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Editor's Note: In order to meet publication and distribution deadlines during the Fourth of July holiday weekend, the cutoff time for this issue has been advanced to 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 3. Documents released after that time will appear in the next issue.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, July 4, 2003

Remarks at a Bush-Cheney Reception in Los Angeles, California

June 27, 2003

Thanks for such a warm welcome, and it's great to be here in southern California. I'm honored that so many showed up. I appreciate their record-setting event. I'm grateful that you're laying the groundwork for what will be a great national victory in 2004.

I'm getting ready. [*Laughter*] I'm loosening up. [*Laughter*] But I want to remind you, in order for us to win I'm going to need your help to energize the grassroots, to talk to your neighbors, to put signs in the yard, and to remind people that my vision is for a vision that's hopeful for all Americans.

The political season is going to come in its own time; there will be plenty of time for politics. Right now I'm focused on the people's business in our Nation's Capital. We have a lot on the agenda. And I'm going to continue to work hard to earn the confidence of our fellow Americans by making sure that this country is secure and strong and prosperous and free.

I'd like to stay for dinner, but I'm off to Crawford. [*Laughter*] I just talked to Laura on the phone, and she sends her very best. She is a fabulous First Lady for America. I want to thank my friend Brad Freeman for his friendship, his not-so-short introduction—[*laughter*]—and his hard work. I want to thank all the cochair for this event. I appreciate so very much your hard work to make this such a success.

I'm honored that Governor Linda Lingle from Hawaii is with us today. She is a—she's a breath of fresh air for the State of Hawaii. I know we've got at least one Members of the United States Congress—Darrell Issa is with us today. Thank you, Congressman, for being here. I appreciate it. I, too, want to thank the campaign team here, led by Gerry Parsky. I'm honored to call him a friend as well. I spent an amazing couple of hours with Dennis Miller. [*Laughter*] He keeps you on your toes. I was also honored to meet his wife, Carolyn. Like me, he married above himself. [*Laughter*] It may not be all that hard, in his case. [*Laughter*] But I'm proud to have his help.

I'm also proud of my friend Kelsey Grammer. I appreciate him being here. If only I could have heard Johnny Mathis sing, then I would have wished Laura were here again. [*Laughter*]

Thank you all for coming. This is a big night. I'm really honored you're here.

You know, in the last 2½ years, this Nation has acted decisively to confront great challenges. I came to the office of the President to solve problems instead of passing them on to future Presidents and future generations. I came to seize opportunities instead of letting them slip away. And I believe we are meeting the test of our time.

Terrorists declared war on the United States, and war is what they got. We have captured or killed many of the key leaders of Al Qaida, and the rest of them know we're hot on their trail. In Afghanistan and Iraq, we gave ultimatums to terror regimes. Those regimes chose defiance, and those regimes are no more. Fifty million people in two countries once lived under tyranny, and now they live in freedom.

Two-and-a-half years ago, our military was not receiving the resources it needed, and morale was beginning to suffer. We increased the defense budget to prepare for the threats of a new era. And today, no one in the world can question the skill and the strength and the spirit of the United States military.

Two-and-a-half years ago, we inherited an economy in recession. And then the attacks came on our country, and we had scandals in corporate America, and war—all of which affected the Nation's confidence. But we acted. We passed tough new laws to hold corporate criminals to account. And to get our economy going again, we have twice led the

United States Congress to pass historic tax relief for the people of America.

Here's what we believe and here's what we know: When Americans have more take-home pay to spend, save, or invest, the whole economy benefits, and people are more likely to find a job.

This administration also knows this: When we spend money in Washington, it is not the Government's money. It is the people's money. We're returning more money to the people so they can raise their families easier. We're reducing taxes on dividends and capital gains to encourage investment. We're giving small businesses incentives to expand and hire new people.

With all these actions, we are laying the foundation for greater prosperity and more jobs across America, so that every single person in our country has a chance to realize the American Dream.

Two-and-a-half years ago, there was a lot of talk about education reform. But there wasn't much action. So I called for and Congress passed the No Child Left Behind Act. With a solid bipartisan majority, we delivered the most dramatic education reforms in a generation.

We're bringing high standards and strong accountability to every public school in America. We believe every child can learn the basics of reading and math, and we expect every school in America to teach those basics. We are challenging the soft bigotry of low expectations. The days of excuse-making are over, and we expect results in every classroom, so that not one single child in America is left behind.

We reorganized the Government and created the Department of Homeland Security to safeguard our borders and ports and protect the American people. We passed trade promotion authority to create new markets for America's entrepreneurs and farmers and ranchers and manufacturers. We passed a budget agreement that is helping to maintain spending discipline in Washington, DC.

On issue after issue, this administration has acted on principle, has kept its word, and has made progress for the American people. The United States Congress has shared in these achievements, and I appreciate the hard work of Members of the Congress. We will continue to work together to change the tone in Washington, DC, by focusing on the people's business and by focusing on results.

And those are the kind of people I've asked to serve our Government in my administration. I have put together a fantastic team of solid American citizens. I'm proud of their service. I'm proud of the work. We have got no finer Vice President in our Nation's history than Dick Cheney. Mother might have a second opinion. [*Laughter*]

In 2½ years, we have come far, but our work is only beginning. I have set great goals worthy of this great Nation. First, America is committed to expanding the realm of freedom and peace, freedom and peace not only for our own security but for the benefit of the world.

And second, in our own country, we must work for a society of prosperity and compassion so that every citizen has a chance to work and succeed and realize the great promise of our country. It is clear that the future of freedom and the future of peace depend on the actions of America. This Nation is freedom's home and freedom's defender. We welcome this charge of history, and we are keeping it.

Our war on terror continues. The enemies of freedom are not idle, and neither are we. This country will not rest; we will not tire; we will not stop until this danger to civilization is removed.

