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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on June 28, 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.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Remarks at the Republican Party of Florida Majority Dinner in Orlando, Florida

June 21, 2002

Gosh, thanks for that warm welcome. It's an honor to be back here in the great State of Florida. I want to—I appreciate all of you who have come tonight. I'm here to help support the Republican Party of this State and make sure your unbelievably great Governor gets reelected.

It was a real treat for me to be able to see *mi cuñada,* my sister-in-law, Columba. Jeb and I both married above ourselves. [*Laughter*] I know you're proud of the job that Columba's doing as the first lady of Florida. And I'm really proud of the job Laura's doing as the First Lady of America.

I'm pleased to report that our mother is still telling both of us what to do. [*Laughter*] And we're both listening—most of the time. But it's great to be here with my family. As you know, we love our—we've got a great family; we love each other a lot. And anything I can do to help Jeb stay in the Governor's office I'll do, even if that means keeping Brogan as the Lieutenant Governor. [*Laughter*] I appreciate you, Frank. Frank Brogan is a very good man, and you're doing a great job, Frank. I appreciate you.

I want to thank an Orlando product who traveled with me today for his service to the country. Mel Martinez is doing a great job in my Cabinet. I want to thank former Senator Connie Mack for staying involved with the Republican Party and for helping a lot.

I appreciate so very much Congressman Ric Keller, who's doing a fine job in the United States Congress. Ric, thank you very much. Mike Bilirakis is here, and Mike is a great Congressman from up the coast. I appreciate you being here, Mike. They tell me Congressmen Miller and Foley and Weldon may be here. If you're not here, I can understand—I'm going to give a long speech. [*Laughter*] If you are here, thank you for your service to the State of Florida and to the country. And finally, they've been a little lax on the immigration laws here in Florida; you let a man from Georgia come in. He's a great Congressman from south Georgia, Charlie Norwood—Congressman Norwood.

I appreciate members of the elected—who have been elected statewide here in Florida: Charlie Bronson, Charlie Crist, and Tom Gallagher. I'm honored you all are here. I want to thank the chairman of the Republican Party of Florida, Al Cardenas, for his hard work and noble efforts for this party. And I want to thank Al Hoffman and Al Austin for their loyal friendship and longtime support for both Jeb and me. I want to thank you for your hard work. I want to thank the mayor of this fine city, and the mayor of Sarasota as well for coming—both Carolyn Mason and Glenda Hood. Thank you all for being here.

I appreciate so very much members of the Florida legislature, starting with the speaker, Tom Feeney, and Senate Leader John McKay. Thank you both for being here, and all of you for coming.

But most of all, I want to thank you all for supporting a great cause and a great slate of candidates. I want to thank those of you who have contributed your money, and I want to thank those of you who contribute your time. We understand—at least Jeb and I understand—how important it is to have a viable, vibrant grassroots organization. And for those of you who spent hours dialing phones and putting up signs and passing out pamphlets, thanks for your hard work. Get a little rest over the next couple of weeks—[*laughter*]—and get ready. We need you this fall.

My attitude is, when you find a man who brings integrity to office, you've got to send him back into that office. And that's Jeb Bush. He's a man with strong principles. He fights for what he believes in. He sets high

standards. The thing I'm most proud about Jeb, he is the Governor of everybody in the State of Florida. His vision—he doesn't think about keeping people out or doesn't think about keeping special people in. When Jeb thinks and acts, he thinks about how best to improve the lives of everybody.

And I want the citizens of Florida to stay focused on his education agenda and his education vision. Jeb Bush understands and believes that every child in the State of Florida can learn. He knows that if you set low standards, certain children aren't going to learn. He believes that he's got to set high standards to make sure that every child in this great State learns how to read and write and add and subtract.

He's a man of enormous principle who believes in holding people accountable. He understands that in order to make sure every child learns, you must measure. You see, there used to be a system in Florida that said—it must have said certain kids can't learn, so the easy way out is just to move them through. And guess who got moved through—inner-city African American kids. Let's just quit on them and move them through and hope nobody notices.

How about children whose parents don't speak English as a first language? They're easy to quit on. But under the leadership of Governor Jeb Bush, because he set high standards and holds people accountable for results, his program and his vision will do more to make sure that every child—I mean every single child in this great State—is going to get a good education, and no child will be left behind. I'm proud of you, brother.

It hasn't been easy times for Governors around the country when it comes to managing the budget. But fortunately, you've got a Governor who didn't run up the baselines of your budget when it seemed like times were plenty. You've got a fiscally sound Governor, somebody who understands that the people's money is their money, not the Government's money, somebody who's done a fabulous job on behalf of the taxpayers of the people of Florida.

I've enjoyed very much working with Jeb on a lot of key issues, and I know for the State of Florida there is no more key issue than making sure that the coastline of Florida didn't have a lot of oil and gas drilling. As a matter of fact, under our vision, it's not going to have any. And so we worked together on Destin Dome—we worked together on Destin Dome and the Collier property in the Everglades. And thanks to the leadership of this Governor, thanks to the leadership of Jeb Bush—he has been a strong environmental steward for the people of the State of Florida.

This guy is doing a great job for the people. And I'm confident with your help, you're going to send him back up to Tallahassee.

We've got work to do in Florida, and we've got work to do in Washington. And I want to share some thoughts about how I think things are going. First, I know there's a lot of talk about statistics in Washington, DC. They're always quoting this person's statistic or this smart person's statistic. Here's my attitude: If somebody wants to work and can't find a job, we've got a problem. If somebody's looking for work and can't find that job, all of us involved in public policy must do everything we can to expand the job base. The role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which the small-business owner has a chance to realize his or her dreams.

And that's why I insisted last year that the United States Congress join me in cutting the taxes on the working people all around America. I readily concede some people in Washington read a different economic textbook than I have. They believe that when the economy slows down, you've got to keep more of the money in Washington. I believe that if you let people have their own money, they'll spend it. And they'll demand a good and service, and when they demand a good or a service, somebody is going to produce that good and service. And when somebody produces that good and service, somebody is more likely to have a job. It is essential in Washington and in Tallahassee that you have leaders understand the entrepreneurial potential of our country and of the State of Florida.

So whether it be on tax policy or terrorism insurance—and by the way, I want to thank the Senate and the House for passing me

a terror insurance bill, so that we can make sure large-scale construction projects can go forward in the State of Florida. But they've got to make sure they send me a bill that doesn't enrich plaintiffs' attorneys but instead encourages workers to be able to find work.

And you're going to see, there's going to be some budget struggles in Washington, DC. The temptation is to spend, and I understand that. But they've given the President the veto for a reason. And one of the reasons is to make sure that there is fiscal discipline in Washington, DC. And I intend to use the veto to make sure we do not overspend in our nation's capital. We're making progress on the economic security front. But I'm telling you, we've got a lot more to do, and we will. We will.

And we're making progress on the defense of our homeland as well. As you probably have heard, I have asked Congress to help me in streamlining and making more effective the ability for all of us involved with the homeland security to do our jobs. I readily concede that some are probably asking the question, "Why would he try to create more Government?" After all, I didn't run and say, "Vote for me, I promise to create bigger Government." The reason why I have asked Congress to join me is because I want to take the over 100 agencies involved with homeland defense and bring them under one agency, so that we can be more effective, so that we can be more accountable and doing the most important job we have to do, which is to keep the enemy from hurting innocent Americans.

I say, "Keep the enemy from hurting innocent Americans," because that's exactly what they want to do. We're dealing with cold-blooded killers, and that's all they are. These are people who hijack a great religion and kill in the name of that religion. These are people who send youngsters to their death, and they hide in caves. And so I just want you to know that my main focus, and the main focus of a lot of hard-working people, is to do everything we can to protect America. We're chasing down every single lead—[*applause*]—we're chasing down every single lead. If there is a hint that somebody might try to do something to America, we're on them. We are.

I know there's been a lot of consternation in Washington—and probably in your newspapers here—about the FBI and the CIA. There's no question that the FBI needed to change its attitude after September the 11th. After all, prior to September the 11th, the main function of the FBI was to run criminals down here in America and arrest them and bring them to justice, and that's still an important function. But now that we've realized that we've got a war on our hands, an enemy that wants to hurt us, the FBI's primary mission is now to prevent an attack.

And they're talking better than ever. With intelligence-gathering networks, we're getting pretty good at it, and we're communicating better. My point to you is that the defense of the homeland, although never perfect, is improving every single day thanks to a lot of hard-working Americans.

But the best way to secure the homeland, the best way to make sure that I do my job, is to hunt the killers down one by one and bring them to justice. And that is precisely what America is going to do.

I've submitted a significant increase in the defense spending of the United States. It's the largest increase since Ronald Reagan was the President of our country. I did so for two main reasons. One, any time any one of our troops goes into the battle or into harm's way, that person deserves the absolute best equipment, the best pay, the best training possible. And the second reason is it sends a clear signal to our country, the coalition we have put together, and the enemy that the United States, when it comes to defending our freedom, will take however long it takes, that this is a long struggle, this is going to be a struggle of—it's going to last a long time.

And we're making progress, we really are. Some of it's very evident; we routed out this barbaric regime called the Taliban. We sent our incredibly brave troops into Afghanistan, and in pretty short order we liberated a country. We freed people from the clutches of people who wouldn't even let girls go to school, and now they do, thanks to the United States of America.

But a lot of what's happening you won't see. That's the nature of the new war. We're kind of chasing down shadowy networks, people that try to blend into big, crowded cities, or they hide in, as I said, caves. But you just need to know we're after them. We've got them on the run. And we're going to keep them on the run. And we're going to continue making sure we send a clear message: Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy.

We spend a lot of time talking to our friends and allies and bolstering our coalition. Today one of our coalition members, President Gloria Arroyo of the Philippines, did the world a great service. There was a group of killers named Abu Sayyaf in her country. They kidnapped; they killed. And today their leader met his Maker, thanks to one of our coalition partners.

We've hauled in, one way or the other, 2,400—make it 2,401—people that have been a part of this shadowy army. But there's more to do. There's more to do. And you can bet the United States of America, so long as I'm the President, is going to do what needs to be done, because, after all, we defend our freedom. And the decisions we make today and our steadfast resolve will help our children to live in a free world. And there's some tough, tough tasks ahead, no question about it. There will be some tough battles.

There's a threat that faces our country, which I take very seriously, and that is the capacity of some of the world's worst regimes to develop and harbor weapons of mass destruction. I'm a patient man. The United States has got a lot of tools at our disposal. And we'll use every tool at our disposal to make sure that the axis of evil doesn't hold us hostage, doesn't hold our friends hostage, and does not hurt the freedoms that we love so dearly.

I believe that out of the evil done to America will come some good. I believe that this country is so strong and so powerful and so good and decent that out of the evil done on September the 11th can come some important, lasting contributions to the world, starting with peace.

You know, Laura always—not always, sometimes—gets on me for my rhetoric. [*Laughter*] And if your children question, you know, why is the President talking this way or the other way? I ask you to look them in the eye and say, because he loves peace, because he believes that the United States has been called into action; that history has given us a chance to seize the moment to use our position in the world to make the world more peaceful, peaceful in America, peaceful in parts of the world where people cannot possibly dream of peace right now, peace in South Asia, peace in the Middle East. So long as I'm the President, I will drive public policy, foreign policy to achieving peace.

And at home, and at home, I believe that out of the evil is coming incredible good. People say, "What can I do to help?" You can love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. You see, it's the million acts of kindness and decency that take place every day in America that will help us fight off evil.

As a result of people loving their neighbor, mentoring a child, helping a shut-in, our culture's changing in America. I gave a speech at Ohio State University a week ago today, and I was pleased to see that 70 percent of all the graduating class had at one time or another done some volunteer work. It's a great sign to realize that our young have heard the call that life is more than just profit and loss, that life of service is an important part of being not a spectator but a citizen of the United States of America.

The most compelling story, of course, in my judgment, after 9/11 or during 9/11 was Flight 93, when brave souls heard that their airplane was a weapon. They called their loved ones. They said a prayer, and they took the airplane in the ground in the ultimate gesture of serving something greater than yourself. I believe that lesson has reverberated throughout our society. I believe millions of our fellow citizens now realize that in order to be a full-fledged American, it means you've got to help somebody in need.

There are pockets of despair and hopelessness in America that can be solved by love and compassion, by works of faith. And I believe that out of the evil, more and more Americans, as a result of our fellow Americans showing compassion and decency, will

realize the American Dream extends to every neighborhood in this great land.

I believe that Americans understand that the culture of if it feels good, do it, and you got a problem, blame somebody else, is a culture that must fade off into the sunset. It's being replaced by a culture of personal responsibility. Each of us are responsible for loving our children. If you happen to be a mom or a dad, your most important job is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul.

In order to be a good neighbor, you must love your neighbor. If you're running a business, a public company in America, you have the responsibility to have clean balance sheets, to be—fully disclose your assets and your liabilities and treat your shareholders and employees with the respect they deserve.

