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Editor's Note: The President was in St. Petersburg, Russia, on November 22, 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

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Executive Order 13276—Delegation of Responsibilities Concerning Undocumented Aliens Interdicted or Intercepted in the Caribbean Region

November 15, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 212(f) and 215(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended (8 U.S.C. 1182(f) and 1185(a)(1)), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in order to delegate appropriate responsibilities to Federal agencies for responding to migration of undocumented aliens in the Caribbean region, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. *Duties and Authorities of Agency Heads.* Consistent with applicable law,

(a)(i) The Attorney General may maintain custody, at any location he deems appropriate, of any undocumented aliens he has reason to believe are seeking to enter the United States and who are interdicted or intercepted in the Caribbean region. In this regard, the Attorney General shall provide and operate a facility, or facilities, to house and provide for the needs of any such aliens. Such a facility may be located at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base or any other appropriate location.

(ii) The Attorney General may conduct any screening of such aliens that he deems appropriate, including screening to determine whether such aliens should be returned to their country of origin or transit, or whether they are persons in need of protection who should not be returned without their consent. If the Attorney General institutes such screening, then until a determination is made, the Attorney General shall provide for the custody, care, safety, transportation, and other needs of the aliens. The Attorney General shall continue to provide for the custody, care, safety, transportation, and other needs of aliens who are determined not to be persons in need of protection until such time as they are returned to their country of origin or transit.

(b) The Secretary of State shall provide for the custody, care, safety, transportation, and other needs of undocumented aliens interdicted or intercepted in the Caribbean region whom the Attorney General has identified as persons in need of protection. The Secretary of State shall provide for and execute a process for resettling such persons in need of protection, as appropriate, in countries other than their country of origin, and shall also undertake such diplomatic efforts as may be necessary to address the problem of illegal migration of aliens in the Caribbean region and to facilitate the return of those aliens who are determined not to be persons in need of protection.

(c)(i) The Secretary of Defense shall make available to the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, for the housing and care of any undocumented aliens interdicted or intercepted in the Caribbean region and taken into their custody, any facilities at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base that are excess to current military needs and the provision of which does not interfere with the operation and security of the base. The Secretary of Defense shall be responsible for providing access to such facilities and perimeter security. The Attorney General and the Secretary of State, respectively, shall be responsible for reimbursement for necessary supporting utilities.

(ii) In the event of a mass migration in the Caribbean region, the Secretary of Defense shall provide support to the Attorney General and the Secretary of State in carrying out the duties described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section regarding the custody, care, safety, transportation, and other needs of the aliens, and shall assume primary responsibility for these duties on a nonreimbursable basis as necessary to contain the threat to national security posed by the

migration. The Secretary of Defense shall also provide support to the Coast Guard in carrying out the duties described in Executive Order 12807 of May 24, 1992, regarding interdiction of migrants.

Sec. 2. *Definitions.* For purposes of this order, the term "mass migration" means a migration of undocumented aliens that is of such magnitude and duration that it poses a threat to the national security of the United States, as determined by the President.

Sec. 3. *Scope.*

(a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the authorities and responsibilities set forth in Executive Order 12807 of May 24, 1992.

(b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to make reviewable in any judicial or administrative proceeding, or otherwise, any action, omission, or matter that otherwise would not be reviewable.

(c) This order is intended only to improve the management of the executive branch. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity or otherwise against the United States, its departments, agencies, entities, instrumentalities, officers, employees, or any other person.

(d) Any agency assigned any duties by this order may use the provisions of the Economy Act, 31 U.S.C. 1535 and 1536, to carry out such duties, to the extent permitted by such Act.

(e) This order shall not be construed to require any procedure to determine whether a person is a refugee or otherwise in need of protection.

George W. Bush

The White House,

November 15, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:24 a.m., November 18, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 19. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Deployment of United States Military Personnel as Part of the Kosovo International Security Force

November 15, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In my report to the Congress dated May 17, 2002, I provided information regarding the continued deployment of combat equipped U.S. military personnel as the U.S. contribution to the NATO-led international security force in Kosovo (KFOR) and to other countries in the region in support of that force. I am providing this supplemental report prepared by my Administration, consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93–148), to help ensure that the Congress is kept fully informed on continued U.S. contributions in support of peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo.

As noted in previous reports, the U.N. Security Council authorized member states to establish KFOR in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999. The mission of KFOR is to provide a military presence in order to deter renewed hostilities; verify and, if necessary, enforce the terms of the Military Technical Agreement (MTA) between NATO and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY); enforce the terms of the Undertaking on Demilitarization and Transformation of the former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA); provide day-to-day operational direction to the Kosovo Protection Corps; and maintain a safe and secure environment to facilitate the work of the U.N. Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

Currently, the U.S. contribution to KFOR in Kosovo is approximately 4,350 U.S. military personnel, or approximately 15 percent of KFOR's total strength. An additional 266 U.S. military personnel are deployed as the National Support Element in Macedonia, with an occasional presence in Albania and Greece. In the past 6 months, 19 non-NATO contributing countries have joined NATO forces in providing military personnel and other support personnel to KFOR.

The U.S. forces are assigned to a sector principally centered upon Gnjilane in the eastern portion of Kosovo. For U.S. KFOR

forces, as for KFOR generally, maintaining a safe and secure environment remains the primary military task. United States forces conduct security patrols in urban areas and in the countryside throughout their sector. Approximately 60 percent of KFOR personnel are dedicated to patrolling, manning checkpoints, and mounting border and boundary patrols. The KFOR forces operate under NATO command and control and rules of engagement.

The UNMIK continues to make progress in establishing the necessary structures for provisional democratic self-government in Kosovo. The Provisional Institutions of Self-Government, including a President, Prime Minister, and Kosovo Assembly, have been in place since March 2002, and municipal elections were successfully held for a second time on October 26, 2002. The KFOR coordinates with and supports UNMIK at most levels, provides a security presence in towns, villages, and the countryside, and organizes checkpoints and patrols in key areas of Kosovo to provide security, protect minorities, resolve disputes, and help instill in the community a feeling of confidence. Intensified, robust KFOR patrolling on the Macedonia/Kosovo border was a key factor in reducing violence in Macedonia and ensuring successful elections. At the same time, KFOR is supporting, within its means and capabilities, the provision of humanitarian relief, public safety and order, and the maintenance of essential civic works resources.

NATO continues formally to review KFOR's mission at 6-month intervals. These reviews provide a basis for assessing current force levels, future requirements, force structure, force reductions, and the eventual withdrawal of KFOR. NATO has adopted the Joint Operational Area plan to regionalize and rationalize its force structure in the Balkans. The KFOR has transferred full responsibility for public safety and policing to the UNMIK international and local police forces in every area except Kosovska Mitrovica, where the responsibility is shared due to security concerns. The UNMIK international police and local police forces have also begun to assume responsibility for guarding patrimonial sites and established border-crossing checkpoints.

The continued deployment of U.S. forces has been undertaken pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I appreciate the continued support of the Congress in these actions.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

November 16, 2002

Good morning. This was a productive week in the war against terror, both at home and abroad. Congress returned to Washington with renewed energy and a commitment to make progress on key issues. Members of the House and Senate reached a crucial agreement to create a new Department of Homeland Security. With Congress' vote on the final legislation, America will have a single agency with the full-time duty of protecting our people against attack.

This new Department will focus and unify responsibilities that are now spread among dozens of Government agencies. The Customs Service, the INS, the Coast Guard, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Transportation Security Administration, and many others will report to the new Secretary of Homeland Security.

The Department will significantly improve our ability to protect our borders, our coasts, and our communities. It will pool together the best intelligence information and coordinate our response. The new Department will help develop the technology America needs to detect and defeat chemical, biological, and nuclear threats. And under the agreement reached this week, I will have the authority and flexibility to move people and resources to where they are needed without bureaucratic rules and lengthy labor negotiations.

This compromise is the result of months of hard work and negotiation, and it will take additional time to put the agreement into place. The threat of terror will be with us

for years to come, and we remain resolved to see this conflict through to its end.

In the Department of Homeland Security, we'll have good people, well-organized and well-equipped, working day and night to oppose the serious dangers of our time. Now that we have reached broad agreement on a homeland security bill, I look forward to signing it into law as soon as possible.

We're committed to defending the Nation. Yet wars are not won on the defensive. The best way to keep America safe from terrorism is to go after terrorists where they plan and hide. And that work goes on around the world.

The United States is working with more than 90 countries to disrupt and defeat terror networks. So far we have frozen more than $113 million in terrorist assets, denying them the means to finance their murder. We've cracked down on charities that were exploiting American compassion to fund terrorists. We have captured and interrogated thousands of terrorists, while others have met their fate in caves and mountains in Afghanistan. We've deployed troops to train forces in the Philippines and Yemen, the former Soviet Republic of Georgia, and other nations where terrorists have gathered. We're sending a clear message to the enemies of freedom: No terrorist will escape the patient justice of America.

To win the war on terror, we're also opposing the growing threat of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of outlaw regimes. This week, the dictator of Iraq told the U.N. he would give weapons inspectors unrestricted access to his country. We've heard such pledges before, and they have been uniformly betrayed. America and the world are now watching Saddam Hussein closely. Any act of defiance or delay will indicate that he is taking the path of deception once again, and this time the consequences would be severe.

Our goal is not merely the return of inspectors to Iraq; our goal is the disarmament of Iraq. The dictator of Iraq will give up his weapons of mass destruction, or the United States will lead a coalition to disarm him.

Our war against terrorists and their supporters is advancing on all fronts. We're moving aggressively to protect our people and to oppose a great threat to the peace of the world.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:10 a.m. on November 15 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 16. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 15 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the Contributions of European Nations and Organizations to the Peacekeeping Operations in Kosovo

November 15, 2002

Dear _____ *:*

As required by the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act, Public Law 106–398, section 1213, I transmit herewith a report on the contributions of European nations and organizations to the peacekeeping operations in Kosovo.

This report, prepared by the Department of State, concludes that the Europeans have carried a significant portion of the aid-sharing burden in the region and that their commitment to reconstruction, humanitarian relief, and institution and peace-building has been a strong one. Continued attention and commitments of assistance from all donors remain crucial for medium- and long-term development in Kosovo.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Jesse Helms, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Ted Stevens, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Carl Levin, chairman, and John. W. Warner, ranking member, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations; and Bob

Stump, chairman, and Ike Skelton, ranking member, House Committee on Armed Services. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 18.

Interview With European Journalists

November 18, 2002

The President. So here's what we're going to do. I'll say a few comments, and we'll kind of do the loop until we run out of time.

First, I'm really looking forward to this trip. I think it's going to be historic. You'll ask me who I'm voting for, for expansion; I'm not going to tell you. You'll find out on Thursday. I say that because that's what we've all agreed to.

But if you're interested in knowing my philosophy toward the Prague summit, then you need only look as far as the speech I gave in Warsaw, Poland, that talked about a Europe whole, free, and at peace. I believe NATO expansion—and in that speech, you'd see that I talked about NATO expansion as good for America, because a Europe whole, free, and at peace is good for America.

I am—believe in the spirit of the countries that we're talking about. I believe in their spirit. These are countries that have lived under totalitarianism, and they understand the value of freedom. And they love freedom, and I love that spirit. I think that's going to be a very important part of invigorating the Alliance.

The Alliance is a crucial alliance. It's a strong alliance. We're going into a new period. And the idea of having members that are willing to shoulder their share of the burden of keeping the peace with the new threats is good, but—and this spirit of understanding what totalitarianism can mean and understanding the responsibilities of being free nations—that come with being a free nation is very important at this summit.

So I'm really looking forward to it. It's—I'm excited to go to countries that have invited me to come. I look forward to the events. And so, with that, I'll answer some questions. Why don't we start here? You are from?

President's Upcoming Visit to Romania

Q. Yes, sir. I am from Romania.

The President. That's good.

Q. Sir, the Romanian people waited for the Americans after the World War II. We've waited for you almost 60 years. You know, the farmers were raising the corn in such a way that the American planes could land. That happened in '45 and the fifties. Now, for my parents, it might be a little bit late, but for my 11-years daughter, it might have a chance. You're coming to Bucharest next Saturday. This time are the Americans really coming to Romania?

The President. Great question. No more Munichs. No more Yaltas. America—I come to your country because I believe that Romania is an important part of a Europe which is whole and free and at peace. The story of Romania is a powerful story, of people taking charge of their own lives, of——

[*At this point, a tape recorder stopped.*]

The President. We had a click here, in case anybody is interested. This one right here. Poor planning? [*Laughter*] Nobody claims it? Shouldn't have said poor planning. This is nobody's?

Q. Might be mine.

The President. It's yours?

Q. Yes. If it's out, it's out. That's okay. [*Laughter*]

The President. You don't want—if you've got to, turn it over. Getting quite articulate there. [*Laughter*]

A lot of us watched the story of your country ridding yourselves of a totalitarian dictator, and it was a powerful story. But the story didn't end there. The story ended with a desire for freedom and democracy and open markets.

