in Washington, DC.

I'm so glad to see Greg Abbott, the next attorney general of Texas, here. I know that Wallace Jefferson and Mike Schneider are here. Thank you all for coming. I know that Jeb Hensarling, the next United States Congressman from the 5th Congressional District, is here as well. Congratulations on your primary win, Jeb. Charles Matthews is here. Our party chairman, Susan Weddington, is here. I want to thank Susan for her longtime service to the Republican Party of Texas. I see Tommy Craddick is here, other members of the house and the State senate. I miss you. I wish I could count on your votes in Washington, like I could have in Austin. But thanks for coming by to see your old buddy. And thank you all for being here as well.

This is an important election for Texas. And it's an important election for the country. We've got to have a man like John Cornyn representing our State in Washington. And there are a lot of reasons why.

First, we've got to get good, conservative judges appointed to the bench and approved by the United States Senate. I want people on the bench who don't try to use their position to legislate from the bench. We want people to interpret the law, not try to make law and write law. And I sent such a man up from Mississippi the other day, a good, honest, honorable man, who had been approved unanimously by the United States Senate earlier, and yet did not get a vote on the floor of the United States Senate. We need people like John Cornyn in the United States Senate, who will work with the White House to have a solid judiciary, to make sure that the judges do what they're supposed to do in the United States and not overstep their bounds.

We need somebody like John, who is going to take a tough position, tough stand on issues like energy. I don't need to be telling my friends in Texas that we've got an energy problem, but we do. We need to do a better job of conservation, no question about it. And we will. As technology advances, we will conserve more. But for the sake of our national

security, we need to be finding more energy at home. We need to be less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. John Cornyn will be a steady vote and a steady voice when it comes to good, sound energy policy in Washington, DC.

You know, one of the interesting issues that always faces us in Washington is what to do with the people's money. The tendency, of course, is to overpromise and then overspend. We need fiscal sanity in Washington. I want to thank Phil and his leadership on the issue of taxation. As you may remember—I think it was in this room—I said, "If you give me a chance to be your President, I will make sure the people get to keep a substantial amount of their own money." I reminded people that we weren't dealing with the Government's money; we were dealing with the people's money. John understands that.

And we passed tax relief in Washington, exactly at the right time. You see, we understand—Phil understands, I understand, and John understands—that if you let people keep more of their own money, they will demand more goods and services. And if they demand more goods and services, somebody will help produce those goods and services. And if somebody else produces those goods and services, it makes it easier for somebody to find work. And so we cut the taxes on the people. Right in the middle of a recession, we cut the taxes, which is the right thing to do.

Now, there are some people up there who read a different textbook. See, they advocate raising your taxes. They get caught in that Washington trap. They forget whose money we're spending. John Cornyn understands we spend the people's money, not the Government money, and he'll be a reliable ally when it comes to making sure that tax relief that we passed is permanent and long lasting and real.

And I'll tell you an issue that's coming up where we're going to need his support, if they don't get it done this year. We put the death tax on its way to extinction. But because of a quirk—but because of a Senate rule, after 10 years that death tax can come back to life. I proposed, Phil has proposed, that we make the death tax—getting rid of the death tax permanent. I guarantee he'll vote for that.

You know, when I was campaigning in Chicago in the general election, somebody said, "Would you ever deficit spend?" I said, "Well, only if we were at war or there was a national emergency or we were in recession." Little did I realize we'd get the trifecta. [*Laughter*]

We've dealt with the recession with good fiscal policy, a budgeting process that holds the line on spending, and at the same time, let people have more of their own money back. And it's important for us to make sure that those actions we took to stimulate the private sector remain in place.

And we're also dealing with the other two issues. Today I had the opportunity of going to the Dallas Fire Department's training center to thank Texas Task Force 1 for going to New York City on September the 16th, to be there at Ground Zero to help rescue those who were trapped in the rubble. I went by there because I wanted to highlight one of the key initiatives in the homeland defense strategy, which is to make sure we've got a coordinated effort with our first-responders, to respond to any emergency that may come up from this point forward.

The reason I bring that up to you is that my most important job as your President is to defend the homeland, is to protect American people from further attacks. Not only are we working on a first-responders initiative, we've got a good, fine bioterrorism initiative as to how to respond if there were a bioterrorist attack.

We're beefing up our border security. It's important for this country to understand who's coming in and who's going out. And we know we've got a lot of work to do with the INS. It's a troubled agency that needs reform, and we will reform it.

I want to assure you all that we're doing a much better job in Washington of coordinating intelligence and information between jurisdictional boundaries, and we're sharing information in a much better way with State and local authorities. If we get any kind of hint that there's an Al Qaida cell in America, we're moving on it. If we get any whisper that somebody wants to harm us again, I can assure you, we're moving quickly.

Every morning in the Oval Office, George Tenet of the CIA comes in and gives me a briefing about what he knows. And then the Director of the FBI, Robert Mueller, comes in. I ask him every single day, "What do you know, and what have you done about it? If you've got any hint, Mr. Director, for the good of the American people, I want you and over 4,000 agents dedicated to protecting the homeland to move quickly."

