

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 Iran emergency declared by Executive Order 12170 on November 14, 1979, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on November 13, 2001, (66 FR 56966).

Our relations with Iran have not yet returned to normal, and the process of implementing the January 19, 1981, agreements with Iran is still underway. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared on November 14, 1979, with respect to Iran, beyond November 14, 2002.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 12, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 13.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Iran**

November 12, 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 periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 12, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 13.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the Inter-American Convention
Against Terrorism**

November 12, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith, the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism, adopted at the Thirty-Second Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly meeting in Bridgetown, Barbados, on June 3, 2002, and opened for signature on that date. At that time it was signed by 30 of the 33 members attending the meeting, including the United States. It has subsequently been signed by another two member states, leaving only two states that have not yet signed. In addition, I transmit herewith, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State.

The negotiation of the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism (the "Convention") was a direct response to the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. At that time, the OAS was meeting in Lima, Peru, to adopt a Democratic Charter uniting all 34 democracies in the hemisphere. The OAS member states expressed their strong commitment to assist the United States in preventing such incidents from occurring again anywhere in our hemisphere. Within 10 days, the foreign ministers of the OAS member states, meeting in Washington, D.C., endorsed the idea of drafting a regional convention against terrorism. Argentina, Peru, Chile, and Mexico played particularly important roles in the development and negotiation of the Convention.

The Convention will advance important United States Government interests and enhance hemispheric security by improving regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism. The forms of enhanced cooperation include exchanges of information, exchanges of experience and training, technical cooperation, and mutual legal assistance. The Convention is consistent with, and builds upon, previous counterterrorism instruments and U.N. Security Council Resolution 1373, which mandates certain measures to combat terrorism.

The Convention provides for regional use of a variety of legal tools that have proven effective against terrorism and transnational organized crime in recent years. Since fighting terrorist financing has been identified as an essential part of the fight against terrorism, the Convention addresses crucial financial regulatory, as well as criminal law, aspects. Existing Federal authority is sufficient to discharge the obligations of the United States under this Convention, and therefore no implementing legislation will be required.

In particular, the Convention mandates the establishment of financial intelligence units for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of terrorist financing information and the establishment and enhancement of channels of communication between law enforcement authorities for secure and rapid exchange of information concerning all aspects of terrorist offenses; the exchange of information to improve border and customs control measures to detect and prevent movement of terrorists and terrorist-related materials; and technical cooperation and training programs.

The Convention also provides measures relating to the denial of refugee or asylum status. In addition, the Convention provides that terrorist acts may not be considered “political” offenses for which extradition or mutual legal assistance requests can be denied, and provides for other mechanisms to facilitate mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

In sum, the Convention is in the interests of the United States and represents an important step in the fight against terrorism. I therefore recommend that the Senate give prompt and favorable consideration to the Convention, subject to the understandings that are described in the accompanying report of the Department of State, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 12, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 13.

Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

November 13, 2002

The President. We just had a very productive Cabinet meeting. I want to thank all those who serve in my Cabinet for their service to the country. We talked about issues facing the country. We talked about the need to secure the homeland. We talked about our economy. We talked about making sure that we lead, particularly when it comes to being wise with the taxpayers’ money.

We have a responsibility to spend people’s money wisely. And so we had a little budget session here, to make sure that, as we come back to deal with the ’03 budget as well as the ’04 budget, we do so in a way that resists the temptation in Washington to overspend. We feel strongly that we can meet our Nation’s priorities and be wise with the people’s money at the same time.

I’ll be glad to answer some questions. Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Usama bin Laden/Radio Message

Q. Sir, is bin Laden alive? And whether or not he is, does the recording signal the potential for an imminent terrorist attack?

The President. We are looking at this latest tape. Our experts are analyzing the voice content, and we’ll let them speak about whether it’s him or not. Nevertheless, the contents of the tape—the message is a serious message. And it reminds—should remind all of America and remind our friends and allies that there is an active enemy that continues to hate, is willing to use murder as a way to achieve their goals.

Whoever put this tape out has put the world on notice yet again that we’re at war and that we need to take these messages very seriously. And we will. We’ll take them seriously here at home by working with the appropriate authorities to deal with threats. And we’ll take them seriously abroad by continuing our hunt. We’ll chase these people down, one at a time. It doesn’t matter how long it takes, we’ll find them and bring them to justice.

Q. Shouldn’t we have found him sooner though, looking back on Tora Bora?