And the answer to your question is: Absolutely. That's what the whole Prague summit is about: All for one, and one for all. We remember here in our country when, after the attacks of September the 11th, NATO stood up and said, "An attack on the United States is an attack on us." I will say the same thing about Romania and Lithuania and the Czech Republic, and anybody else that might be a member of NATO. And that's what I feel.

I appreciate that question. That's—your question is one of the reasons I look so forward to going to Romania——

Q. Thank you, sir.

The President. ——to be able to provide that assurance in what is going to be a, as I understand it, magnificent event where, on the one hand, I will be able to point to statues of heroic liberators, people who believed in freedom, that freedom was ingrained in their soul, and on the other hand, point to a balcony where the dictator had his—he realized reality. It's—as a matter of fact, I was looking at my speech last night.

End of the Cold War

Q. I'm from Lithuania, and Lithuania was recognized 11 years ago by your father, President Bush——

The President. Forty-one, we call him.

Q. ——who took an active role in managing the collapse of the Soviet Union. How do you recall these times?

The President. Yes. Well, first, I want—I remember that, in terms of the Baltic states, that our country always viewed the Baltics as independent. During the Soviet era, we viewed the Baltics as independent. Secondly, I recall the times leading up to the collapse of the Soviet leadership, not only with my dad's actions as President but those of Ronald Reagan as well, where there was clarity of thought, that there was no equivocation when it came to issues such as freedom.

And I keep saying that word because it is an issue that we face collectively today in other parts of the world. Freedom is essentially a human condition. It's not an American gift. It is God's gift to the world. I believe that. I believe that everybody—the Almighty recognizes, through His mercy and grace, that people are—the freedom of each individual. Everybody counts. Everybody is precious.

It was exciting times for Americans to watch the change in the Soviet Union, because it meant that the days of significant animosity could be ending. A lot of us grew up when the two big countries were fierce enemies, and the rest of the world watched to see whether or not there would be war and watched many times in horror as to whether or not there would be war, because the consequences of war between the Soviet Union and America would have been devastating for a lot of people. It looked like that, to us, that the collapse of the Soviet Union would provide an opportunity for peace. That's the most significant—that's the most exciting thing for me, that the relationship would be changed.

I'm honored to be in a position to help further the change of the relationship. I'll answer the Russian journalist's question in a minute—I'm not going to anticipate it—but I am going, after Prague, immediately to Russia for a reason.

And anyway, it was exciting times for us. But the exciting—the true excitement is going to come when the people of the Baltics realize the world has changed dramatically, and it finally has changed dramatically in many ways, that Russia is not an enemy, that the United States is not an enemy of Russia, that the United States is still a friend of the Baltics. But most importantly, the Baltic people have got an opportunity now to realize their full potential. And that was what was 11 years ago we first saw, and it's an honor to be a continuing part of that history.

Yes, sir.

Chechnya/War on Terror

Q. Mr. President, I would like to ask you a question regarding Chechnya.

The President. Sure.

Q. I guess it will be one of the topics you will discuss with Mr. Putin——

The President. Absolutely.

Q. Do you believe that after the latest events—mainly, after hostage in Moscow and after the statements made by Usama bin Laden raising the terrorist acts in Bali and Moscow, do you believe, Mr. President, that you can understand better this red—terrorists pose to Russia? And would you agree—would you agree with President Putin, who says that the Chechen kind of terrorism vis-a-vis Russia is of the same nature as the Al Qaida terrorism to the United States?

The President. Right. You didn't ask the question I thought you were going to ask. I'm going to Russia to make it clear to the Russians and to Vladimir Putin, they have nothing to fear from NATO expansion, that a Baltic—the Baltics in NATO are positive for Russia.

Now, my answer to your question—I thought you were going to ask why I'm going

to St. Petersburg. Anyway—[*laughter*]—and I'm going—I didn't hesitate when Vladimir and I talked about my trip to St. Petersburg, that it was very important for me to go there. And it was important for me say—explain why I think it's a positive development.

Terrorism—first of all, I've got a good friend in the fight against terrorism in Vladimir Putin. He understands the stakes. And so do I. He understands that as you embrace freedom and embrace change and—that there will be people who resent that and want to impose their will.

Secondly, I thought that at the theater that he was confronted with a very difficult situation. Eight hundred people were—were going to lose their lives. Clearly, these people were killers, just like the killers that came to America. There's a common—a common thread, that anytime anybody is willing to take innocent life for a so-called cause, they must be dealt with. And he made some very tough decisions. And people tried to blame Vladimir; they ought to blame the terrorists. They're the ones who caused the situation, not President Putin.

Thirdly, I believe Chechnya can—I hope that Chechnya can be solved peacefully, that there's ways to discuss the political dialog in such a way that this issue can be solved peacefully. Thirdly, to the extent that there are Al Qaida members infiltrating Russia, they need to be dealt with; they need to be brought to justice. And I—you know, when Usama, praising these—the Muslim attacks in Chechnya, it's clear that there is an Al Qaida interest.

That's why we're working so hard in Georgia with the Georgians to, one, encourage a dialog between Shevardnadze and President Putin, and two, develop a joint strategy to deal with the Al Qaida members which may be in the Pankisi Gorge. And so—but I will continue to talk to Vladimir about the need to protect and recognize the rights of minorities within any country and at the same time deal with terrorism. And I hope he can find that balance. I think he can.

Czech Republic and NATO

Q. Mr. President, how do you assess the performance of the Czech Republic in NATO in preparation for this summit?

The President. Yes, well, first of all, they've been valuable members of NATO. I was able to express that to your President in his recent visit—who, by the way, is an outstanding human being and is highly respected and highly regarded in all of America. NATO has been—I mean, the Czech Republic has been a—was unhesitating in its support of Article 5 in NATO, for which I am grateful. Every conversation I've had with the President, he has been nothing more than anxious for the Czech Republic to perform its role within NATO.

The interesting thing—let me give you kind of a broader statement about what you'll see at the Prague summit—is that everybody has got something to contribute in the military capacities of NATO to deal with the new threats. And the Czech Republic, certainly, is such a country. There's going to be—I guess, the best word will be specialization—there needs to be a specialization as we develop the military capacity to deal with the true threat.

Russia is not a threat, and therefore, the military strategies of NATO need to be changed to recognize that new reality. Russia is—Russia is a friend, not an enemy. NATO was formed because of the Warsaw Pact. The Warsaw Pact doesn't exist and, therefore, now—but there is a threat to all of us. And that is the threat in the form of international and global terrorism, which we must be able to deal with. The Czech Republic understands that. They're willing to help specialize. And it's up to the Czech Republic to determine that—along with Lord Robertson and his strategy—to determine how best to meet with the threats we face.

Obviously, we've had good relations with the intelligence service of the Czech Republic, which is one of the key ingredients in order to fight terror. If you know somebody is thinking about doing something to us or we know somebody is thinking about doing something to you, we share intelligence. We've got good intelligence-sharing with Russia, by the way, now, because of the joint threat of global terror.

It's a key ingredient in order to make sure we're able to find the new enemy. The enemy doesn't travel in army formations. They're killers. They take theaters. They

crash airplanes into buildings. They bomb resorts. And we must know as much about their whereabouts and their plans as possible, in order to find them and bring them to justice. And therefore, there needs to be a different attitude about the threats we face.

In terms of the Prague summit, I am mindful of what happens when the U.S. President shows up at times. I mean, it is—you know, there is going to be a lot of noise and clamor. But I'm actually confident that the Czech Republic will do a fine job. It is a big deal that this city of Prague hosts this, and nations from all over Europe coming and—plus the Canadians and ourselves. I'm sure there's going to be people who are willing to express their voices, that maybe perhaps think NATO—something about NATO is not the way they like it, or whatever it may be. We believe in free speech. Hopefully, they'll have an opportunity to speak freely in a way that's not—that doesn't promote violence.

But the thing that impresses me most about the Czech Republic and its Government is, in spite of the terrible flood, devastating floods, that this Government and these people are anxious to host this meeting and will be able to do so in a great way. And it shows the great character of the people, to rise above the devastation to be able to host this summit. So I'm really looking forward to it. I can't wait to get there and will be there soon.

Romania and NATO

Q. Mr. President, what symbol would you associate to Romania on the new NATO map? I mean, where is the place of Romania in this new NATO map?

The President. How do you mean, what's the place? What do you mean—well, first of all, you're getting me caught—if these countries get in—[*laughter*]. But the fact that I'm going to your country I guess says something. [*Laughter*]

Q. We hope so.

The President. Right now I'm off the record. Anyway—[*laughter*]—first of all, the map is more than just countries on a piece of paper; the map is an attitude. It's an attitude that says that we want to work toward open markets and open societies and transparency and fight corruption. We want to participate in the global war against terror in a way that we're capable of doing so.

Physically, of course, Romania will be the leading edge of Europe extending its reach into Eastern Europe. And it's a significant reach. It is—today, it's interesting, the Vice President and I were being briefed on an issue, and we looked at the map, and the Vice President said, "I have trouble adjusting to the actual map of NATO." In other words, the point was that NATO now—NATO's reach is far east. And Romania represents that eastern reach. So physically it's a significant statement of the power of an alliance and the willingness of a people to adopt the habits necessary to have a free society.

It's—I think that's probably the most significant thing about the NATO map. It's an attitude. It's the soul of NATO, like I described earlier. But it's the presence of Romania—really recognizes the change. And it's a significant change. It's an historic—this will be an historic day, our meeting on one day—Thursday, I think is the day—in which the decision will be actually announced.

Lithuania

Q. Although—Mr. President, although, yes—recognize the annexation and occupation of Lithuanian, to most Americans our country was unknown territory for a long time. And can you recall, when did you first and what hear about Lithuania? And what did you think of Lithuania at that time? And what do you think now?

The President. Well, there's a lot of Lithuanian Americans who kept the hope alive of a free and independent Lithuania in America, not so much in my home State of Texas, mainly in the Midwest. And I think a lot of people took pity on the people of Lithuania, given the circumstances. And the Government took its position. But there was a patience by our leadership that eventually freedom would prevail.

Lithuania is kind of a—it's got kind of a—all the Baltics, for that matter—have got an interesting kind of romance because it's a small country. It's totally overwhelmed, divided up. It's kind of handed out as pieces of a—pieces of a settlement that saddened a lot of Americans. But nobody ever gave up hope, I think. Most Americans never gave

up hope that the Baltics would some day be able to realize their vast potential.

I'm going to tell you an interesting story. This is from another Baltic country. It's from the Prime Minister of Estonia, came to see me. I'm very hesitant to put words into another leader's mouth. They tend to do it to me, and I don't like it. So I would paraphrase, loosely paraphrase. He was there at the time when—and one of the things I do is welcome a lot of leaders to America; it's an interesting experience. I have done so with the Lithuanian leadership as well.

And I said—this is the day where I told our Congress we were going to encourage a national debate and dialog on Iraq. And I started to give him my rationale as to why I was thinking about Iraq. He said, "You don't need to talk to me"—this is paraphrasing now—about Iraq. He said, "Our country has watched democracies go soft in the face of totalitarianism, and we lived in slavery for 50 years."

Now, that's a paraphrase for the American press. But the point I want to make to you is that he was clear about obligations we have. That's what I think about the Baltics. The spirit—and Romania, for that matter, and the Czech Republic as embodied in the works and thoughts of Vaclav Havel. That's what I think about your country. You know, I firmly believe that—again, I keep repeating myself, but it's on my mind because this is exactly what we're dealing with at the NATO expansion. And this is the concept of how precious freedom is for people. It is a—and it has a lot to do, frankly, with my thinking about Iraq too.

The fact that people are tortured and subjugated, aren't free to realize their potential, really bothers me. I think we have an obligation to work to free people. There's all kinds of ways to do it, but we have that obligation. It doesn't happen as quickly sometimes as we would like. But that's an obligation of all of us who have got—who live in free countries. You have that obligation. But there's no doubt you'll recognize that obligation because you're freshly free from subjugation. And that's what I was talking about, about the invigoration of the soul of NATO. That's what I think about when I think about the Baltics.

United Nations Resolution on Iraq

Q. Mr. President, you mentioned Iraq.

The President. Yes.

Q. Do you think—do you believe that Russian support of the U.N. resolution on Iraq has promoted any kind of reconciliation between the position of Russia and America on this matter? And what would you like to tell to President Putin in regard to——

The President. Oh, yes. Well, first, I appreciate them working together with us on the resolution. The U.N. Security Council sent a clear signal to Iraq and the world. We expect them to disarm, is what the signal said. And actually, the U.N. Security Council sent a signal about themselves, that they want to be relevant.

You see, if you send out 16 resolutions and all 16 resolutions were ignored, at some point in time, somebody has got to tell the truth and say, "You're not relevant. Why pass a resolution unless you really mean it?" And so we got together, and we said, "Fine, let's pass this significant resolution." And the Russians were helpful and voted for it. And now the word is out, that the U.N. Security Council will be a relevant body. In other words, we intend to enforce the serious consequences if there's not disarmament, and that we're able to work with our friends. I thought that was a very positive thing.