No, out of the evil done to America has come a new culture, a new sense of responsibility. The enemy thought they were hurting America, and they killed too many lives, no question about it. But they didn't realize who they were dealing with. They were dealing with the greatest Nation, the most decent Nation, the most compassionate Nation on the face of this Earth. And it is my high honor to be the President of such a great place.

Thank you for coming. God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:44 p.m. in the Tuscan Ballroom at the Universal Studios Portofino Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, and his wife, Columba; Charles Bronson, Florida commissioner of agriculture; Charlie Crist, Florida education commissioner; Thomas Gallagher, Florida State treasurer, insurance commissioner, and fire marshal; Al Hoffman, Jr., national finance chairman, Republican National Committee; Al Austin, finance chairman, Republican Party of Florida; Mayor Carolyn Mason of Sarasota, FL; Mayor Glenda Hood of Orlando; Abu Sabaya, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group who was killed June 21 by Philippine military forces; and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks at the President's Fitness Challenge

June 22, 2002

Well, thank you all very much for coming. I hope you feel as good as I feel. Great to be outside, isn't it? Thanks for coming today.

General Jackson, thank you so very much for opening up this beautiful running trail for me and a couple of my friends. [*Laughter*] I want to thank you, sir, and all the troops that helped make this run successful. And I want to thank you and all the troops and their families for their service to a great country. Thank you very much for letting us come back today.

I want to thank those on my Cabinet who are here. I see the Secretary of HUD here, Mel Martinez. Ann Veneman is here. Where's Ann? Annie, good going; good to see you. Thank you all for coming. Robert Zoellick, Trade Minister—where is Zoellick? He left. [*Laughter*] He didn't know he was going to get introduced.

I want to thank Debbie LeHardy for the Race for the Cure and Tara Wolf Monaco as well for helping organize this. Thank you for your—[*applause*]. The Race for the Cure is a fantastic event. It raises money for a great cause, and they know how to organize well. Thank you all for setting this up for us.

I want to thank my friend Paul Carrozza, who's a member of the President's Council on Physical Fitness, for being here as well. Paul is a—he's a fellow Texan. Yeah! If you're ever in Austin, you might want to stop by his store and buy a couple pairs of shoes from him. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank the great athletes from the Special Olympics who are here today to help us register. These athletes registered people to volunteer as well. They're going to represent the country in the 2003 World Games in Ireland. Kevin Boyd is here with us today, Lindsey Wilkes, Kevin Gafford, and Daniel Bailey. Thank you all for coming. Good luck at the Olympic Games too.

Sir, I'll be down there and get it in a minute.

I want to thank Fresh Fields and Dasani water—make sure you drink a lot of that today—[*laughter*]—at least that's what Dr. Tubb told me—[*laughter*]—and Starbucks, for helping to sponsor this event.

I want to thank you all for agreeing not only to set a good example but agreeing to help a neighbor in need. As you might remember, part of the entry fee—or the entry fee is the willingness for you to give of your time and money to help a local charity here. And if you haven't signed up yet, I was serious about that being part of the entry fee. I think it's important for all of us who are fortunate enough to be able to run and be healthy to help others who might not be as fortunate. So thanks for agreeing to do that.

It's important for those of us in the White House to live how we talk. If we're going to say we're going to live a healthy life, let's do it. If we say we care about a neighbor in need, we want to love a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourselves; let's show it through our actions. So I want to thank you for the example.

It's really important for the White House team to exercise on a regular basis. I hope you understand at least that's how the boss thinks. [*Laughter*] I expect you to—I think you're—I know; I don't think—I know you're a better worker if you exercise on a daily basis. I know you'll help keep the health care costs down in America if you exercise on a daily basis. [*Laughter*] I know your life will be more complete if you exercise and serve a neighbor in need.

And you know, we're not here for long. But when we're here, let's make sure we give it our all. And one way to do so is to stay healthy and fit, have a great outlook in life.

And so thanks for joining us today. It's been a fantastic event. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. Make sure you stretch afterwards, get in a good nap—[*laughter*]—and show up to work on time on Monday. [*Laughter*]

God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:10 a.m. on the Parade Field at Fort McNair. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. James T. Jackson, USA, Commanding General, Military District of Washington; Debbie LeHardy, general manager, and Tara Wolf Monaco, deputy general manager, Komen Race for the Cure; and Col. Richard Tubb, USAF, Director, White House Medical Unit.

The President's Radio Address

June 22, 2002

Good morning. Earlier today, the First Lady and I joined the White House staff for the inaugural Presidential Fitness Challenge Run and Walk. Every participant took important steps on the road to better health, and runners and walkers volunteered to perform community service or contribute to charities.

The Fitness Challenge is part of a larger initiative I launched this week to help Americans live longer, better, and healthier lives. And the good news is this: When it comes to your health, even little steps can make a big difference. If just 10 percent of adults began walking regularly, Americans could save $5.6 billion in costs related to heart disease. And research suggests that we can reduce cancer deaths by one-third simply by changing our diets and getting more exercise.

The title of our new health and fitness initiative says it all, HealthierUS. It is based on four guideposts to good health. First, be physically active every day. Second, develop good eating habits. Third, take advantage of preventative screenings. Fourth, don't smoke, don't do drugs, and don't drink excessively. These four simple measures will help all Americans get healthier and stronger.

First, be physically active every day. A report released this week by the Department of Health and Human Services confirms that almost 40 percent of adults get no leisure time physical activity. This lack of activity can lead to poor health and higher health care costs. Americans who are obese spend approximately 36 percent more on health care services than the general population. They spend 77 percent more on medications.

Here are some simple suggestions to help Americans get active. Walking 30 minutes a day can improve your health. Playing a game in the backyard will help parents and children get fit and spend some quality time with each other. And regularly hiking through a park can add years to your life. This weekend,

the Federal Government is waiving all entrance fees to national parks and other Federal lands, so you can exercise while exploring America's natural beauty. Exercise is a daily part of my life, and I urge all Americans to make it an important part of your lives.

Second, eat a nutritious diet. That means eating fruits and vegetables and cutting back on fatty foods. If you try your best to achieve these goals, you will be on the road to healthier living, and you'll have a lot more energy for your 30-minute walk.

Third, get preventative screenings, simple tests that can tell you if you're prone to developing certain diseases such as diabetes and cancer and heart disease. By acting on that information, you can help prevent a potentially life-threatening illness.

Fourth, cut out tobacco, drugs, and excessive drinking. Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in America. Drug and alcohol abuse destroys lives and families and communities. Avoiding tobacco, drugs, and excessive alcohol can save your life.

This initiative is part of my administration's ongoing commitment to raising awareness about the benefits of exercise and healthy choices. Our message is simple but important. The doctors in America should talk to your patients about the value of exercise and healthy eating. Parents should make sure your children get plenty of exercise and good nutrition and make smart decisions. By making minor changes to our lives, we will build a healthier and stronger America.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:16 p.m. on June 20 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 22. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 21 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Earthquake in Iran

June 22, 2002

I am saddened by the news of the earthquake centered in Iran this morning. I extend my condolences and those of the American people to the families of the many victims in the cities and villages affected by this tragic event. Human suffering knows no political boundaries: We stand ready to assist the people of Iran as needed and as desired.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Western Balkans

June 21, 2002

On June 26, 2001, by Executive Order 13219, I declared a national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting, (i) extremist violence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo. Because the actions of these persons, which threaten the peace and international stabilization efforts in the Western Balkans, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on June 26, 2001, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond June 26, 2002. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans.

This Notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 21, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 24, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 24, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 25.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Western Balkans

June 21, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a Notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed Notice, stating that the Western Balkans emergency is to continue in effect beyond June 25, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

The crisis constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting, (i) extremist violence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on June 26, 2001, has not been resolved. These actions are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the Western Balkans and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 21, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 24.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to the Western Balkans

June 21, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 21, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 24.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

June 21, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with section 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period April 1, 2002, through May 31, 2002. The previous submission covered events from February 1, 2002, through March 31, 2002.

Direct talks on the island between Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash continue under U.N. auspices as they strive to meet their stated objective of a comprehensive settlement by the end of this month. As in past reporting periods, Special Cyprus Coordinator Thomas G. Weston and U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Donald K. Bandler provided diplomatic support to the process. The United States remains committed to the

United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 24.

Remarks on Homeland Security in Port Elizabeth, New Jersey

June 24, 2002

Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Well, not everybody be seated. [*Laughter*]

Thank you all very much for coming today. It is my high honor to be in the midst of so many great Americans, people who serve our country with dignity and honor, people who allowed me to say, "We're winning, and we're going to continue to win as we fight for our freedoms."

I'm honored to be here at the largest marine cargo terminal on the East Coast. I'm so impressed with the massive size of this operation and its obvious importance to the economy of our country, but not nearly as impressed as I have been and am by the way New Jersey firefighters and police officers and emergency rescue units and Port Authority officers responded on September the 11th and have continued to respond.

The country has come to appreciate so very much the dedication of our Nation's first-responders, thanks to the bravery of many in this audience and the continued hard work you do on behalf of all America. So on behalf of a grateful nation, I want to thank you for the job you're doing for the people of New Jersey and the people of New York and, as importantly, for the people of this great land, your fellow Americans.

I appreciate the many who have traveled with me today, key Cabinet members and heads of agencies all involved with the defense of our homeland. I appreciate Norm Mineta, the Secretary of Transportation, who's doing such a fantastic job in his important Cabinet position. I want to thank Tom Ridge, who's the Homeland Security Adviser, who's with me today. I appreciate the Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, and Christie Todd Whitman, who is running the Environmental Protection Agency. [*Applause*] They still remember you. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate Commissioner Robert Bonner of the U.S. Customs, Admiral Tom Collins, who's the Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard. I want to thank Commissioner Jim Ziglar of the INS for his steadfast leadership. Jim, thank you very much. I appreciate Jack Sinagra of the—Port Authority chairman, and all those who work hard to make sure this port runs well.

I also want to thank very much the Governor of New Jersey for being here; Jim, thank you for coming, appreciate your time. Members of the mighty New Jersey Congressional delegation who have joined us, Senator Torricelli and Senator Corzine, thank you all for being here. Congressman Mike Ferguson, Frank LoBiondo, Congressman Steve Rothman, Congressman Marge Roukema, I'm honored you all are here, and thanks for coming. Rush Holt, I appreciate you being here, Rush. Thank you for your time.

I marvel at the strength of our country. It's an incredibly great country because the people are great. Today when I landed at—on Air Force One, I had the honor of meeting a young lady named Joanna Glick. She's a member of the USA Freedom Corps. Her brother, Jeremy, was one of the heroes on Flight 93. That was the flight in—where average citizens were flying across the country. They realized their airplane was to be used as a weapon to harm their fellow Americans. They told their loved ones good-bye on cell phones. They said a prayer, and they drove the airplane in the ground. They served something greater than themselves in life.

And Joanna and her classmates Kelly Bianco and Allison Cohen heard the call, the example of her brother to serve something greater than themselves in life. They understand that in order to defeat evil, you can do so by loving your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. They started what they call the Teen Freedom Corps in their high school. They serve as a fabulous example for young and old alike to respond to the challenge of our country by working to make somebody else's life better. Would you girls

please rise, and thank you for being here. I'm real proud of you. Thank you. I'm really proud of your service and your leadership.

I also want to thank Arlene Howard for coming. Arlene is my friend, mother of George Howard, Port Authority policeman. She represents so many moms and dads and loved ones who mourn for the loss of a child or a husband or a wife. I appreciate your strength, Arlene. I love seeing you every time. She's always telling me what to do. [*Laughter*]

But being here reminds me that the country still continues to pay tribute to the heroism of 9/11, and we must. As we pay tribute to the heroes, we pay tribute to America's character. And it's important for many to see the character of our country. One of those heroes was Fred Morrone. Many of you may have known Fred. He was the Port Authority Superintendent of Police and Director of Public Safety. Immediately after the plane crashed into One World Trade Center, Fred raced from his New Jersey City office to the Trade Center. He oversaw the evacuation of staff from the Port Authority's offices on the 67th floor. The plane crashes, he heads over, up to the 67th floor. Many were leaving; he's heading in. Evacuees heading downstairs saw the calm superintendent urging people to leave in an orderly fashion. He was posthumously awarded the Port Authority's Medal of Honor.

Eddie Calderon was a civilian employee of the Port Authority, a former Marine. You're never really a former Marine. Eddie was a supervisor of the Trade Center's Operation Control Center. On the morning of September the 11th, Eddie stayed at his desk, speaking to people trapped in elevators, coordinating requests for information from firefighters. When a co-worker expressed concern about Eddie's own safety, here's what he said: "I'm a Marine. I do not ever leave anybody behind." He, too, received the Port Authority Civilian Medal of Honor.

I know their loved ones are with us today. Our Nation is extremely grateful for the dedication and example for others to see. God bless you all.