I'm proud of the way we're responding as a nation. The Nation is on alert; we're prepared, because we understand that we fight an enemy that are nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. They can't be rehabilitated. They hate what America stands for. They hate our religious tolerance. They hate our freedom of speech. They hate freedom of the press. They despise freedom. They despise freedom. And therefore, the best way to secure the homeland, and the only way to secure the homeland for the long term, is to hunt them down one by one and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what I intend to do.

I don't know what was on their mind when they attacked America. They must have thought we were so self-absorbed and materialistic that all we were going to do was file a lawsuit. [*Laughter*] But they found out we think differently here in this country. They now know we love freedom, and we will defend our freedom with all our might.

I laid down a doctrine early. It said, either you're with us or you're against us. And fortunately, most of the world said they're with us. And we've put together a vast coalition of freedom-loving nations to defend not only America but our friends and allies.

I also said that if you harbor a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist and feed a terrorist, you are just as guilty as the murderers who killed thousands of innocent Americans. And the Taliban found out exactly what we meant. I unleashed the mighty United States military and other coalition forces and, thanks to the bravery of U.S. soldiers, the Taliban has been routed out of existence.

It is so important for young Americans to know that our Nation does not seek revenge; we seek justice. And we'll do whatever it takes to defend freedom. We view freedom as nonnegotiable. It is precious. It's also important for Americans to understand that we went into Afghanistan not as a conquering nation but as liberators. Last Saturday, many young girls went to school for the first time in Afghanistan, thanks to the United States of America.

We've got a lot more to do. And that's what I want to share with you, and that's what John understands. Even though we've upheld the doctrine, if you hide a terrorist, you're just as bad as a terrorist, there are other countries that might not get the message. And there are a lot of people still on the loose that want to hurt America.

And that's why I've submitted the largest increase in the defense budget during the last 20 years. Because here's what I know: If we put our soldiers at risk, they deserve the best equipment, the best training, the best pay. Oh, some of them are talking in Washington about it's too high a price. Listen, there is never too high a price for freedom, as far as I'm concerned.

And I submitted this budget because it's a clear signal to the American people and, just as importantly, to our enemy, that we're in this for the long pull. I have no calendar on my desk that says this must end by a certain date and I'll feel better. It doesn't matter how long it takes, as far as I'm concerned. So long as I'm the President, we will treat these killers as international terrorists and get them on the run and keep them on the run until we bring each and every one of them to justice. And that's what we're going to do.

This fight on the war against terror is larger than any single individual or any single network. There are other nightmare scenarios that our Nation must be worried about. One such scenario would be for a terrorist killer organization to team up with some of the world's worst leaders who harbor and develop the world's worst weapons.

I've told this to a lot of world leaders, that I'm just not going to let that happen. History has called us into action. We can't look back after our time in Washington, DC, and say, "How come we let this happen?" For the good of our children and our grandchildren, we must deny the world's most dangerous leaders from having and harboring the world's most dangerous weapons. We'll be

deliberate; we'll be thoughtful; we will consult with our friends and allies. But when I said "axis of evil," I meant it.

I believe that out of this incredible evil that has been done to our country will come great good, though. I do. When the United States remains firm and strong and determined, we can achieve peace in parts of the world where people never thought peace could happen.

Oh, I know the Middle East is—looks like there will never be peace, but I can assure you we're not giving up. We're not going to let murderers disrupt a march to peace. My heart breaks for those who were celebrating Passover in the hotel, when a coldblooded killer came in and destroyed innocent life, to derail the attempts of peaceful-loving people for coming together.

But they're not going to stop us as a nation for longing for peace and working for peace. And the best way to achieve the peace is to be strong and steadfast against terror. I see a peaceful world. I do. The rest of the world watches us very carefully. I like to say, if the United States blinks, they'll go to sleep. We're not going to blink.

I also believe at home we can achieve incredible good too. People often say, "Well, what can I do to help in the war against terror?" My answer is, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. I look around the room and see a lot of my friends who I know have been doing good for a long, long number of years here in Texas. And I want to thank you for that. But it's important you keep doing it. It's important you give of your time and your money to help people in need.

This Nation is based upon some great principles: our love for freedom, our love for democracy. But our real strength is the hearts and souls of the American people. We're a tough nation; we're a courageous nation. But we're also a compassionate nation. And in order to fight terror, in order to stand squarely in the face of evil, we must help people in need. Just walking across the street to see a shut-in and saying, "I care about you," is part of fighting evil. Mentoring a child, telling your own child you love him every single day, going to a church or a synagogue or a mosque and developing a program to help feed the hungry or clothe those who need clothes and help, that's all part of not only defining our Nation, but fighting against evil.