And I will tell this to Vladimir Putin. It's probably better for me to tell him, but not through your newspapers, but I'll try anyway. The issue is not inspectors. The issue is disarmament. That's the issue. And the question is, will Saddam Hussein disarm? That's what the U.N. Security Council has said, once again, with Russian support, along with other—a lot of other countries. And so he must show us whether or not he'll disarm, for the sake of peace.

And if he doesn't, then we, of course, will consult, like we said we would do—we'd hold a meeting. But the interesting thing about the U.N. Security Council resolution is, all countries are free to act. And that was explained to Vladimir what my sentiments—I'm very strong about. This is not a—this isn't a free pass for Saddam, now that the resolution has been passed. Quite the contrary. We expect him to disarm. And we expect him to do everything he can to disarm. And we

expect him to be cooperating in his disarmament for the sake of peace.

And that's what the U.N. Security Council said to me, that people now have finally come to the conclusion that it's time now to deal with the issue. Hopefully, this can get done peacefully. But it's up to Mr. Saddam Hussein, and we'll see. It's time for him to declare if he's got any weapons. And we'll proceed from there.

NATO and Iraq

Q. Mr. President, will you ask the allies in Prague to contribute to military action if such action becomes necessary?

The President. I will—first of all, I believe that the NATO Alliance understands the issue. The countries there would like to see a disarmed Saddam Hussein. They—a peaceful country, they believe in peace, just like I believe in peace. And a Saddam Hussein with weapons of mass destruction is—particularly since he's used them in the past, and he clearly can't stand America and many of our friends, would mean it would be likely for us not to have peace.

Imagine a Saddam Hussein with a nuclear weapon. It's certainly not an ingredient for peace, quite the contrary. And so the NATO countries understand that. And if, in fact, military action is needed, we'll consult with them, and everybody will be able to make a decision that they're comfortable with. But I wouldn't preclude a peaceful settlement. I hope it happens peacefully. But if it doesn't, just—people will know that our intent is to lead a coalition of like-minded, freedom-loving countries, a coalition of the willing to disarm Saddam Hussein. And one way or the other, he's going to be disarmed, and it's in everybody's interest that that be the case.

So we'll talk about that. All right? Thank you for your time. Now, are you going on these trips? You're going to go to the NATO summit? That's going to be exciting. How many journalists will be there?

NATO Summit in Prague

Q. Two thousand seven hundred—that was the last figure I note from Prague before I came here.

The President. Two thousand seven hundred.

Q. Including TV crews.

The President. Wow. Well, I can't wait for my press conference. I'm going to have about a 2-hour press conference there in front of 2,700. [*Laughter*]

Q. Two days.

The President. Two days. [*Laughter*] Just kidding, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Q. Can't wait for that.

The President. You're going?

Q. Yes, sir.

The President. It's going to be exciting. It's going to be a very exciting time. And so you have just come from Prague?

Q. Yes.

The President. So you tell me what the feeling is like there in the city.

Q. Well, the city is almost evacuated, in expecting the summit, because——

The President. The city is evacuated?

Q. No, I'm joking, but the area around the conference center is almost evacuated. And the kids, they have holiday, and the shops are going to be closed, and the center of the city, Wenceslas Square where the demonstrations usually take place, is under police surveillance. So Prague is getting ready, so everyone is expecting how to get to work in—they are making arrangements.

The President. Yes. And how many people are coming, just total? Do they have an estimate? From outside the Czech Republic.

Q. More than 2,000 people—I mean, delegations and——

The President. Oh, it's got to be way more than that.

Q. ——with the staff and everything.

The President. Well, the press is 2,700 alone. I bet there's—our mighty delegation—[*laughter*].

Q. But only two hotels were affected by the floods. Only two of the number of the hotels that are ready for—to accommodate the delegations and——

The President. They're ready?

Q. ——only two hotels were badly affected by the floods. Otherwise——

The President. How is the recovery from the floods?

Q. It was bad. It was tough, and now it's getting better. There are some neighborhoods in Prague where people cannot return to their homes because of the——

The President. Still?

Q. ——and it's not only Prague. It's the whole country, going into Germany.

The President. So sad.

Q. So it's very bad. No chronicle—no person ever remembers such a disaster.

The President. It's a 500-year flood.

Q. A thousand.

The President. A thousand-year flood. Wow, that's too bad.

Q. But as we say, Charles did it—from the 14th century. [*Laughter*]

President's Visits to Europe

The President. Well, I'm glad the country is recovering. We're really looking forward to it and looking forward to our trips, too. They're going to be magnificent.

Q. We expect more people than for the Pope in 1999.

The President. Really? It's going to be exciting. I'm looking forward to it. I better make sure my speech is—I think they'll like it.

All right. We'll see you there. Thanks. Thanks for coming. I'm looking forward to going to St. Petersburg again.

Q. Yes, sure. Thank you very much.

The President. The second time in one year. Maybe a third time.

Q. Did you like it?

The President. Yes, it was spectacular. Remember, we went out on the boat, Vladimir, myself, Sergey Ivanov, floated a—White Nights. Fantastic. It won't be White Nights this time, though. Will be white days, right, snowing?

Q. Yes, snowing. [*Laughter*]

The President. We'll see you all there. Thank you.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 10:45 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for later broadcast, and the transcript was embargoed for release by the Office of the Press Secretary until 6:30 p.m. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Prime Minister Siim Kallas of Estonia; President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic; President Eduard Shevardnadze of the Republic of Georgia; Secretary General Lord Robertson of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Russian Minister of Defense Sergey Borisovich Ivanov. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Interview With Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty

November 18, 2002

Coalition Against Iraq

Q. Mr. President, this week NATO will be celebrating an historic expansion as well as focusing on transforming the Alliance to meet new threats, such as Iraq. You have spoken about the possibility of leading a coalition of the willing against Iraq. Why not speak about using NATO forces against Iraq, since under NATO's charter all members are supposed to come to the aid of any member under direct threat?

The President. Well, first of all, I hope we can do this peacefully. And by doing it peacefully, that means I hope Saddam Hussein disarms. Of course, we've hoped that for 11 years. We've hoped that for 16 resolutions. We now have a 17th resolution, and this time I intend to work with nations that love freedom and peace, make sure the resolution stands. And if he doesn't disarm, you're right, I'll lead a coalition of the willing to disarm him. And there's all kinds of ways for that coalition to be formed. It could be formed with NATO, if they choose. I have said to the U.N. Security Council, "We'll go back and discuss the matter with you." But Mr. Saddam Hussein must understand he'll be disarmed one way or the other. I hope it's done peacefully.

NATO and the War on Terror

Q. The new members of NATO are quite small. Do you see them as contributing something significant militarily to the Alliance?

The President. I was hoping you'd ask, do I see them contributing something to the Alliance, so I'm going to answer it that way. First, I'll answer it militarily, because I do believe they can contribute something really important, and that is, they can contribute their love for freedom. These are countries which have lived in totalitarian states. They haven't been free. And now they've seen freedom and they love freedom, just like

America loves freedom. And that's going to be a really important—it will add some vigor to the relationship in NATO that's healthy and wholesome.

And I think they will. The key is to—I think they will help militarily—but the key is to change the military strategy of NATO. Lord Robertson understands this. It starts with the understanding that Russia is not our enemy. NATO doesn't need to be constructed to prevent the Warsaw Pact from invading Europe. After all, the Warsaw Pact doesn't exist. As a matter of fact, the Warsaw Pact is becoming NATO, slowly but surely. We don't need that type of mentality, and we've got to have a military strategy that addresses the true threats.

The threats we face are global terrorist attacks. That's the threat. And the more you love freedom, the more likely it is you'll be attacked. And therefore, the Article 5 that you referred to for NATO becomes very relevant in this war against terror. The war against terror will not only be defeated—the terrorists will not only be defeated militarily, but the terrorists will be defeated as we share intelligence and as we cut off money and as we deny access and as we stiffen up border requirements in order to make sure that people can't go from one spot to another with plots and/or messages to attack.

And so it's a different kind of war. And it's going to be an interesting meeting, because not only is the meeting going to expand, but the meeting is going to address how best to achieve this common objective. I'm absolutely convinced that the so-called military gap between America and all countries can be addressed with a good strategy. And that will be interesting for observers to watch. I think it's going to happen. I know that Lord Robertson, who runs NATO, is committed to developing a relevant strategy and one that will work.

Chechnya/War on Terror

Q. Russian President Vladimir Putin has equated his war in Chechnya with the U.S. war on terrorism. Do you agree with that equation, or do you still feel, as was stated during your election campaign, that Russian forces are committing brutalities against innocent Chechen civilians?

The President. I think that Russia should be able to—or hope that Russia should be able to solve their issue with Chechnya peacefully. That's not to say that Vladimir shouldn't do what it takes to protect his people from individual terrorist attacks. But this is a different kind of war that we face. This is a war where we're dealing with people who hide in caves and kind of shadowy corners of the world and send people to their suicidal deaths. It's a war that I believe can lend itself both to chasing those people down and, at the same time, solving issues in a peaceful way, with respect for the human rights of minorities within countries. I said that in the campaign. I also say it to Mr. Putin every time I see him.

NATO-Russia Partnership

Q. Do you envision Russia ever becoming a full-fledged member of NATO?

The President. I think the partnership between NATO and Russia is going to be a very constructive partnership. We'll see. Time will tell. The key thing is to make sure the relationship works the way it should, which really says to Russia that a expanded NATO on your border is not a threat to you or your future. As a matter of fact, it should enable you to grow peacefully.

I'm going from Prague to St. Petersburg precisely to deliver that message to the Russian people, that even though NATO will have been expanded on your border, particularly in sensitive areas like the Baltics, you should not fear expansion, you should welcome expansion, because you've now got a neighborhood that is much more peaceful for you to—in which to realize your vast potential. And that's important for Russia to hear.

Q. Russia now has a special counsel with NATO——

The President. Are we getting the hook already?

Q. Does that mean we're running out of time? Let me ask you another question——

The President. It's hard to see on radio.

Freedom and the War on Terror

Q. Central Asia—we broadcast to Central Asia. And many experts say that the authoritarian regimes in that region are actually fueling terrorism because their people feel helpless and unable to effect change. Do you think there are any dangers in the U.S. allying itself closely with those governments that are——

The President. I think anytime the United States allies itself with a government, that we never forget the basic premises of our existence, and that is: Freedom is important; the human condition for all are important; we value every life; everybody counts. And in my judgment, the more people relate to the United States and work with the United States, the more likely it is they will work to improve the human condition. And that's what we spend a lot of time doing. That's one of the great things about our country is that we embrace freedom, first and foremost.

It's one of my concerns about Iraq. Listen, we've got people living in Iraq that are tortured and brutalized in order to keep this man in power. I weep for those who suffer.

And so the great cause of the United States is freedom. I tell these countries—they talk about freedom—I say, "Freedom isn't America's gift to the world. It's God-given. Everybody counts." And it is with—that spirit of recognizing the values of freedom I think will help improve people, no matter where. And you're right, there's some leaders there that need work with, and we're prepared to work with them.

But I will tell you, people—poverty is a tool for recruitment amongst these global terrorists. It's a way for them to recruit, perhaps. But poverty doesn't cause killers to exist. And it's an important distinction to make. These global terrorists are—some of them are rich, monetarily. They're obviously poor in spirit. They have no regard for human life. They claim they're religious, and they kill in the name of religion. And there are some breeding grounds, no question about it. And therefore, we hope that prosperity spreads out from central government to help people. But I hope people don't confuse the mentality of the terrorist leaders and economic plight, because these people are plenty comfortable. They just kill. And we're going to get them before they get us. And that's what the world needs to know about the United States.

Usama bin Laden

Q. Usama bin Laden still seems to be alive. Are you——

The President. Could be.

Q. ——worried that he's plotting another major attack on the United States?

The President. Whether it's him or somebody else, they're plotting an attack, no question about it. That's why we've got to get them. But this issue is bigger than one person. If—the war on terror is a group of fanatics. They hate America because of what we stand for. They hate us because we love freedom. And that's why we're on the hunt. And slowly but surely, we're dismantling them.

I told the people of this country it's going to take a while. I said it's going to be patient—the farther we get away from September the 11th, 2001, the more people are going to tend to forget what took place in this country. And it's normal reaction for people to just kind of try to settle back and hope that something doesn't exist. But my job is to remind people of the threats we face, based upon facts, and to find these killers. And that's exactly what we're going to do. As I tell people in America, there's no cave dark enough to hide from the justice of America and our friends.

And my speech I'm going to give in Prague to the youngsters there, I'm going to remind them there is a coalition of the willing in place right now, chasing down terror. We've got 90 nations—90 different nations—all teamed up, doing everything we can to bring these people to justice. And we'll prevail. Make no mistake about it. We'll prevail.

Thank you, sir.

Q. Thank you, sir.

The President. Is there any doubt in your mind we'll prevail?

