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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on December 13, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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

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Proclamation 7633—National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, 2002

December 6, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Early on a quiet Sunday morning on December 7, 1941, aircraft of the Empire of Japan, without provocation or warning, attacked the United States forces at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. More than 2,400 Americans died that day and another 1,100 were wounded, in what was the start of a long and terrible war against the forces of fascism, tyranny, and imperialism.

Out of that surprise attack grew a steadfast resolve to defend the freedoms on which our Nation was founded. From the ruins of Pearl Harbor, America built the strongest Navy in the world and emerged as a superpower to lead a coalition of allies to victory over evil in World War II. Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines fought and won many crucial battles, defeating history's most powerful tyranny. Our Nation must always remember the heroism, dedication, and sacrifice of those who served. Their courage in battle continues to inspire us today as our Armed Forces fight against terrorism in Afghanistan and around the world.

The men and women who fought for America at Pearl Harbor not only protected our Nation, but also helped to shape its character. Nine Americans who fell had Navy ships named after them, and 15 men earned the Medal of Honor for bravery, with 10 of them awarded the Medal posthumously. As we remember the lost on what President Franklin Delano Roosevelt called "a date which will live in infamy," I encourage our veterans to share their experiences with our youth so that new generations can learn about this important moment in our history.

Today, we salute our veterans of Pearl Harbor and World War II, whose sacrifices saved democracy during a dark hour. In their memory, a new generation of our Armed Forces goes forward against new enemies in a new era. Once again, we pledge to defend freedom, secure our homeland, and advance peace around the world. Americans have been tested before, and our Nation will triumph again.

The Congress, by Public Law 103–308, as amended, has designated December 7, 2002, as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim December 7, 2002, as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. I encourage all Americans to observe this solemn occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I urge all Federal agencies, interested organizations, groups, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff this and every December 7 in honor of those who died as a result of their service at Pearl Harbor.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of December, 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, 8:45 a.m., December 10, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 11. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

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.

Memorandum on Authorization To Furnish Drawdown Assistance to the Iraqi Opposition Under the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998

December 7, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2003–06

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Presidential Determination on Authorization to Furnish Drawdown Assistance to the Iraqi Opposition under the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President of the United States, including under sections 4(a)(2) and 5(a) of the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–338) (the "Act"), and consistent with Presidential Determination 99–13, I hereby direct the furnishing of up to $92 million in defense articles from the Department of Defense, defense services from the Department of Defense, and military education and training in order to provide assistance to the following organizations:

Iraqi National Accord;
Iraqi National Congress;
Kurdistan Democratic Party;
Movement for Constitutional Monarchy;
Patriotic Union of Kurdistan;
Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq;

and to such other Iraqi opposition groups designated by me under the Act before or after this determination. The assistance will be allocated in accordance with plans being developed by the Department of Defense and the Department of State.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination 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.

Remarks Announcing the Nomination of John Snow To Be Secretary of the Treasury

December 9, 2002

The President. Thank you. Please be seated. Good morning. Today I'm pleased to announce my nominee for the Secretary of the Treasury. John Snow has excelled as a business leader, an expert on economic policy, an academic, and as a public servant. He'll be a superb member of my Cabinet.

I also want to welcome Carolyn here today. Thank you for coming. I'm honored you're here.

As we look to a new year and a new Congress, John Snow will be a key adviser on the economy and a key advocate for my administration's agenda for growth, new jobs, and wider and more international trade. I'll be proposing specific steps to increase the momentum of our economic recovery, and the Treasury Secretary will be at the center of this effort. I appreciate John's willingness to serve our country.

In a varied and productive career, John Snow has shown consistent qualities of foresight and integrity and public spirit. He's led one of our Nation's largest railroads with skill and success. He knows firsthand how the economy works. His peers elected him to lead the Business Roundtable, where he was an articulate voice for pro-growth policies.

John has a deep, longstanding commitment to ethical corporate governance. And as the cochairman of an important commission on public trust and private enterprise, he holds a Ph.D. in economics and has taught in the field. He served in the executive branch under two Presidents.

John returns to public service at an important moment for our economy. Inflation is firmly under control, which keeps the cost of food, clothing, and other necessities more affordable. Mortgage rates interest remain at historic lows, making home prices more reasonable for millions of Americans. A 5.6-percent increase in productivity over the last four quarters is the biggest of any comparable period since 1973. And growth has returned to the American economy.

Yet, we also face specific challenges that could slow the recovery and limit future

growth. Parts of America are expecting—are experiencing persistent unemployment. Many Americans have very little money leftover after taxes. Some struggle under a weight of debt that makes is difficult to save for retirement. Investor confidence needs to be strengthened in practical ways.

The new Congress will have a responsibility to address these challenges. My administration will make specific proposals as how best to address these challenges. I look forward to working with John Snow, as we move forward on a growth-and-jobs package. He and I share a basic conviction: We believe the strength of our economy lies in the unmatched enterprise and creativity and hard work of the America people.

It is the task of Government to create an environment in which these qualities are rewarded and where jobs are generated, especially by small businesses in America. My administration has acted on these principles, and we will continue to do so. John will be the senior member of a new economic team.

From the day I took office, I've been fortunate to have outstanding economic advisers at the Treasury Department and in the White House. I'm deeply grateful to Secretary Paul O'Neill and Dr. Larry Lindsey for their leadership, particularly in the aftermath of September the 11th, 2001. They share credit for an historic tax relief and other economic policies that moved our economy from recession to growth.

Paul and Larry are two of the most fine, honorable, decent men I've ever served with. They can be proud for all they have done for their country.

There is important work ahead to bring greater economic growth in the new year. This economy is strong, and we can make it stronger. I'm eager for the task, and so is our next Secretary of the Treasury. And I hope the United States Senate will act quickly to confirm John Snow.

[*At this point, Secretary-designate Snow made brief remarks.*]

The President. Congratulations, sir. Welcome.

Secretary-designate Snow. Thank you.

The President. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Carolyn Snow, wife of Secretary-designate Snow. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary-designate Snow. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on the Peace Agreement in Indonesia

December 9, 2002

I congratulate the Government of Indonesia and the leadership of the Free Aceh Movement on the peace agreement signed on December 9th. The United States strongly supports this courageous effort to end a conflict that has cost thousands of innocent lives in Aceh and torn at the fabric of Indonesia for almost three decades. I commend President Megawati and the people of Aceh for choosing the path of reconciliation over the path of violence. I applaud the determined efforts of the Henri Dunant Center which made this agreement possible.

The United States strongly supports the agreement's monitoring mechanisms, which will ensure that both sides follow through on their commitments. We welcome decisions by the Governments of Thailand and the Philippines to deploy monitors in support of that mission. To reinforce the peace, the United States will work closely with Japan, Australia, and Indonesia's other partners in the coming months to provide humanitarian and reconstruction assistance for Aceh.

Today's agreement demonstrates that Indonesia's efforts to fight terror and maintain a united Indonesian nation are fully compatible with principled efforts to address legitimate political grievances. The agreement offers the hope of greater autonomy and respect for the people of Aceh. I call on all parties to the agreement to faithfully meet their commitments and build the better future that all peaceloving Indonesians expect and deserve.

Proclamation 7634—Human Rights Day, Bill of Rights Day, and Human Rights Week, 2002

December 9, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's commitment to individual freedom and democracy provides the foundation for our society. As a Nation, we cherish the values of free speech, equal justice, and religious tolerance, and we steadfastly oppose the forces of cruelty, injustice, and tyranny. Since the founding of our country, the Bill of Rights has served to guide our people and our Government to ensure basic human rights and liberties. The United States is a country where all citizens have the opportunity to voice their opinions, practice their faith, and enjoy the blessings of freedom.

Today, countless people around the world cannot exercise their basic human rights. America has pledged to support all individuals who seek to secure their unalienable rights. Across the globe, we will continue to stand with those who fight for fundamental freedoms, whether they be democracy activists in Cuba, university faculty and students in Iran, opposition leaders in Zimbabwe, journalists in Belarus, or the people of North Korea who have never known freedom. We are leading a coalition of more than 90 nations to defeat terror and to secure liberty and opportunity for people throughout the world. Our fight against oppression demonstrates our Nation's dedication to a future of hope and understanding for all people. One year after the liberation of Afghanistan from the clutches of terror and tyranny, we are helping the Afghan people build institutions of democracy and tolerance that are essential to the country's future stability, security, and prosperity. And I hope the brave people of Iraq will soon realize their own dreams of peace and freedom.