And that's why I'm such an optimistic soul, because not only do I know that we've got what it takes to achieve the peace, we've got the determination, the will, and the strength to have a more peaceful world. I know we've got the heart and compassion to show the world the true definition of our Nation. And it's happened. It's the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and compassion which show the world the true worth of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for helping John Cornyn. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. in the Landmark Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. William P. Clements, Jr., of Texas and his wife, Rita; Greg Abbott, candidate for Texas Attorney General; Justice Wallace Jefferson, Texas Supreme Court; Chief Justice Michael Schneider, Texas First Court of Appeals; Jeb Hensarling, candidate for Texas House of Representatives; Charles R. Matthews, commissioner, Texas Railroad Commission; Tom Craddick, Texas State Representative; and nominee for U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit Charles W. Pickering, Sr.

Statement on the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group

March 29, 2002

I am pleased with the progress being made by the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group in addressing the problems facing the people of this region. Under the leadership of Secretary Norton, the working group is providing water to farmers who depend on it for a living, while taking careful steps to protect and enhance the health of fish populations in the Klamath River Basin. The working group is undertaking new environmental restoration projects in the area and has initiated a dialog with native tribes about long-term solutions to the natural resource and native rights issues in the basin.

The times are still difficult for many in the region, and much work remains to be done. It is essential that the citizens of Oregon and California in the Klamath River Basin—

whether farmer, rancher, tribe member, fisherman or environmental activist—embrace compromise and seek understanding. The working group's rapid progress, combined with the efforts of Senator Gordon Smith and Representative Greg Walden, give me great hope for a lasting solution to the challenges of the Klamath River Basin.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 23

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled from Monterrey, Mexico, to Lima, Peru, arriving in the afternoon.

In the afternoon, the President met with U.S. Embassy personnel. Later, in the Presidential Palace, he met with Presidents Alejandro Toledo of Peru, Andres Pastrana of Colombia, and Jorge Fernando Quiroga Ramirez of Bolivia, and Vice President Pedro Pinto Rubianes of Ecuador to discuss the Andean Trade Preferences Act and other regional issues.

March 24

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to San Salvador, El Salvador.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a luncheon meeting at the Casa Presidencial with Prime Minister Said Musa of Belize and Presidents Francisco Flores Perez of El Salvador, Alfonso Portillo of Guatemala, Ricardo Madura of Honduras, Enrique Bolanos of Nicaragua, Miguel Angel Rodriguez of Costa Rica, and Mireya Elisa Moscoso of Panama to discuss trade and other regional issues. Later, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

March 25

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Then, in the Oval Office, he met with Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark to discuss cooperation against terrorism, issues related to NATO, and the Prime Minister's role as incoming President of the European Union. Later, also in the Oval Office, he met with leaders of the Lubavitch Jewish community to sign a ceremonial copy of Proclamation 7534—Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 2002, and commemorate the 100th birthday of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, a Lubavitch leader who died in 1994.

March 26

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, the President met with Prime Minister Helen Clark of New Zealand in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation: Frank B. Strickland, Michael McKay, Thomas A. Fuentes, Lillian R. BeVier, and Robert J. Dieter.

March 27

In the morning, the President traveled to Greenville, SC. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with Chairman Hamid Karzai of the Afghan Interim Authority to express his condolences concerning the earthquakes that struck northern Afghanistan on March 25–26.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Atlanta, GA. In the evening, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

March 28

In the morning, the President traveled to Dallas, TX. In the afternoon, he returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charlotte A. Lane to be a member of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Carolyn Y. Peoples to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bruce R. James to be the Public Printer.

March 29

In the morning, the President had a teleconference meeting with the National Security Council.

The President announced the recess appointment of Dennis L. Schornack as Commissioner and Chairman of the International Joint Commission—United States and Canada.

The President announced the recess appointment of Emil H. Frankel as Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Transportation Policy.

The President announced the recess appointment of Jeffrey Shane as Associate Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

The President announced the recess appointment of Michael E. Toner as a member of the Federal Election Commission.

The President announced the recess appointment of Gerald Reynolds as Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released March 23

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice

Fact sheet: The President's Trip to Peru and Meeting with Andean Leaders

Fact sheet: U.S.-Peruvian Cooperation on Counternarcotics

Fact sheet: U.S. Support for Democracy in Peru

Fact sheet: Renewal of Peace Corps Program in Peru

Fact sheet: U.S.-Peru Debt Agreement Under the Tropical Forest Conservation Act

Fact sheet: U.S.-Peru Memorandum of Understanding for the Protection of Cultural Patrimony

Fact sheet: Food Assistance to Peru Under U.S. PL–480 Program

Fact sheet: Andean Center of Excellence for Teacher Training

Fact sheet: Andean Regional Initiative

Fact sheet: Andean Trade Preference Act

Fact sheet: E-Business Fellowship for the Andean Region

Released March 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: U.S.-El Salvador Relations

Released March 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released March 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3986

Fact sheet: President Announces Nominees for Key Health Posts

Released March 27

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Claire Buchan

Announcement: Mutual Aid Agreements: Support for First-Responders Outside Major Metropolitan Areas

Released March 29

Transcript of a press gaggle by Assistant Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe

Acts Approved by the President

Approved March 25

H.R. 3986 / Public Law 107–154
To extend the period of availability of unemployment assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act in the case of victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001