Q. Not anymore. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The interview was recorded at 1:45 p.m. in the Library at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Secretary General Lord Robertson of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and Usama bin

Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. A portion of this interview could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks in a Meeting With Nobel Laureates

November 18, 2002

It's my honor to welcome this year's Nobel laureates to the Oval Office. Of course, I welcome somebody who spent a lot of quality time here. President Carter and Mrs. Carter, we're so honored to have you as well as the other distinguished Americans who are here with us.

These Americans are a great honor to their fields and a great honor to our country. And we're proud to have you here. We're proud for what you've done, for not only America but the world. And we're proud for your contributions.

And I want to thank the Ambassadors from Sweden and Norway for coming here as well. Mr. Ambassadors, thank you for being here. All Americans take great pride in the accomplishments of these good folks. We'll be watching the news clips of the ceremonies. We will be with you there in spirit.

And once again, we thank you and your families for your dedication to the greatest country on the face of the Earth. And may God bless your work, and may God bless your further endeavors. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:17 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Ambassadors to the U.S. Jan Eliasson of Sweden and Knut Vollebaek of Norway.

Interview With Czech Television

November 18, 2002

NATO's Role in the 21st Century

Q. Mr. President, this week in Prague, NATO will invite seven countries to join the Alliance. But there are other topics on the agenda, and the future of NATO is one of them. What do you see NATO will be doing in the 21st century? What is its role?

The President. Well, I think—first of all, I'm excited about going to Prague, and I want to thank the citizens of that important city and the great country for their hard work in recovering from the floods and preparing Prague for our arrival.

This is going to be a historic meeting because, as you said, we're expanding NATO. The most important alliance America has is NATO, and the expansion of NATO is something that I think is very important.

The role of NATO is different as we go into the 21st century. NATO used to be a way to defend Europe from the Warsaw Pact. But the Warsaw Pact no longer exists. Russia is not an enemy. And we face new threats, and the new threats are global terror. And so one way to make sure NATO is relevant is to focus on the true threats to freedom, address those threats, and figure out ways that we can work together to accomplish what we want, which is a peaceful world, which means better intelligence-sharing, the capacity to cut off money, and a military operation that reflects the nature of the wars we'll be fighting. And that's going to be one of the most important discussions we face there in Prague.

Cooperation in the War on Terror

Q. Well, there are really big gaps between the war-fighting capabilities of NATO—of the United States, on one hand, and the European countries, on the other hand. And Lord Robertson is saying that the Americans are not always willing to share the technology necessary for NATO. Are you ready to participate on organization of European forces?

The President. Well, I think what has to happen is there first be a strategy that recognizes that the Czech Republic can provide a certain contribution or the French or the British—not the French but the Germans or the British can provide certain kind of capabilities—and that we dovetail each capability to an overall strategy. In which case, of course, America is willing to work with our friends and allies to make sure the NATO Alliance works properly.

In other words, everybody can contribute something. But it all has got to be done within the strategy of the true threats we face in the 21st century, which is global terrorism. That's the biggest threat to freedom right now.

NATO and Iraq

Q. You will certainly talk about Iraq. Will the United States, if it decides to go to war with Iraq, seek the support of NATO as an alliance?

The President. Well, first, I hope we don't have to go to war with Iraq. I mean, my first choice is not to commit our troops to regime change. I hope that Saddam Hussein does what he said he would do, and that is disarm. For the sake of peace, he must disarm. Most nations understand that—most nations in NATO understand that. They want Saddam to disarm. The U.N. Security Council has spoken and says he must disarm. So it's his choice to make.

If he refuses to disarm, then we will lead a coalition of the willing and disarm him. And of course, I hope our NATO friends come with us. I think they will realize it's in the interest of peace and stability that that happen. But we're not close to that decision point yet because we're just beginning the process of allowing Saddam the chance to show the world whether or not he will disarm.

And that's an important distinction the people of the Czech Republic must know. It's not up to me. It's up to him. He said he would disarm, and the inspectors are not the issue. The inspectors are simply a means to determine his willingness. And we'll see. He's had a bad history. He's had 11 years of lying and deceiving, and now it's time to bring him to account, one way or the other.

NATO-U.S. Shared Values

Q. Some critics now see NATO as a toolbox, and the United States just goes and picks whatever it needs when it needs it. Do you agree?

The President. No, of course not. I mean, I think we view this as an alliance of nations with whom we share common values, the common values of freedom and individual rights and democracy. This is an opportunity for us to combine our values with our deep desire to have a peaceful world. And we will work in concert with each other, not in opposition to each other. And by working in concert we can really address those threats.

See, that's the interesting thing that people have got to know. There's threats to your freedom. If you embrace freedom and love freedom and willing to stand strong against global terrorism, you will be threatened. And we can't let that happen. It's just a different type of threat that we face, but it's a true threat.

We face it here in America today. There's still an enemy that wants to hit us. There's still an enemy that wants to hit our friends. And the NATO Charter says, "If you attack one, you attack us all." And that's a very important alliance, a very important statement of commonality to keep the peace.

I think NATO is a good thing, and I look forward to working with our friends in NATO.

Q. Mr. President, thank you very much for the interview.

The President. Thank you. I'm so looking forward to going to Prague. It's going to be an exciting time for Laura and me to go. Thank you. Good job.

NOTE: The interview was videotaped at 1:20 p.m. in the Library at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The interviewer referred to Secretary General Lord Robertson of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The transcript of this interview was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 19. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Teleconference Remarks With Senate Republican Leaders

November 19, 2002

Senator Trent Lott. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Well, I appreciate that, Trent. And I want to thank you all for working hard. We're making great progress in the war on terror. Part of that progress will be the ability for us to protect the American people at home. This is a very important piece of legislation. It is landmark in its scope, and it ends a session which has been 2 years' worth of legislative work, which has been very productive for the American people.

Senator Lott. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Well, I want to thank you all. It is an honor to be representing the greatest country on the face of the Earth over

in Europe. And we're going to have an historic day on Thursday when we go to expand NATO. The people of Europe appreciate America. They appreciate our strength, and most importantly, they appreciate our compassion and our love for freedom. And I know you all share that side of America with me.

Again, I want to thank all the Senators in the room there for your hard work and look forward to seeing you when I get back.

Senator Lott. [*Inaudible*]

The President. All right, well thank——

Senator Lott. [*Inaudible*]

The President. I think that's important. Trent, that piece of legislation will help put hardhats back to work, and that's going to be good, and I appreciate you working on that as well.

Senator Lott. [*Inaudible*]

The President. I need to hear a Texas voice.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison. [*Inaudible*]

Senator Don Nickles. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Oh, that's good news. Well, thanks. Thanks for your good work, and I certainly appreciate it all.

Senator Lott. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Okay, sir. Thank you all very much. Bye-bye.

NOTE: The teleconference began at 1:23 p.m. The President spoke aboard Air Force One en route to Prague, Czech Republic. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Congressional Action on Legislation To Establish the Department of Homeland Security

November 19, 2002

The United States Congress has taken an historic and bold step forward to protect the American people by passing legislation to create the Department of Homeland Security. This landmark legislation, the most extensive reorganization of the Federal Government since the 1940s, will help our Nation meet the emerging threats of terrorism in the 21st century.

This bill includes the major components of my proposal—providing for intelligence analysis and infrastructure protection, strengthening our borders, improving the use of science and technology to counter weapons of mass destruction, and creating a comprehensive response and recovery division.

I commend the employees who will move into this new Department for their hard work and dedication to the war on terrorism. Setting up this new Department will take time, but I know we will meet the challenge together.

I look forward to signing this important legislation.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

Statement on Congressional Action on Terrorism Insurance Legislation

November 19, 2002

I commend the House and Senate for passing terrorism insurance legislation. Terrorism insurance will help get America's hardhats back on the job, create new jobs for America's workers, and spur billions in new investment in construction projects all across the country. This bill comes at a critical time, as commercial construction is at a 6-year low.

The legislation provides a Federal backstop for costs associated with acts of terrorism, ensures meaningful industry participation in any losses resulting from terrorist acts, fully consolidates lawsuits in a single Federal court, and provides fair and certain resolution of claims. While I supported even stronger liability measures to strengthen our economy and believe that further reforms need to be pursued, this bill significantly improves the legal system to prevent abusive lawsuits.

I look forward to signing this important legislation into law.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Sudan

October 29, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

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 (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 20. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting a Subsidy Budget Authority Request for American Trans Air, Inc.

November 18, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107–42, the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, 2001, I hereby request the subsidy budget authority necessary to support a $168 million Federal credit instrument for American Trans Air, Inc.

I hereby designate this subsidy budget authority, currently estimated at $16.2 million, as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 252(e) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 20.

Executive Order 13277—Delegation of Certain Authorities and Assignment of Certain Functions Under the Trade Act of 2002

November 19, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including the Trade Act of 2002 (the "Act") (Public Law 107–210) and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Trade Promotion.* (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the authorities granted to and functions specifically assigned to the President under Division B of the Act are delegated and assigned, respectively, to the United States Trade Representative (U.S. Trade Representative).

(b) The exercise of the following authorities of, and functions specifically assigned to the President, under Division B of the Act are reserved to the President:

(1) Section 2102(c)(1), (c)(6), (c)(10) and (e) of the Act;

(2) Section 2103(a)(1), (a)(4), (a)(6), b(1), (c)(1)(B)(i), and (c)(2) of the Act;

(3) Section 2105(a)(1) of the Act; and

(4) Section 2108(b) of the Act.

(c) (i) The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the U.S. Trade Representative, shall carry out the functions of section 2102(c)(2) of the Act with respect to establishing consultative mechanisms. The U.S. Trade Representative, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Labor, shall carry out the reporting function under section 2102(c)(2).

(ii) The Secretary of State, in consultation with the U.S. Trade Representative, shall carry out the functions under section 2102(c)(3) of the Act with respect to establishing consultative mechanisms, with the advice and assistance of the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of

Commerce and, as the Secretary of State determines appropriate, the heads of such other departments and agencies. The U.S. Trade Representative, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall carry out the reporting function under section 2103(c)(3).

(iii) The U.S. Trade Representative shall carry out the functions under section 2102(c)(5) of the Act. The U.S. Trade Representative shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, carry out the reporting function and the function of making a report available under section 2102(c)(5).

(iv) The Secretary of Labor shall carry out section 2102(c)(7) of the Act, in consultation with the Secretary of State.

(v) The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the U.S. Trade Representative, shall carry out the functions under section 2102(c)(8) and (c)(9).

(vi) The Secretary of the Treasury shall carry out section 2102(c)(12) of the Act, including any appropriate consultations with the Congress relating thereto.

Sec. 2. *Andean Trade.* (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the authorities granted and the functions specifically assigned to the President under Division C of the Act are delegated and assigned respectively, to the U.S. Trade Representative, in consultation with the Secretaries of State, Commerce, the Treasury, and Labor.

(b) The exercise of the following authorities of, and functions specifically assigned to, the President under Division C of the Act are reserved to the President:

(i) The authority to proclaim under sections 204(b)(1) and 204(b)(3)(B)(ii), and the authority to designate beneficiary countries under section 204(b)(6)(B), of the Andean Trade Preference Act as amended by section 3103(a)(2) of the Act; and

(ii) The authority to make determinations under section 203(e)(1)(B) of the Andean Trade Preference Act as amended by section 3103(b) of the Act.

(c) The head of the executive department of which the United States Customs Service is a part shall take such actions to carry out determinations and actions pursuant to the Andean Trade Preference Act, as amended, as directed pursuant to the authority delegated to the U.S. Trade Representative under this order.

Sec. 3. *Guidance for Exercising Authority and Performing Duties.* (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) In exercising authority delegated by, or performing functions assigned in, this order, and in performing duties related to the trade agreements program as defined in Executive Order 11846, officers of the United States:

(i) Shall ensure that all actions taken by them are consistent with the President's constitutional authority to (A) conduct the foreign affairs of the United States, including the commencement, conduct, and termination of negotiations with foreign countries and international organizations, (B) withhold information the disclosure of which could impair the foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties, (C) recommend for congressional consideration such measures as the President may judge necessary or expedient, and (D) supervise the unitary executive branch;

(ii) May redelegate authority delegated by this order and may further assign functions assigned by this order to officers of any other department or agency within the executive branch to the extent permitted by law and such redelegation or further assignment shall be published in the *Federal Register*; and

(iii) Shall consult the Attorney General as appropriate in implementing this subsection.

Sec. 4. *Amendment to Executive Order 11846.* Section 1 of Executive Order 11846 of March 27, 1975, as amended, is further amended by inserting ", Divisions B and C of the Trade Act of 2002," after "Trade Expansion Act of 1962, as amended".

Sec. 5. *Judicial Review.* This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies,

instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 19, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:50 a.m., November 20, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 20, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 21.