Yet, our national interest involves more than eliminating aggressive threats to our safety. Our greatest security comes from the advance of human liberty, because free nations do not support terror. Free nations do not attack their neighbors. Free nations do not threaten the world with weapons of mass terror. Americans believe that freedom is the deepest need and hope of every human heart. And we believe that freedom is the right of every person and freedom is the future of every nation.

America also understands that unprecedented influence brings tremendous responsibilities. We have duties in the world. And when we see disease and starvation and hopeless poverty, we will not turn away. On the continent of Africa, which I'll be visiting in 10 days, America is now committed to

bringing healing—the healing power of medicine to millions of men and women and children now suffering with AIDS. This great land is leading the world in this incredibly important work of human rescue.

We face challenges at home as well, of course. And our actions prove that we're equal to those challenges. I will continue to work on our economy until everybody who wants to work and who is not working today can find a job.

We have a duty to keep our commitment to America's seniors by strengthening and modernizing Medicare. Last night, the Congress took historic action to improve the lives of older Americans. For the first time since the creation of Medicare, the House and Senate passed reforms to increase choices for our seniors and to provide coverage of prescription drugs. The next step is for both Houses to come together, iron out the final details, and get a bill to my desk.

And for the sake of health care, we need to cut down on the frivolous lawsuits which increase the cost of medicine. People who have been harmed by a bad doc deserve their day in court. Yet, the system should not reward lawyers who are simply fishing for a rich settlement.

Frivolous lawsuits drive up the cost of medicine, and therefore they affect the Federal budget. Medical liability reform is a national issue that requires a national solution, and the Congress must act.

I have a responsibility as President to make sure the judicial system runs well, and I have met that duty. I've nominated superb men and women for the Federal courts, people who will interpret the law, not legislate from the bench.

Some Members of the Senate are trying to keep my nominees off the bench by blocking up-or-down votes. Every judicial nominee deserves a fair hearing and an up-or-down vote on the Senate floor. It is time for some Members of the United States Senate to stop playing politics with American justice.

The Congress needs to pass a comprehensive energy plan. We need to use our technologies to help us conserve more, to find alternative sources of energy, but we need to use our technologies to help us explore in environmentally sensitive ways for more energy here at home. For the sake of our national security, for the sake of our economic security, we need to be less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

Our strong and prosperous Nation must also be a compassionate nation. I will continue to advance our agenda of compassionate conservatism, applying the best and most innovative ideas to the task to helping our fellow citizens in need. There are still millions of men and women who want to end their dependence on Government and become independent through work. We must build on the success of welfare reform to bring work an dignity to more of our fellow citizens.

Congress should complete a ''Citizens Service Act'' so more Americans can serve their communities and their country. And both Houses should reach agreement on my Faith-Based Initiative to support the armies of compassion that are mentoring children, caring for the homeless, and offering hope to the addicted.

A compassionate society must promote opportunity for all, including the independence and dignity that come from ownership. This administration will constantly strive to promote an ownership society in America. We want more people owning their homes. We want people to own and manage their own health care. We want people to own and manage their own retirement accounts. We want people to own their own small business. We understand that when a person owns something, he or she has a vital stake in the future of America.

In a compassionate society, people respect one another and take responsibility for the decisions they make. We're changing the culture of America from one that has said, ''If it feels good, just go ahead and do it; if you've got a problem, blame somebody else,'' to a culture in which each of us understands we are responsible for the decisions we make in life.

If you are fortunate enough to be a mother or a father, you're responsible for loving your child with all your heart. If you are concerned about the quality of education in your community, you're responsible for doing something about it. If you are a CEO in America, you are responsible for telling the

truth to your employees and your shareholders. And in the new responsibility era, each of us is responsible for loving our neighbor just like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

We can see the culture of service and responsibility growing around us. I started what's called the USA Freedom Corps to encourage Americans to extend a compassionate hand to a neighbor in need. And the response has been incredibly strong. And our faith-based charities all across our country are vibrant and strong and hearing the call to help somebody who hurts.

Policemen and firefighters and people who wear our Nation's uniform are reminding us what it means to sacrifice for something greater than yourself. Once again, the children of America believe in heroes, because they see them every day.

In these challenging times, the world has seen the resolve and the courage of America. And I've been privileged to see the compassion and the character of the American people. All the tests of the last 2½ years have come to the right Nation.

We see—we are a strong country, and we use that strength to defend the peace. We're an optimistic country, confident in ourselves and in ideals bigger than ourselves. Abroad, we seek to lift whole nations by spreading freedom. At home, we seek to lift up lives by spreading opportunity to every corner of our country. This is the work that history has set before us, and we welcome it.

And we know that for our country and for our cause, the best days lie ahead. I'm honored you're here. May God continue to bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:12 p.m. in the Los Angeles Ballroom at the Century Plaza Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Brad Freeman, California State finance chairman, Bush-Cheney '04, Inc.; Gerald L. Parsky, chairman, Team California, California Republican Party Board of Directors; comedian Dennis Miller; actor Kelsey Grammer; and entertainer Johnny Mathis. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

June 28, 2003

Good morning. This week the United States Congress passed historic legislation to strengthen and modernize Medicare. Under the House and Senate bills, American seniors would, for the first time in Medicare's 38-year history, receive prescription drug coverage.

We're taking action because Medicare has not kept up with the advances of modern medicine. The program was designed in the 1960s, a time when hospital stays were common and drug therapies were rare. Now, drugs and other treatments can reduce hospital stays while dramatically improving the quality of care. Because Medicare does not provide coverage to pay for these drugs, many seniors have to pay for prescriptions out of pocket, which often forces them to make the difficult choice of paying for medicine or meeting other expenses.

