

The President's Radio Address

December 7, 2002

Good morning. This weekend is the deadline for the Iraqi regime to fully disclose to the U.N. Security Council all of its weapons of mass destruction. Disarming that regime is a central commitment of the war on terror. We must, and we will, prevent terrorist groups and outlaw regimes from threatening the American people with catastrophic harm.

Saddam Hussein has been under a duty to disarm for more than a decade, yet he has consistently and systematically violated that obligation and undermined U.N. inspections. And he only admitted to a massive biological weapons program after being confronted with the evidence.

Now the U.N. Security Council and the United States have told Saddam Hussein: The game is over. Saddam Hussein will fully disarm himself of weapons of mass destruction, and if he does not, America will lead a coalition to disarm him.

As the new inspections process proceeds, the United States will be making only one judgment: Has Saddam Hussein changed his behavior of the last 11 years and decided to cooperate willingly and comply completely, or has he not?

Inspections will work only if Iraq complies fully and in good faith. Inspectors do not have the duty or the ability to uncover terrible weapons hidden in a vast country. The responsibility of inspectors is simply to confirm evidence of voluntary and total disarmament. Saddam Hussein has the responsibility to provide that evidence, as directed, and in full.

The world expects more than Iraq's cooperation with inspectors. The world expects and requires Iraq's complete, willing, and prompt disarmament. It is not enough for Iraq to merely open doors for inspectors. Compliance means bringing all requested information and evidence out into full view to show that Iraq has abandoned the deceptions of the last decade. Any act of delay or defiance will prove that Saddam Hussein has not adopted the path of compliance and has rejected the path of peace.

Thus far we are not seeing the fundamental shift in practice and attitude that the

world is demanding. Iraq's letters to the U.N. regarding inspections show that their attitude is grudging and conditional. And in recent days, Iraq has fired on American and British pilots enforcing the U.N.'s no-fly zone.

Iraq is now required by the United Nations to provide a full and accurate declaration of its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs. We will judge the declaration's honesty and completeness only after we have thoroughly examined it, and that will take some time. The declaration must be credible and accurate and complete, or the Iraqi dictator will have demonstrated to the world once again that he has chosen not to change his behavior.

Americans seek peace in the world. War is the last option for confronting threats, yet the temporary peace of denial and looking away from danger would only be a prelude to a broader war and greater horror. America will confront gathering dangers early. By showing our resolve today, we are building a future of peace.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10 a.m. on December 6 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 7. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 6 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.

Remarks at the Kennedy Center Honors Reception

December 8, 2002

Welcome to the East Room of the White House. We are glad you're here. Laura and I are so pleased to join you in honoring the achievements of five great Americans. We welcome the honorees, and we welcome their families and friends who share the pride of this special day.

Each new group of Kennedy Center honorees presents a picture to remember. This year we've brought together in one room a legend of Broadway, the conductor of the Met, the composer of "Mrs. Robinson"—

[laughter]—the face of Cleopatra—[laughter]—and the voice of Darth Vader. [Laughter]

We're all looking forward to a fine show this evening at the Kennedy Center, produced once again by George Stevens. Tonight's event recognizes lives of high achievement in the cultural arts. Each one of you is known to the American people in a way that runs deeper than fame. You've each made a place of your own in the culture of our Nation. And tonight, you can know that you are appreciated as well as being admired.

People say that the voice of the President is the most easily recognized voice in America. Well—[laughter]—I'm not going to make that claim in the presence of James Earl Jones. And that commanding voice belongs to one of the finest, most respected actors in this generation.

There was a time when his voice was seldom heard. You see, as a boy, Jimmy Jones struggled with a speech impediment. Often he could communicate with his teachers only in writing. This young man had a heart full of courage and determination. And so, he learned debating and public speaking, and he read Shakespeare aloud to master the feel and rhythm of language. Later, he cleaned offices while learning the actor's craft.

By his own will and God-given talent, James Earl Jones gained breakthrough roles on the stage and in some of the finest films of recent decades, from the "Great White Hope" to the "Field of Dreams." Along the way, Americans have come to know an artist of seriousness and skill. They've also come to know a man of great dignity whose voice we hope to hear for many years to come. Congratulations.

It is not commonly known, but Paul Simon got his start on the stage as well, as the White Rabbit—[laughter]—in a sixth grade production of "Alice in Wonderland." [Laughter] Playing the Cheshire Cat was his new friend Art Garfunkel.