The President's News Conference With President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic in Prague, Czech Republic

November 20, 2002

President Havel. I am very grateful to President Bush for coming to the present NATO summit one day earlier in order to pay some kind of a working visit to the Czech Republic. He is the third President of the United States who has come to visit us in the 13 years since the collapse of the Iron Curtain, and I believe that this is a telling feature of the quality of our relationship.

In our first conversation that has just ended, we have touched upon several issues, although, of course, not on all the issues that we would like to discuss. President Bush explained the position of the United States on Iraq, and I made it clear that I believe that if this issue is discussed within the NATO deliberations, as it obviously will be, that I would deem it desirable if the outcome of this discussion was reflected in some way in the final documents. We also raised the subject of transformation of the North Atlantic Alliance, and I believe that there was full agreement between us on this matter.

I have made every effort to extend a truly cordial welcome to President Bush, and I will extend an equally cordial reception to all of the prominent guests coming for this summit. Perhaps the heart that is now shining above Prague Castle may represent a sign of this cordiality with which the Czech Republic and me, personally, receive for the distinguished guests coming to the summit meeting.

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you for your hospitality. I want to thank you, and I want to thank the Czech people for welcoming not only me and our delegation but welcoming many of the leaders of the world to a city which is recovering from devastating floods. The fact that you were able to host us in such fine fashion speaks to the great character of the Czech people.

And speaking about character, your life has shown that a person who dedicates himself to freedom can literally change the course of a nation and change the course of history. And I'm honored to be in your presence again. The people of the Czech Republic must understand that your President is greatly admired in America. I'm proud to call you friend.

Before I make a few comments, I do want to say something for domestic consumption, if that's all right with you. Yesterday, the United States Senate voted overwhelmingly to better protect America and voted overwhelmingly to help people find work. And I want to thank the Members of the United States Senate for working with this administration to do the right thing for the American people.

And tomorrow, we vote on whether or not to expand NATO. I strongly support a Europe which is whole, free, and at peace. I welcome the idea of countries joining NATO whose history has taught them the need to protect freedom at all costs, countries whose admission to NATO will invigorate our Alliance. The admission of these countries will not only help us militarily achieve peace, but the admission of these countries will affect the soul of this most important Alliance.

We did talk about Iraq. There is universal recognition that Saddam Hussein is a threat to world peace. There's clear understanding that he must disarm in the name of peace. And we hope he chooses to do so. Tomorrow we'll discuss the issue. We'll consider what happens if he chooses not to disarm. But one thing is certain: He'll be disarmed, one way or the other, in the name of peace.

We also talked about NATO capabilities. We recognize it's a hard task to change the military strategy of this important Alliance. As I explained to the President, I've tried eliminating some weapons systems in the

United States. It is a difficult job. But it is a necessary job to transform our strategy, our military strategy to meet the true threats we face. The enemy is not Russia. The enemy is global terrorists who hate freedom. And together we can work to defeat that enemy, in the name of freedom.

Mr. President, thank you for having us. This is an historic meeting, an historic city, an historic country, led by an historic figure.

We'll answer some questions.

Czech-U.S. Relations/Iraq

Moderator. The first one. Czech Radio.

Q. I have one question for President Bush, and a second question for President Havel.

President Bush, you have said some lofty words here. The Czech Republic——

President Bush. I said some what?

Q. Lofty words. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. No one has ever accused me of being a poet before, but thank you. [*Laughter*]

Q. The Czech Republic has been a member of NATO for 3 years now. For 3 years, we have been an ally of the United States. Are we, to your mind, a good ally, and do you count on us in a war with Iraq?

And the question for President Havel, 12 years ago you met in these halls with the father of the President of the United States, President George Bush, the elder. Now you are meeting with his son. The situation both in the Czech Republic and in the United States has changed fairly substantially in those 12 years. Have the relations between the two countries changed as well?

President Bush. Well, first, the Czech Republic is not only a good ally; it's a great ally. I can say that with confidence because I have heard the President speak about this country's commitment to freedom and peace. And the first test of that friendship came right after September the 11th. The world for our country changed on September the 11th, and the Czech Republic responded quickly.

Secondly, as to Iraq, it's very important for our nations, as well as all free nations, to work collectively to see to it that Saddam Hussein disarms. If the collective will of the world is strong, we can achieve disarmament peacefully. However, should he choose not to disarm, the United States will lead a coalition of the willing to disarm him. And at that point in time, all our nations—we will consult with our friends, and all nations will be able to choose whether or not they want to participate.

President Havel. President Bush, the elder, and I met during very dramatic times, and we have forged a lasting bond of friendship. In fact, I twice visited him at Kennebunkport after he left office. And I trust that after I leave office, which will be quite soon, my friendship with George Bush, the younger, will continue just as well.

As for the relationship between our two states, I believe that they have not only been gradually improved and have grown stronger, but they have developed into something that is actually taken for granted now, especially by the younger generation. And I believe that we do share a great deal of mutual confidence.

NATO/Iraq/Germany

President Bush. Ron.

Moderator. Ron Fournier of the Associated Press.

Q. Mr. President, you just talked about the collective will of the world, and I'm wondering—[*inaudible*]—you said you hope NATO comes along——

President Bush. You hope what?

Q. You said that you hope NATO comes along with you and Saddam Hussein will disarm one way or another. And yet, I don't hear any discussion about NATO collectively taking up arms against Iraq should war be necessary. Why is that? Why settle for just niche contributions from individual allies? And also, what role do you see Germany——

President Bush. What role do I see——

Q. What role do you see Germany taking in a war against Iraq?

President Bush. Well, first, thank you for the "if we should go to war against Iraq." War is my last choice, my last option. I hope we can do this peacefully.

It is possible that Saddam Hussein gets the message that we're serious about disarmament and he should fully disarm. That's possible. The possibility becomes more real if he understands that there is a true consequence for his failure to disarm. And there

is a true consequence. There's a serious consequence, as the U.N. resolution addresses.

Now, you asked about two different parts of NATO. First, by "niche" I mean that in order for there to be an effective NATO, some countries can specialize and provide excellence. And the classic example is the Czech Republic's ability to deal with biological weapons, the aftermath of a biological weapon attack. The Czech Republic is one of the very best in the world at a chemical and biological response capability. And that's what I was referring to when I talked about the capacity of each country to contribute a part of an effective strategy, a military strategy, as we head into the 21st century. It's a vision which is yet to be implemented, but it's a vision which will be discussed here in Prague.

Of course, the key reason we're here is to talk about NATO expansion and the benefits of NATO expansion, not only to encourage the spread of freedom in Europe but also to be able to deal with the true threats we face in order to defend our freedoms. And my answer, as far as Iraq goes, is exactly what I've said previously: If the decision is made to use military force, we will consult with our friends, and we hope that our friends will join us.

And as to Germany's role, it's a decision Germany will make, just like it's a decision the Czech Republic will make, just like it's a decision Great Britain will make. It's a decision that each country must decide as to how, if, and when they want to participate and how they choose to participate. The point is, is that we will have plenty of consultations with our friends.

Future of NATO/Action Against Iraq

Moderator. [*Inaudible*]

Q. Again, one question for President Bush; the next question for President Havel.

President Bush, what do you expect will change after the Prague NATO summit in the Euro-Atlantic relationship? What will be—the United States expecting from NATO? And on the other hand, what do you think that the NATO Allies will expect from the United States?

And a question for President Havel. Do you think that a clear commitment to take an action against Iraq will be expressed at this NATO summit? And will you support such as that?

President Bush. Well, first, I think our NATO partners should expect a continued positive and active presence in this most importance Alliance from the United States. Our country is committed to NATO. A strong and vibrant NATO is in the best interest of America, so we'll be active and good partners.

And we expect the same from our NATO friends. But it's very important for us to recognize that in order for NATO to be relevant as we go into the future, the military capacities of NATO must be altered to meet the true threats we face. NATO must transition from an organization that was formed to meet the threats from a Warsaw Pact to a military organization meant—structured to meet the threats from global terrorists.

And the people of the Czech Republic should understand that the threat from global terrorists is real. These people hate freedom. They are coldblooded killers who will take innocent life in the name of a hijacked religion.

Ours is a war not against a religion, not against the Muslim faith, but ours is a war against individuals who absolutely hate what America stands for and hate the freedom of the Czech Republic. And therefore, we must work together to defend ourselves. And by remaining strong and united and tough, we'll prevail.

President Havel. I share the opinion of President Bush, and of all reasonable people, that it would be better to achieve Iraq's disarmament without using force. If, however, the need to use force does arise, I believe that NATO should give an honest and speedy consideration to its engagement as an alliance.

Let us realize that it is not the United States but the European part of the Alliance that directly borders on that country, and I believe that this kind of a test of its attitude, of its capability to reach agreement, and of it's operative capabilities might be, at the same time, a test of its new identity and of its meaning in the world of today.

Zero Tolerance Policy

Moderator. Final question. Steve Holland, Reuters.

Q. Mr. President, you've said that you have a zero tolerance attitude toward Iraqi violations. Secretary Rumsfeld and Kofi Annan say they're looking for a pattern of behavior over time. Which is right? How do you reconcile these two?

President Bush. Well, I think there is—we were talking about whether or not Saddam Hussein, you know, shooting at our airplanes, what that means—we'll deal with that. The United States will take appropriate action.

The thing that's important to—for people to understand is what we want to see is whether or not he's going to cooperate, whether or not he's heard what the world has said—whether or not he's heard what the world has said through the U.N. Security Council resolution.

See, what happens is people tend to focus on the inspectors as if the inspectors are the end. The final—the thing that's important, the final point of determination is whether or not he is disarmed.

So, what we're going to be looking for, and I hope the world joins us, is whether or not this man is cooperating with the will of the world. See, the world has recognized—many members of NATO have recognized that a Saddam Hussein and Iraq which possesses weapons of mass destruction is dangerous. Imagine a Saddam Hussein with a nuclear weapon. It's important for the Czech people to understand this is guy who has poisoned his own people. He's got such hate in his heart he's willing to use a weapon of mass destruction not only on his neighborhood but on the people of his country.

He is a danger. And so, therefore, what we're looking for is to determine whether or not he is willing to cooperate, whether or not he has got the message that he must disarm.

The United Nations has said 16 different times, "You must disarm." And 16 times, he's said, "Oh, of course, I will," but never did. And so, the game's over with. We're through with that. And now he's going to disarm, one way or the other. In the name of peace, he will be disarmed.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 9:35 a.m. at Prague Castle. President Havel spoke in Czech, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. Some reporters asked their questions in Czech, and the questions were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A reporter referred to Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations.

Remarks to the Prague Atlantic Student Summit in Prague

November 20, 2002

Thank you all very much for that warm welcome. It's an honor to be here in Prague, home to so much of Europe's history and culture and the scene of so much courage in the service of freedom. After the recent floods, I know it's been tough on the citizens of the Czech Republic to not only recover, but to host this important gathering. So, on behalf of all the American delegation and all the Americans who are here, I express our gratitude for the fantastic hospitality we received. We thank the Czech people and their leadership for working hard to make sure this summit is a successful summit, and we wish them all the very best.

I want to thank Jimmy for his kind words. Really proud of Jimmy, and we're proud to have him at West Point. He's a credit to the Academy; he's a credit to the people of Lithuania. And we wish him all the very best.

I want to thank Alan Lee Williams, Antonio Borges Carvalho, for their tremendous work at the Atlantic Treaty Association. I'm grateful to Christopher Makins, who's the president of the Atlantic Council of the United States, for organizing this event. I want to thank Tom Dine, president of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, for joining us. I want to thank all the good folks who work there for joining us as well. I appreciate your service.

Dwight Eisenhower said this of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty: "The simplest and clearest charter in the world is what you have, which is to tell the truth." And for more than 50 years, the charter has been

faithfully executed, and it's the truth that sets this continent free.

I'm honored to be traveling with members of my senior staff: the Secretary of State of the United States Colin Powell, who's done such a fantastic job for our country and for world peace; Condoleezza Rice, who's my National Security Advisor, is here; Chief of Staff Andy Card, Ambassador Nick Burns to NATO; a few others who I don't particularly want to recognize for fear of damaging my reputation—[*laughter*]—but all of them doing a great job. Thank you all for coming.

I also want to recognize Members of the Congress who are here. I'm thrilled to see Members of the Senate. I thought you were voting. [*Laughter*] But Senators Frist and Voinovich and their wives are with us. I see Lantos—yes—Gallegly—Elton, good to see you, buddy, from California. Who else? That's it—two Members of the House, two members of the Senate. Thank you all for coming. I'm honored you're here.

This NATO summit that convenes tomorrow will be the first ever held at the capital of a Warsaw Pact. The days of the Warsaw Pact seem distant—they must seem to you. After all, the Warsaw Pact ended a half a lifetime ago for you. It was a dark and distant era. The years since have brought great challenge and great hope to all of the countries on this continent. And tomorrow in Prague we will have reached a decisive moment, an historic moment, for tomorrow we will invite new members into our Alliance. It's a bold decision, to guarantee the freedom of millions of people.