In January I submitted to Congress a framework for Medicare reform that insisted on giving seniors access to prescription drug coverage and offering more choices under Medicare. The centerpiece of this approach is choice. Seniors should be able to choose the health care plans that suit their needs. When health care plans compete for their business, seniors will have better, more affordable options for their health coverage. Members of Congress and other Federal employees already have the ability to choose among health care plans. If choice is good enough for lawmakers, it is good enough for America's seniors.

I'm pleased to see that Congress has accepted the principle of choice for seniors. Under the provisions of both the House and Senate bills, seniors who want to stay in the current Medicare system will have that option, plus a new prescription drug benefit. Seniors who want enhanced benefits, such as coverage for preventative care and a cap on out-of-pocket costs, will have that choice as well. Seniors who like the affordablity of managed care plans will be able to enroll in such plans. And low-income seniors will receive extra help so that all seniors will have

the ability to choose a Medicare option that includes prescription drug benefits.

My framework for Medicare reform also called for immediate help to seniors through a prescription drug discount card. And I'm pleased that both the House and Senate bills would make a discount card available to seniors. The card would help senior citizens by reducing their prescription drug costs, beginning early next year and continuing until the new prescription drug program under Medicare takes full effect in 2006.

The Congress must now pass a final bill that makes the Medicare system work better for America's seniors. This is an issue of vital importance to senior citizens all across our country. They have waited years for a modern Medicare system, and they should not have to wait any longer.

Earlier this month in Chicago, I met Gene Preston and his wife, Dorothy. They spend about $300 a month on prescription drugs, and they do not have prescription drug coverage. Gene says, ''Everything is going up in price. Before, we could save a couple of bucks at the end of the month. But right now we're just holding even, if not going below even.'' When Congress completes its work, seniors like Gene and Dorothy Preston can look forward to better health care coverage and relief from the rising cost of prescription drugs.

I appreciate the hard work of Members of Congress who have set aside partisan differences to do what is best for the American people. I urge Members to seize this opportunity to achieve a great and compassionate goal. I urge them to finish the job of strengthening and modernizing Medicare, so that I can sign this crucial reform into law.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 2:35 p.m. on June 26 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 28. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 27 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Death of Katharine Hepburn

June 29, 2003

Katharine Hepburn delighted audiences with her unique talent for more than six decades. She was known for her intelligence and wit and will be remembered as one of the Nation's artistic treasures. Laura joins me in sending our thoughts and prayers to her family.

Remarks to Senior Citizens in Miami, Florida

June 30, 2003

Thank you very much. Thanks for coming. *Sientese, por favor. Muchas gracias.* I'm honored to be here. Thank you for letting me come by to talk about a subject that is, I know, important to many, and that is the opportunities and the chances of modernizing Medicare. I am really glad to have the invitation to come to the Little Havana Activities and Nutrition Centers. After all, it gives me a chance to check up on *El Gobernador*—[*laughter*]—*mi hermanito, mi grande hermanito.* [*Laughter*]

I'm really proud of Jeb. He's—as you know, we've got a very close family, and any chance we have to get together to visit and compare notes about the latest thing Mother has told us to do, it gives us—it's a great opportunity. So—but thanks for letting me come.

I—as Tommy mentioned, that we're making historic progress in Washington. It's really a matter of will. It's a matter of putting aside politics and focusing on what we're supposed to be focusing on, that is, the people. And so today I want to spend some time talking about the historic opportunity we have to modernize Medicare on behalf of America's seniors.

There's some differences between the two bills. The Senate had one version. The House of Representatives had another. But there's a lot of commonality between them. And I'm confident that the Members, when they get back from their Fourth of July breaks, will

get to work, iron out the differences in a constructive way, and get a good bill to my desk so that I can then say, and all of us can say, we've done our jobs on behalf of America's seniors.

Tommy has—Tommy Thompson has been the point person for the administration on Capitol Hill, working this issue hard. He has done a really good job. He was my friend when he was the Governor of Wisconsin, so I saw that he was a good, hard worker and a productive person as the Governor of Wisconsin. He was a reformer, and he was on the leading edge of change in a lot of areas. And I was really happy to be able to convince him to serve in the incredibly important position of Secretary of HHS. And he hasn't let me down, and he's not letting the American people down, Tommy, and I want to thank you for your service.

And I'm glad that Josefina came. I understand she used to be the president and CEO of this—of the Little Havana Activities and Nutrition Centers. She is—she did such a good job here that we spirited her up to Washington, DC, to serve our country. I want to thank Josefina, and I also want to wish her a happy birthday.

Toni Jennings, the Lieutenant Governor, is with us today, and I'm honored that the Lieutenant Governor would be here. Thank you, Toni.

I see that the Diaz-Balart boys are with us today. Keep your remarks short. [*Laughter*] No, I'm looking forward to visit—to spend a little quality time with them. They're a good friend, strong allies. They know what I know, that under the current leadership in Cuba, there will never be freedom. They know that, and I know that as well.

And one thing we believe in in America is freedom for everybody. We believe freedom is the desire of every human heart. We believe freedom is the future of every country. We believe in a free Cuba.

I also want to thank Congressman Mark Foley for joining us today. Congressman, thank you for being here. I'm honored you're here. I appreciate your time. Terry White is here, the secretary of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. Terry, thank you for coming, *Senor Blanco.* I—Dr. Rhonda Medows is with us today. I'm honored that the doc is here.

We've got *el alcalde de Miami.* Thank you, *Senor.* Thank you very much, Alex, for coming, and as well—I mean, Manny, for coming. And Alex Penelas is here as well, the mayor of—*donde?* Okay. [*Laughter*] At least he got his name mentioned; that's a smart move. I appreciate Rene Rodriguez, the director of the Miami-Dade Housing Authority, for being here. Berta, *donde esta* Berta? Berta Ruano, thank you very much, Berta, for letting us come.