In commemorating Human Rights Day, Bill of Rights Day, and Human Rights Week, we renew our pledge to uphold the vital principles of freedom, equality, and opportunity that have made our Nation strong. By working together to advance the rights of all people, we help to build mutual trust and peace for all individuals 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 December 10, 2002, as Human Rights Day; December 15, 2002, as Bill of Rights Day; and the week beginning December 10, 2002, as Human Rights Week. I call upon the people of the United States to honor the legacy of human rights passed down to us from previous generations and to resolve that such liberties will prevail in our Nation and throughout the world.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of December, 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, 9:05 a.m., December 11, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 12.

Remarks on Business Strengthening America's "Day of Service"

December 10, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thanks for coming today. Thanks for your warm welcome. Thanks to the leaders here who represent industry and compassion, for your important commitment to promote an ethic of service in our Nation, to encourage your employees to serve something greater than themselves.

You know, this is a really, really strong nation we have. We're strong militarily, but that's not our greatest strength. The greatest strength of America is the people of America. The people of America have got enormous hearts, great desire to help others. The enemy struck us on September the 11th, 2001. They obviously didn't know who they were striking. They struck the greatest nation on the face of the Earth and, in so doing, inspired a spirit of America that is alive and

well. And those of us in positions of responsibility must capture that spirit, for the good of the American people.

In our plenty, there are people who hurt. And the wealthiest nation on the face of the Earth, we've got to remember there are some who doubt the promise of America. There are people who are hungry, people who don't have places to live, people who are adrift. The great challenge of the 21st century is not only to keep the peace, but the great challenge of the 21st century is, turn the evil done to America into an incredible good by making sure that people all across our land realize the hope of the American experience.

There is no question in my mind America can achieve that goal. There is no doubt. And today we're to talk about how—one step to achieving that goal.

As you know, I've been setting up a different economic team to make sure we continue on the good works of the previous economic team to grow our economy. That's our focus. We want people working jobs. We're encouraging the expansion of good jobs. But our purpose today is to make sure that as we focus on good jobs, we also focus on good works, to make sure that the American spirit is alive and well in every part of our community.

I want to thank our Secretary of Commerce, my great, longtime friend Don Evans, for not only his service to our country but his understanding about the compassion agenda that our country must embrace. I want to thank the chief operating officers of the components of the USA Freedom Corps who are here: Les Lenkowsky, who runs AmeriCorps and SeniorCorps; Mike Brown, the Deputy Director of FEMA, who is in charge of the Citizen Corps component; and Gaddi Vasquez, who is in charge of our Peace Corps—all obviously Corps members. [*Laughter*] I want to thank the members of the Business Strengthening America steering committee who organized this event and today's events.

If we want to usher in a period of responsible behavior in America, people must behave responsibly. And part of behaving responsibly is to understand the responsibilities that come with being a CEO. It's not only the responsibility to tell the truth; it's the responsibility to use your position to encourage compassion. And I'm proud of this organization. And today we're going to expand the vision and goals of this organization.

I appreciate the U.S. Chamber, the Center for Corporate Citizen—Corporate Citizenship for—for working on these initiatives.

After September the 11th, a lot of our fellow citizens found a deeper appreciation for our freedom. That's a fact. A lot of people began to take a look at their lives and realize that values of service are really important—values of faith and values of family and values of service to their country. They realize that serving something greater than themselves is a part of being a patriotic American, that patriotism was being redefined in a positive way.

And millions are now responding to the call to service in all kinds of ways: Volunteering in the soup kitchen. Something dear to my heart and Laura's heart is the mentoring of children to not only teach them how to read but make sure that they understand that there is love in our society. People are working in schools and libraries and police departments and hospitals.

We've got great hearts in America, but a lot of folks don't have the time to serve, and that's what we're here to discuss today. They would like to be spending more time helping people in need, but they've got a job to do. They've got to show up for work, so they can put money on the table. And when companies support volunteer service—it's important for the CEOs and the COOs and the board of directors to understand, when you support volunteer service and provide time, you really unleash the heart of America.

And the firms represented here are doing just that, and I want to thank you for that. I want to thank you a lot. The Business Strengthening America is led by corporate leaders who understand the need to encourage volunteer service. Companies that are part of the Business Strengthening America are making fundamental and institutional changes to support service to our country. Businesses are offering paid leave for employees who volunteer in their communities. I want to thank you for that. You're setting a great example for others.

They're giving a percentage of employee time or donating products, like software, or making outright financial contributions in order to do your part to be a sound citizen of this country. You're placing senior executives on boards to make sure that accounting practices or legal practices are sound and wise. You enlist customers and clients to mentor or tutor. There's all kinds of things happening in America today, all aimed at making sure the American experience is alive and well for every single citizen.

I appreciate you including information about the USA Freedom Corps on your Web sites, on bank statements, on grocery bags all throughout America. We have a competitive workplace, a marketplace here in America, and that's healthy and strong. The more competition, the better it is for Americans. But in this endeavor, there is no competition; there's collaboration to figure out the best way to make sure America is a compassionate country.

Last June, the Business Strengthening America was formed with 18 members. Eighteen brave souls stepped forward and said, "I want to help. I want to make a difference." In less than 6 months, the group has grown to 100 members. It represents 2 million employees. That is a major division in the army of compassion.

Today the Business Strengthening America is launching an effort to increase the membership to more than 500 companies by next June. We're going to do so to encourage membership, starting today. I hope the CEOs of America—the CEOs of America's companies, both large and small, hear the call to join this group, to be a part of the 500 by next June. It is essential that you understand the call to service extends to you as well.

We're going to have regional conferences in cities across our country to continue the momentum of a cultural shift to service. The amazing thing is, I think, when a company representative talks to these leaders who have been involved in this project, you'll find that when you show concern, it helps your customer base. It helps employee morale. It says—sends messages into the community in which you exist that you're more than just a capitalistic enterprise; you're a capitalistic enterprise with a strong conscience.

You'll find that employees walk a little better down the halls of your companies when you've encouraged them to help a neighbor in need. There's nothing like giving a little bit of yourself to enrich your life. And when the person's life is enriched, so is the company as a whole.

A lot of people talk about building loyalty in the consumer base, your customer base. It's amazing what happens when you serve something—you serve something in need in terms of building loyalty. There's nothing like building loyalty by helping somebody in need.

Acts of service are supported by businesses, yet they're obviously performed by people. People must lead. And today I was pleased to see that after this meeting, folks in this room will set an example by going to build a playground in Washington, DC. Take your muffler. [*Laughter*]

Donnie Evans and members of my staff did the exact same thing. We have—all of us have a responsibility to do more than just talk it up. We've got a responsibility to actually perform and do the deed itself. And I encourage members of my administration to do just that. And our Secretary of Commerce set the example for members of my Cabinet.

The Business Strengthening America is a part of a new culture of service. USA Freedom Corps is providing information to millions. John Bridgeland, who runs our office, has done a fabulous job of using modern technologies to spread the word, technologies that say, "If you want to volunteer, get on the Web page, and here are the opportunities close to your house." We've really got thousands of opportunities for people, for the individual to show up. And people are responding. Nearly 118,000 individuals have contacted the Peace Corps for applications since I put out the call. That's a lot.

We not only encourage service at home, obviously through the Peace Corps initiative, we encourage service abroad as well. You see, the interesting thing about this country which sets us apart from the terrorists, for example, is we say, "Every life matters. Everybody counts. Everybody has worth." Contrast to Al-Qaida-type killers. They don't say

"Everybody has worth." They believe only a few matter. But America says everybody counts, no matter if you live in America or elsewhere. And Peace Corps is going to spread that gospel and spread that message and make sure that people have got the benefits of freedom available for them, just like we have it here at home.

The Senior Corps and the AmeriCorps are expanding mightily under Les' leadership. They're doing a lot to work to mentor and clean parks and take care of the elderly. Listen, part of making sure America is a compassionate place means acts as simple as walking into a shut-in's home and saying, "I love you," on a regular basis. We're not talking about great acts of courage in order to change America; we're talking about simple acts of love.

Two hundred and forty-six Senior Corps councils have been formed, outlets for people to express their concern about the future of our country. These happen to be formed to respond to a disaster of any kind, including a terrorist attack. But it's healthy for a community to provide outlets for folks to show up and say, "I want to be a part of a disaster response team." Doctors and nurses are joining what we now call the Medical Reserve Corps to help communities with major emergencies. Volunteers are at police and fire departments now. In other words, the call is being responded to. And I want to thank the American people.