All together, 75 Port Authority employees were killed on September the 11th. And you need to know, no matter how long it takes, we're going to hunt their killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice.

This is a different kind of war, and it has placed many Americans on the frontline of this war, America's firefighters and police officers and postal workers and all the folks who work here at the Port Authority, New York and New Jersey, to keep America safe.

And we're working hard to make sure your job is easier, that the port is safer. Here's some examples of what's taking place. The Customs Service is working with overseas ports and shippers to improve its knowledge of container shipments, assessing risk so that we have a better feel of who we ought to look at, what we ought to worry about. Inspectors here can focus on high-risk shipments. America will be better protected.

The Port Authority of New York and Jersey has been putting together a $60 million closed-circuit TV security system with cameras all around sensitive areas here at the port. This will strengthen our ability to safeguard these facilities. Coast Guard inspectors and law enforcement officials currently board targeted commercial vessels shortly before they enter the Port Authority, and then they escort them safely to docks. Tomorrow the Coast Guard's Deep Water Project will award a multi-year contract to replace aging ships and aircrafts and improve communications and information sharing.

The whole purpose is to push out our maritime borders, giving us more time to identify threats and more time to respond. The Coast Guard is also working on ways to better detect weapons of mass destruction. They've assembled strike teams, one of which I was able to meet today.

No, we're better and stronger and wiser today than we were. We're working harder than ever before. As I travel our country, I remind our citizens, there are thousands of people working as hard as they possibly can to keep America safe. Today I recognize I'm in the midst of that type of citizen who's working hard to keep America safe. Thank you, for a grateful nation.

We must constantly think of ways to improve our ability to protect the homeland, because these killers are still out there. Somebody asked me to describe them one time. I said, "They're nothing but a bunch

of coldblooded killers, and they still hate the fact that we love freedom. And they really can't stand the fact that we're not backing down. See, they thought we'd probably just file a lawsuit or two." [*Laughter*] They didn't understand America. That's what they didn't know. They didn't understand our character. They don't have any idea about what makes the people right here tick.

And so we've got to continue to do everything we can to protect innocent lives. And that's why I think it is vital the Federal Government reorganize, so that we've got people involved with homeland security under a Cabinet office dedicated to homeland security. You see, we've got to change—change our priorities. We've got to focus our priorities. We've got to set clear goals. If cultures need to be changed within agencies, we'll change the cultures, because this new war of the 21st century requires a 100 percent focused effort to protect the homeland.

Now, I know some are nervous about taking this from here and that from there. It is the right thing to do, to have the over 100 agencies involved with homeland security under one authority, so that we can have accountability and responsibility in Washington, DC. I want to thank the Members of Congress who understand that it's important to put their own personal turf aside. It's also important to put our political parties in the background as we focus on doing what's right for the country.

I believe with hard work and a lot of effort and a lot of reminding by the President that this is the right thing to do on behalf of the American people, we can get this new Cabinet agency up and running. It will make your jobs easier, for those of you involved with the agencies I'm talking about. It'll make our Federal Government more responsive. It will allow us to communicate better. It will allow all of you to make sure that the hard hours you're putting in are able to more secure the homeland.

But I want you to know that no matter what we do here in America, the best way to protect the homeland is to chase the killers down wherever they think they can hide and bring them to justice. And we're making progress. Sometimes you'll read about it, and sometimes you won't. It's important for our country to understand, this new war of the 21st century is really not like any other war we've fought. You see, we fight people who, on the one hand, send youngsters to their death, and they, themselves, try to hide in a cave. Those are the kind of people we fight. You know, they claim in the name of a great religion that death is justified.

You know, this country will take its time, because we defend freedom. This country will not blink, because we defend freedom. We love freedom, and we love our fellow Americans.

The mighty United States military in step one performed brilliantly in Afghanistan. And I submitted a defense budget up in Washington that's big—no question about it—because anytime we commit our young into harm's way, they deserve the best pay and the best training possible. And I expect the United States Congress to get the defense bill to my desk quickly. They don't need to delay the defense bill in a time of war. They need to deliberate like they're supposed to and get it to my desk. And the big increase also says, the United States of America is in this fight for the long run.

You know, the enemy would have loved to have seen a scrawny little budget up there. They'd have said, "Well, we were right. They're going to quit." We're not quitting. I don't care where the theater is, how long it takes. This mighty Nation is going to track them down until we can say with certainty, "Our children and our grandchildren are free."

We've hauled in about 2,400 of them. This weekend I called Gloria Arroyo, the President of the Philippines, to congratulate her on her country's steadfast desire to rout out the Abu Sayyaf* killer organization. This is the organization which captured the Burnhams. They're nothing but coldblooded killers, again. They may espouse some kind of doctrine, but they have no regard for innocent life. I told Gloria early on in the fight that we'd help her. If she wanted us to take on the enemy without her, we'd be glad to do that too. And she said, "No, we'd like your help to train so we can go get them." And

* White House correction.

she did. So I guess it's 2,401. But we're making progress, one person at a time.

At the same time, we recognize that there are other threats that could face our country and our history—these nations which have no regard for human rights and at the same time want to develop weapons of mass destruction. We're not going to let the world's worst leaders blackmail America with the world's worst weapons.

This country recognizes, history has called us into action. History has given us an opportunity to lead the world to more freedom. And as far as I'm concerned, history will record this: The United States of America led a mighty coalition to freedom so that all freedom-loving people in every country could grow up in a peaceful environment, so children of all walks of life could grow up understanding what freedom means, in a peaceful way.

I think out of the evil done to America, the evil so many saw firsthand and had to live with, will come incredible good. I believe there will be peace in the world if the America—if America continues to lead and remains strong. And I believe here at home, thanks to the loving hearts of thousands of our fellow citizens, America can not only be a safer place but a better place.

I want to thank you all for coming today. I want to thank you for giving me the chance to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:03 a.m. at the marine cargo terminal. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. James R. McGreevey of New Jersey.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Representative Mike Ferguson in Newark, New Jersey

June 24, 2002

The President. Thank you very much. So here's what I believe. I believe if you find an honest person who works hard on behalf of every citizen in the district in which he represents, a person who does in office what he said he would do, you need to send him back to Washington, DC.

I'm here as as strong an advocate as I can be for the reelection of Mike Ferguson to the United States Congress. After all, we share some things in common. We both have got impressive mothers. [*Laughter*] We both got degrees from Notre Dame. [*Laughter*] Okay, it took me a 30-minute speech to get mine. [*Laughter*] We both married great women.

I appreciate so very much Maureen. I love her demeanor. It was an honor to meet their children today. And I want you to know, Maureen and Mike, that Laura sends her best. She is not town—not in Washington, that is. She's out in Texas with her mother, and she is—but boy, she's made me proud. People now know why I asked her to marry me. [*Laughter*] A lot of people wonder why she said yes, but—[*laughter*].

But we're doing great. Listen, many of you said you pray for Laura and me and the family. It is the kindest gift you can give the President, is your prayers, and I want to thank you for that.

We had a big event at the Port Authority today, and one of the—one of my treasured Cabinet secretaries and friends came with me, and that is your former Governor, Christie Todd Whitman. Barney—Barney's the little Scottish Terrier—wouldn't have happened without Christie Todd. [*Laughter*] And so I thank her for her service, but as importantly, thank her for Barney. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank some candidates who are here. Doug Forrester, running for the United States Senate, is with us. Scott Garrett, running in the 5th District of New Jersey, thank you, Scott. My friend Buster Soaries, thank you, Buster, for coming. I'm glad you're here. I want to thank Rodney Frelinghuysen for being here. He's a fine Member of the United States Congress. And Rodney, thank you for your leadership. Frank LoBiondo is here as well. Frank, where are you? He heard I was going to give a speech. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank Lew Eisenberg, my friend here from New Jersey, for being such a great Republican National Committee finance chairman. I want to thank Lew for taking time out of a busy life to serve our party and our country. And I want to thank your chairman, the new father. Joe, I wish you

all the very best with your new baby. Thanks for coming.

So the enemy hits us, and a lot of people were wondering how people would respond. And Mike and Maureen spend time comforting people. They didn't hold press conferences. They didn't hire some camera crew to follow them around. They did the best they could possibly do about extending love and compassion and decency to people who hurt deeply. That's the kind of Congressman I would like to have. This was not a time for politics in our country. This was a time to be as good an American as you could possibly be. It's a time of great testing. These two folks passed it—passed their test with flying colors.

And he's passed his test in the United States Congress too. A couple of examples: He understands, like I understand, the role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which the small business can grow to be a big business, in which people are willing to take risk. He understands that when you cut the people's taxes, it's part of creating an environment that encourages job growth.

You know, when I was running, I said—they asked me, "Would you ever deficit spend?" I said, "Well, only if we had a recession or a national emergency or a war." [*Laughter*] And our economy was floundering, and thank goodness I had allies like Mike, who agreed with me that we needed to let people keep more of their own money. See, we—here's the textbook we read from. If somebody has more money in their pocket, they're likely to spend it, and when they spend it, they demand a good and—or service. And when somebody demands a good or service, somebody is going to produce a good and service. And when somebody is producing a good or a service, somebody is working.

In Washington, they talk about statistics all the time. Here's my attitude: So long as somebody wants to work and can't find a job, we need to worry about that person. We need to worry less about statistics, and more about the people—more about people who are trying to find a job. Tax cuts came at the right time in America, and I'm glad Mike was by my side. And now we need to make them permanent.

And I appreciate his commitment to making sure Social Security is strong, not only strong today, and that we fulfill the promise to our seniors today, but strong tomorrow. And as well, you need to know that as an impressive—as a sign of the Congress' recognition of Mike's leadership, he's going to be one of the leaders on the floor of the Congress, to make sure that our seniors get prescription drugs in Medicare.

That doesn't happen all the time, when you've got a freshman Congressman. You know, as they say down home, it means you've got a good one. [*Laughter*] And you need to work hard to put him back in office. And that means more than showing up in ballrooms. That means manning the phones and turning out the vote. Many of you never get enough credit for that kind of work, here in New Jersey or anywhere around the country. I'm here to tell you, I thank you from the bottom of Mike's heart and my heart for your willingness to be grassroots activists for something you believe in. And I believe in this guy, and I know you do as well.

And what I love about Mike's background is, he was a teacher. For those of you who have been teachers and—or are teachers today, thank you from the bottom of our heart. It's an incredibly important profession, because while homeland security is now the top priority of the country, economic security depends upon making sure every single child—I don't mean a few or some—every child gets a good education.

We passed a great education reform bill. Mike was by my side. He understands it's important to set high standards. It's simple—kind of a simple logic, but if you set low standards, guess what you're going to get? You're going to get bad results. We believe every child can learn. Therefore, we've set the highest of high standards.

And we believe you ought to measure. You see, if you don't measure, how do you know if somebody is not getting shuffling through—get shuffled through the system? And guess who is easy to shuffle through? Children whose parents don't speak English as a first language, for example. It's so much easier to quit on a child. Inner-city African

Americans, it's easy to quit on them. But when you measure, we get to determine whether or not the goal of every child getting educated is being met. And if that's the case, I promise you, I'm going to praise the teachers all over the country. However, where I find children trapped in schools that won't teach and won't change, I demand something different, because not one single child needs to be left behind in America. And Mike understands that, and I appreciated his support on the education matters.

I appreciate his support on matters of economic security. That is a top priority of mine, to make sure we continue to work to expand our job base, so people can find work. It's a top priority of mine to make sure that we protect the homeland too.

Today I went to the Port Authority to thank the first-responders, brave police and fire and Port Authority officials that work so hard on behalf of the American people. You just need to know, if you don't know, that there are a lot of people working a lot of hours to do everything we can to prevent the enemy from attacking America again. And I'm proud of their efforts, and I'm proud of their response. I went today to thank those on the frontline. We can't thank them enough for the diligence.

I like to tell people that any time we get a hint or a lead or a piece of evidence, we're going to run it down. We're going to make sure that the enemy—if they think they can hit us, they're going to have to cross some mighty big hurdles to do so. And we're getting better at what we're doing. We really are. Today I saw some fairly sophisticated equipment—or very sophisticated equipment about how to detect hazardous equipment. If somebody is trying to ship it here, we've got a better job of risk assessment, so that not only we can facilitate trade, but we can also make sure that the cargo coming in is inspected. We need to know who is coming in our country, if they're going out when they're supposed to be going out. We need to know what is coming in our country, if it is supposed to be the stuff that's supposed to be coming in our country. And so, therefore, we're being wiser about how we use technology with our Customs and Border and INS people.

And we need to share information better. There is no question about it, prior to September the 11th, the FBI and CIA weren't talking enough, and now they are on a regular basis. There's no question that the culture of the FBI wasn't focused for homeland defense. After all, they're charged with hauling people in that had busted the law. And they still need to be doing that. But the world's changed, and now the focus is on protecting the homeland. And every morning, I talk to the Director of the FBI and the head of the CIA, and we talk about information and how we're doing and what's happening with this lead. It's all part of making sure we do everything we can to—so I can travel the country to say we're doing—we are doing everything we can, every possible thing, to protect the homeland.