At the summit, we'll make the most significant reforms in NATO since 1949, reforms which will allow our Alliance to effectively confront new dangers. And in the years to come, all of the nations of Europe will determine their place in world events. They will take up global responsibilities or choose to live in isolation from the challenges of our time.

As for America, we made our choice. We are committed to work toward world peace, and we're committed to a close and permanent partnership with the nations of Europe. The Atlantic Alliance is America's most important global relationship. We're tied to Europe by history. We are tied to Europe by the wars of liberty we have fought and won together. We're joined by broad ties of trade. And America is bound to Europe by the deepest convictions of our common culture, our belief in the dignity of every life and our belief in the power of conscience to move history.

In this city and town squares across the Czech Republic are monuments to Jan Hus who said this: "Stand in the truth you have learned, for it conquers all and is mighty to eternity." That ideal has given life to the Czech Republic, and it is shared by the Republic I lead.

America believes that a strong, confident Europe is good for the world. We welcome the economic integration of Europe. We believe that integration will extend prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic. We welcome a democratic Russia as part of this new Europe, because a free and peaceful Russia will add to the security of this continent. We welcome the growing unity of Europe in commerce and currency and military cooperation, which is closing a long history of rivalry and violence. This continent, wounded by nazism and communism, is becoming peaceful and secure and democratic for the first time. And now that the countries of Europe are united in freedom, they will no longer fight each other and bring war to the rest of the world.

Because America supports a more united Europe, we strongly support the enlargement of NATO, now and in the future. Every European democracy that seeks NATO membership and is ready to share in NATO's responsibilities should be welcome in our Alliance. The enlargement of NATO is good for all who join us. The standards for membership are high, and they encourage the hard work of political and economic and military reform.

And nations in the family of NATO, old or new, know this: Anyone who would choose you for an enemy also chooses us for an enemy. Never again in the face of aggression will you stand alone.

A larger NATO is good for Russia as well. Later this week I will visit St. Petersburg. I will tell my friend Vladimir Putin and the Russian people that they too will gain from

the security and stability of nations to Russia's west. Russia does not require a buffer zone of protection. It needs peaceful and prosperous neighbors who are also friends. We need a strong and democratic Russia as our friend and partner to face the next century's new challenges. Through the NATO-Russia Council we must increase our cooperation with Russia for the security of all of us.

Expansion of NATO also brings many advantages to the Alliance, itself. Every new member contributes military capabilities that add to our common security. We see this already in Afghanistan, for forces from Romania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Slovakia, and others have joined with 16 NATO Allies to help defeat global terror.

And every new member of our Alliance makes a contribution of character. Tomorrow NATO grows larger. Tomorrow the soul of Europe grows stronger. Members recently added to NATO and those invited to join bring greater clarity to purposes of our Alliance, because they understand the lessons of the last century. Those with fresh memories of tyranny know the value of freedom. Those who have lived through a struggle of good against evil are never neutral between them. Czechs and Slovaks learned through the harsh experience of 1938 that when great democracies fail to confront danger, greater dangers follow. And the people of the Baltics learned that aggression left unchecked by the great democracies can rob millions of their liberty and their lives.

In Central and Eastern Europe the courage and moral vision of prisoners and exiles and priests and playwrights caused tyrants to fall. This spirit now sustains these nations through difficult reforms. And this spirit is needed in the councils of a new Europe.

Our NATO Alliance faces dangers very different from those it was formed to confront, yet never has our need for collective defense been more urgent. The Soviet Union is gone, but freedom still has enemies. We're threatened by terrorism. Bred within failed states, it's present within our own cities. We're threatened by the spread of chemical and biological and nuclear weapons which are produced by outlaw regimes and could be delivered either by missile or terrorist cell. For terrorists and terrorist states, every free nation—every free nation—is a potential target, including the free nations of Europe.

We're making progress on this, the first war of the 21st century. Today, more than 90 nations are joined in a global coalition to defeat terror. We're sharing intelligence. We're freezing the assets of terror groups. We're pursuing the terrorists wherever they plot and train. And we're finding them and bringing them to justice, one person at a time.

Today, the world is also uniting to answer the unique and urgent threat posed by Iraq. A dictator who has used weapons of mass destruction on his own people must not be allowed to produce or possess those weapons. We will not permit Saddam Hussein to blackmail and/or terrorize nations which love freedom.

Last week Saddam Hussein accepted U.N. inspectors. We've heard those pledges before and seen them violated time and time again. We now call an end to that game of deception and deceit and denial. Saddam Hussein has been given a very short time to declare completely and truthfully his arsenal of terror. Should he again deny that this arsenal exists, he will have entered his final stage with a lie. And deception this time will not be tolerated. Delay and defiance will invite the severest of consequences.

America's goal, the world's goal is more than the return of inspectors to Iraq. Our goal is to secure the peace through the comprehensive and verified disarmament of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Voluntary or by force, that goal will be achieved.

To meet all of this century's emerging threats, from terror camps in remote regions to hidden laboratories of outlaw regimes, NATO must develop new military capabilities. NATO forces must become better able to fight side by side. Those forces must be more mobile and more swiftly deployed. The Allies need more special operations forces, better precision strike capabilities, and more modern command structures.

Few NATO members will have state-of-the-art capabilities in all of these areas. I recognize that. But every nation should develop some. Ours is a military alliance, and every member must make a military contribution

to that alliance. For some Allies, this will require higher defense spending. For all of us, it will require more effective defense spending, with each nation adding the tools and technologies to fight and win a new kind of war.

And because many threats to the NATO members come from outside of Europe, NATO forces must be organized to operate outside of Europe. When forces were needed quickly in Afghanistan, NATO's options were limited. We must build new capabilities, and we must strengthen our will to use those capabilities.

The United States proposes the creation of a NATO response force that will bring together well-equipped, highly ready air, ground, and sea forces from NATO Allies, old and new. This force will be prepared to deploy on short notice wherever it is needed. A NATO response force will take time to create, and we should begin that effort here in Prague.

Yet, security against new threats requires more than just new capabilities. Free nations must accept our shared obligations to keep the peace. The world needs the nations of this continent to be active in the defense of freedom, not inward-looking or isolated by indifference. Ignoring dangers or excusing aggression may temporarily avert conflict, but they don't bring true peace.

International stability must be actively defended, and all nations that benefit from that stability have a duty to help. In this noble work, America and the strong democracies of Europe need each other, each playing our full and responsible role. The good we can do together is far greater than the good we can do apart.

Great evil is stirring in the world. Many of the young here are coming up in a different world, different era, a different time, a different series of threats. We face perils we've never thought about, perils we've never seen before. But they're dangerous. They're just as dangerous as those perils that your fathers and mothers and grandfathers and grandmothers faced.

The hopes of all mankind depend on the courage and the unity of great democracies. In this hour of challenge, NATO will do what it has done before: We will stand firm against the enemies of freedom, and we'll prevail.

The transatlantic ties of Europe and America have met every test of history, and we intend to again. U-boats could not divide us. The threats and standoffs of the cold war did not make us weary. The commitment of my Nation to Europe is found in the carefully tended graves of young Americans who died for this continent's freedom. That commitment is shown by the thousands in uniforms still serving here, from the Balkans to Bavaria, still willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for this continent's future.

For 100 years, place names of Europe have often stood for conflict and tragedy and loss. Single words evoke sad and bitter experience: Verdun, Munich, Stalingrad, Dresden, Nuremberg, and Yalta. We have no power to rewrite history. We do have the power to write a different story for our time.

When future generations look back at this moment and speak of Prague and what we did here, that name will stand for hope. In Prague, young democracies will gain new security; a grand alliance will gather its strength and find new purpose. And America and Europe will renew the historic friendship that still keeps the peace of the world.

Thank you for your interest. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:40 p.m. at the Hilton Prague. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Military Academy cadet Gedrimas "Jimmy" Jaglinskas, who introduced the President; Alan Lee Williams, chairman, and Antonio Borges Carvalho, secretary general, Atlantic Treaty Association; Karen Frist, wife of Senator Bill Frist; Janet Voinovich, wife of Senator George V. Voinovich; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Interview With Russia's NTV

November 18, 2002

Chechnya

Q. Mr. President, did the October hostage crisis in Moscow change the U.S. position on Chechnya?

The President. No, our position on Chechnya is, we hope this can get solved peacefully, that this is an issue within Russia,

and that I will continue to work with Vladimir Putin as best as I can to encourage him for there to be a peaceful resolution with the Chechnyan issue, the larger issue.

On the other hand, I recognize that anytime terrorists come to take life, a leader must step forward. And the fact that 800 citizens could have been killed by terrorists put my friend Vladimir Putin in a very difficult situation. And he handled it as best he could. He did what he had to do to save life. And people—I heard somebody the other day blame Russia. No, the people to blame are the terrorists. They need to be held account. I believe you can do both. I believe you can hold terrorists to account, killers to account, and at the same time solve difficult situations in a peaceful way.

Former President Aslan Maskhadov of Chechnya

Q. Mr. President, you say the leader has to come forward. So President Putin said that the leader of the Chechen group that took hostages, he was linked with former President Maskhadov of Chechnya, and that actually Maskhadov was aware of it. And therefore, President Putin said Maskhadov is an international terrorist.

The President. Well, I haven't had a chance to talk to Vladimir Putin about these connections. But I am aware of the fact that there are killers moving around the world interested in holding people hostage, Governments hostage, and that we must work together to bring people to justice. It's one of the reasons why I'm working very closely with the Georgians, and I'm pleased to see Vladimir Putin is working with Mr. Shevardnadze to come up with a common strategy to route out the killers, the Al-Qaida-type killers, which may be hiding in the Pankisi Gorge with one thing in mind, to bring instability to Russia. And so we're working together as best as we possibly can to bring people to justice.

Q. But in the West people very often, in the United States in particular, say that one of the partners is Mr. Maskhadov in that political solution. After the October crisis, is that still an issue?

The President. Well, I haven't had a chance to talk to Vladimir and see the facts that he's talking about. He obviously knows—you know, has got some information that we can talk about in St. Petersburg, and I look forward to discussing it with him.

Pankisi Gorge Terrorists/Russia-U.S. Cooperation in the War on Terror

Q. Well, Mr. President, you mentioned Georgia. President Putin immediately after the October crisis said that, from now on Russia is going to hit every terrorist target wherever it is; that means even abroad. Is that all right?

The President. Well, it depends on what you mean by "hit every target"—depending abroad. I mean, you know, I think what he's saying is, we're going to redouble our efforts to work together to bring people to justice. And that's what we're doing in Georgia. I have told Mr. Shevardnadze that if—you know, it's very important for him to be collaborative and to be prepared to bring people to justice if there are killers hiding in the Pankisi Gorge with the intent upon bringing—wreaking havoc in Russia or anywhere else, for that matter. They must be brought to justice. And slowly but surely, we're finding these people around the world.

This is a different kind of war, see; that's what's unique. In the old days, we would fight armies that had tanks and airplanes and ships. These people are the kind of people that hide in caves and send people to their suicidal deaths. And so it requires a different kind of effort. It requires sharing of intelligence, cutting off money, having specially trained troops to go into dark caves or the dark corners of the world and bring these people to justice. You speak in the language of the old war. This is a war that requires a precise understanding of where these people hide, and the willingness to discuss intelligence like we've never discussed before to hunt them down.

And that's what we're doing with Russia. I mean, our intelligence sharing is much better than it ever has been before. And it's going to be good for both our peoples. And I keep reminding the American people that Russia is our friend and we're working in collaboration to hunt down those who would kind of hide in the shadowy corners and bring them to justice.

Russian Interests in Iraq

Q. Mr. President, one question on Iraq——

The President. Sure.

Q. ——which is now very sort of hot issue. If push comes to shove and a military solution is necessary, and if the current regime, Saddam Hussein's regime, is going to be toppled, are Russian economic interests going to be considered?

The President. Well, first, I hope that all the ifs don't happen. I mean, I hope that Mr. Saddam Hussein disarms, like he said he would do. But the problem is, he said he would do it for 11 years, and he hasn't done anything for 11 years. I mean, in the name of peace he should disarm. And so we're working with Russia and other members of the United Nations Security Council to send a clear message to Mr. Saddam Hussein that we expect you to disarm.

If he doesn't disarm, then we'll disarm him in the name of peace. And of course, we'll be interested in all interests. We have no desire to run the show, to run the country. We will work to encourage the development of new leadership, should this happen, that will recognize the rights of all citizens that live in this country, that will keep the territorial integrity of Iraq intact. And we understand Russia has got interests there, as do other countries. And of course, those interests will be honored.

Q. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The President. I'm glad you're here.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 1:25 p.m. in the Library at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia; President Eduard Shevardnadze of the Republic of Georgia; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The transcript of this interview was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 21. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Interview With LNK TV of Lithuania

November 18, 2002

President's Upcoming Visit to Lithuania

Q. Mr. President, you are the first President of the United States to visit Lithuania. What is your message to Lithuania's people?