Each of the activities that we talk about at the USA Freedom Corps or this organization will touch a life and strengthen the country. And the important thing that we're doing today, I hope, and I know you all hope, will send a clear signal to our young that serving something greater than themselves in life is a part of the American experience.

I hope that people who are interested in serving America log on to the usafreedomcorps.gov Web site or call 1–877–USA–CORPS. It will give you a chance to be a part of the army of compassion. You can find ways in which you can serve this great Nation. You can be a part of making sure the American experience is strong and alive and well all across the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

Thank you all for your compassion. Thank you for your care. Thank you for your leadership. May God bless your works, and may God continue to bless America. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:55 a.m. at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Remarks Announcing the Nomination of William Donaldson To Be Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission

December 10, 2002

The President. Good morning. The health and future of the American economy depends heavily on the honesty of American business and the integrity of the securities markets. Investors must have completely fair and accurate information to make sound investment decisions. The Federal Government, through the Securities and Exchange Commission, enforces the basic truthfulness requirement of our society.

Today I announce my nominee to serve as the Chairman of the SEC. Bill Donaldson will be a strong leader with a clear mission: to vigorously enforce our Nation's laws against corporate corruption and to uphold the highest standards of integrity in the securities markets.

I am proud you're here. I also want to thank Jane and Adam and Matthew and Kimberly and Andre for being here as well, the Donaldson family.

Bill is one of the most respected business leaders in our Nation. And he brings a unique and diverse background to this really important task. As a founder of a leading investment banking firm, he understands the capital markets, and he understands financial institutions. As the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, he set high business standards and worked for the interests of the small investor. As the founding dean of the Yale School of Management, he sees business as a calling which demands high standards of integrity. He's a lifelong entrepreneur, a Marine Corps veteran. He's an experienced and dedicated public servant. He's a good man.

Throughout his exceptional career, Bill Donaldson has shown an ability to take on big assignments, to confront big problems, and to meet big challenges with a lot of energy and a lot of success.

The new Chairman will assume leadership of an agency that's moving forward on many fronts. This past year, the SEC has filed a record number of actions for financial reporting and disclosure violations. The agency sought the removal of more than 100 corporate officers and directors on grounds of misconduct, has filed dozens of restraining orders to protect against corporate misdeeds, ordered corporations and executives to return to investors hundreds of million dollars in improper gains. To strengthen investor confidence, the SEC ordered the leaders of nearly 1,000 large corporations to certify the financial information they submitted in the last year—to certify that it was fair and that it was accurate. SEC investigators are also working closely with our Corporate Fraud Task Force to ensure quick action against fraud and against insider trading.

We've accomplished much, and there's more to do. We must continue to prosecute corporate criminals. We must implement the provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, from broader disclosure requirements to tougher penalties for wrongdoing, to removing executives who break the faith with the shareholders and the American people. These are the far most reaching reforms of American business since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. We'll give them full force.

Over the last year, the SEC has added new personnel and will receive a significant increase in its budget. Today I'm announcing that I will request yet another increase in SEC funding for fiscal year 2004, which, when enacted, will mean we have nearly doubled the budgets from 2002.

Bill Donaldson and his entire organization will have my strong support and the resources they need to carry out their important duties. Public confidence in our market and our stock exchanges and in companies is absolutely essential to our free enterprise system and to a growing and dynamic economy that creates jobs and opportunities for each and every American.

When we uphold an ethic of responsibility in American business, we expose the wrongdoers. We also recognize and reward the many good companies and honest people who create wealth and jobs throughout the economy.

I want to thank Bill Donaldson for taking on this very important task. I look forward to his confirmation by the United States Senate at the earliest possible date.

Welcome, Mr. Donaldson. Appreciate you.

[*At this point, Chairman-designate Donaldson made brief remarks.*]

The President. Thank you, Bill. And I appreciate your thank-you.

Q. Mr. President, can we ask you about your pension guidelines, sir?

The President. No.

Q. Any initial reaction to the Iraq declaration, sir?

The President. Have a good day.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman-designate Donaldson's wife, Jane, and their children, Adam, Matthew, Kimberly, and Andre. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Chairman-designate Donaldson.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Chairman Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey's AK Party and an Exchange With Reporters

December 10, 2002

President Bush. Mr. Chairman, welcome to the home of one of your country's best friends and allies. We're impressed by the leadership—your leadership and your party's strong victory. We thank you very much for your commitment to democracy and freedom.

We join you, side by side, in your desire to become a member of the European Union. We appreciate your friendship in NATO. You're a strategic ally and friend of the United States, and we look forward to working with you to keep the peace.

It's my honor to welcome you to America.

Chairman Erdogan. I thank you very much. We're very happy to be in the United States, who is our ally and friend, and it's also another source of happiness for us that Mr. President spare the time to meet with us.

Undoubtedly, we see our bid to European Union membership as the most important modernization project of our country since the establishment of the Republic. And this will serve as a great jump-start for democracy, enhancement of democracy.

This week is a very important one for us. This is actually a turning point in our history. It's also very meaningful that this turning point merged with our—coincided with our new established Government and our election victory. We're aware of your support on this matter, and we are very appreciative of this. But it shouldn't end here. We expect that to continue, of course, now—[*laughter*].

President Bush. Well, thank you all.

Q. Sir, can we ask——

President Bush. Not today. But you know something? I appreciate the effort. [*Laughter*]

Q. O for two today——

President Bush. Well, you know something, it's good for you—brings discipline. Right, Randy [Randall Mikkelsen, Reuters]? If I answer questions every time you ask one, expectations would be high. And as you know, I like to keep expectations low. [*Laughter*]

Q. ——expect some phone call for European Union?

President Bush. I made a lot of phone calls already. My administration is working hard on Turkey's behalf.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. Chairman Erdogan's Adalet ve Kalkinma Party (Justice and Development Party) won a majority of the Turkish Parliament in the elections of November 3. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Joint Statement by the United States of America, the Republic of Kenya, and Ethiopia

December 10, 2002

At the invitation of President George W. Bush, President Daniel T. arap Moi of Kenya and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia met at the White House on Thursday, December 5, 2002.

The leaders reaffirmed their strong commitment in the global war on terrorism. They recognized the significant and unique challenges of fighting terrorism, which continues to pose a serious threat to the region and the world. To this end, the three leaders reaffirmed their commitment to work together and, with the international community, to eliminate terror networks and actively oppose those governments and organizations that support, harbor, or tolerate terrorist activities.

The leaders renewed their determination for lasting peace and security in the region and recognized that freedom and democracy comprise the foundation of these objectives. President Bush expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Kenya and Ethiopia in the peace process in Sudan and the reconciliation process in Somalia. He also indicated his confidence in a smooth election and transition process in Kenya, and the prompt and continuous progress in the Ethiopia-Eritrea peace process as prescribed * in the peace agreement.

The leaders called attention to the food crisis in the Horn of Africa, particularly in Ethiopia, where food shortages are affecting six million people and may eventually expose 14 million people to starvation. The United States will continue to provide food aid and other humanitarian assistance to alleviate the effects of the crisis and calls upon other donor nations to provide substantial emergency assistance. The leaders also agreed to take steps to prevent the recurrence of food emergencies in the region.

* White House correction.

The leaders welcomed African development initiatives, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and called upon African countries to take advantage of opportunities provided by the African Growth and Opportunity Act. They recognized that long-term economic prosperity will require strong leadership at home to promote economic freedom, coupled with support from both local and international communities.

The leaders expressed concern over the devastating effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other infectious diseases in Africa and their impact on social, economic, and security sectors. Kenya and Ethiopia lauded the Bush Administration for its leadership in the global fight against these diseases and for being the largest, single contributor to the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. They resolved to give high priority to the campaign to eradicate these diseases, and the United States reaffirmed its support.

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

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Emomali Rahmonov on the Relationship Between the United States of America and the Republic of Tajikistan

December 10, 2002

We declare our commitment to continue the development of our long-term strategic partnership and cooperation between our nations, based on our common goal of promoting peace, security, economic development, and democracy in the Republic of Tajikistan and in Central Asia.

We note the deepening relationship between our two countries, demonstrated by the appointment of the first Tajik Ambassador in Washington and the beginning of construction for a new U.S. Embassy in Dushanbe. This growing relationship is based on our common goals of security, prosperity, and liberty for the citizens of our nations. We will continue to work together to advance these goals through cooperation on economic and political reform and poverty reduction in Tajikistan, with the aim of more fully integrating the Republic of Tajikistan into the global economy and raising the standard of living and respect for human rights. Further, we will maintain our security relationship, working together to combat threats to peace worldwide while further developing Tajikistan's independent ability to address these threats.

