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Thank you all for coming. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:40 p.m. at the DeVos Performance Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm, State attorney general Mike Cox, and secretary of state Terri Lynn Land of Michigan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on the Reelection of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel

January 29, 2003

I congratulate Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on his victory in Israel's elections yesterday. The friendship between the United States and Israel, and our commitment to Israel's security, remain firm. I look forward to continuing to work with Prime Minister Sharon and his new government in the search for peace and security for all Israelis and all Palestinians.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the Extension of Normal Trade Relations Status for Certain Former Eastern Bloc States

January 29, 2003

To the Congress of the United States:

On September 21, 1994, then-President Clinton determined and reported to the Congress that the Russian Federation was not in violation of paragraphs (1), (2), or (3), of subsection 402(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, or paragraphs (1), (2), or (3), of subsection 409(a) of that Act. On June 3, 1997, he also determined and reported to the Congress that Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine were not in violation of the same provisions, and made an identical determination on December 5, 1997, with respect to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. These actions allowed for the continuation of normal trade relations for these countries and certain other activities without the requirement of an annual waiver.

On June 29, 2000, pursuant to section 302(b) of Public Law 106–200, then-President Clinton determined that title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 should no longer apply to Kyrgyzstan, and on December 29, 2000, pursuant to section 3002 of Public Law 106–476, he determined that title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 should no longer apply to Georgia.

As required by law, I am submitting an updated report to the Congress that was prepared by my Administration concerning the emigration laws and policies of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The report indicates continued compliance of these countries with international standards concerning freedom of emigration.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 29, 2003.

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

January 29, 2003

To the Congress of the United States:

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

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 29, 2003.

Executive Order 13285—President's Council on Service and Civic Participation

January 29, 2003

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the