And finally, when I landed at the airport on Air Force One, I was honored to walk off, and after I saw Brother and others that were there, I met a lady named Ana Cooper. Ana is right here. Thank you for coming, Ana. Let me tell you about Ana. Stand up, please. So you're wondering who Ana is. You're wondering who Ana Cooper is; she is a volunteer. She volunteers to help seniors have a better life. She spends time comforting seniors. She takes time out of her day to help somebody in need. And that's an important part of America. It's a really important part of our system. It's a part of a compassionate tomorrow when a fellow citizen is willing to dedicate time to help somebody who needs help.

And I want to thank Ana. She's a—what I call a USA Freedom Corps greeter. Everywhere I go in America, I try to recognize an individual who is serving something greater than themselves in life. If you're such an individual, I want to thank you for that.

If you're interested in helping, you can get on the Internet and look up usafreedomcorps.gov. It's an opportunity for young and old alike to serve your community. The strength of our country is more than just military might. The strength of our country is the heart and soul of our fellow citizens, people like Ana who are willing to help somebody in need. Ana, thank you for the example you've set, and I appreciate you coming.

I mentioned our love for freedom in America. We love it. We love it for people of Cuba. We love it for the people of Iraq. We love it for the people of Afghanistan. We also know that a free society is more likely to be a peaceful society. And so when you hear me talk about freedom, you must also know that I talk about peace, that our deep

desire in America is for the world to be more free and more peaceful. And we'll stay the course.

We have made great progress at freeing people from barbaric regimes, which also means that America is more secure. We will stay on guard in America because we understand there are still enemies of freedom, enemies for what we stand for. And I want to thank the local authorities and the State authorities and our Federal authorities, who are all working closely together to keep the homeland more secure. But in order to make sure the homeland is more secure, we must hunt down enemies wherever they hide. The best way to make America secure is to find the enemy before the enemy comes to us. And that's what we will do.

We must also worry about the economic security of our fellow citizens. And I want to thank the Members of Congress who have worked closely with the administration to create the environment for additional job growth. Your Governor and the good people down here have led the Nation in new job creation. And I want to thank the people of Florida for setting the pace for job recovery. But so long as anybody is looking for work and who wants to work and can't find a job, we will worry about it. And we will create the conditions necessary for economic vitality, including, most importantly, to make sure our small businesses are strong and vibrant all across the United States of America.

And then we're worried in Washington, DC, and we're doing something about it, about the health security of the American people. And one of the things we finally recognized in Washington, well, we recognized it—actually get something done about it—is that medicine is becoming more modern, yet the systems dealing with medicine, like Medicare, aren't. In other words, there have been great advancement in medicine, and yet the Medicare system is stuck in the past. And so we decided to do something about it.

We decided to make sure that prescription medicines, which oftentimes replace surgeries and long hospital stays, become an integral part of a modern medical system available for our seniors and everybody else; in other words, that we now focus on prevention as opposed to reaction as an integral part of a modern medical system.

One of the things that we've got to always worry about and work on in Washington is to make sure that pharmaceutical drugs are more affordable and more available. And I took some strong action to help that be the case by making sure that generic drugs are not delayed in making it to the marketplace.

In our system today, if a pharmaceutical company invents a new kind of medicine, they're given patent protection for a period of time. And that's okay. It makes sense. After all, we want a—we want new medicines coming on the market, and patents provide incentives for people to reinvest and to take research and development risks. But what we can't afford is to have generic drugs delayed because of loopholes in the laws and regulations. We cannot allow drug companies to block generics, which are cheaper at the counter for our citizens—''less expensive'' is a better way to put that, still of high quality but of less expense—because of arguments over minor features.

In other words, the generic gets ready to come on the market, and the initial company will say, ''Wait a minute. You're—you know, you've got the pill bottle—the color of the pill bottle looks like that you're infringing on the patent,'' and delays take place. And we can't allow these excuse-making delays to take place. So the Federal Drug Administration has taken strong action which will get generics quicker to the markets, which will save our seniors and all people relying upon pharmaceuticals savings.

We anticipate the savings will be up to $35 billion over a 10-year period. And that's a good, positive step on behalf of making sure our drugs are more affordable.

But the other thing we've done is we made sure that Medicare is heading toward reform. And a reform in Medicare means a couple of things. It means seniors get to have choices, and all choices will include prescription drug benefits. The Medicare system of today does not have prescription drug benefits, as you know. We've got to change that. If medicine is changing, we want Medicare to change with it, on behalf of the senior citizens all across the country.

And so, as Tommy mentioned, we've had a debate up in Washington, and that is how best to provide a modern system to our seniors. One of the things I reminded people of and will continue to do so until I get a bill on my desk, that Members of the United States Congress and their staffs get a choice about what kind of plan—health care plan best suits their needs. In other words, Congress said, ''Let us have a consumer-friendly system.'' A consumer-friendly system is one that says we trust the consumers to make the best choice. Senior citizens are consumers, and therefore, the plan ought to match your needs, not the needs designed by a bureaucrat—not your needs as decided by a bureaucrat in Washington, DC. If choice is good enough for Congress, it ought to be good enough for the seniors in America, was my point.

I appreciate these men—I appreciate their consistency. They understood that, and that's a vital part of the bill which came out of the House of Representatives and the Senate. And basically is says this: It says that if you like your current Medicare system, you like the way the Medicare system is today, you should have the option of staying in that system, plus an additional benefit, and that would be prescription drugs. In other words, if you're happy where you are, we're going to add a prescription drug benefit.