We are cognizant of the threats that international terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and narcotics trafficking pose to Tajikistan, to Central Asia and to the entire world, and will work together and with others to address these threats while respecting human rights. Further, we pledge to continue the war against terror to a successful conclusion, both in Afghanistan and worldwide. We recognize the threat that the Taliban and al-Qa'ida posed to regional security and the key role Tajikistan plays in the global coalition against terror. We have worked together closely, and will continue to do so, to combat the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and other extremist forces in Central Asia. We welcome the removal of the Taliban from power in Afghanistan, while noting with concern the presence of Taliban and Al-Qa'ida remnants that wish to continue to destabilize the regional situation. Our two countries pledge to support the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan in its efforts to rebuild that country and integrate it into the broader international structure. We will make all necessary efforts to facilitate the provision of aid to Afghanistan, and urge our global partners in this effort to fulfill their pledges of reconstruction aid.

We jointly note the threat that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction poses to international peace and security, and declare our steadfast opposition to such proliferation. In this regard, we commend the United Nations Security Council for its unanimous passage of Resolution 1441, and call on the Government of Iraq to comply fully with the terms of the resolution by allowing unfettered inspections and destroying all of its weapons of mass destruction.

Recognizing the importance of democratic political systems, rule of law, and market-oriented economic policies in providing for the welfare and stability of our societies, we pledge to further develop the economic relationship between the United States and the Republic of Tajikistan, while working jointly to carry out democratic and legal reforms within Tajikistan that expand fundamental freedoms and human rights.

We further underscore the importance of rule of law as a prerequisite for economic development. The United States welcomes the efforts Tajikistan has made to integrate its economy into the global market, and will continue to assist Tajikistan in reforming its legal structures to better provide for rule of law and economic freedom with the goal of encouraging investment in the Republic of Tajikistan.

We state our commitment to the principles of democracy and human rights, and pledge to work jointly to extend and strengthen civic institutions such as free and independent media, democratic elections, political pluralism, and civil society. In this spirit, we reaffirm our commitment to basic human rights as enshrined in the founding documents of the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, of which we are both members. We further make clear our concern regarding the worldwide problem of trafficking in persons, and pledge our mutual assistance to combat in both of our countries this modern form of slavery. Finally, we confirm our joint efforts to enhance understanding between the citizens of our two countries. In this regard, the U.S. government has initiated a substantial program to enhance computer connectivity for Tajikistan's schools, and the U.S. Peace Corps will consider sending an assessment team to Tajikistan in 2003 with the view of establishing a country program there.

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

Statement on the National Strategy To Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction

December 11, 2002

Today I have issued the National Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction. The strategy establishes a comprehensive approach to counter the growing threat from weapons of mass destruction (WMD), including nuclear, radiological, biological, and chemical weapons. This strategy is integral to the National Security Strategy of the United States of America and the National Strategy for Homeland Security. We will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes and terrorists to threaten our Nation and our friends and allies with the world's most destructive weapons.

Weapons of mass destruction pose a grave danger. They could allow America's adversaries to inflict massive harm against our country, our military forces abroad, and our friends and allies. Some rogue states, including several that support terrorism, already possess WMD and are seeking even greater capabilities as tools of coercion. For them, these are weapons of choice intended to deter us from responding to their aggression against our friends in vital regions of interest. For terrorists, WMD would provide the ability to kill large numbers of our people without warning. They would give them the power to murder without conscience on a scale to match their hatred for our country and our values.

Our national strategy to combat WMD is based on three pillars. We will pursue robust counterproliferation policies and capabilities to deter and defend against the use of these weapons. We will strengthen nonproliferation measures to prevent states and terrorists from acquiring WMD. We will increase our preparations to respond effectively to any use of WMD against us or our friends and allies. To succeed, we must use new technologies, strengthen our intelligence capabilities, work even more closely with allies, and establish new partnerships with other key states, including former adversaries.

The need to prevent, deter, defend against, and respond to WMD threats presents our Nation with a difficult and complex challenge. The strategy I have issued today asks much of our Federal Government, our State and local institutions, and indeed, every citizen. The threat is real and the stakes are high. Success against this threat is a requirement of history—one that the United States will meet with confidence and determination.

Executive Order 13278—President's Commission on the United States Postal Service

December 11, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to ensure the efficient operation of the United States Postal Service while minimizing the financial exposure of the American taxpayers, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Establishment.* There is established the President's Commission on the United States Postal Service (Commission).

Sec. 2. *Membership.* Commission shall be composed of nine members appointed by the President. The President shall designate two members of the Commission to serve as Co-Chairs.

Sec. 3. *Mission.* (a) The mission of the Commission shall be to examine the state of the United States Postal Service, and to prepare and submit to the President a report articulating a proposed vision for the future of the United States Postal Service and recommending the legislative and administrative reforms needed to ensure the viability of postal services.

(b) In fulfilling its mission, the Commission shall consider the following issues and such other issues relating to the Postal Service as the Commission determines appropriate:

(i) the role of the Postal Service in the 21st century and beyond;

(ii) the flexibility that the Postal Service should have to change prices, control costs, and adjust service in response to financial, competitive, or market pressures;

(iii) the rigidities in cost or service that limit the efficiency of the postal system;

(iv) the ability of the Postal Service, over the long term, to maintain universal mail delivery at affordable rates and cover its unfunded liabilities with minimum exposure to the American taxpayers;

(v) the extent to which postal monopoly restrictions continue to advance the public interest under evolving market conditions, and the extent to which the Postal Service competes with private sector services; and

(vi) the most appropriate governance and oversight structure for the Postal Service.

Sec. 4. *Administration.* (a) The Department of the Treasury or any organizational entity subject to the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide administrative support and funding for the Commission. The Commission is established within the Department of the Treasury for administrative purposes only.

(b) Members of the Commission shall serve without any compensation for their work on the Commission. Members appointed from among private citizens of the United States, however, while engaged in the work of the Commission, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707), to the extent funds are available.

(c) The Commission shall have a staff headed by an Executive Director.

(d) The Commission, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury, may establish subcommittees, consisting of Commission members, as appropriate, to aid in its work.

(e) Consistent with such guidance as the President or, on the President's behalf, the Secretary of the Treasury, may provide, the Commission shall exchange information with and obtain advice from Members of Congress; Federal, State, local, and tribal officials; commercial, nonprofit, and residential users of the United States Postal Service; and others, as appropriate, including through public hearings.

(f) Insofar as the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, may apply to the

Commission, any functions of the President under that Act, except for those in section 6 of that Act, shall be performed by the Secretary of the Treasury, in accordance with the guidelines that have been issued by the Administrator of General Services.

(g) 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.

Sec. 5. *Report.* The Commission shall submit its report, consistent with its mission set forth in section 3 of this order, to the President, through the Secretary of the Treasury, not later than July 31, 2003.

Sec. 6. *General Provisions.* (a) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and it is not intended to, and does not create, any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

(b) The Commission shall terminate 30 days after submitting its report and in no event later than August 30, 2003.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 11, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 12, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on December 13.

Memorandum on the Report to the Congress Regarding Conditions in Burma and U.S. Policy Toward Burma

December 11, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2003–07

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Report to the Congress Regarding Conditions in Burma and U.S. Policy toward Burma

Pursuant to the requirements set forth under the heading "Policy toward Burma" in section 570(d) of the Fiscal Year 1997 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, as contained in the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 104–208), a report is required every 6 months following enactment concerning:

(1) progress toward democratization in Burma;

(2) progress on improving the quality of life of the Burmese people, including progress on market reforms, living standards, labor standards, use of forced labor in the tourism industry, and environmental quality; and

(3) progress made in developing a comprehensive, multilateral strategy to bring democracy to and improve human rights practices and the quality of life in Burma, including the development of a dialogue between the State Peace and Development Council and democratic opposition groups in Burma.

I understand the attached report was not forwarded due to an administrative error.

You are hereby authorized and directed now to transmit the attached report fulfilling the above-stated requirements to the appropriate committees of 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 12.

Remarks at the White House Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

December 12, 2002

The President. Thanks a lot for the warm welcome. It's a pleasure to be back in Philadelphia, a city known for the history that was made here and the spirit of compassion which is found here.

I'm honored to spend the time with you all. I thank you for your interest in our country. You love God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength. You love your neighbor. And by the works that come from your faith, you are building a more just

and generous nation. And we are grateful for your efforts.