I think we need to do some more in Washington, DC. I believe strongly we need to reorganize the agencies involved with the homeland, the defense of our homeland, into one single Cabinet agency. Listen, I didn't run on "Vote for me; I'm going to try to make Government bigger." I understand that, and this is going to be a big agency. But I do want to make sure that we've got authority and responsibility aligned. There's over 100 different agencies involved with the defense of our homeland. In order to make sure we've got the right focus and the right culture, it seems wise to me to have them aligned under one agency.

And so I'm asking Congress to make a tough decision, to give up a little turf, and to do what's right on behalf of the American people, so that I can continue to say the Government is doing good. And I must tell you, the response has been gratifying, the response from both Republicans and Democrats. And I want to thank them for that, and I just urge them to continue to work to get this done.

There's a lot to do to secure the homeland, and we will. But the surest way to secure the homeland is to hunt the killers down one by one and bring them to justice, which is what we're going to do. And it's going to take a while. It's going to take a while.

Audience member. You're doing a good job.

The President. Thank you. Every crowd needs a yeller. [*Laughter*] Thank you.

I'm not doing as good a job as the U.S. military is doing though. I'll tell you, they're doing a great job. The—I can't imagine what was going through the minds of the enemy when they attacked us. They must have said, this country was so materialistic, so self-absorbed, so selfish, that after September the 11th, we might file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They found out we think differently. They did. They found out that we love freedom, and we love our country.

And we're making progress. We're making progress. The other night, when I announced the Department of Homeland Security, I told the country that we have arrested—we, our friends, and allies, have arrested over 2,400 people. And that's good. Some of them you never heard about. This is a different kind of war. This isn't a war with fronts and tanks and industrial complexes. This is a war of this great country fighting down shadowy killers, nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers who do not value innocent life. And 2,400 of them is a good dent. We've made pretty good progress. But you've just got to know there's more to go. And so long as they're out there threatening us, we're going to run them down. They think they can hide—[*applause*].

I've submitted to Congress the largest defense spending increase since Ronald Reagan was President, and I did so for two reasons: One, any time we send our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best equipment, the best training, and the best pay; and secondly, I did so because this is going to take a while.

You know, I just—I don't have a calendar on my desk—it's a magnificent desk, I might add, in the—[*laughter*]—beautiful Oval Office—that says, on such-and-such a date, we quit. That's not how you think when it comes to defending freedom. There is no date of departure from this noble effort. Until we feel secure, that's the date. And so I work hard on a daily basis to keep our coalition intact.

And this weekend, I had the honor of calling Gloria Arroyo, the President of the Philippines. I don't know if you remember, but they had this little Al-Qaida-type terrorist organization that captured two Americans as well as other people. The wife lives today free in America; the husband, unfortunately, died. They're called Abu Sayyaf. Early on in the war I said, "They're there in your country. We'd like to help you. However you want the United States to help, we want to help." See, we're after—any time these terrorists light, we're after them. And I called her and congratulated her on what looks like the demise of the head of the organization, totally disrupting it. Either you're with us or you're against us, and she proved she was with us. And I want to thank her for her leadership.

And so we're making steady, steady progress, just one day at a time—one day at a time. And as you know, I'm deeply concerned not only about shadowy terrorist networks; I'm deeply concerned about shadowy terrorist networks teaming up with nations which have got some of the world's worst leaders and at the same time want to develop and maintain the world's worst weapons. And I'm a patient man. I'll take my time. We've got a lot of tools at our disposal. We've got diplomatic tools, financial tools, military tools. But for the sake of our children and for the sake of freedom, we can't let the world's worst leaders threaten us or blackmail us with the world's worst weapons.

I want to thank Mike for his steadfast support on this war we all fight. This isn't that partisan battle up in the Congress. There are no partisan battles when it comes to defending the homeland. This isn't a Republican initiative. It's not a Democrat initiative. This is an American initiative. And I think Congress understands that.

Not only do I feel determined; I also feel that out of the evil done to America is going to come some good. I truly believe that. I believe that if we remain strong and steadfast, we can achieve peace. I see a lot of youngsters here. I want them to know that my dream is peace. I want our children—and matter of fact, children all around the world—to grow up in peace.

Your country doesn't seek revenge. We seek justice. And when we went into the first battle of this new war, we liberated a country. We didn't conquer a country. We liberated a country. And thanks to your Government and your country, young girls go to school for the first time in Afghanistan.

And I also believe here at home, out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good as well. I do. I see—if you want to fight evil, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good—do some good. Help a neighbor in need. Mentor a child. Teach a child to read. Listen, there are pockets of despair and loneliness and hopelessness in America that we need to worry about. There are people who hurt in this country, people who wonder, is America meant for them? And I believe that because this Nation is so compassionate and decent, that out of the evil done to America on September the 11th will come the good by reaching into neighborhoods with love and compassion and decency.

I'm a strong backer of the Faith-Based Initiative, because I believe in providing help and hope to those in need. Government can write a check, but what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That will be done by our fellow citizens. We will change America one soul, one conscience, one person at a time.

And it's happening here in this country. Joanna Glick came out to the airport today and then was at the Port Authority with me; she's a 17-year-old child, a high school student who, the day after September the 11th, started what's called Teen Freedom Corps Club in her high school to help people in need. You know, what made her story most interesting is, her brother, Jeremy, was on Flight 93. And so here's a child who asked the question, "What can I do to fight evil," and of course, obviously, misses her brother and loves her brother but immediately went out to rally compassion and decency to help people in need.

Her brother serves as a great example of what I think is happening in America, and why I say that out of evil will come some good. Here's a guy, along with others, on an airplane they knew was a weapon—told their loved ones goodbye, told them they loved them, said a prayer, said, "Let's roll," drove the plane in the ground.

They served something greater than themselves in life. They were willing to say, "I will die to save somebody else." Joanna was willing to say, "I will work. I will set aside myself, to serve somebody else." And that's my call to my fellow Americans. If you want to do some good, you can fight evil by loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

Now, out of the evil will come some good, because this is America. We are the greatest country, the greatest country, on the face of the Earth. It is my privilege to campaign for a Congressman of that great country, as the President of the greatest country.

God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:28 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Sheraton Newark Airport Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Maureen Ferguson, wife of Representative Ferguson; Jenna Welch, mother of First Lady Laura Bush; DeForest "Buster" Soaries, candidate for New Jersey's 12th Congressional District; State Senator Joseph M. Kyrillos, Jr., chairman, New Jersey Republican Party; and missionary Gracia Burnham, who, along with her husband, Martin, was held captive by the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group in the Philippines. Representative Ferguson is a candidate for reelection in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

Remarks on the Middle East

June 24, 2002

For too long, the citizens of the Middle East have lived in the midst of death and fear. The hatred of a few holds the hopes of many hostage. The forces of extremism and terror are attempting to kill progress and peace by killing the innocent, and this casts a dark shadow over an entire region. For the sake of all humanity, things must change in the Middle East.

It is untenable for Israeli citizens to live in terror. It is untenable for Palestinians to live in squalor and occupation. And the current situation offers no prospect that life will improve. Israeli citizens will continue to be victimized by terrorists, and so Israel will continue to defend herself. And the situation of the Palestinian people will grow more and more miserable.

My vision is two states, living side by side in peace and security. There is simply no way to achieve that peace until all parties fight

terror. Yet, at this critical moment, if all parties will break with the past and set out on a new path, we can overcome the darkness with the light of hope. Peace requires a new and different Palestinian leadership, so that a Palestinian state can be born.

I call on the Palestinian people to elect new leaders, leaders not compromised by terror. I call upon them to build a practicing democracy, based on tolerance and liberty. If the Palestinian people actively pursue these goals, America and the world will actively support their efforts. If the Palestinian people meet these goals, they will be able to reach agreement with Israel and Egypt and Jordan on security and other arrangements for independence.

And when the Palestinian people have new leaders, new institutions, and new security arrangements with their neighbors, the United States of America will support the creation of a Palestinian state whose borders and certain aspects of its sovereignty will be provisional until resolved as part of a final settlement in the Middle East.

In the work ahead, we all have responsibilities. The Palestinian people are gifted and capable, and I am confident they can achieve a new birth for their nation. A Palestinian state will never be created by terror. It will be built through reform, and reform must be more than cosmetic change or a veiled attempt to preserve the status quo. True reform will require entirely new political and economic institutions, based on democracy, market economics, and action against terrorism.

Today, the elected Palestinian legislature has no authority, and power is concentrated in the hands of an unaccountable few. A Palestinian state can only serve its citizens with a new constitution which separates the powers of government. The Palestinian Parliament should have the full authority of a legislative body. Local officials and government ministers need authority of their own and the independence to govern effectively.

The United States, along with the European Union and Arab states, will work with Palestinian leaders to create a new constitutional framework and a working democracy for the Palestinian people. And the United States, along with others in the international community, will help the Palestinians organize and monitor fair, multiparty local elections by the end of the year, with national elections to follow.

Today, the Palestinian people live in economic stagnation, made worse by official corruption. A Palestinian state will require a vibrant economy, where honest enterprise is encouraged by honest government.

The United States, the international donor community, and the World Bank stand ready to work with Palestinians on a major project of economic reform and development. The United States, the EU, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund are willing to oversee reforms in Palestinian finances, encouraging transparency and independent auditing. And the United States, along with our partners in the developed world, will increase our humanitarian assistance to relieve Palestinian suffering.

Today, the Palestinian people lack effective courts of law and have no means to defend and vindicate their rights. A Palestinian state will require a system of reliable justice to punish those who prey on the innocent.

The United States and members of the international community stand ready to work with Palestinian leaders to establish finance—establish, finance, and monitor a truly independent judiciary.

Today, Palestinian authorities are encouraging, not opposing, terrorism. This is unacceptable. And the United States will not support the establishment of a Palestinian state until its leaders engage in a sustained fight against the terrorists and dismantle their infrastructure. This will require an externally supervised effort to rebuild and reform the Palestinian security services. The security system must have clear lines of authority and accountability and a unified chain of command.

America is pursuing this reform, along with key regional states. The world is prepared to help.

Yet ultimately, these steps toward statehood depend on the Palestinian people and their leaders. If they energetically take the path of reform, the rewards can come quickly. If Palestinians embrace democracy, confront corruption, and firmly reject terror, they can count on American support for the

creation of a provisional state of Palestine. With a dedicated effort, this state could rise rapidly, as it comes to terms with Israel, Egypt, and Jordan on practical issues such as security. The final borders, the capital, and other aspects of this state's sovereignty will be negotiated between the parties as part of a final settlement. Arab states have offered their help in this process, and their help is needed.

I've said in the past that nations are either with us or against us in the war on terror. To be counted on the side of peace, nations must act. Every leader actually committed to peace will end incitement to violence in official media and publicly denounce homicide bombings. Every nation actually committed to peace will stop the flow of money, equipment, and recruits to terrorist groups seeking the destruction of Israel, including Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah. Every nation actually committed to peace must block the shipment of Iranian supplies to these groups and oppose regimes that promote terror, like Iraq. And Syria must choose the right side in the war on terror by closing terrorist camps and expelling terrorist organizations.

Leaders who want to be included in the peace process must show by their deeds an undivided support for peace. And as we move toward a peaceful solution, Arab states will be expected to build closer ties of diplomacy and commerce with Israel, leading to full normalization of relations between Israel and the entire Arab world.

Israel also has a large stake in the success of a democratic Palestine. Permanent occupation threatens Israel's identity and democracy. A stable, peaceful Palestinian state is necessary to achieve the security that Israel longs for. So I challenge Israel to take concrete steps to support the emergence of a viable, credible Palestinian state.

As we make progress towards security, Israel forces need to withdraw fully to positions they held prior to September 28, 2000. And consistent with the recommendations of the Mitchell committee, Israeli settlement activity in the occupied territories must stop.

The Palestinian economy must be allowed to develop. As violence subsides, freedom of movement should be restored, permitting innocent Palestinians to resume work and normal life. Palestinian legislators and officials, humanitarian and international workers must be allowed to go about the business of building a better future. And Israel should release frozen Palestinian revenues into honest, accountable hands.

I've asked Secretary Powell to work intensively with Middle Eastern and international leaders to realize the vision of a Palestinian state, focusing them on a comprehensive plan to support Palestinian reform and institution-building.

Ultimately, Israelis and Palestinians must address the core issues that divide them if there is to be a real peace, resolving all claims and ending the conflict between them. This means that the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 will be ended through a settlement negotiated between the parties, based on U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, with Israeli withdrawal to secure and recognized borders.

We must also resolve questions concerning Jerusalem, the plight and future of Palestinian refugees, and a final peace between Israel and Lebanon, and Israel and a Syria that supports peace and fights terror.