Now, as well, if you enhanced benefits or—such as more coverage for preventative care or other services, you ought to have that choice as well. In other words, you take what the Government provides, and if you want to make it better, you ought to have that choice—your choice to make. That ought to be available part of the program. As well, if you like the affordability of managed care plans—Medicare + Choice—if you like that and you're in the plan, that ought to be a part of your option. In other words, there's three opportunities. The plans ought to be tailored to your demands.

Low-income seniors will receive extra help. We want to help those who are—who need help. So that ought to be a part of our Government policy so that seniors will have the ability to choose a Medicare plan which best fits their needs. And all the plans will mean there is a prescription drug benefit available. So we're modernizing Medicare, and it's important that we do.

I talked to Myrtle Ball today—I had the honor of meeting with some of your fellow citizens prior to coming out here to talk, and I heard their stories. It's a good opportunity for Jeb and me and Tommy to listen to what people—what's on their mind. And pretty much common story—Myrtle is diabetic. She takes eight medications, and those cost her at least $700 a month, which is nearly half her income. And that bothers her, and it worries her. So she's cutting down, cutting the pills in half in some cases, to try to make those—stretch those dollars. The bill we passed—both bills we passed, and the combined bill we passed, Tommy and I concluded, will help somebody like Myrtle, help her meet the needs so that she doesn't feel stressed in later years of life.

Teresa Tibble is here, and she takes care of her mom, Betty, at home. And Teresa, I want to thank you very much for doing that. She is a dutiful daughter. Her mom has got Alzheimer's. And Teresa wants to live with her mom so her mom feels comfortable. I think Jeb and I were touched by what it means to be sitting at a table with a daughter who has said, ''I've got a responsibility to my mom.'' And I want to appreciate Teresa for doing that. The extra money that will come from the benefit that's going to end up in the bill will help Teresa take care of her mom at home.

I also met the Gensels. They're here, Judy and Jerry. And they—now, they're typical of a lot—because of Jerry's previous job, he was—had some benefits, some benefits as a retiree, but in his case, they run out in a couple of years. And so in the—from a private-sector plan—so he's concerned, obviously. When the benefits expire as a result of the retirement package he had earlier, what's going to happen to Judy and Jerry? And this bill will help. This bill will make a difference.

In other words, this bill is more important for people to realize, instead of the rhetoric, that it actually is going to affect people's lives in a positive way. And here are some people's lives that will be affected, and I'm sure a lot of your lives will be affected as well. We've just got to get the job done now. We've got

to make sure that the bills are reconciled and get them to my desk. And I look forward to signing a good Medicare bill.

Finally, there's one other issue I want to talk about. I mean, if we're concerned about health care which is accessible and affordable, we better be concerned about the number of lawsuits that are taking place all across America. You see, it's one thing for somebody to be able to sue a bad doctor. We're for that. But the problem is, we've got a lot of lawyers filing suits against any doctor. And let me tell you the effect of frivolous lawsuits, the effect it's having all across America.

It means that doctors are practicing what they call preventative medicine. In other words, if you think somebody's going to sue you, if you're in a litigious society, then you'll take extra care by prescribing more and more either procedures or whatever it may be. And that runs the cost of medicine up. It makes it more likely your bill is going to go up.

And secondly, lawsuit after lawsuit after lawsuit that oftentimes—you know, that people just settle in order to get it off the docket cause premiums to go up, which also makes medicine more costly. In a lot of cases around the country, docs have just had it. They said their premiums have gone up so high that they can't practice medicine anymore. So you know what they do? They take the shingle down, which makes it—there's less doctors available. We've got a problem.

I met with docs all across our country. The premiums are just going out of sight because of frivolous lawsuits are running up the cost of doing business, and it costs you more money. It just does. And people say, "Well, you know, that's not a Federal issue. It's a State issue." And I want to applaud my brother, working hard on this issue. And I hope the legislature responds positively so that people all across this State are going to have affordable and accessible health care. But it also runs up the cost of the Federal bills.

I mean, if somebody is practicing preventative medicine, it's going to mean Medicare costs go up. Medicaid costs will go up. Veterans health benefits go up. I've looked at the cost of all these frivolous lawsuits to the Federal Government and have come to the conclusion we have a Federal problem as well, which requires a Federal solution. In order to make sure health care is vibrant and viable, we need medical liability reform all across America, and we need a Federal medical liability reform.

I want to thank you all for—I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come by and visit with you. Let me conclude by telling you something that I know is true. We are fortunate to be Americans. We live in a great country. We live in a great country that has got the best health care system in the world, and we need to keep it that way. We live in a great country because we believe in serving concepts greater than ourselves. We live in a great country because we believe in values and ideals from which we will not vary. We believe strongly in freedom. We believe in peace. We believe in human dignity. We believe in the worth of each individual. We are a great country, and I'm proud to be the President of this great country.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:19 a.m. at the Metropolitan Senior Center, Little Havana Activities and Nutrition Centers. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush and Lt. Gov. Toni Jennings of Florida; Josefina Carbonell, Assistant Secretary for Aging, Department of Health and Human Services; Representatives Lincoln and Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida; Dr. Rhonda Medows, secretary, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration; Mayor Manuel A. Diaz of Miami; Mayor Alex Penelas of Miami-Dade County; and Berta Ruano, assistant to Ramon Perez-Dorrbecker, president, Little Havana Activities and Nutrition Centers. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a Bush-Cheney Luncheon in Miami

June 30, 2003

The President. Thank you all for coming. It's a big deal to be introduced by your brother—[*laughter*]—especially one who's been so successful as the Governor of the State of Florida. I'm proud of him. I'm not surprised. We both share the same political consultant—[*laughter*]—our mother. [*Laughter*] Her fees are low, but her opinion is plentiful. [*Laughter*]

But it's been a successful event. We've raised a lot of money, and I want to thank you for that. We're laying the groundwork for what is going to be a victory in November of 2004. I'm getting ready. I'm loosening up for the task ahead. But I just need to remind you that I'm going to need your help, continued help. I believe our message is best for the country. It is a message that speaks to everybody. It's a message of hope and peace and freedom. And you're going to need to tell your friends and neighbors. We need a grassroots effort.