I appreciate the tremendous turnout for this White House Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. I think it's a really important conference. Many faiths and many traditions are represented here. Yet we share the same belief that every person in need is a worthy child of God. And we share the same goal: We must bring the hope and healing of faith-based services to more and more Americans.

Government has often been slow to recognize the importance of faith-based and community efforts. That's changing, and more changes are needed. So today I'm announcing a series of actions to stop the unfair treatment of religious charities by the Federal Government.

If a charity is helping the needy, it should not matter if there is a rabbi on the board or a cross or a crescent on the wall or a religious commitment in the charter. The days of discriminating against religious groups just because they are religious are coming to an end.

And I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who have traveled here today, Mel Martinez and Ann Veneman. I appreciate the fact that two fine United States Senators from Pennsylvania are here, Rick Santorum and Arlen Specter. I'm honored they have traveled with me to this fine event. I see Congressman Greenwood is with us as well. Thank you for coming. Anybody else from the Congress? They'll get the message.

I want to thank Mike Brown, who's the Deputy Director of FEMA, who is here. Of course, I want to thank your mayor, John Street. I appreciate the fact—I appreciate the very fact that the mayor understands the importance of encouraging faith-based programs to change the neighborhoods and the lives of the good people of Philadelphia.

I want to thank Cardinal Bevilacqua for coming. Your Eminence, it's good to see you, sir. I want to thank Franklin Graham. I want to thank all the leaders, the generals, the soldiers in the armies of compassion who are here with us today.

Today I landed Air Force One—one of the things I try to do is herald the heroes of our society. I met Gary Hobbs, the USA Freedom Corps greeter, the former NFL player for, of course, the Eagles, who volunteers as a mentor for disadvantaged children. I want to thank Gary for his support and his service.

Every generation of Americans must rise to its own challenges, and the challenges facing this generation are very clear. We must overcome great dangers to our country, wherever they gather. We're waging a war—we're waging an unrelenting effort in this war to dismantle a terrorist network which has attacked America.

I have no greater obligation than to protect our country and to defend our freedoms. We will confront outlaw regimes which hate our country and arm to threaten civilization, itself. We have that obligation, to recognize the world changed for America on September the 11th, 2001. Before that date, it seemed like we could use the oceans to protect us from gathering dangers. We could be confident that nobody could possibly hurt America—hurt Americans on American soil, and that changed. And therefore, our Government and your leadership must have a realistic assessment of the dangers we have faced and we will face. We have acted, and we will act again, to protect the American people and to keep the peace.

We must also rise to a second challenge facing our country. This great and prosperous land must become a single nation of justice and opportunity. We must continue our advance toward full equality for every citizen, which demands the guarantee of civil rights for all. Any suggestion that the segregated past was acceptable or positive is offensive, and it is wrong.

Recent comments by Senator Lott do not reflect the spirit of our country. He has apologized, and rightly so. Every day our Nation was segregated was a day that America was unfaithful to our founding ideals. And the founding ideals of our Nation and, in fact, the founding ideals of the political party I represent was, and remains today, the equal dignity and equal rights of every American.

And so the—and this is the principle that guides my administration. We will not, and we must not, rest until every person of every race believes in the promise of America because they see it in their own eyes, with their

own eyes, and they live it and feel it in their own lives.

We have work to do. We must be honest about it. We have got a lot of work to do in this country, because there are pockets of despair in America. There are men and women who doubt the American Dream is meant for them. There are people who face the struggles of illness and old age with no one to help them or pray with them. There are men and women who fight every minute of the day against terrible addictions. There are boys with no family but a gang and teenage moms who are abandoned and alone. And then there are the children who wonder if anybody loves them.

We've reformed welfare in America to help many; yet welfare policy will not solve the deepest problems of the spirit. Our economy is growing; yet there are some needs that prosperity can never fill. We arrest and convict dangerous criminals; yet building more prisons is no substitute for responsibility and order in our souls.

No Government policy can put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That is done when someone, some good soul, puts an arm around a neighbor and says, "God loves you, and I love, and you can count on us both."

And we find that powerful spirit of compassion in faith-based and community groups across our Nation: People giving shelter to the homeless, providing safety for battered women, giving care and comfort to AIDS victims, bringing companionship to lonely seniors.

I saw that spirit of compassion earlier today when I visited adults and children involved in a program called Amachi at the Bright Hope Baptist Church right here in Philadelphia. In the Amachi program, good people from more than 50 churches in this area serve as mentors to the children of prisoners. They share their time and attention. They just serve as a friend.

Most of us find it difficult to imagine the life of a child who has to go through a prison gate to be hugged by their mom or dad. Yet this is the reality for almost a million-and-a-half American boys and girls. They face terrible challenges that no child deserves to face. Without guidance, they have a higher risk of failing in school and committing crimes themselves. The volunteers of Amachi, who are with us here today with the children they are loving, are such wonderful givers of guidance and love.

I'm told that "amachi" is a Western African word that means, "Who knows what God has brought us through this child." That attitude is the inspiration of a good mentoring program. No child is a problem or a burden. Every child is a priority and a blessing. That is the message of the Almighty God who cares for these, and that is the message carried to the city by the volunteers of Amachi. And I want thank them for being here today. And I want to thank them for their love. And I want to thank them for their example for other Americans to follow.

Faith-based charities work daily miracles because they have idealistic volunteers. They're guided by moral principles. They know the problems of their own communities, and above all, they recognize the dignity of every citizen and the possibilities of every life. These groups and many good charities that are not specifically religious have the heart to serve others. Yet many lack the resources they need to meet the needs around them.

They deserve the support of the rest of us. They deserve the support of foundations. They deserve the support of corporate America. They deserve the support of individual donors, of church congregations, of synagogues and mosques, and they deserve, when appropriate, the support of the Federal Government.

Faith-based groups will never replace Government when it comes to helping those in need. Yet Government must recognize the power and unique contribution of faith-based groups in every part of our country. And when the Federal Government gives contracts to private groups to provide social services, religious groups should have an equal chance to compete. When decisions are made on public funding, we should not focus on the religion you practice; we should focus on the results you deliver.

The Amachi program receives 38 percent of its funding from the Federal Government. My administration has been working for

nearly 2 years to encourage this kind of support to good faith-based programs. And we're making some progress. The Department of Housing and Urban Development, run by Mel—we've changes regulations in eight programs which cover over $8 billion in grants to encourage competition that includes faith-based groups. We've opened up more than $1 billion in after-school programs to competition, including faith-based groups. We're reaching out to grassroots community groups and helping them learn the complicated process of grantmaking. I see a lot of heads nodding when it comes to complicated process. [*Laughter*]

Yet there's a lot to do. In Government, we're still fighting old attitudes, habits, and rules that discriminate against religious groups for no good purpose. In Iowa, for example, the Victory Center Rescue Mission was told to return grant money to the Government because the mission's board of directors was not secular enough. The St. Francis House Homeless Shelter in South Dakota was denied a grant because voluntary prayers were offered before meals. A few years ago in New York, the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty was discouraged from even applying for Federal funds because it had the word "Jewish" in its name.

These are examples of a larger pattern, a pattern of discrimination. And this discrimination shows a fundamental misunderstanding of the law. I recognize that Government has no business endorsing a religious creed or directly funding religious worship or religious teaching. That is not the business of the Government. Yet Government can and should support social services provided by religious people, as long as those services go to anyone in need, regardless of their faith. And when Government gives that support, charities and faith-based programs should not be forced to change their character or compromise their mission.

And I don't intend to compromise either. I have worked for a Faith-Based Initiative to rally and encourage the armies of compassion. I will continue to work with Congress on this agenda. But the needs of our country are urgent, and as President, I have an authority I intend to use. Many acts of discrimination against faith-based groups are committed by executive branch agencies. And as the leader of the executive branch, I'm going to make some changes, effective today.

First, in a few minutes—you'll be happy to hear—[*laughter*]—I am going to sign an Executive order directing all Federal agencies to follow the principle of equal treatment in rewarding social service grants.

Every person in every Government agency will know where the President stands. And every person will have the responsibility to ensure a level playing field for faith-based organizations in Federal programs. No funds will be used to directly support inherently religious activities; yet no organization that qualifies for funds will ever been forced to change its identity.

And secondly, I have directed specific action in several Federal agencies with a history of discrimination against faith-based groups. FEMA will revise its policy on emergency relief so that religious nonprofit groups can qualify for assistance after disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes. HUD and HHS, who provide so much grant money to communities across America, will revise their regulations to reflect the principle of nondiscrimination.