All who are familiar with the history of the Middle East realize that there may be setbacks in this process. Trained and determined killers, as we have seen, want to stop it. Yet the Egyptian and Jordanian peace treaties with Israel remind us that with determined and responsible leadership, progress can come quickly.

As new Palestinian institutions and new leaders emerge, demonstrating real performance on security and reform, I expect Israel to respond and work toward a final status agreement. With intensive effort by all, this agreement could be reached within 3 years from now. And I and my country will actively lead toward that goal.

I can understand the deep anger and anguish of the Israeli people. You've lived too long with fear and funerals, having to avoid markets and public transportation, and forced to put armed guards in kindergarten classrooms. The Palestinian Authority has rejected your offered hand and trafficked with terrorists. You have a right to a normal life. You have a right to security, and I deeply

believe that you need a reformed, responsible Palestinian partner to achieve that security.

I can understand the deep anger and despair of the Palestinian people. For decades you've been treated as pawns in the Middle East conflict. Your interests have been held hostage to a comprehensive peace agreement that never seems to come, as your lives get worse year by year. You deserve democracy and the rule of law. You deserve an open society and a thriving economy. You deserve a life of hope for your children. An end to occupation and a peaceful, democratic Palestinian state may seem distant, but America and our partners throughout the world stand ready to help—help you make them possible as soon as possible.

If liberty can blossom in the rocky soil of the West Bank and Gaza, it will inspire millions of men and women around the globe who are equally weary of poverty and oppression, equally entitled to the benefits of democratic government.

I have a hope for the people of Muslim countries. Your commitments to morality and learning and tolerance led to great historical achievements, and those values are alive in the Islamic world today. You have a rich culture, and you share the aspirations of men and women in every culture. Prosperity and freedom and dignity are not just American hopes or Western hopes. They are universal, human hopes. And even in the violence and turmoil of the Middle East, America believes those hopes have the power to transform lives and nations.

This moment is both an opportunity and a test for all parties in the Middle East, an opportunity to lay the foundations for future peace, a test to show who is serious about peace and who is not. The choice here is stark and simple. The Bible says, "I have set before you life and death . . . therefore choose life." The time has arrived for everyone in this conflict to choose peace and hope and life.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:47 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks to Firefighters and Displaced Families in Eagar, Arizona

June 25, 2002

The President. Thank you. It's nice to see you. I'm sorry we're doing so under these circumstances. But I want you to know that a lot of people in our country are pulling for you. They understand the suffering that families are going through because of worry about your most precious possession, your home. They understand that a lot of you are living in tents when you'd rather be in your own bed. They cry for you, and they hurt with you. And I'm here to say on behalf of the American people, God bless you.

I want to thank Governor Hull for being—she called me a couple of days ago, and she said, "This is really bad. You've got to understand how bad these fires are. We're kind of used to fires out west, but this is the biggest of all big fires." And I appreciate her leadership. I appreciate her concern.

See, my job and her job is to make sure that all resources are coordinated and funneled to help the people. That's what we're here to do. And the Governor is committed to that, and as am I. And that's why I brought my man, Joe Allbaugh. Where is he? There he is.

Audience member. Right here.

The President. He's the pretty one. [*Laughter*] He runs what they call FEMA, which is the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Its job is to provide help. That's what its job is to do, provide help during emergency. And this is an emergency.

Today I signed a declaration declaring this an emergency, which then provides for Federal help, which means money to fight the fires. It means temporary housing money and long-term housing money. It means help for small-business owners. I understand there's a lot of small-business owners who are worried about your business, and I don't blame you. I'd be worried too. And it provides help. It helps provide counseling services, and a lot of folks here—I hope if you need counseling, you ask for it—a lot of people we want to help. So, this is the Federal Government's way of committing the resources allowed under the law, the full extent of the resources under the law.

I appreciate Congressman J.D. Hayworth for working this issue hard. I appreciate you being here, J.D. Thanks for coming.

We got people down here from the Interior Department. A fellow named Steven Griles is the number two man in the Interior Department. I want to thank Steve for being on site here, for spending a lot of time in this area—again, to make sure that whatever we can do to help, we really would like to try to do so.

I want to thank the Red Cross. I appreciate the good—I appreciate, I want to thank Chad Ettmueller, who's the—I guess the man in charge of the Red Cross here. He just gave me a briefing on the number of meals being served—over 9,000—the number of people being housed.

You know, one of the great things about this country is that there's a lot of loving people here in this country. I always say—[*applause*]. And not only is the Red Cross helping, but the Salvation Army is as well. See, here's what I tell them. What the enemy didn't understand is, when they attacked America, they didn't understand how kind and decent this country is. And so I'm here to say thanks on behalf of the volunteers, the people who are doing their best to spread compassion to people who need compassion, to spread love to people who need love, to spread guidance to people who seek guidance.

I also want to thank the Forest Service, Dale Bosworth. Listen, we've got a lot of work to do to make sure the Forest Service has got wise forest policy, to make sure to maintain the forests so that they're healthy and viable and not become kindling-boxes.

I want to thank all the firefighters, the people who are—[*applause*]. I had the honor of shaking some hands today of some of those who wear the uniform of the firefighter. You know, we focus on the houses which have been lost, and there have been too many houses lost. One house lost is too many houses lost—one house. But there's been thousands of homes saved too, and that's important.

People that are just working their hearts out on behalf of their fellow citizens, you can look in their eyes and see the exhaustion. But I can assure you, having talked to them, and I know you have as well, they're not quitting until this thing is whipped. And I hope that makes you feel somewhat better, to know there's a lot of people out there working their heart out on your behalf.

I want to thank the mayors who are here, Kelly, Mayor Kelly, Mayor Handorf, and Mayor Kay Dyson, of Show Low and Pinetop and Springerville. You see, one of the other things that's important is there's a lot of local folks who are doing everything they can to help as well. I want to thank Dallas Massey, who's the chairman of the White Mountain Apache Tribe. He came by to say hello today.

Let me make this clear to you: We're all in this together. It is a—these fires wreak havoc on everybody who stands in their way. They don't pick and choose. And I hope, as we stay united to make sure that we do the best job we can in fighting these fires, that people stay united in doing this. It's an important moment. It's an important time for people to stay bound up in their compassion and in their desire to fight off this devastating disaster that's befallen you all.

And so it's been my honor to come. I look forward to shaking as many hands as I can. This is a—I know it's a tough moment in a lot of people's lives, there's just no doubt in my mind. But just like this war we're under, I believe out of evil can come some great good. It's hard to tell it right now. It's hard to tell it. I know it's hard to tell it. It's easy for me; you say, yes, sure, he flies down in Air Force One and comes here and says that. It's easy for him to say it. But that's what I believe, because I do believe there is a gracious and almighty God that's looking out after the people who've been affected.

So hang in there. Hang in there, you're brave and great people. Thanks for giving me a chance to come by and say hello. May God bless you, and may God bless your families.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:48 a.m. in the multipurpose room at Round Valley High School. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jane Dee Hull of Arizona; Chad Ettmueller, chief development officer, Grand Canyon Chapter, American Red Cross; Dale Bosworth, Chief, U.S. Forest Service; Mayor Gene Kelly of Show Low, AZ; Mayor Ginny Handorf of Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ; and Mayor Kay Dyson of Springerville, AZ. The Office

of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Implement International Terrorism Conventions

June 25, 2002

Earlier today I signed into law the implementing legislation for two very important United Nations international conventions against terrorism: the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. I thank the Congress, especially the judiciary committees, for its hard work in passing this legislation, which will strengthen our campaign against global terrorism. The Senate gave its advice and consent to ratification of these Conventions last December. Now that this legislation has been enacted, the United States will deposit its instruments of ratification at the United Nations and become a party to these two Conventions.

These two Conventions strengthen international efforts to defeat terrorism of global reach. They underscore—along with 10 other international terrorism conventions—the broad moral consensus that violence against innocent civilians is a criminal act and must be punished. These Conventions also require parties to them to take practical steps to bring terrorists and their supporters to justice. The Terrorist Bombings Convention creates a new and important mechanism for nations to cooperate in investigating and prosecuting terrorist crimes. The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism strengthens our continuing efforts to cut off the flow of funds to terrorist groups.

In Canada this week, I will be discussing with leaders from other industrialized nations ways we can ensure that all countries take stronger legal measures against terrorism. In particular, I urge all countries to join us in becoming party to these Conventions and fully adhering to U.N. Security Council Resolutions to stop terrorism, particularly U.N. Security Council Resolution 1373, which denies safe haven to terrorists and prohibits terrorist financing, recruitment, and access to weapons and other support. I will continue to work with other leaders around the world to build a consensus that terrorism, whatever the excuse, is unacceptable. Working together, America and the other freedom-loving nations of the world are moving towards a day when our children can live free from the fear of terrorism and free to achieve their dreams.

NOTE: H.R. 3275, approved June 25, was assigned Public Law No. 107–197.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Legislation To Increase the Public Debt Limit

June 25, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Leader:)

I am writing to ask that the bipartisan cooperation you have shown in our war against terror and creation of a new Department of Homeland Security be extended to another important priority: maintaining the full faith and credit of the United States Government.

Because of the economic slowdown that began in the summer of 2000, the terrorist attacks of September 11, and the ongoing expense of the war, the Secretary of the Treasury last December asked the Congress to increase the statutory ceiling on the Government's ability to raise funds. Seven months later, the Congress has still not acted, although it has routinely fulfilled this responsibility in the past.

The Treasury has had to take extraordinary measures to allow the United States Government to continue to function normally as a result of the failure of the Congress to act. These are only temporary measures, not an excuse for the Congress to fail to fulfill its duties.

I urge you and Minority Leader Gephardt to show the same spirit of bipartisan cooperation that Senate Majority Leader Daschle and Senate Minority Leader Lott showed 2 weeks ago with their bipartisanship on this important issue.

As we fight for freedom, we must not imperil the full faith and credit of the United

States Government and the soundness and strength of the American economy.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker, and Richard A. Gephardt, minority leader, House of Representatives. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada and an Exchange With Reporters in Kananaskis, Canada

June 25, 2002

Prime Minister Chretien. I am delighted to have the President in Kananaskis. It's a beautiful part of Canada, and it's where we produce oil and natural gas that you guys need a lot.

President Bush. That's right. [*Laughter*]

Prime Minister Chretien. And so I wanted to show this beautiful province, and it's just north of Texas. [*Laughter*] And so—and they play baseball here too.

President Bush. That's right. [*Laughter*]

Prime Minister Chretien. So, welcome, Mr. President.

President Bush. Well, thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said I was going to be stunned by the beauty of this place. And you're right. It is spectacular. I really want to thank you for your hospitality and working hard to put on this important conference. We appreciate it.

Middle East Peace Proposal

Q. Mr. President, will you be asking the Prime Minister for support on your recent peace plan?

President Bush. Sure.

Q. Mr. President, can I follow up on that?

President Bush. Sure.

Q. Today the——

President Bush. So this is two of the four questions. [*Laughter*]

Q. Do you expect—today Israel captured the seventh of eight major cities and today announced——

[*At this point, cell phones rang.*]

President Bush. Everybody settled down? All right, go ahead.

Q. In the incursions today by Israel, we now have 700,000 Palestinians confined to their homes. Do you condone those actions? And do you think it will make it harder gaining the support of G–7 leaders with that kind of activity going on Israel right now?

And quickly to the Prime Minister, do you support President Bush's position that the Palestinians won't, can't, will not get statehood unless Arafat is ousted?

President Bush. If I might say what I said yesterday, I said the Palestinians need new leadership, elected leadership. They need a constitution. They need the international donor community to participate so long as there's transparency and the financial institutions are sound enough to reject corruption. In order for there to be hope, there needs to be the emergence of the institutions necessary for a peaceful Palestinian state to emerge.

And I will continue to remind all parties they have responsibilities, that if there's a true desire for peace, they ought to work for that peace. And listen, everybody has got a right to defend themselves. But there also had to be a vision toward a way forward. And that's what I talked about yesterday.

Israeli Incursions Into Palestinian Territory

Q. Do you condone the action?

President Bush. Everybody has a right to defend themselves. But all parties must work toward peace. If they're interested in peace, they've got to work toward peace. And I laid out the conditions necessary, that I thought were necessary. I called upon all parties in the region to assume the proper responsibilities.

Prime Minister Chretien. And then for me, I think that it's important that the statement to the effect that we need in this part of the world an Israel that is secure and well-protected and, eventually, a state for Israel. And the situation of Jerusalem will always be complicated, but it will take—we have to secure two countries there that can live in peace.

And as the President said, on both sides we have to work towards peace. And of

course, there will be elections; I'm told that there will be an election before the end of the year. And I hope that it will be a real election that will produce somebody that will be democratically elected. I'm not—the President talked about perhaps it will be better to replace Mr. Arafat. I don't have the specific point of view on that. I will—I think it might be a good thing. I don't want to comment on that. But I just say that we need quick election there and to produce the best leadership, because—and it's very important to have a constitution and a real state, alongside Israel that has to be secure and well-protected.