The President. Well, first, I'm honored to be invited. Secondly, I'm really looking forward to it. And my message is: You're free. Freedom is precious, and we welcome our friends the Lithuanians into the—as a free nation into the brotherhood of nations.

I'll also say to the world that the Baltic countries know what it means to live under fear and the lack of freedom, and to have these countries be allied with the United States and other nations is important to our soul. It's important to have that sense of freedom as a source of vigor and strength, and a very important alliance. That's what I want to say.

War on Terror

Q. What are America and Lithuania going to do after the Prague, together?

The President. Well, we're going to work to fight terror. That's the new threat we face. It's most evident here in America because we've been under attack, and we're still under attack. People still want to hurt us because of what we stand for. But countries which love freedom are not immune from these people. These are coldblooded killers, and we've got a charge to keep for a long time coming. And the best way to do that is work together.

So the NATO mission is one of defending freedom by fighting against those who would try to defeat freedom, which means we've got to share intelligence, work together militarily in a way that complements everybody, cut off the money of the terrorists. I mean, there's a lot to do. But that's the true threat that we face.

Russia is no longer a threat. After Prague, I'm going to Russia. And I'm going to say to the Russian people, "You shouldn't fear

expansion of NATO to your border. These are peace-loving people. These are freedom-loving people that are now on your border. You ought to welcome them. It should help Russian security"—that the cold war is over, that the United States doesn't view Russia as a threat and neither does NATO. So we've got to address our sights to the new threats.

Russia-U.S. Relations

Q. Relationship between Western democracies and Russia seems to be very friendly. But do you really trust President Putin?

The President. Sure, of course. I press any leader that doesn't believe 100 percent in freedom, and of course I do—I'm—freedom of the press or Chechnya or issues that indicate that there might not be a wholehearted commitment to freedom of the people. I do it in a way that's a friendly way. I believe the best way to work together is to do it in a spirit of cooperation. I believe the best way to make sure we've got good relations is to make it clear that there's no animosity. But of course I do. I work very closely with him. Russia is an important country.

And we want Russia to be a country based upon the values which we share, because we believe those values are the best values for the human condition of everybody. I like to tell people, freedom is not an American gift; freedom is a gift from the almighty God. And I firmly believe that. And freedom is important in any country in the world.

Lithuania

Q. Some people wonder why the United States, the superpower of the world, pays so much attention to the small Baltic state Lithuania. What could you tell those people?

The President. Well, I can tell those people everybody matters. See, our country believes in the worth of every individual. We believe everybody is precious; everybody counts; and that we are rooted, our whole history and our very being is rooted, on the notion of people being able to realize their dreams. And that's what we believe.

That's why we never recognized the Soviet domination of the Baltics. We called Lithuania independent for all those years. And now we can say Lithuania is independent, and Lithuania is forever free. And that's our commitment.

Future of NATO

Q. How do you imagine the future of NATO Alliance after new members will join?

The President. Better—better because the—NATO will have this new spirit. Listen, if you lived under slavery and subjugation and you're free, there's a spirit. There's a strength of purpose. There's a remembrance of what it's like. There's no gray areas between good and evil. That's an important spirit in NATO. Lithuania brings a wonderful spirit of strength of purpose, of endurance.

Secondly, as we change the military strategy to reflect the new threat—see, Russia is not a threat militarily. The threats that we now face come from a global terror network. And we'll change our military capabilities to meet the strategies necessary to defeat terrorism. And Lithuania will have an important contribution to make, as will all countries in NATO. So the expansion of NATO will make it easier for us to defend the peace.

Q. Mr. President, thank you very much, indeed. It was a great pleasure to talk to you.

The President. We'll see you in Vilnius.

Q. Thank you.

The President. It's going to be exciting for me.

Q. For us, too. We're waiting for that.

The President. I can't wait. Thanks. Make sure the weather is good, will you? [*Laughter*]

Q. Yes, we'll do our best. Thank you.

NOTE: The interview was videotaped at 1:32 p.m. in the Library at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia. The transcript of this interview was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 21. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

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

November 21, 2002

President Bush. I'm really looking forward to visiting with the Prime Minister of

Great Britain, Tony Blair. He's a friend; he's a strong leader. He and I are bound by the strong conviction that freedom belongs to everybody, and we're going to work together to make the world a more peaceful place.

I'm greatly disturbed by the news from the Middle East today. There's been yet another suicide bombing. It is clear that those who want to use terror to stop any process for peace are still active. In order to achieve peace, all countries in that region must be responsible for—take responsibility, do their best to fight off terror.

And I know the Prime Minister joins me as we mourn the loss of life. But we are going to continue to work toward peace in the Middle East. Two states living side by side in peace is the vision. And we will continue to work with those who share that vision—for the sake of the Israeli people, for the sake of the Palestinians.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Blair. Mr. President, first of all, we're pleased to see you again and exchange views on a range of issues that confront us at the moment. And I agree with what you said a moment ago. Our thoughts are obviously with the victims of the latest terrorist outrage in Israel.

And the two things that are so clear is that, first of all, we need the action on security and action against terrorism, and secondly, to make progress in building a lasting peace in that region, based, as you say, on the two-state solution. It's an issue that I think—what is interesting is that the whole world wants to see us now, having—take this very firm stand against terrorism, against issues of weapons of mass destruction, but also try and make sure that we provide the secure future with lasting peace in the Middle East. And I think those issues are all very much linked together.

President Bush. We'll take a question apiece. Greg [David Gregory, NBC News].

Germany-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us if you've had a chance this week to speak with German Chancellor Schroeder yet?

President Bush. I did. I had a cordial meeting at that meeting last night. We greeted each other cordially.

Q. Can you give us an assessment of the state of U.S.-German relations in light of the recent election?

President Bush. It's a—Germany is an important friend of the United States. And we've got a relationship to maintain, and we will maintain it.

Iraqi Cooperation on Disarmament

Q. Mr. President, you put a formal request to Britain and other countries to supply troops for a possible conflict in Iraq.

President Bush. Is that a question, have we, or an asserted statement?

Q. I understood you had——

President Bush. Oh, I see.

Q. ——and I wonder what your expectation was for what Britain might do.

President Bush. Well, my expectation is, is that we can do this peacefully, if Saddam Hussein disarms. That's my expectation. This is—Saddam Hussein has got a decision to make: Will he uphold the agreement that he has made? And if he chooses to do so by disarming peacefully, the world will be better off for it. If he chooses not to disarm, we will work with our close friends, the closest of which is Great Britain, and we will disarm him. But our first choice is not to use the military option. Our first choice is for Mr. Saddam Hussein to disarm. And that's where we'll be devoting a lot of our energies.

Q. And Prime Minister, you have this request now. You also seem to have a prospect of another fire strike as well. Do you believe that many British troops and reserves are going to have to prepare for a Christmas away from their family celebrations in either fighting fires or fighting Saddam Hussein?

Prime Minister Blair. We will do what's necessary, both to secure ourselves at home and to make sure that the will of the United Nations is enforced abroad. And I think what you will find here at this NATO summit is a totally united determination on behalf of the international community, reflected in the unanimous United Nations resolution, that Saddam Hussein has to disarm himself of all weapons of mass destruction. And how that happens is a choice for him.

We hope, and want it to happen, through the United Nations inspectors mandated by the whole of the international community.

But if he fails to cooperate with them, if he fails to do all he can—and it is within his power—to help that process of disarmament through the United Nations, then he will be disarmed by force. And that is the clear will of the international community. And I think you will find now that there is a consensus for that position virtually right across the civilized world.

Q. Thank you very much.

President Bush. Sure. I'm glad to answer your every request. [*Laughter*]

Q. How about our every question?

President Bush. I don't want you to get used to asking too many questions. I've been answering them all the whole time I've been here, question after question after question. If you were to ask a question, Stretch, what would it have been, so I can think about it for tomorrow? I won't answer it now.

Usama bin Laden

Q. What's your reaction to the confirmation of bin Laden being alive on the tape?

President Bush. Thank you. I've got a formulated answer. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:07 a.m. at the Prague Congress Center. In his remarks, he referred to Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the North Atlantic Council Summit in Prague

November 21, 2002

America is very pleased by today's decision. We believe it strengthens our Nation's most important alliance, NATO. By welcoming seven members, we will not only add to our military capabilities; we will refresh the spirit of this great democratic Alliance.

We believe today's decision reaffirms our commitment to freedom and our commitment to a Europe which is whole and free and at peace.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:03 a.m. at the Prague Congress Center.

Proclamation 7628—Thanksgiving Day, 2002

November 21, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In celebration of Thanksgiving Day 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt wrote, "Rarely has any people enjoyed greater prosperity than we are now enjoying. For this we render heartfelt and solemn thanks to the Giver of Good; and we seek to praise Him—not by words only—but by deeds, by the way in which we do our duty to ourselves and to our fellow men." President Roosevelt's words gracefully remind us that, as citizens of this great Nation, we have much for which to be thankful; and his timeless call inspires us to meet our responsibilities to help those in need and to promote greater understanding at home and abroad.

As the Pilgrims did almost four centuries ago, we gratefully give thanks this year for the beauty, abundance, and opportunity this great land offers. We also thank God for the blessings of freedom and prosperity; and, with gratitude and humility, we acknowledge the importance of faith in our lives.

Throughout the Thanksgiving holiday, let us renew our commitment to make our country and our world better. As we welcome new opportunities and face new challenges, we are thankful for the resolve and generosity of so many of our people who are touching countless hearts and souls through thoughtful acts of kindness. By answering the call to serve others, Americans are building a culture of service that strengthens our Nation. We also honor and salute the selfless sacrifice of the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who are defending our lives and liberty at home and abroad with skill, honor, and dedication.

This Thanksgiving, we recognize the ties of friendship and respect that bind us together. And we renew our pledge to uphold the timeless principles of freedom, equality, and opportunity that have made our country into a great Nation. By working together, we will continue to build mutual trust, peace,

and hope for all across this land and around the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 28, 2002, as a National Day of Thanksgiving. I encourage Americans to gather in their homes, places of worship, and community centers to share the spirit of understanding and unity, and of prayer, as we express our thanks for the many blessings we enjoy. I also encourage Americans to reach out in friendship to the larger family of humankind.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:47 a.m., November 25, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 22, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 26.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Vladimir Putin of Russia and an Exchange With Reporters in St. Petersburg, Russia

November 22, 2002

President Putin. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. In your presence may I once again cordially welcome the President of the United States and his team to Russia.

We are very pleased that Mr. President accepted our invitation. And let me say that our conversations—and this is exactly the way I'd like to quote this meeting—our conversation on the whole range of our bilateral issues and our cooperation in the international arena have been very productive and very, very frank.

And we discussed practically everything between the sky and the Earth. We discussed our cooperation in the energy sector, our energy dialog. We discussed our cooperation in the high technology sector. We also—[*inaudible*]—the problem of NATO expansion and the development of relations between Russia and NATO. And of course, we also addressed the problem of terrorism. And of course, we also discussed the prospects for our cooperation on the matters of strategic stability.

I think that Mr. President will agree with me—and he'll have an opportunity to say what he thinks on this—but I think he'll agree with me that our meeting, in this point a very frank meeting, without prepared statements, has been very productive and has been very fruitful.

President Bush. Yes, it has. I consider Vladimir Putin one of my good friends.

Are you going to translate?

Like other good friends I've had throughout my life, we don't agree 100 percent of the time. But we always agree to discuss things in a frank and—in a frank way.

Every time I come to St. Petersburg, he keeps showing me more and more beautiful rooms. So I'm coming back next May. I always enjoy our conversations.

I have just come from NATO. My visit with Vladimir was my first stop after Prague. The mood of the NATO countries is this: Russia is our friend; we've got a lot of interests together; we must continue our cooperation in the war on terror; and the expansion of NATO should be welcomed by the Russian people. After all, there are new nations on our border that are members of—nations that are new members of NATO but nations pledged to peace and pledged to freedom.

But the President was right, we had a—we discussed a lot of issues. And I would define our bilateral relations as very good.

We might answer a couple of questions.

Q. This is a question to both Presidents.

President Bush. Okay, fine. Fire away.

Russia-U.S. Relations/NATO

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

President Putin. As regards partnership, it is on a very high level. And it is very pleasant for me to note that we not only have lost nothing of what has been generated, has been produced by the previous generations

of politicians, but we keep going on further. We keep achieving new results, and we are moving ahead very expeditiously and very productively.

And I'd like to stress—and this is a very important point—that the interests of Russia and the United States coincide not only in many economic fields but they are also identical in many strategic areas.

As regards our relations with NATO, let me say the following: As regards the expansion, you know our position well. We do not believe that this has been necessitated by the existing pact, but we take note of the position taken by the President of the United States, and we hope to have positive development of our relations with all NATO countries.

As regards our relationship with the Alliance as a whole, as the Alliance keeps transforming—and this is something that Mr. President talked about recently—we do not rule out the possibility of deepening our relations with the Alliance. Of course, in the case if the activities of the Alliance are in accord with Russia's national security interests. At least within the Group of 20, we are interacting, are cooperating in a very well way, in a very good way.