In addition, we're issuing a guidebook which you've received. The book explains in plain English—[*laughter*]—how faith-based groups can qualify for Government grants. It gives guidance on what you can and cannot do with taxpayers' money. We're going to distribute this guidebook widely. We will continue to hold regional conferences like this one all around the United States of America. The rules for dealing with the Government are clear, and we want more and more faith-based charities to become partners in our efforts, our unyielding efforts to change America one heart, one conscience, one soul at a time.

Through all these actions, I hope that every faith-based group in America, the social entrepreneurs of America, understand that this Government respects your work, and we respect the motivation behind your work. We do not want you to become carbon copies of public programs. We want you to follow your heart. We want you to follow the

Word. We want you to do the works of kindness and mercy you are called upon to do. [*Applause*] Thank you.

For too long, for too long, some in Government believed there was no room for faith in the public square.

Audience members. Preach on, brother!

The President. I guess they've forgotten the history of this great country. People of faith led the struggle against slavery. People of faith fought against child labor. People of faith worked for women's equality and civil rights. Every expansion of justice in American history received inspiration from men and women of moral conviction and religious belief. And in America today, people of faith are waging a determined campaign against need and suffering.

When Government discriminates against religious groups, it is not the groups that suffer most. The loss comes to the hungry who don't get fed, to the addicts who don't get help, to the children who drift toward self-destruction. For the sake of so many brothers and sisters in needs, we must and we will support the armies of compassion in America.

The steps we take today will help clear away a legacy of discrimination against faith-based charities. In the new year, I will announce further initiatives to help community groups that serve their neighbors.

Our Nation needs more mentors, particularly, mentors for children whose mom or dad is in prison. Our Nation needs more centers to treat addiction. Our Nation must recognize that if we can change a heart, we're more than likely to change someone's habits and addiction on drugs and alcohol. Instead of building towering bureaucracies, Government should be finding new and creative ways to support local efforts.

I call this approach compassionate conservatism. And in my State of the Union Message, I will ask members of both political parties to move forward with me on this vision. By promoting the compassion of our people, by promoting the great strength of America, we will bring new hope to neighborhoods all across this land.

You know something about America? We meet every challenge that faces our country. That's why I'm so optimistic about our future. And we will answer the call of our times. We will defend our freedoms, and we will lead the world toward peace. And we will unite America behind the great goals of justice and compassion.

In the work of compassion, it is not the people in Government who are the experts; the people in this room are the experts. The people in this room are helping lead America to a better day. You just need to know that. And you need to know that I am incredibly grateful for what you do. There is a saying: Nobody can teach you how to be a good servant of God; you have to learn it on the job. And you are doing that job so incredibly well.

Audience members. And you are, too!

The President. I appreciate your commitment—I appreciate your commitment. I appreciate your service. I appreciate your love. And now I'm proud to sign this Executive order providing equal treatment for faith-based charities all across the greatest land on the face of the Earth, the United States of America. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:45 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Downtown Marriott Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, Archbishop of Philadelphia; and Franklin Graham, chairman and chief executive officer, Samaritan's Purse. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Executive Order 13279—Equal Protection of the Laws for Faith-Based and Community Organizations

December 12, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 121(a) of title 40, United States Code, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in order to guide Federal agencies in formulating and developing policies with implications for faith-based organizations and other community organizations, to ensure equal protection of the laws for faith-based and community organizations, to further the national effort to expand opportunities for, and strengthen the capacity of, faith-based and other community organizations so that

they may better meet social needs in America's communities, and to ensure the economical and efficient administration and completion of Government contracts, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Definitions.* For purposes of this order:

(a) "Federal financial assistance" means assistance that non-Federal entities receive or administer in the form of grants, contracts, loans, loan guarantees, property, cooperative agreements, food commodities, direct appropriations, or other assistance, but does not include a tax credit, deduction, or exemption.

(b) "Social service program" means a program that is administered by the Federal Government, or by a State or local government using Federal financial assistance, and that provides services directed at reducing poverty, improving opportunities for low-income children, revitalizing low-income communities, empowering low-income families and low-income individuals to become self-sufficient, or otherwise helping people in need. Such programs include, but are not limited to, the following:

(i) child care services, protective services for children and adults, services for children and adults in foster care, adoption services, services related to the management and maintenance of the home, day care services for adults, and services to meet the special needs of children, older individuals, and individuals with disabilities (including physical, mental, or emotional disabilities);

(ii) transportation services;

(iii) job training and related services, and employment services;

(iv) information, referral, and counseling services;

(v) the preparation and delivery of meals and services related to soup kitchens or food banks;

(vi) health support services;

(vii) literacy and mentoring programs;

(viii) services for the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency and substance abuse, services for the prevention of crime and the provision of assistance to the victims and the families of criminal offenders, and services related to intervention in, and prevention of, domestic violence; and

(ix) services related to the provision of assistance for housing under Federal law.

(c) "Policies that have implications for faith-based and community organizations" refers to all policies, programs, and regulations, including official guidance and internal agency procedures, that have significant effects on faith-based organizations participating in or seeking to participate in social service programs supported with Federal financial assistance.

(d) "Agency" means a department or agency in the executive branch.

(e) "Specified agency heads" mean the Attorney General, the Secretaries of Agriculture, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Labor, and the Administrator of the Agency for International Development.

Sec. 2. *Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria.*

In formulating and implementing policies that have implications for faith-based and community organizations, agencies that administer social service programs supported with Federal financial assistance shall, to the extent permitted by law, be guided by the following fundamental principles:

(a) Federal financial assistance for social service programs should be distributed in the most effective and efficient manner possible;

(b) The Nation's social service capacity will benefit if all eligible organizations, including faith-based and other community organizations, are able to compete on an equal footing for Federal financial assistance used to support social service programs;

(c) No organization should be discriminated against on the basis of religion or religious belief in the administration or distribution of Federal financial assistance under social service programs;

(d) All organizations that receive Federal financial assistance under social services programs should be prohibited from discriminating against beneficiaries or potential beneficiaries of the social services programs on the basis of religion or religious belief.

Accordingly, organizations, in providing services supported in whole or in part with Federal financial assistance, and in their outreach activities related to such services, should not be allowed to discriminate against current or prospective program beneficiaries on the basis of religion, a religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or a refusal to actively participate in a religious practice;

(e) The Federal Government must implement Federal programs in accordance with the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution. Therefore, organizations that engage in inherently religious activities, such as worship, religious instruction, and proselytization, must offer those services separately in time or location from any programs or services supported with direct Federal financial assistance, and participation in any such inherently religious activities must be voluntary for the beneficiaries of the social service program supported with such Federal financial assistance; and

(f) Consistent with the Free Exercise Clause and the Free Speech Clause of the Constitution, faith-based organizations should be eligible to compete for Federal financial assistance used to support social service programs and to participate fully in the social service programs supported with Federal financial assistance without impairing their independence, autonomy, expression, or religious character. Accordingly, a faith-based organization that applies for or participates in a social service program supported with Federal financial assistance may retain its independence and may continue to carry out its mission, including the definition, development, practice, and expression of its religious beliefs, provided that it does not use direct Federal financial assistance to support any inherently religious activities, such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization. Among other things, faith-based organizations that receive Federal financial assistance may use their facilities to provide social services supported with Federal financial assistance, without removing or altering religious art, icons, scriptures, or other symbols from these facilities. In addition, a faith-based organization that applies for or participates in a social service program supported with Federal financial assistance may retain religious terms in its organization's name, select its board members on a religious basis, and include religious references in its organization's mission statements and other chartering or governing documents.

Sec. 3. *Agency Implementation.*

(a) Specified agency heads shall, in coordination with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (White House OFBCI), review and evaluate existing policies that have implications for faith-based and community organizations in order to assess the consistency of such policies with the fundamental principles and policymaking criteria articulated in section 2 of this order.

(b) Specified agency heads shall ensure that all policies that have implications for faith-based and community organizations are consistent with the fundamental principles and policymaking criteria articulated in section 2 of this order. Therefore, specified agency heads shall, to the extent permitted by law:

(i) amend all such existing policies of their respective agencies to ensure that they are consistent with the fundamental principles and policymaking criteria articulated in section 2 of this order;

(ii) where appropriate, implement new policies for their respective agencies that are consistent with and necessary to further the fundamental principles and policymaking criteria set forth in section 2 of this order; and

(iii) implement new policies that are necessary to ensure that their respective agencies collect data regarding the participation of faith-based and community organizations in social service programs that receive Federal financial assistance.