Paul Simon still thinks of himself as a boy from Queens. America thinks of Paul Simon as the writer of some of the most memorable songs of our times and a singer of eloquence and integrity. From collaborative works such as "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" to the groundbreaking rhythms of "Graceland,"

Paul has defied musical boundaries, appealed to all generations, and expressed the ideals and hopes of mankind.

He once studied to be a lawyer. When he chose another path, the legal profession missed out on volumes of moving and lyrical briefs. [Laughter] His decision to be a performer led him to Paris, where in the early 1960's you could have seen Paul Simon performing alone, for anyone who cared to stop and listen could have not known then that he would one day draw some of the largest live audiences ever.

When you listen to Paul Simon's songs, you hear a gentle and truthful voice from a gifted man with a good heart. For the words and music he's brought to all our lives, America today honors Paul Simon.

James Levine knew from his earliest years that he was destined for a life in music. In the decades since, he has conducted major orchestras around the world and is himself an institution as the maestro of the New York Metropolitan Opera.

At the age of 3, he was playing melodies on the piano. His mother and father took him to symphonies where he would sit with the open score on his lap, conducting with a knitting needle. [Laughter] By age 9, he was producing full operas on a puppet stage at home. Helen and Lawrence Levine encouraged their son's extraordinary talent, while letting nobody exploit him. This prodigy matured into one of the most influential conductors America has ever produced.

James Levine is known for an understated style, drawing attention to the music itself, with his vivid and precise interpretations. And his artistic vision has preserved and advanced the unmatched reputation of the Metropolitan Opera.

James Levine has said that "music chose me, because I can't remember life without it." For the rest of us, it is hard to think of American classical music without him. So tonight, the music world is grateful for the disciplined artistry and joyful presence of maestro James Levine.

Our fourth honoree has been described by one theater critic as "20,000 volts of untamed electricity." [Laughter] Anyone who has seen Chita Rivera on the stage or screen knows what that critic means. Her professionalism,

enthusiasm, and style have set a Broadway standard that few have ever reached.

Chita began her training in classical ballet and became a star in “West Side Story.” She went on to acclaimed performances in “Bye Bye Birdie,” “Sweet Charity,” “Chicago,” and many other great shows. She’s the owner of two Tony awards and has been nominated for five more. Her hard work and personal warmth have gained her the respect of her peers and the affection of the American people.

It is fitting we recognize these accomplishments here in her hometown. Her family lived on Buchanan Street. Chita’s father played in the Navy Band. Her late mother, Katherine, who worked for the Government, remains her inspiration in life. Chita said, “I am only an extension of my mother. I look like her. I think like her. Every step I do on that stage is for her.” And I know, Chita, that your mother would also be proud of you today as America pays tribute to your distinguished career and your wonderful spirit.

On a fall afternoon in 1951, President Harry Truman welcomed a group of young actresses to the White House. [*Laughter*] Among them was Elizabeth Taylor. At that event, Truman wondered aloud what the next 50 years would bring in the film industry. He added, “I know some of these young ladies will see that day.” Well, standing here in 2002, we are honored to welcome back that lovely girl who became one of the most accomplished and compelling actresses in movie history.

Elizabeth Taylor’s early pictures, like “National Velvet” and “Lassie Come Home,” turned many reviewers into fans. One wrote, “Her face is alive with youthful spirit. Her voice has the softness of sweet song, and her whole manner is one of refreshing grace.”

Through the years, her performances in such films as “Giant” and “Butterfield 8” and “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” showed a depth and intensity that set her apart. Her face is one of the most memorable ever captured on film. And for millions of Americans, Elizabeth Taylor is the very definition of acting talent and movie stardom.

She has also given her heart to important causes, especially the defeat of AIDS. For her compassionate life and for a film career

like no other, the Kennedy Center and the American people honor Elizabeth Taylor.

Each of our five honorees has shared great gifts and has enriched the life of our Nation. They have given us all many fond memories, and I hope these distinguished Americans and their families and friends will cherish the memory of this evening.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless you all. And may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:22 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Memorandum on Designations Under the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998

December 7, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2003–05

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination of Designations Under the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President of the United States, including under section 5 of the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–338) (the “Act”), I hereby determine that each of the following groups is a democratic opposition organization and that each satisfies the criteria set forth in section 5(c) of the Act: the Assyrian Democratic Movement; the Iraqi Free Officers and Civilians Movement; the Iraqi National Front; the Iraqi National Movement; the Iraqi Turkmen Front; and the Islamic Accord of Iraq. I hereby designate each of these organizations as eligible to receive assistance under section 4 of the Act.

You are authorized and directed to report this determination and designation to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 9.