Canada-U.S. Relations

Q. Prime Minister, there are several thorny issues that continue to divide Canada and the United States, and you appear to be making no headway on them. Everyone knows softwood lumber is another one. And I also wanted to ask you about the border pact, how far along are you on that?

Prime Minister Chretien. Oh, we're doing very well on that. We were supposed to have a meeting—we'll have a meeting very soon. I think that Governor Ridge and Deputy Prime Minister Manley have done a fabulous job. And I think that we've made a lot of progress on that, and we're supposed, eventually, to have an occasion to celebrate the good work between Governor Ridge and Deputy Prime Minister Manley.

President Bush. Let me comment on this.

Q. Sure.

President Bush. We've got a significant relationship together. It's a vibrant, positive friendship. We've got enormous trade between our two countries. The trade is in the interests of all of us. There are some problems on occasion, but we've got the kind of relationship where we can be very frank about it and try to work them out. And the opportunities and the benefits from our relationship far exceed—far exceed—the few problems that face us.

Adam [Adam Entous, Reuters], last question. There you are, Adam. Emerge.

Strength of the Dollar

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Are you concerned about the weakening dollar? And should the United States do something about it?

President Bush. Adam, as you know, my position is, is that the dollar will seek its level based upon—based upon market forces and based upon whether or not our country can rein in spending, can recover, can revitalize our manufacturing base. And so the dollar will seek its appropriate level based upon market forces.

Prime Minister Chretien. And I say the same thing about the Canadian dollar. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Good fastball.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:09 p.m. in the Delta Lodge at the Kananaskis Village resort. Prime Minister Chretien referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority and Deputy Prime Minister John Manley of Canada. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and an Exchange With Reporters in Kananaskis

June 26, 2002

President Bush. I'm going to make a comment; the Prime Minister will make one. We'll call in an orderly fashion, answer a couple of questions, if you don't mind.

First, I'm—it's great to be with my friend the Prime Minister. This is our second bilateral of the day. The first was in the gym. I went down after a run, and there was the Prime Minister working out—an impressive regime, I might add. [*Laughter*] So we had a good visit there, and we'll have a good visit here. America has got no better friend than the Government of Great Britain. And I really appreciate his advice and friendship. It's good to see him.

I am deeply concerned about some of the accounting practices that take place in America. Today the revelations that WorldCom has misaccounted $3.4 billion is outrageous. We will fully investigate and hold people accountable for misleading not only shareholders but employees as well.

There is a need for a renewed corporate responsibility in America. Those entrusted

with shareholders' money must—must—strive for the highest of high standards. The good news is, most corporate leaders in America are good, honest, open people who care deeply about shareholders and employees. And our economy is strong. When we find egregious practices, such as the one revealed today, we'll go after them—and need to.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Blair. Well, Mr. President, first of all, thank you for your kind words. And I thought you looked in pretty good shape yourself this morning.

And once again let me pay tribute to your leadership at this time, particularly post-September the 11th, but actually on all the range of issues in the world today. Our relationship is strong, partly because you and your colleagues are so easy and open and transparent to deal with it, and I thank you for that.

And obviously, we have discussed and will discuss all the key issues that are to do with the summit and the issues to do with the Middle East and so forth. And I'm sure our discussions will be good and fruitful, as they always are.

President Bush. Finlay [Finlay Lewis, Copley News Service].

Middle East Peace Proposal/Reform of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Mr. President, in your speech you made it very clear that the current leadership in Palestinian is not acceptable. If the outcome of the election in January were to result in the reelection of Yasser Arafat, what would be the policy of your Government?

President Bush. I meant what I said, that there needs to be change. If people are interested in peace, something else has got to happen. We're mired in the situation now where there is terror on the one hand and hopelessness on the other, and that's unacceptable.

And therefore I laid out a way forward for Palestinians, the Israelis, the Arab world, and all the rest of us worried about. And it said basically the new institutions—there needs to be a new constitution; there needs to be elections; there needs to be balance of power; there needs to be new security forces; there needs to be transparency amongst financial institutions.

I also made it plenty clear that if their leadership compromised by terror, we won't be on the path to peace. I've got confidence in the Palestinian, when they understand fully what we're saying, that they'll make right decisions as to how we get down the road for peace. The status quo is simply unacceptable, and it should be unacceptable to them. They live in a—you know, they've been pawns in the game of peace. They have no hope. Their economy is in shambles. They live in squalor. Their leadership has let them down.

Q. Mr. President, who will be the judge, though, in the sufficiency of the reforms that you're calling for?

President Bush. The free world, the people that are going to be asked to put up money. Listen, I can assure you we won't be putting money into a society which is not transparent and corrupt, and I suspect other countries won't either.

Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, can I ask you, do you agree that there's got to be change, and that means an end to Yasser Arafat?

And can I ask you also, Mr. President, whether you agree with the Europeans that you're not as serious as Mr. Blair about helping Africa?

President Bush. Okay.

Prime Minister Blair. First of all, let me just make it clear, as I said to you yesterday, it's for the Palestinians to elect the people that they choose to elect. But if we're going to make progress, we need people that we can negotiate with who are serious about negotiating around the issues of security and political reform necessary for the peace process to work.

So this is no question of us going in and saying to the Palestinians, "Look, we're going to run your election." But it is a question of us saying, "If we want this peace process to work, there are certain clear preconditions. One, we've got to have leadership we can negotiate with that is serious about peace and resists and totally rejects terrorism. Two, we've got to have a security infrastructure in Palestine that has integrity.

And three, we've got to have political institutions capable of giving rise to the viable Palestinian state that we believe should be the outcome of this process. So if in the end you want, as we want, an Israeli state that is confident about its own security and a viable Palestinian state, those are the preconditions. For Israel to be confident, it's got to have a negotiating partner that is serious about tackling terrorism."

Now, that is, I think, the essence of it. So, you know, it's not a question of saying we're going to tell people who they elect or not elect; that's for them. But it's for us to say, the consequences of electing people who aren't serious negotiating partners is that we can't move this forward.

Q. And that's Arafat you're talking about——

Prime Minister Blair. Well, you know, as I said to you yesterday, we've had a situation over the past few years—and I've tried as hard as anyone. I think I've had 30 different meetings with Chairman Arafat over the past few years. But as I said to you yesterday, you've got a situation where we have not been able to make progress, and there has been an attitude towards terrorism that is inconsistent with the notion of Israel's security.

Assistance to Africa

President Bush. As to Africa, all of us are doing as much as we possibly can. I don't think this is a competition. I'm proud of the Blair government's efforts for Africa, and I'm proud of my efforts for Africa. After all, I laid out what I call a Millennium Challenge Account in Monterrey, Mexico, that says if countries adopt the habits of democracy and freedom and private property and reform, there will be $5 billion a year available. I laid out a new AIDS initiative that is the first of its kind, that says we're going to provide a lot of money, about half a billion dollars, to mother-to-child—to affect mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS. We're also significantly involved in the AIDS fund. I laid out another initiative on a $200 million education fund. So I'm plenty pleased with the progress we're making.

Stretch [David Gregory, NBC News]. We call him Stretch.

National Economy/Corporate Responsibility

Q. Glad to have it back. [*Laughter*] Mr. President, if Yasser Arafat is compromised by terror and if the Palestinian Authority has trafficked with terrorists, under your doctrine are you prepared for the U.S. to step up its military role in eliminating him and those terror organizations which the administration believes that he props up?

And totally unrelated to that, do you believe that there is a crisis in confidence among the American people vis-a-vis the economy, and particularly the stock market, in view of yet another failure of an American corporation?

President Bush. Let me answer the second question first. The market isn't as strong as it should be for three reasons. One, corporate profits: There's no question some sectors of our economy are recovering from the slow-down. But they'll recover.

Secondly, there are still some concerns as to whether or not the United States and our friends and allies will be able to prevent further terrorist attack. In other words, there's some concerns about the capacity of the enemy to hit us again. And I want to assure American investors and our friends that we're doing everything we possibly can—the Government is on full alert, attempting to run down every hint and every lead.

And thirdly, there are some concerns about the validity of the balance sheets of corporate America, and I can understand why. We've had too many cases of people abusing their responsibilities. And people just need to know that the SEC is on it; our Government is on it. After all, Arthur Andersen has been prosecuted. We will pursue, within the full—within our laws, those who are irresponsible.

Having said that, I do believe the economy is strong, and I know that most people that run businesses in America are above board, honest, care deeply about their employees and their shareholders.

First question?

Bush Doctrine

Q. Under the Bush Doctrine, any——

President Bush. Under the Bush Doctrine, I said we'd use all resources, all available resources, to fight off terror. And that includes working with our friends and allies to cut off money, to use diplomatic pressure, to convince—to convince those that think they can traffic in terror that they're going to face a mighty coalition. And sometimes we use military force, and sometimes we won't.

In the case of the Middle East, obviously, the roadmap I've laid out is one that calls upon all our friends and allies to join and bind together against terror. It calls upon the Arab nations to step up and firmly reject terror. If you remember, in my speech, I said they need to get on their public airways and denounce terror; they need to work on Syria and Lebanon to prevent Hezbollah from creating chaos in the Middle East. We all have responsibilities, and in this case the tool I'm using is diplomatic pressure, to work with our friends and allies to convince all parties they have a responsibility to bear.

Q. Are you ruling out military action?

President Bush. I'm never ruling out military. All options are available. But in this case, at the path I've laid out, is the path that ought to be clear to you by now. It's one that—the one that I spoke to clearly.

Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. Final question, British reporter.

War on Terrorism

Q. I'm the only British reporter here. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. [*Inaudible*]—British accent? [*Laughter*]

Q. I speak English.

President Bush. I may not understand you. [*Laughter*]

Q. Can we just ask about the war on terror, because you know, anyone who has come up here knows what a fortress you've got here. What more have you got to agree with your G–8 partners here on——

President Bush. On the war on terror?

Q. On the war on terror.

President Bush. I think it's just an up time to give an update. We've got to do everything we can to cut off their money, do everything we can to keep the pressure on countries which might not realize that we're still serious.

We've had some great successes. One of the most recent successes, of course, is Gloria Arroyo in the Philippines. She's a part of our vast coalition. She early on said, we need to get after Abu—you know, the Abu Sayyaf* group. And she did it. And to her credit, it looks like the leader met his demise. And the Philippines are better off for that, and so is the world.

And so this is a chance for us to continually remind each other that we—our countries are still under threat, but we're making good progress. This is a different kind of war; I readily concede that. Sometimes people are going to see success, and sometimes they're not, but we're making success.

Prime Minister Blair. And I think the important thing, too, is to emphasize to people that it's a continuing trend. I mean, this threat is not over yet. We have to make sure that in every single battle we carry this fight on, and it will take a long time.

But I think if you—if we're to look at Afghanistan today and think back 7, 8 months, I think we've come a very, very long way indeed. And I'm optimistic about it, because I think the coalition against terror is as strong today as it was all those months ago.

President Bush. Let me just make sure you understand, Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], what I said. I can tell from the tone of your question that there was a little doubt in your mind—some doubt.

No leader ever takes options off a table. But the path to peace that I believe is appropriate is the one I talked about in the Rose Garden the other day—just to make sure you understand.

Q. Diplomacy.

President Bush. Absolutely.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:07 a.m. in the Delta Lodge at the Kananaskis Village resort. In his remarks, he referred to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines; and Abu Sabaya, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group who was killed June 21 by Philippine military forces. Prime Minister Blair referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

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* White House correction.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Vladimir Putin of Russia and an Exchange With Reporters in Kananaskis

June 27, 2002

President Bush. First——

Q. Okay, President Bush——

President Bush. Wait a minute, please. I first want to say how pleased I am to meet with Vladimir Putin again. Every time we meet, we have a very constructive dialog, and we have a very important dialog. And I appreciate so very much his leadership and his continued willingness to find a new common ground in this most important relationship.

Yesterday a court in America made a ruling that I want to comment on. America is a nation that is—a nation that values our relationship with an Almighty. Declaration of God in the Pledge of Allegiance doesn't violate rights. As a matter of fact, it's a confirmation of the fact that we received our rights from God, as proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence. I—I believe that it points up the fact that we need commonsense judges who understand that our rights were derived from God. And those are the kind of judges I intend to put on the bench.

Mr. President, do you want to make a comment or just answer questions?

[*At this point, President Putin began his remarks in Russian.*]

President Bush. Do you want to interpret this for the American press?

President Putin. I want to say that I'm also very glad to meet with President Bush. And moreover, I'd like to emphasize that the President and I are having very good personal relations, and our colleagues in our capitals also note that interaction between our countries is becoming very efficient, not only from the viewpoint of bilateral relations and solving bilateral issues but also as regards to resolution of major international problems.