There will be plenty of time for politics. Right now I'm focused on the people's business in Washington, DC. We've got a lot on the agenda, and I'm going to work hard to continue to earn the confidence of each American by making sure this country is safe and secure and prosperous and free.

I just flew in from Crawford. I said goodbye to the First Lady. She sends her best. I'm sorry she is not with me. She is, by far, the best thing I've got going. I'm really proud of Laura. I'm proud of her steadiness and her calm in the face of storm. I love her dearly. She is a great First Lady for our country.

I'm honored that Members of the United States Congress are here. Congressman Foley and the two Diaz-Balart boys are with us as well. I'm proud to call them friends. I'm proud to work with them. They love Florida. They love America. And they're fine United States Congressmen. Thank you all for coming today.

I too want to thank Zach and Tom Petway for putting this event on. I want to thank them for serving in a big capacity for me in the Florida campaign. I want to thank Al Hoffman as well, as well as Mercer Reynolds, my longtime friend who is the national chairman. I want to thank the party chairman who is here, Al Cardenas. But most of all, I want to thank you all. I'm honored that you've given of your money and your time and your efforts. I appreciate your love for our country. I appreciate your willingness to participate in the process.

You know, we've been through a lot in 2½ years. We really have, but our Nation has acted decisively to confront great challenges. I came to office to solve problems, not to pass them on to future Presidents and future generations. I came to seize opportunities instead of letting them slip away. We are meeting the tests of our time.

Terrorists declared war on the United States of America, and war is what they got. We have captured or killed many leaders of Al Qaida, and the rest of them know we're on their trail. In Afghanistan and in Iraq, we gave ultimatums to terror regimes. Those regimes chose defiance, and those regimes are no more. Fifty million people in those two countries once lived under tyranny, and now they live in freedom.

Two-and-a-half years ago, our military was not receiving the resources it needed, and morale was beginning to suffer. So we increased the defense budget to prepare for threats of a new era. And today, no one in the world can question the skill and the strength and the spirit of the United States military.

Two-and-a-half years ago, we inherited an economy in recession. Then the attacks came on our country, and we had scandals in corporate America, and we were at war. And all this affected the people's confidence. But we acted. We passed tough new laws to hold corporate criminals to account. And to get the economy going again, we have twice led the United States Congress to pass historic tax relief for the American people.

We believe that when Americans have more money in their pocket to spend, to save, or invest, the whole country benefits, and someone is more likely to find a job. We understand whose money we spend in Washington, DC. We do not spend the Government's money. We spend the people's money. It's your money to begin with. And so we're returning more money to people to help them raise their families. We're reducing taxes on dividends and capital gains to encourage investment. We're giving small businesses proper incentives to expand and to hire people.

With all these actions, we are laying the foundations for greater prosperity and more jobs across America, so that every single person in this country has a chance to realize the American Dream.

Two-and-a-half years ago, there was a lot of talk about education reform, but there wasn't much action. So I called for and the

Congress passed the No Child Left Behind Act. With a solid bipartisan majority, we delivered the most dramatic education reform in a generation. We're bringing high standards and strong accountability measures to every public school in America. We believe every child can learn the basics of reading and math, and we expect every school in America to teach those basics. We are challenging the soft bigotry of low expectations. The days of excuse-making are over. And now we expect results in every single classroom, so that not one single child is left behind.

We reorganized the Government and created the Department of Homeland Security to safeguard our borders and ports and to better protect the American people. We passed trade promotion authority to open new markets for America's entrepreneurs and manufacturers and farmers and ranchers. We passed a budget agreement that is helping to maintain spending discipline in Washington, DC. On issue after issue, this administration has acted on principle; we have kept its word; and we have made progress on behalf of the American people.

The United States Congress deserves credit, and I will continue to work with the Congress. I'll work with them to help change the tone in Washington, DC, to focus on results. And that's the nature of the people that I've surrounded myself with. I've put together a fantastic administration of hard-working, decent Americans, there to serve the American people. Dick Cheney is a great Vice President of the United States, the greatest Vice President. I say the ''greatest''; Mother might have a different opinion. [*Laughter*]

Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida. I was wondering about that. [*Laughter*]

The President. In 2½ years we've come far. We really have. But our work is only beginning. We have great goals, worthy of a great nation. First, America is committed to expanding the realm of freedom and peace, for our own security and for the benefit of the world. And second, in our own country we must work for a society of prosperity and compassion, so that every citizen has a chance to work and to succeed and realize the great promise of our country.

It is clear that the future of freedom and peace depend on the actions of America. This Nation is freedom's home, and we are freedom's defender. We welcome this charge of history, and we are keeping it. The war on terror continues. The enemies of freedom are not idle, and neither are we. This country will not rest; we will not tire; and we will not stop until this danger to civilization is removed.

Yet our national interest involves more than eliminating aggressive threats to our safety. Our greatest security comes from the advance of human liberty, because free nations do not support terror; free nations do not attack their neighbors; and free nations do not threaten the world with weapons of mass terror.

Americans believe that freedom is the deepest need and hope of every human heart, including those who live on the island of Cuba. And we believe that freedom is the right of every person, and we believe that freedom is the future of every nation.

America also understands that unprecedented influence brings tremendous responsibilities. We have duties in the world, and when we see disease and starvation and hopeless poverty, we will not turn away. On the continent of Africa, which I'll be visiting next week, America is now committed to bringing the healing power of medicine to millions of men and women and children now suffering from AIDS. This great land is leading the world in this incredibly important work of human rescue.