(c) Within 90 days after the date of this order, each specified agency head shall report to the President, through the Director of the White House OFBCI, the actions it proposes to undertake to accomplish the activities set forth in sections 3(a) and (b) of this order.

Sec. 4. *Amendment of Executive Order 11246.*

Pursuant to section 121(a) of title 40, United States Code, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in order to further the strong Federal interest in ensuring that the cost and progress of Federal procurement contracts are not adversely affected by an artificial restriction of the labor pool caused by the unwarranted exclusion of faith-based organizations from such contracts, section 204 of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 204 (a) The Secretary of Labor may, when the Secretary deems that special circumstances in the national interest so require, exempt a contracting agency from the requirement of including any or all of the provisions of Section 202 of this Order in any specific contract, subcontract, or purchase order.

(b) The Secretary of Labor may, by rule or regulation, exempt certain classes of contracts, subcontracts, or purchase orders (1) whenever work is to be or has been performed outside the United States and no recruitment of workers within the limits of the United States is involved; (2) for standard commercial supplies or raw materials; (3) involving less than specified amounts of money or specified numbers of workers; or (4) to the extent that they involve subcontracts below a specified tier.

(c) Section 202 of this Order shall not apply to a Government contractor or subcontractor that is a religious corporation, association, educational institution, or society, with respect to the employment of individuals of a particular religion to perform work connected with the carrying on by such corporation, association, educational institution, or society of its activities. Such contractors and subcontractors are not exempted or excused from complying with the other requirements contained in this Order.

(d) The Secretary of Labor may also provide, by rule, regulation, or order, for the exemption of facilities of a contractor that are in all respects separate and distinct from activities of the contractor related to the performance of the contract: provided, that such an exemption will not interfere with or impede the effectuation of the purposes of this Order: and provided further, that in the absence of such an exemption all facilities shall be covered by the provisions of this Order."

Sec. 5. *General Provisions.*

(a) This order supplements but does not supersede the requirements contained in Executive Orders 13198 and 13199 of January 29, 2001.

(b) The agencies shall coordinate with the White House OFBCI concerning the implementation of this order.

(c) Nothing in this order shall be construed to require an agency to take any action that would impair the conduct of foreign affairs or the national security.

Sec. 6. *Responsibilities of Executive Departments and Agencies.* All executive departments and agencies (agencies) shall:

(a) designate an agency employee to serve as the liaison and point of contact with the White House OFBCI; and

(b) cooperate with the White House OFBCI and provide such information, support, and assistance to the White House OFBCI as it may request, to the extent permitted by law.

Sec. 7. *Judicial Review.*

This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch, and it is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, or entities, its officers, employees or agents, or any person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 12, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:09 p.m., December 13, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on December 16.

Executive Order 13280—Responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture and the Agency for International Development With Respect to Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

December 12, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to help the Federal Government coordinate a national effort to expand opportunities for faith-based and other community organizations and to strengthen their capacity to better meet social needs in America's communities, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Establishment of Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at the Department of Agriculture and the Agency for International Development.* (a) The Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of the Agency for International Development shall each establish within their respective agencies a Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (Center).

(b) Each of these Centers shall be supervised by a Director, appointed by the agency head in consultation with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (White House OFBCI).

(c) Each agency shall provide its Center with appropriate staff, administrative support, and other resources to meet its responsibilities under this order.

(d) Each Center shall begin operations no later than 45 days from the date of this order.

Sec. 2. *Purpose of Executive Branch Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.* The purpose of the agency Centers will be to coordinate agency efforts to eliminate regulatory, contracting, and other programmatic obstacles to the participation of faith-based and other community organizations in the provision of social services.

Sec. 3. *Responsibilities of the Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.* Each Center shall, to the extent permitted by law:

(a) conduct, in coordination with the White House OFBCI, an agency-wide audit to identify all existing barriers to the participation of faith-based and other community organizations in the delivery of social services by the agency, including but not limited to regulations, rules, orders, procurement, and other internal policies and practices, and outreach activities that either facially discriminate against or otherwise discourage or disadvantage the participation of faith-based and other community organizations in Federal programs;

(b) coordinate a comprehensive agency effort to incorporate faith-based and other community organizations in agency programs and initiatives to the greatest extent possible;

(c) propose initiatives to remove barriers identified pursuant to section 3(a) of this order, including but not limited to reform of regulations, procurement, and other internal policies and practices, and outreach activities;

(d) propose the development of innovative pilot and demonstration programs to increase the participation of faith-based and other community organizations in Federal as well as State and local initiatives; and

(e) develop and coordinate agency outreach efforts to disseminate information more effectively to faith-based and other community organizations with respect to programming changes, contracting opportunities, and other agency initiatives, including but not limited to Web and Internet resources.

Sec. 4. *Reporting Requirements.*

(a) *Report.* Not later than 180 days from the date of this order and annually thereafter, each of the two Centers described in section 1 of this order shall prepare and submit a report to the White House OFBCI.

(b) *Contents.* The report shall include a description of the agency's efforts in carrying out its responsibilities under this order, including but not limited to:

(i) a comprehensive analysis of the barriers to the full participation of faith-based and other community organizations in the delivery of social services identified pursuant to section 3(a) of this order and the proposed strategies to eliminate those barriers; and

(ii) a summary of the technical assistance and other information that will be available to faith-based and other community organizations regarding

the program activities of the agency and the preparation of applications or proposals for grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and procurement.

(c) *Performance Indicators.* The first report, filed 180 days after the date of this order, shall include annual performance indicators and measurable objectives for agency action. Each report filed thereafter shall measure the agency's performance against the objectives set forth in the initial report.

Sec. 5. *Responsibilities of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of the Agency for International Development.* The Secretary and the Administrator shall:

(a) designate an employee within their respective agencies to serve as the liaison and point of contact with the White House OFBCI; and

(b) cooperate with the White House OFBCI and provide such information, support, and assistance to the White House OFBCI as it may request, to the extent permitted by law.

Sec. 6. *Administration and Judicial Review.* (a) The agency actions directed by this executive order shall be carried out subject to the availability of appropriations and to the extent permitted by law.

(b) This order 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 agencies, or entities, its officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 12, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:09 p.m., December 13, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on December 16.

Remarks Announcing the Appointment of Stephen Friedman as Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council

December 12, 2002

The President. Good afternoon. I'm pleased to introduce the newest member of my economic team, Mr. Steve Friedman. Welcome, Steve. I also want to welcome Barbara and Susie and Caroline and David and Sam. We're glad you all are here, and thank you for your sacrifice.

Steve Friedman has spent a career at the center of American enterprise and finance and job creation. He's an innovative economic thinker, a proven manager, and he's a business leader of national standing. He has served the country as a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and as Chairman of a task force on modernizing financial management at the Pentagon. Steve is a graduate of Cornell University, and he holds a law degree from Columbia University and serves as chairman emeritus of that university's board.

I'm delighted that Steve will be joining the White House staff as Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council.

He replaces a dear friend, Larry Lindsey. I appreciate so very much Larry's service to our country. He has a distinguished career here in the White House. He's earned the respect of the President and everybody who has worked with him.

I selected Steve for his wide experience and steady and sound judgment. He understands the free enterprise system. He knows how the economy works. And he shares my objectives for stronger economic growth, high standards of corporate integrity, more small businesses across our Nation, and greater trade across the world.

I will work with Steve and others on a growth and jobs package that we will present to the new Congress. In order to continue

our economic recovery, we will propose further steps to add new jobs, reduce the burden on our taxpayers, and to strengthen investor confidence. Our economy is strong, and we're going to make it even stronger. It's important work, and Steve Friedman will be a key member of our team. And I'm pleased to welcome him to full-time public service.

Thank you very much, Steve. Appreciate it.

[*At this point, Director Friedman made brief remarks.*]

The President. You're welcome. I'm glad you're here. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:05 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Director Friedman's wife, Barbara, and their children Susie, Caroline, David, and Sam. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director Friedman.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Office of Science and Technology Policy To Act as Director

December 11, 2002

Memorandum for the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Office of Science and Technology Policy To Act as Director

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 et seq., I hereby order that:

Section 1. *Order of Succession.* During any period when the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (Director) has died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, the following officers of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, if they are eligible to act as Director under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as the Director is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director:

Associate Director for Technology;
Associate Director for Science; and
Chief of Staff and General Counsel.

Sec. 2. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity shall, by virtue of so serving, act as Director pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345–3349d, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Director.