And there is one subject that is of particular importance and responsibility the U.S. and Russia undertook; that is the promotion of international security. And during the time since the signature of our international treaties on stability, international stability between our countries, we have had an opportunity to evaluate these documents and pass them to the parliament for further ratification—I mean the treaty between the United States and Russia on cutting strategic offenses.

And I'm simply very glad to meet George again and have a chat with him and discuss all the problems that are of concern for both our nations.

President Bush. Thank you.

Patience, please. Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

WorldCom/Corporate Responsibility

Q. Mr. President, there are some Democrats who think they can make some political hay out of the WorldCom failure and other business scandals by, first, noting that polls show a lot of Americans think you're too close to big business and, second, arguing that because of that, your reform proposals aren't tough enough. What do you think the political impact of WorldCom will be? Are you concerned about it?

President Bush. I'm concerned about the economic impact of the fact that there are some corporate leaders who have not upheld their responsibility. If you are a responsible citizen and you run a corporation in America, you must fully disclose all assets and liabilities, and you must treat your shareholders and employees with respect.

President Putin. During the general discussion at the G–8 meeting, the President paid attention to this issue. And for me and my other colleagues, it was very important to listen to the President's opinion, because under the circumstances of the globalized community and world, a lot depends on the state of the U.S. economy these days. And therefore, the willingness of the President of the United States to secure the stock market and market of the securities is very important, as well as the notion of transparency in the U.S. business, and is a very good signal.

President Bush. Do you want to call on a Russian media?

Middle East Peace Proposal

Q. President Bush, were you astonished by the European reaction towards your proposal in regards to Arafat?

President Bush. I'm very pleased with my—the response to my proposal in the Middle East. The response has been very positive. And the reason why is, most European leaders understand something has to change in order for there to be peace. And that starts with free elections, a new constitution, transparency, rule of law amongst the Palestinians. And that's the hopeful way to get to where we need to get, which is two states living side by side in peace. The response has been very positive, and for that I'm grateful.

Q. And one question to you, Mr. Bush.

Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. A question from the American reporters.

President Bush. Martha [Martha Brant, Newsweek].

President's Personal Faith

Q. Thank you, sir. In light of the comments you just made about the Pledge of Allegiance, I'm wondering if you could talk about how your personal faith has helped you as President.

President Bush. Well, I appreciate you saying that, Martha. I—know, yesterday when I went to see the—or 2 days ago when I was—or yesterday—[*laughter*]—2 days ago, I went——

Q. Mr. President——

President Bush. Please, let me at least finish the answers.

I was amongst people whose lives were hurting a lot. And I was trying to figure out how to bring a sense of hope, and I thought that the best thing I could say was that there is a God who loves them. And I believe that's the case. And as a result, I feel comfortable in my life because I have that belief and that understanding.

You know, it's interesting, there is a universal God, in my opinion, and the first conversation I ever had with Vladimir Putin was about God—in Slovenia. It was a way that we—we'd never met each other, and the first discussion we had was about our personal beliefs.

I appreciate—you hear me say that I appreciate the fact that our country prays for me and Laura. And I do. I do. I feel the prayers of the people. And so there is a—I think that the Almighty is important—obviously, important part of my life but very important part of the life of our country. And that's why the ruling of the courts was out of step with the traditions and history of America.

Press Secretary Fleischer. Final question from a Russian reporter.

Russia-U.S. Cooperation in the War on Terrorism

Q. Mr. Bush, the G–8 was supposed to carry out the six points having to do with terrorism. What is the relationship of the United States and Russia vis-a-vis this battle against terrorism, jointly? I only ask the Russian translation when you're speaking. Thank you.

President Bush. It sounds like you speak better English than some of us. [*Laughter*]

Q. Thank you very much.

President Bush. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press] included. [*Laughter*]

First of all, President Putin has been a stalwart in the fight against terror. He understands the threat of terror, because he has lived through terror. He's seen terror firsthand, and he knows the threat of terrorism. One of the first—go ahead, do you want to translate?

He understands what I understand, that there won't be peace if terrorists are allowed to kill and take innocent life. And therefore, I view President Putin as an ally, strong ally in the war against terror. And his actions are more than—speak louder than his words. He has been a man of action when it comes to fighting terror, and I appreciate that very much.

Thank you all. We've got to have our bilateral. Thank you.

[*At this point, a question was asked in Russian, and no translation was provided.*]

President Putin. What I would like to say—that the military of our nations and special services of our countries are built up in a way so that they carry this global nature. And unfortunately, terrorism is of a global nature as well today. And therefore, we have repeatedly mentioned that joint efforts are essential if you want to be a success in this fight.

Therefore, we welcome the firm position of the U.S. President in this regard. And

therefore, we welcome his courage and consistency with which he persists his policies, in spite of any elements that interfere with that. And we expect that our interaction will have—will make a significant and decisive contribution to the elimination of terrorism worldwide.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:54 a.m. in the Delta Lodge at the Kananaskis Village resort. A reporter referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Supreme Court Decision on Cleveland's School Choice Program

June 27, 2002

This landmark ruling is a victory for parents and children throughout America. By upholding the constitutionality of Cleveland's school choice program, the Supreme Court has offered the hope of an excellent education to parents and children throughout our country. This decision clears the way for other innovative school choice programs, so that no child in America will be left behind.

School choice offers proven results of a better education, not only for children enrolled in the specific plan but also for children whose public schools benefit from the competition. The Milwaukee choice plan, begun in the early 1990s, has resulted in substantially improved reading and math scores for thousands of low-income children. The program has also had a positive impact on the entire public school system, which has responded to competition with better results.

The education reforms we enacted earlier this year give unprecedented new options to parents of children trapped in low-performing schools. My budget builds on this act by adding important new options to empower parents—particularly low-income families—to improve their children's education. I urge Congress to move quickly to build on the momentum generated from this decision to enact my education priorities.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Defense Appropriations Legislation

June 27, 2002

I commend the Members of the House for their strong, bipartisan show of unity in our war against terrorism with passage of the defense appropriations bill. I urge the Senate to work in a similar bipartisan fashion and pass the bill in July so that our men and women in the armed services have every resource they need to continue defending freedom. It is critical in this time of war that the defense appropriations bill be at the front, not the end, of the legislative line. Our troops deserve nothing less.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Representative Connie Morella

June 28, 2002

I hate to disagree with our distinguished honoree, but the reason people are here, Connie, is because they love you, they trust you, and like me, want you reelected to the United States Congress.

I appreciate so very much the Morella boys for being here. That, of course, is Tony, the husband, Mark, the son, and Michael, the grandson, who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. It's good to be here with the Morellas. It's clear that they love each other. They value their family. They understand that in family you can find strength of purpose and love and compassion and comfort. And I want to thank the Morella men for allowing Connie to serve our Nation and encouraging her to serve our Nation. She makes an important contribution, and therefore, you do as well.

I regret that my wife wasn't here today. But I want you to know she's doing fine. I can't tell you how proud I am of the First Lady. She really wasn't interested in politics when I asked her to marry me and frankly didn't care for politicians, if the truth be known. [*Laughter*] But now the people of the country are figuring out why I asked her to marry me. She's calm and steady and a gracious lady. A lot of people wonder why

she said "yes." [*Laughter*] But we're doing great. Many of you have said—some of you have said you pray for me and my family. It is the greatest gift you can give a President and his family, and for that, I'm grateful.

I appreciate Governor Ehrlich being here today as well—[*laughter*]—I meant Congressman Ehrlich. I thank Congressman Gilchrest, Wayne Gilchrest. There you are, Wayne. Thanks for coming. I appreciate you being here.

So here's what I like about Connie: She speaks clearly. After all, she was an English professor. [*Laughter*] A lot of people think I probably need to spend a little quality time with her. [*Laughter*] But she's an independent soul. She's a highly intellectual person who is with you if she thinks you're right and is gracious enough to explain to you when she thinks she's wrong—when you're wrong. And I respect that a lot. And I hope the people of this district respect that about Connie. She's an incredibly thoughtful soul, with a big heart, who cares deeply for the constituents she represents and loves her country too.

You know, I like to tell people, when you find somebody who's good and decent and honorable, you have a civic duty to make sure that that person remains in the Halls of Congress.

I appreciate so very much her focus on homeland defense, and so should you. I mean, the defense of our homeland is an incredibly important part of the national life these days. And after all, Connie represents the National Institutes of Health and does it well, I might add. She understands the important role that the National Institutes of Health can play in fighting off bioterrorism, preparing response for our Nation. She's an advocate of doing what is right in the budget for the National Institutes of Health. For no other reason, people ought to send her back, because she's got a clear vision of the importance of research for our country.

But as well she worked hard right after September the 11th to secure emergency funding for the Montgomery County's local police forces and emergency response teams, those who worked so hard to help rescue and repair lives in the wake of that tragedy.

As you know, I've asked the Congress to think boldly about how best to protect the homeland. I mean, after all, we've got 100 different agencies involved with homeland defense. They're scattered all over Washington. And it seems like to me that we ought to align authority and responsibility under one Cabinet office, so that we can affect the culture of the agencies that protect the homeland as well as make sure that we can affect the results. And fortunately, Connie understands that. And she is on the House Science and Government Reform Committees, two important committees that will be dealing with this important initiative.

I have been pleased with the response so far out of Congress. Both Republicans and Democrats alike understand that defending the homeland is not a partisan issue. It has nothing to do with political parties. It has everything to do with doing what's right for the American people.

And the good news is, Connie understands that for the good of the country, some are going to have to give up what they call turf. You know, some people are going to have to say, "Well, this—I no longer can have oversight on this jurisdiction." And that's going to be hard. And it's going to be difficult for some Members of the Senate and the House, and I understand that. But fortunately, we've got allies who understand the Nation comes first, and that leaving behind a legacy that will make it easier for future administrations and future Congress to deal with the true threats that face this country is more important than turf. And I want to appreciate Connie Morella's leadership on this issue.

I appreciate so very much her strong commitment to Medicare and seniors who rely upon Medicare and the need for us to have prescription drugs in Medicare. As well I appreciate her strong commitment to making sure that we fulfill the promise of Social Security.

As well I love her passion for education. We worked closely on an education bill that I'm convinced will make a significant difference in the lives of thousands of our fellow citizens. I mean, this was a good piece of legislation. After all, it had to be pretty good,

since Senator Edward Kennedy and I traveled around the country signing the bill. [*Laughter*] I know people in the Crawford coffee shop are wondering, "What the heck's he doing? That guy gets up there and—must've drank the water or something." [*Laughter*] But nevertheless, it's a good piece of legislation, and Connie poured her heart and soul into making sure it's good.

Let me explain it right quick. It says we ought to have high standards for every child in America, not just a few children, not just children from one demographic group but every child. We ought to believe in our heart that every child can learn. She understands and I understand that if you set low standards, you're going to get lousy results. If you believe certain children can't learn, guess what's going to happen? Certain children won't learn. And so we started kind of trying to change the mentality of public education by insisting on the fact that every child can learn.

And then we said something unique. We said, "If you receive Federal money, you've got to measure to see whether or not the children are learning." See, if you've got high standards and high expectations, you want to know. If you've got low standards and low expectations, you don't care. But if you've got high standards, you want to know. And so for the first time, the Federal Government says, "The State of Maryland, you get to measure to show us whether or not children are reading and writing and adding and subtracting."

And you see, if they are, then we'll praise the teachers and praise the plans and herald the curriculum that's working. But if not, we expect something else to happen. We expect there to be a change. We expect for people to say, "Wait a minute. This is unsatisfactory to allow certain children to learn and other children not to learn." You see, the idea of measuring and holding people accountable is to save lives; it's to enforce this belief that every child can learn; it's to make sure we have the highest of high standards.

And finally, in the bill, we say we trust the people of Maryland to chart the path to excellence. We understand that trying to run the public schools out of Washington isn't going to work. We believe in local control of schools. And I appreciate Connie's commitment to education reform.

And finally, she has been a champion of the strong economy. We need to make sure that above all else here domestically, people can find work. You know, this is a town where people love to talk about statistics. Here's my attitude about the workforce: If somebody's looking for work who wants to work and can't find work, we've got a problem. We've got to continue to work to expand the job base.

I appreciate the Members of Congress here who supported the tax relief plan last year. It made sense to let people keep their own money, because when people keep their own money, they get to spend their own money.

And we'll continue to work to open up markets for products manufactured right here in Connie's district, so that we can sell overseas. You see, fearful people build walls around America. Confident people open—tear them down and open up markets. And I'm confident that the entrepreneurs in the State of Maryland and all across the country can compete if given a level playing field. And Connie understands that, and I want to—I appreciate her support for trade measures that the Congress has been working on.

I'm a little concerned about—I'm not concerned about the fundamentals of our economy. I think they're very strong. I think we've got the right fiscal policy in place, the right monetary policy—seems like it's good. People are concerned, however, about whether or not the balance sheets of corporate America are open, whether or not the numbers are real.

Let me tell you how strongly I feel about this: I believe if somebody is running a corporation, if somebody has got responsibilities to shareholders and employees, they have the responsibility to be above board at all times, to be frank and honest with all numbers.