President Bush. Yes, the Russian-NATO Council is very important. But the strategy of NATO is going to be based upon the fact that the cold war is over; Russia is a friend; Russia is not an enemy. And I told the President, as I was leaving the NATO summit, a lot of leaders came up and asked me to send their personal regards to him.

And in terms of our bilateral relations, we'll continue to work to make them as strong as they can possibly be, and there's a lot of areas—in trade, in commerce, in energy—that we're working together to make progress.

I think it's only fair we ask one American. Jim [Jim Angle, FOX News].

Jim's his name.

Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri/Iraq

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. The public now knows that the U.S. has in its custody a terrorist who has the blood of many Americans on his hands, Mr. al-Nashiri. How significant is his arrest?

And since we see President Putin so rarely, Mr. President, I hope you won't object if I ask President Putin a question as well. And that is, sir, has the U.S. asked you to participate or contribute to any military action in Iraq if it becomes necessary, and what is your view on that?

President Bush. A couple of points. First, I want to thank Vladimir and his foreign policy team for working together to pass a strong resolution out of the United Nations on Iraq.

Secondly, we did bring to justice a killer. And the message is, we're making war on the—we're making progress on the war against terrorists, that we're going to hunt them down one at a time, that it doesn't matter where they hide. As we work with our friends, we will find them and bring them to justice. And America and Russia and people who love freedom are one person safer as a result of us finding this guy.

President Putin. I'm very pleased to see the mood the President of the United States is in. It is what we needed. Let me assure you that we will work together, and our work will be effective.

Now there is something I would like to draw your attention to. And we ultimately discussed this matter with our U.S. colleagues. We should not give a chance to anyone who is either engaged in terror or is supporting terror.

As I understood the second part of your question, concern was—has to do with Iraq. We should not forget about those who finance terrorism. Of the 19 terrorists who committed the main attacks on September 11th against the United States, 16 are citizens of Saudi Arabia, and we should not forget about that.

Now, where has Usama bin Laden taken refuge? They say that somewhere between Afghanistan and Pakistan. We know what Mr. Musharraf is doing to achieve stability in his country, and we are supporting him. But what can happen with armies armed with weapons that exist in Pakistan, including weapons of mass destruction—we are not sure on that aspect, and we should not forget about that. And we agree with the President of the United States and his colleagues who say that we have to make sure that Iraq has

no weapons of mass destruction in its possession.

Diplomats have carried out a very difficult, a very complex work. And we do believe that we have to stay within the framework of the work being carried out by the Security Council of the United Nations. And we do believe that, together with the United States, we can achieve a positive result. As you know, our recent past gives us—we have a example of that kind, and the level achieved in our bilateral relations between Russia and the United States gives us hope that we can achieve such results.

President Bush. Thank you all. We've got a plane to catch. Don't keep us waiting. Thank you all. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:55 p.m. at Catherine's Palace. In his remarks, President Putin referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization, and President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan. A reporter referred to Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, Al Qaida's chief of operations for the Persian Gulf. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin on Development of the U.S.-Russian Energy Dialogue

November 22, 2002

Last May, we launched an energy dialogue to strengthen the overall relationship between our countries, and to enhance global energy security, international strategic stability, and regional cooperation. Already we can see important benefits from this new aspect of our relations.

A key success in this new dialogue was the first-ever U.S.-Russia Commercial Energy Summit held in Houston in the beginning of October with the participation of both countries' governmental, business and scientific circles. The Houston Summit created new avenues for dialogue and cooperation on energy issues and led to decisions on concrete new investment projects and programs and business arrangements. We thank the more than 70 companies that contributed to its success and look forward to the next energy summit, to be hosted in Russia in 2003.

We also support the further strengthening of relations between the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Ministry of Energy of Russia, and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Russia. We welcome as well the activities of the intergovernmental American-Russian Working Group on Energy Cooperation. We note our Ministers' commitment to educational initiatives to promote best technical and managerial practices.

Commercial cooperation plays the key role in the U.S.-Russia Energy Dialogue. One of the most important results of the Houston Summit was the establishment of the Commercial Energy Working Group. We strongly support the efforts of the American and Russian companies involved to identify new and mutually beneficial commercial opportunities and to take down barriers to trade and investment.

At present, American and Russian companies are working hard to further connect the American and Russian energy markets. We welcome the first delivery to the United States of Russian crude oil in July; the establishment of enterprises that will market Russian energy in the U.S.; and the proposal to build a deep-water port in Russia for energy exports. As a symbolic example of our deepening energy relationship, we note that for the first-time ever Russian crude oil was delivered to the United States Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Investment is necessary to ensure the further development of Russia's energy and energy transportation sectors. To that end, we welcome several memoranda of understanding recently signed by Russian companies with the Export-Import Bank of the United States, as well as agreements signed with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

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

Joint U.S.-Russia Statement on Iraq

November 22, 2002

We have expressed our serious concern about the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In this context, we pledge our full support for the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1441. We call on Iraq to comply fully and immediately with this and all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, which were adopted as a necessary step to secure international peace and security.

We firmly support the efforts of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission Chairman and the International Atomic Energy Agency Director General to fulfill their responsibilities under UN Security Council resolutions.

We call on Iraq, in strict compliance with UNSC resolution 1441, to cooperate fully and unconditionally in its disarmament obligations or face serious consequences.

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

Proclamation 7629—National Farm-City Week, 2002

November 22, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Agriculture has always been a cornerstone of our Nation's way of life. As wise stewards and innovative entrepreneurs, our dedicated farmers and ranchers improve our well-being by working to ensure a healthy and abundant agricultural supply. To succeed in this important enterprise, our farmers rely on essential partnerships with urban communities to supply, sell, and deliver finished products across the country and around the world. During National Farm-City Week, we recognize the importance of this cooperative network to the success of America's agricultural industry.

Farming was America's first industry. Today, this industry provides us with many of the necessities of life, such as food, clothing, and, increasingly, fuel for our energy needs. Agriculture employs more than 24 million workers including farmers, shippers, processors, marketers, grocers, truck drivers, inspectors, and others who annually contribute more than $1.3 trillion to our gross domestic product. In the international market, our farmers export more than $50 billion in products that help feed people in countries around the world. As we welcome new opportunities for trade, the hard work and successful cooperation between farmers and city workers will continue to play a vital role in our Nation's success and will continue to be a critical resource for countless people here at home and around the globe.

My Administration remains committed to helping the millions of Americans who work in the agricultural industry. Earlier this year, I signed the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to support these important workers and to strengthen the farm economy. This Act will help our farmers and ranchers by providing financial assistance that encourages sound conservation and environmental practices, and promotes open trade. And to expand opportunities for our farmers to compete in the international marketplace and encourage further economic growth, my Administration is committed to opening international markets and reducing tariffs and other barriers to food distribution throughout the world.

Farm-city collaborations help maintain and improve our Nation's food supply and contribute to a better quality of life for countless citizens. With this Farm-City Week observance, we commend the many Americans whose hard work and ingenuity reflect the true spirit of America and help ensure a prosperous future for all.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 22 through November 28, 2002, as National Farm-City Week. I call upon all Americans, in rural and urban communities, to join in recognizing the accomplishments of all those who work together to produce and promote

America's agricultural abundance. I also encourage citizens to strengthen our understanding of the American farm-city partnership by participating in appropriate community events and celebrations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:47 a.m., November 25, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 26.

Proclamation 7630—National Family Week, 2002

November 22, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Families provide a loving environment where children can flourish; and they help ensure that cultural traditions and timeless values are passed on to future generations. During National Family Week, we reaffirm the importance of families as a vital source of strength, confidence, and compassion for all of our citizens.

Strong families play a critical role in developing the character of our Nation. They teach children important standards of conduct such as accepting responsibility, respecting others, and distinguishing the difference between right and wrong. By helping America's youth to grow into mature, thoughtful, and caring citizens, families help make our communities and our Nation safer and more civilized.

Raising a child requires sacrifice, commitment, and time; and we must expand our efforts to strengthen and empower families so that they can prepare children more effectively for the challenges of adulthood. We know that by helping couples to build and sustain strong, two-parent families, we will contribute to the well-being of our children and the strength of our society. Many single parents, grandparents, and others also raise their children in difficult circumstances, and these dedicated individuals deserve our respect and support.

My Administration is firmly committed to helping our Nation's youth reach their full potential; and one of the most important ways to do this is by strengthening America's families. Earlier this year, I signed bipartisan legislation to expand the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, which provides States with vital resources to help families stay together and to promote adoption. The Program seeks to prevent child abuse and neglect, avoid removing children from their homes, support family reunification services, and help those children who are unable to return home by providing crucial adoption and post-adoptive services. These important resources benefit families across our Nation and hold the promise of a bright future for countless young people.

My welfare reform agenda also will strengthen families. We plan on continuing to provide historically high levels of support for childcare and child support enforcement. And we will continue to encourage strong marriages and two-parent married families as a worthy policy goal.

No marriage or family is perfect. But through education and counseling programs that our faith-based, charitable, and government communities can provide, we will support couples as they work to build and sustain healthy marriages and strive to provide a better quality of life for their children. By promoting responsible child-rearing and strong families, my Administration will work towards the goal that every child has the opportunity to grow up in a safe and loving home.

As families come together to celebrate this Thanksgiving, I encourage every member of a family in America to recognize the important role every other family member plays in making their lives whole and more complete. And as we give thanks for the love, commitment, and encouragement our families provide, we must recommit ourselves to strengthen our Nation by strengthening our families in ways that government never can.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America,

by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 24 through November 30, 2002, as National Family Week. I invite the States, communities, and people of the United States to join together in observing this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor our Nation's families.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:50 a.m., November 26, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 27.

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.

November 16

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings at Camp David, MD.

November 17

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

November 18

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark to discuss the November 21–22 NATO Summit in Prague, Czech Republic, the European Union Summit to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December, and implementation of the United Nations resolution concerning weapons inspections in Iraq. He then had intelligence and national security briefings.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President met with Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri of Lebanon to discuss economic issues, including Lebanon's cooperation with the International Monetary Fund, and peace efforts in the Middle East.

The White House announced the appointment of Barry Jackson as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy to the Senior Advisor.

The White House announced the appointment of Peter Wehner as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Strategic Initiatives.

The White House announced the appointment of Israel Hernandez as Deputy Assistant to the President and Assistant to the Senior Advisor.

The White House announced the appointment of Adam Goldman as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Public Liaison.

The White House announced the appointment of Julieanne Thomas as Associate Director at the Office of Public Liaison.

The President declared a major disaster in Ohio and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on November 10.

November 19

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Prague, Czech Republic, arriving in the evening.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ellen L. Weintraub to be a member of the Federal Election Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Gerald Alan Barnhart as a Commissioner of the U.S. Section of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Harold Craig Manson as a Commissioner of the U.S. Section of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (Official of the U.S. Government).

The President announced his intention to appoint William W. Taylor as Alternate Commissioner of the U.S. Section of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

November 20

In the morning, the President was greeted by President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic at Prague Castle. Later, at Hrzansky Palace, the President met with Prime Minister Vladimir Spidla of the Czech Republic.

In the afternoon, at the Hilton Prague, the President met with U.S. Embassy personnel. Later, he had separate meetings with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer of Turkey, to discuss bilateral relations and the situation in Iraq, and NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, to discuss the upcoming NATO Summit.

In the evening, at Prague Castle, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a gift presentation followed by a dinner for NATO leaders.

November 21

During the day, at the Prague Congress Center, the President participated in North Atlantic Council Summit meetings and photo opportunities. He also met with President Jacques Chirac of France.

In the evening, at Prague Castle, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a ballet performance and a dinner with NATO and Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) leaders.

November 22

In the morning, at the Prague Congress Center, the President participated in EAPC Summit meetings and photo opportunities. Later, he was joined by Mrs. Bush, and they traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia, arriving in the afternoon.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Vilnius, Lithuania, arriving in the evening.

The President announced his appointment of Grover Whitehurst as Director of the Institute of Education Sciences at the Department of Education.

The President announced his designation of Eugene Scalia as Acting Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert A. Sturgell to be Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

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 November 19

Humberto S. Garcia,
of Puerto Rico, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico for the term of 4 years, vice Daniel F. Lopez Romo, resigned.

Leonardo M. Rapadas,
of Guam, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Guam and concurrently U.S. Attorney for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands for the term of 4 years, vice K. William O'Connor, resigned.

Ellen L. Weintraub,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2007, vice Karl J. Sandstrom, term expired.

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 November 16

Fact sheet: News About the War Against Terror

Released November 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Ohio

Released November 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Attorneys for the District of Guam, the District of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the District of Puerto Rico

Released November 21

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the NATO Summit in Prague, Czech Republic

Fact sheet: Czech Republic: Military Deployments Abroad

Fact sheet: Bush Administration Review of Defense Trade Export Policy and National Security

Fact sheet: NATO: Building New Capabilities for New Challenges

Fact sheet: NATO-Russia Relations

Released November 22

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.