Sec. 3. *Publication.* You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 13. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Remarks Announcing the Smallpox Vaccination Plan

December 13, 2002

Good afternoon. Since our country was attacked 15 months ago, Americans have been forced to prepare for a variety of threats we hope will never come. We have stepped up security at our ports and borders. We've expanded our ability to detect chemical and biological threats. We've increased support for first-responders. We made public—made our public health care system better able to track and treat disease. By preparing at home and by pursuing enemies abroad, we're adding to the security of our Nation. I thank the members of my team who are here who are adding to the security of our Nation.

One potential danger to America is the use of the smallpox virus as a weapon of terror. Smallpox is a deadly but preventable disease. Most Americans who are 34 or older had a smallpox vaccination when they were children. By 1972, the risk of smallpox was so

remote that routine vaccinations were discontinued in the United States. In 1980, the World Health Organization declared that smallpox had been completely eradicated, and since then, there has not been a single natural case of the disease anywhere in the world.

We know, however, that the smallpox virus still exists in laboratories, and we believe that regimes hostile to the United States may possess this dangerous virus. To protect our citizens in the aftermath of September the 11th, we are evaluating old threats in a new light. Our Government has no information that a smallpox attack is imminent. Yet it is prudent to prepare for the possibility that terrorists would kill indiscriminately—who kill indiscriminately would use diseases as a weapon.

Our public health agencies began preparations more than a year ago. Today, through the hard work of our Department of Health and Human Services, ably led by Tommy Thompson, and State and local officials, America has stockpiled enough vaccine and is now prepared to inoculate our entire population in the event of a smallpox attack. Americans and anyone who would think of harming Americans can be certain that this Nation is ready to respond quickly and effectively to a smallpox emergency or an increase in the level of threat.

Today I am directing additional steps to protect the health of our Nation. I'm ordering that the military and other personnel who serve America in high-risk parts of the world receive the smallpox vaccine. Men and women who could be on the frontlines of a biological attack must be protected.

This particular vaccine does involve a small risk of serious health considerations. As Commander in Chief, I do not believe I can ask others to accept this risk unless I am willing to do the same. Therefore I will receive the vaccine along with our military.

These vaccinations are a precaution only and not a response to any information concerning imminent danger. Given the current level of threat and the inherent health risks of the vaccine, we have decided not to initiate a broader vaccination program for all Americans at this time. Neither my family nor my staff will be receiving the vaccine, because our health and national security experts do not believe vaccination is necessary for the general public.

At present, the responsible course is to make careful and thorough preparations in case a broader vaccination program should become necessary in the future. There may be some citizens, however, who insist on being vaccinated now. Our public health agencies will work to accommodate them, but that is not our recommendation at this time.

We do recommend vaccinations for one other group of Americans that could be on the frontlines of a biological attack. We will make the vaccine available on a voluntary basis to medical professionals and emergency personnel and response teams that would be the first on the scene in a smallpox emergency. These teams would immediately provide vaccine and treatment to Americans in a crisis, and to do this job effectively, members of these teams should be protected against the disease.

I understand that many first-responders will have questions before deciding whether to be vaccinated. We will make sure they have the medical advice they need to make an informed decision. Smallpox is a serious disease, and we know that our enemies are trying to inflict serious harm. Yet there's no evidence that smallpox imminently threatens this country.

We will continue taking every essential step to guard against the threats to our Nation, and I deeply appreciate the good efforts of State and local health officials who are facing difficult challenges with great skill. The actions we are taking together will help safeguard the health of our people in a measured and responsible way.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:12 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

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.

December 7

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

December 8

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

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the Kennedy Center Honors ceremony at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

December 9

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President Emomali Rahmonov of Tajikistan.

In an afternoon ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Lapologang Caesar Lekoa of Botswana, Amadou Lamine Ba of Senegal, Pedro Manuel dos Reis Alves Catarino of Portugal, Ivan Vujacic of Yugoslavia, Antoine Ntamobwa of Burundi, Roberto Danino Zapata of Peru, Antonio Arenales Forno of Guatemala, Helgi Agustsson of Iceland, and Jean-David Levitte of France.

Later in the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen of Finland.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations: Margaret Cushing Whitman; Steven Rollie Rogel; Frank Henry Habicht II; Jerome Jasinowski; William Frenzel; Rodolphe Vallee; Bernard Aronson; Edward Emma; Jill Considine; Wythe Willey; Edward Perkins; Richard Rivera; Pete Hanna; John Rowland; Jean-Pierre Rosso; Hersh Kozlov; Samuel Palmisano; JoAnn Brouillette; Herbert Johnson; Hector Ruiz; Melinda Bush; Richard Wardrop, Jr.; Grace Nichols; Larry Liebenow; Michael Goldstein; Thomas Mottola; George Fitch; Luis Lauredo; James Winston Morrison; Walter Bernard Duffy Hickey, Jr.; Robert Edward Grady; and Morgan Yaping Wang.

The President declared a major disaster in Guam and ordered Federal aid to supplement Territory and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Super Typhoon Pongsona beginning on December 8 and continuing.

December 10

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil.

The President announced the appointment of David G. Leitch as Deputy Counsel and Deputy Assistant to the President.

The President announced his intention to appoint Richard B. Gasaway as a member of the Medal of Valor Review Board for Firefighting.

The President announced his intention to appoint George Stuart Yount as U.S. Representative on the Governing Board of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

December 11

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark, President of the European Union, to express his support for Turkey's aspirations to join the EU. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he participated in an interview and White House tour with journalist Barbara Walters for broadcast on December 13 on ABC's "20/20" television program.

In the afternoon, the President met with Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman, Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton, and Chairman James Connaughton of the Council on Environmental Quality to discuss implementation of the President's Healthy Forests Initiative to reduce the threat of wildfire in the western States. Later, he attended a diplomatic corps holiday reception at Blair House.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Commission on the U.S.

Postal Service: James A. Johnson and Harry Pearce (Co-Chairmen); Richard C. Levin; Norman I. Seabrook; Carolyn L. Gallagher; Robert S. Walker; Joseph R. Wright; Don V. Cogman; and Dionel E. Aviles.

The President declared a major disaster in the Northern Mariana Islands and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Super Typhoon Pongsona beginning on December 8 and continuing.

December 12

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Ricardo Lagos of Chile to discuss the Chile-U.S. free trade agreement that was signed on December 11. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he traveled to Philadelphia, PA, where he went to Bright Hope Baptist Church to meet with participants in the Amachi Mentoring Program for children of prisoners.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, he dropped by a meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council at the White House.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Senator Trent Lott to discuss the Senator's December 6 remarks at a 100th birthday celebration for Senator Strom Thurmond.

The President declared a major disaster in North Carolina and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe ice storm on December 4–6.

December 13

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea to discuss South Korea-U.S. relations, the situation in North Korea, and President Bush's regrets concerning the June 13 deaths of two South Korean girls, Shim Mi-Sun and Shin Hyo-Son, as a result of an accident during a U.S. military training exercise in Seoul, South Korea. President Bush then had intelligence and FBI briefings.

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

The White House announced that the President will travel to Africa on January 10–17, 2003, where he will open the second U.S.–Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum (AGOA Forum) in Mauritius.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: The Congress having adjourned *sine die* on Friday, November 22, no nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

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

Released December 7

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Iraqi regime's report to the United Nations Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission

Released December 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Guam

Announcement of nomination for Secretary of the Treasury

Released December 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nomination for Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission

Released December 11

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman, Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton, Council on Environmental Quality Chairman Jim Connaughton, U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth, and Assistant Secretary of the Interior Rebecca Watson on the Healthy Forests Initiative

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Executive order establishing the President's Commission on the U.S. Postal Service

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to the Northern Mariana Islands

Fact sheet: Reducing the Threat of Catastrophic Wildfires and Improving Forest Health

Released December 12

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to North Carolina

Fact sheet: Progress for the President's Compassion Agenda

Announcement of appointment of Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council

Released December 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Homeland Security Secretary-designate Tom Ridge, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Julie Gerberding, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony S. Fauci, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs William Winkenwerder, Principal Deputy Secretary of State for Political and Military Affairs Gregory Suchan, and State Department Office of Medical Services Director Cedric Dumont on the President's smallpox vaccination plan

Statement by the Press Secretary: U.S. Reaffirms Support for OAS Secretary General's Efforts in Venezuela and Calls for Early Elections

Statement by the Press Secretary: European Union Enlargement

Statement by the Press Secretary: European Union Enlargement and Turkey

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's upcoming visit to Africa

Fact sheet: Protecting Americans: Smallpox Vaccination Program

Acts Approved by the President

Approved December 13

S. 2017 / Public Law 107–331
Indian Financing Amendments Act of 2002