We can have all kinds of rules, and we will. I laid out some initiatives in March of this year that will hold people accountable. And our Justice Department will hold people accountable. But corporate America has got to understand there's a higher calling than trying to fudge the numbers—trying to slip a billion here or a billion there and may hope

nobody notices—that you have a responsibility in this country to always be above board. We expect high standards in our schools; we expect high standards in corporate America as well. And I intend to enforce the law to make sure that there are high standards.

It is important for our fellow citizens to understand that the foundation for economic growth is strong in America; that our free enterprise system is strong, vibrant; that there's a lot of entrepreneurship that takes place across the country. And it's important for our fellow citizens to understand that, by far, the vast majority of our leaders in the business community are honest and upright people. That's important for them to hear. Just as important for them to hear, when we catch people doing wrong, there will be consequences for those who have done wrong.

So I feel good about our work on the economy. But we won't tire until we kind of boost the confidence of the country and, at the same time, work to continue to expand the job base so people can find work. And Connie Morella has been an advocate for this kind of approach, and I appreciate her leadership in the Congress.

One issue that affects our economy besides the competence and corporate profits, which are improving, is also the American people and the investors are worried about another attack on America. And as you know, we're doing everything we can here at home to button up the homeland.

Connie Morella's a huge supporter of the Federal workers, those who work hard to help America. And I've got to tell you, people are working overtime on behalf of our citizens. I'm proud of the effort people put in. Listen, we're running down every hint. If we get any kind of hint that somebody's thinking about doing something to this country, we're on it—"we" being hard-working Federal employees like the FBI. People analyze data; there's a lot of people in this town who spend a lot of time on the—now the number one mission of the country, which is to protect our homeland. And I'm proud of their efforts.

But the surest way to protect the homeland, the best way to make sure that America is safe and secure, is to hunt the killers down one by one and bring them to justice, which is precisely what we're going to do.

And we're after them—we're after them. Sometimes you might not know it. After all, this is a different kind of war. This war doesn't have the old troop movements of the past, where you could watch lines of infantry march here or squadrons of airplanes fly there. We're facing a shadowy bunch of killers, and that's all they are, coldblooded killers who hide in caves and send youngsters to their death, who meld into big cities, you know, hide in the buildings hoping nobody knows they're there. And so it takes a while to achieve the battlefield victories, because we've got to change our mind set about what it means to achieve a battlefield victory. Battlefield victories come one person at a time in this war.

So I'm pleased to report, as I did the other day when I spoke to the Nation, that we've got about 2,400 of them so far. These are hardcore killers and their supporters and money raisers, part of their army. And it's not just America; it's our friends and allies who are—like the courageous leader of the Philippines, Gloria Arroyo, who we believe brought to justice the guy who was running this Abu Sayyaf group who managed to kidnap at least two Americans, the Burnhams, and the husband died unfortunately on the rescue attempt. But these people need to be got, and we've got our friends and allies getting them. And that's what we're going to spend our time doing in this administration.

We made great progress in Afghanistan, obviously. I mean, we've still got a lot of work there, no question about it, because we want to leave behind a legacy of—that's safe and stable and secure. And there's still a lot of people there, kind of in caves and moving around, that eventually we're going to bring to justice.

But you've got to tell your sons and daughters that this great Nation went into that country not as conquerors but as liberators. In the midst of all the talk about war, it's important to reassure our youngsters that we don't seek revenge, we seek justice, and that this compassionate Nation want to help people, that we believe in freedom. When people attack our freedoms, we'll respond.

I don't know what got into the minds of the enemy. They must have thought we were so self-absorbed and materialistic that, after September the 11th, all we might do is file a lawsuit or two. They don't understand the character of this Nation and how much we love freedom. And when it comes to our freedoms, we will spend the time necessary to defend our freedoms.

And that's why I've submitted to Congress a significant increase in the defense spending, because I want our troops to have the best pay, the best equipment, the best training possible, and I want to send a message to the world that America is in this fight for freedom for the long pull.

And the House of Representatives passed the defense appropriations bill overwhelmingly, and I want to thank both Republicans and Democrats for voting on that bill. And I expect the Senate to get the defense appropriations bill to my desk quickly, for the good of our planning for this war, for the good of understanding what money is going to be available. Instead of playing politics with the defense appropriations bill, they need to do what the House did and get it passed in a bipartisan fashion so I can sign it as quickly as possible.

We're making great progress. Like the American people, I'm a patient man. And we're deliberate. I think the American people fully understand the new—the nature of this war. I believe history has called us into action. I mean, I believe history has shined the spotlight on this country, and people are wondering, are we going to blink, or are we going to lead? That's what they're wondering. And there's only one course, and that's lead toward freedom.

There are some true threats that face us, beyond, obviously, this Al Qaida network, and you've heard me speak about them. I believe, for the sake of our children's future, we've got to deal with and be realistic about these countries which develop—harbor the desire to develop weapons of mass destruction. You see, we cannot let America and our friends and allies become blackmailed by the world's worst leaders who harbor the world's worst weapons. And so for the sake of our future, you just need to know that we'll use every tool at our disposal—every tool at our disposal—to make sure that our children can grow up in a free world.

No, we've been given a chance to show the world what we're made out of, and we are. This is a fantastic nation. And I believe that out of the evil done to America will come some incredible good. It's hard for people to probably realize that, but I believe it. I believe we can achieve peace. I believe that if America is tough and firm and resolved, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace if we speak clearly, no doubt of where we stand. We can achieve peace in parts of the world where people have no hope for peace, where people might have given up.

No, I believe out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good, not only abroad, but I believe here at home too—I believe here at home. This country is so compassionate and decent and kind that out of the evil done to us can come some incredible good.

We've got to understand in this country, in this land of plenty, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness and addiction. There are people who say, "This American Dream has absolutely nothing to do with me." And that bothers me, and it bothers Connie, too. But you know what I know? I know that our society can change one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And I know there are thousands and millions of Americans who understand that to fight evil, you can do some good by loving your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

And it doesn't take much. It doesn't take much. It doesn't take much to be tolerant to your neighbor. It doesn't take much to mentor a child or to go into a shut-in's house and say, "I love you," to deliver food out of your church or your mosque or your synagogue. It doesn't take much. It takes a commitment to something greater than yourself, is all it takes. It takes a desire to serve your Nation not only as a patriot who is willing to put his hand over his heart on the Pledge of Allegiance but understands that patriotism is serving that person in need. And that's happening in America.

You watch. Out of the evil done to America will come some incredible good in this country. And you know why? Because we are the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. And

it is my honor to be your President. And it's Connie's honor to be representing Maryland in the United States Congress.

Thanks for coming, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:04 p.m. in Salon 3 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines; and Abu Sabaya, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group who was killed June 21 by Philippine military forces. Representative Morella is a candidate for reelection in Maryland's Eighth Congressional District.

Message on the Observance of Independence Day, 2002

June 28, 2002

Each year on Independence Day, Americans honor and celebrate the courageous action that our Nation's Founders took on July 4, 1776—the signing of the Declaration of Independence. With that brave and profound decision, the Founders demonstrated their love for liberty and proved that they were willing to fight and die for freedom. As we honor our Founders' bold vision on this first observance of Independence Day since September 11, Americans possess a greater national unity and a deeper appreciation of the things that matter most in our lives—our faith, our love for family and friends, and our freedom.

In this new era, Americans share a renewed appreciation for the ideals that make our country strong. Our fine service men and women are fighting and winning the war on terror. They deserve the gratitude of all people who cherish freedom.

Throughout our Nation's history, Americans have been steadfast in their efforts to build a country of liberty, peace, and opportunity for all. As we act to lift the dark cloud of terror from our Nation and the world, we reaffirm our determination to preserve our Forefathers' legacy of freedom. In doing so, we honor their legacy as we move forward into the 21st century.

On this Independence Day we pay special tribute to all those currently serving in the Armed Forces and to our veterans. Their contributions have been critical to the defense of our country, and our Nation is grateful.

Laura joins me in extending best wishes for a safe and memorable Independence Day. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

George W. Bush

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

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.

June 23

In the afternoon, the President attended a tee-ball game on the South Lawn at the White House.

June 24

In the morning, the President traveled to Port Elizabeth, NJ, where he met with Teen Freedom Corps volunteers Joanna Glick, Kelly Bianco, and Allison Cohen. Later, he toured port facilities and met with first-responders who participated in rescue efforts after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. He then traveled to Newark, NJ, and later returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michelle Guillermin to be Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

June 25

In the morning, the President traveled to Springerville, AZ, where he took an aerial tour of the wildfires in the area. He then met with emergency and rescue personnel fighting the wildfires. Later, he traveled to Eagar, AZ, where he met with families displaced by the fires.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the Kananaskis Village resort in Kananaskis, Canada, for the G–7/8 Summit.

In the evening, in the Delta Lodge at the Kananaskis Village resort, he met with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan.

The President declared a major disaster in Arizona and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by wildfires beginning on June 18 and continuing.

June 26

Throughout the day, the President attended G–7/8 meetings.

The President announced his nomination of Nancy J. Powell to be Ambassador to Pakistan.

The President announced his intention to nominate David L. Lyon to be Ambassador to Fiji, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu.

The President announced that the 60 recipients of the 2001 Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers will be honored in a White House ceremony on July 12.

The President declared a major disaster in Alaska and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by flooding on April 27–May 30.

June 27

Throughout the day, the President and other G–8 leaders met with African leaders and Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Linda Ellen Watt to be Ambassador to Panama.

June 28

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced the President's appointment of the following individuals as White House Fellows: Cesar Aristeiguieta; Balan R. Ayyar; David A. Carmel; Cesar Conde; Heather H. Graham; Richard Greco, Jr.; Eric D. Hothan; Vincent D. McBeth; Jonathan S. Spaner; Daniel S. Sullivan; William J. Thornton; Rajeev V. Venkayya; and Barry K. Williams.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Committee for the Preservation of the White House: Leonore Annenberg, Kenneth Blasingame, Helen Cooper, Wendy Cooper, Lonnie Bunch, William Kloss, S. Roger Horchow, Elizabeth Gerschel, Leslie Neuhoff, Richard Nylander, and John Wilmerding.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted June 25

Richard H. Carmona,
of Arizona, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for a term of 4 years, vice David Satcher, term expired.

Michelle Guillermin,
of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, vice Anthony Musick.

David L. Lyon,
of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Nauru, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Tonga,

and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Tuvalu.

Nancy J. Powell,
of Iowa, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Submitted June 26

Richard A. Griffin,
of Michigan, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, vice Damon J. Keith, retired.

Daniel L. Hovland,
of North Dakota, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of North Dakota, vice Patrick A. Conmy, retired.

Thomas W. Phillips,
of Tennessee, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, vice James H. Jarvis II, retired.

Linda R. Reade,
of Iowa, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Iowa, vice Michael J. Melloy, elevated.

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 June 24

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 2431

Released June 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs Gary Edson on the G–8 Summit in Kananaskis, Canada

Released June 26

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer on the court decision on the Pledge of Allegiance

Statement by the Press Secretary on Senate action on welfare reform legislation

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Alaska

Fact sheet: Cooperative G–8 Action on Transport Security

Fact sheet: G–7/8 Kananaskis Summit, Day One—U.S. Accomplishments

Announcement of nominations for a U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit and U.S. District Judges for the Northern District of Iowa, the District of North Dakota, and the Eastern District of Tennessee

Released June 27

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the G–8 Summit

Statement by the Press Secretary: Madagascar: Post-Dakar II

Statement by the Press Secretary on the resignation of Gen. Wayne A. Downing, USA (Ret.), as Deputy Assistant to the President, National Director and Deputy National Security Adviser for Combating Terrorism

Announcement: Homeland Security Adviser Tom Ridge To Travel to Niagara Falls, Ontario, To Meet With Canadian Deputy Prime Minister John Manley To Discuss U.S.-Canada Action Plan To Secure the Border

Fact sheet: G–8 Summit: Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Fact sheet: G–7/8 Kananaskis Summit, Day Two—U.S. Accomplishments

Released June 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Dr. Richard Tubb, Physician to the President, on the President's medical condition

Announcement: Deputy Prime Minister John Manley and Homeland Security Adviser Tom Ridge Release Progress Report on the Smart Border Declaration and Action Plan

Acts Approved by the President

Approved June 24

S. 2431 / Public Law 107–196
Mychal Judge Police and Fire Chaplains Public Safety Officers' Benefit Act of 2002

Approved June 25

H.R. 3275 / Public Law 107–197
To implement the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings to strengthen criminal laws relating to attacks on places of public use, to implement the International Convention of the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, to combat terrorism and defend the Nation against terrorist acts, and for other purposes

Approved June 28

H.R. 327 / Public Law 107–198
Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002

S. 2578 / Public Law 107–199
To amend title 31 of the United States Code to increase the public debt limit