We face challenges here at home, and our actions prove that we're equal to those challenges. I will continue to work on our economy until everybody who wants to work and can't find a job is able to find a job.

We have a duty to keep our commitment to America's seniors by strengthening and modernizing Medicare. Last week the Congress took historic action to improve the lives of older Americans. For the first time since the creation of Medicare, the House and Senate have passed reforms to increase the choices of seniors and provide coverage of prescription drugs. The next step is for both Houses to come together to iron out some details and to get a bill to my desk.

And for the sake of a strong health care system for all Americans, we need to cut down and end the frivolous lawsuits which increase the cost of medicine. People who have been harmed by a bad doc deserve their day in court. Yet the system should not reward lawyers who are simply fishing for rich settlements. Because frivolous lawsuits drive up the health—the cost of health care, they affect the Medicaid budget; they affect the Medicare budget; they affect the cost to our veterans. It is a—they affect the Federal budget, is what I'm telling you. Medical liability reform is a Federal issue. It requires a Federal solution. No one has ever been healed by a frivolous lawsuit. This country needs medical liability reform now.

I have a responsibility as President to make sure the judicial system runs well, and I have met that duty. I have submitted—I have nominated superb men and women for our Federal courts, people who will interpret the law, not legislate from the bench. But some Members of the United States Senate are trying to keep my nominees off the bench by blocking up-or-down votes. Every judicial nominee deserves a fair hearing and an up-or-down vote on the Senate floor. It is time for some Members of the United States Senate to stop playing politics with American justice.

The Congress needs to pass a comprehensive energy plan. Our Nation must promote energy efficiency and conservation. We must develop cleaner technology. We must use our technologies to help us explore for more energy at home. For the sake of our economic security and for the sake of our national security, we must be less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

Our strong and prosperous Nation must also be a compassionate nation. I will continue to advance our agenda of compassionate conservatism by applying the best and most innovative ideas to the task of helping our fellow citizens in need. There are still millions of men and women who want to end their dependence on Government and become independent through work. We must build on the success of welfare reform to bring work and dignity into the lives of more of our fellow Americans.

Congress should complete the "Citizen Service Act," so that more Americans can serve their communities and their country. Both Houses should reach a settlement on my Faith-Based Initiative to support the armies of compassion that are mentoring children, that are caring for the homeless, and offering hope to the addicted.

A compassionate society must promote opportunity for all, including the independence and dignity that comes from ownership. This administration will constantly strive to promote an ownership society. We want more people owning their own home. We want people to own and manage their own health care plan. We want more people to own and manage their own retirement accounts. We want more small-business owners in America, because we understand that when a person owns something, they have a vital stake in the future of America.

In a compassionate society, people respect one another and take responsibility for the decisions they make in life. We're changing the culture of America from one that has said, "If it feels good do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to one—to a culture in which each of us understands we are responsible for the decisions we make in life.

If you are fortunate enough to be a mother or a father, you're responsible for loving your child. If you're worried about the quality of education in your neighborhood, you're worried about doing something—you're responsible for doing something about it. If you are a CEO in corporate America, you're responsible for telling the truth to your shareholders and your employees. And in a responsibility society, each of us is responsible for loving our neighbor just like we'd like to be loved ourself.

We can see the culture of service and responsibility growing around us. I started what we call the USA Freedom Corps to encourage Americans to extend a compassionate hand to neighbors in need. And I'm pleased to report the response has been strong. Our faith-based charities from all denominations are vibrant and strong, as people who have heard the call to serve something greater than themselves in life are doing so by helping somebody who hurts.

We've got policemen and firefighters and people who wear our Nation's uniform reminding us on a daily basis what it means to sacrifice for something greater than yourself in life. Once again, the children of America believe in heroes, because they see them every day.

In these challenging times, the world has seen the resolve and the courage of America. And I've been privileged to see the compassion and the character of the American people. All the tests of the last 2½ years have come to the right nation. We're a strong country, and we use that strength to defend the peace. We're an optimistic country, confident in ourselves and in ideals bigger than ourselves.

Abroad, we seek to lift whole nations by spreading freedom. At home, we seek to lift up lives by spreading opportunity to every corner of America. This is the work that history has set before us. We welcome it, and we know that for our country and for our cause, the best days lie ahead.

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

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:35 p.m. in the International Ballroom at the Hilton Miami Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Zach Zachariah and Tom Petway III, Florida State finance cochairmen, Bush-Cheney '04, Inc.; Al Hoffman, finance chairman, Republican National Committee; Mercer Reynolds, national finance chairman, Bush Cheney '04, Inc.; and Al Cardenas, former chair, Republican Party of Florida.

Proclamation 7688—Death of James Strom Thurmond

June 30, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As a mark of respect for the memory of James Strom Thurmond, the longest serving member and former President pro tempore of the United States Senate, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, that on the day of his interment, the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset on such day. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same period at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, 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, 11:39 a.m., July 1, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 2.

Remarks at a Bush-Cheney Reception in Tampa, Florida

June 30, 2003

Thank you all very much. Thanks for coming out. I appreciate the warm welcome on a warm day. [*Laughter*] I'm so honored to be here with my brother. You know, he and I share the same political consultant—[*laughter*]—our mother. [*Laughter*] She doesn't charge very much for her advice, but she gives plenty of it, I can assure you. [*Laughter*] But I appreciate Jeb—talk about swamping somebody—he knows the definition of "swamp" when it comes to political campaigns.

I want to thank you all so very much for your help today. We're laying the groundwork for a national campaign—a national campaign that I believe will result in a great victory in November 2004.

I'm going to count on you not only for help such as the help you've given tonight, but I'm going to count on you to energize the grassroots, to talk to your neighbors, talk to people who are making up their minds, to put the signs in the yard, and to help spread

our message, which is a message that's optimistic and hopeful, a message that speaks to all Americans.

There's plenty of time for politics, and I'm loosening up, and I'm getting ready. But in the meantime, I'm focused on the people's business in Washington, DC. I've got a job to do.

I will do my job, and I will continue to work, work hard, to earn the confidence of our fellow citizens by keeping this Nation secure and strong and prosperous and free.

I regret that Laura didn't travel from Crawford to Florida today. She had some business in Washington, DC. But if she were here, I probably wouldn't be able to lavish the praise on her that I feel like lavishing tonight. She is a fabulous First Lady, a great wife. I love her dearly.

I appreciate all the folks that have shown up, the elected officials. I'm glad the Lieutenant Governor, Toni Jennings, is with us today. I appreciate a man I call ''Red''; that's Congressman Adam Putnam. He's done a heck of a good job for the folks here in Florida. I want to thank your attorney general, Charlie Crist, for coming. Charlie, it's good to see you. Tom Gallagher, the chief financial officer for the State of Florida, is here.

I want to thank the cochairmen of the finance campaign for the State of Florida, Zach Zachariah and Tom Petway from Jacksonville, Florida. I want to thank my friend Al Hoffman for his hard work and thank my friend Al Austin from right here in Tampa. I want to thank all the cochairmen who've worked hard.

And I'm really here to thank you all. I appreciate your confidence. I appreciate your care, and I appreciate your concern about the future of this country.

In the last 2½ years, this Nation has acted decisively to confront great challenges. I came to office to solve problems, not to pass them on to future Presidents and future generations. I came to seize opportunities instead of letting them slip away. We are meeting the tests of our time.

Terrorists declared war on the United States of America, and war is what they got. We have captured or killed many key Al Qaida leaders, and the rest of them know we're hot on their trail. In Afghanistan and in Iraq, we gave ultimatums to terror regimes. Those regimes chose defiance, and those regimes are no more. Fifty million people in those two countries once lived under tyranny, and now they live in freedom.

Two-and-a-half years ago, our military was not receiving the resources it needed, and morale was beginning to suffer. We increased the defense budget to prepare for the threats of a new era. And today, no one in the world can question the skill and the strength and the spirit of the United States military.

Two-and-a-half years ago, we inherited an economy in recession. Then the attacks came on our country, and scandals in corporate America and war affected the people's confidence. But we acted. We passed tough new laws to hold corporate criminals to account. And to get the economy going again, we have twice led the United States Congress to pass historic tax relief for the American people.

We know that when Americans have more take-home pay to spend, save, or invest, the whole economy grows, and people are more likely to find work. We understand whose money we spend in Washington. It is not the Government's money. It is the people's money. And so money is being returned to hard-working families. We're reducing the taxes on dividends and capital gains to encourage investment. We're giving small businesses proper incentives to expand and to hire new people. With all these actions, we are laying the foundation for greater prosperity so that every single person in our country can realize the American Dream.

Two-and-a-half years ago, there was a lot of talk about education reform in Washington, but there wasn't much action, so I called for and Congress passed the No Child Left Behind Act. With a solid bipartisan majority, we delivered the most dramatic education reforms in a generation. We're bringing high standards and strong accountability measures to every public school in America. We believe every child can learn the basics of reading and math. And we expect every school to teach the basics of reading and math. We are challenging the soft bigotry of low expectations. The days of excuse-making are over. And now we expect results in every classroom so that not one child is left behind.

We reorganized the Government and created a Department of Homeland Security to better safeguard our borders and ports and to protect the American people. We passed trade promotion authority to open up new markets for America's farmers and ranchers and entrepreneurs. We passed a budget agreement to help maintain spending discipline in Washington, DC. On issue after issue, this administration acts on principle, keeps its word, and makes progress on behalf of the American people.

The United States Congress shares in these great achievements, and I appreciate their hard work. And we will continue to work together to change the tone in Washington, DC, and to focus on results on behalf of all the American people. And that's the nature of the folks I've asked to serve in my administration. I have put together a great team on behalf of America. We got a fine group of folks who work on behalf of the American people. We've had no finer Vice President in the Nation's history than Dick Cheney—although Mother may have a different opinion. [*Laughter*]

In 2½ years, we have come far, but our work is only beginning. I set great goals worthy of this great Nation. First, America is committed to expanding the realm of freedom and peace, not only for our own security but for the benefit of the entire world. And second, in our own country, we must work for a society of prosperity and compassion so that every citizen has a chance to work and succeed and realize the great promise of our country.

It is clear that the future of freedom and peace depend on the actions of America. This Nation is freedom's home and freedom's defender. We welcome this charge of history, and we're keeping it.

Our war on terror continues. The enemies of freedom are not idle, and neither are we. This country will not rest; we will not tire; and we will not stop until this danger to civilization is removed. Yet, our national interest involves more than eliminating aggressive threats to our safety. Our greatest security comes from the advance of human liberty, because free nations do not support terror; free nations do not attack their neighbors; and free nations do not threaten the world with weapons of mass terror. Americans believe that freedom is the deepest need and hope of every human heart. And we believe that freedom is the right of every person. And we believe that freedom is the future of every nation.

America also understands that unprecedented influence brings tremendous responsibilities. We have duties in the world, and when we see disease and starvation and hopeless poverty, we will not turn away. On the continent of Africa, which Laura and I will be visiting next week, America is now committed to bringing the healing power of medicine to millions of men and women and children who are now suffering with AIDS. This great land is leading the world in this incredibly important work of human rescue.

We face challenges abroad, and we face them at home. And our actions prove that we're equal to those challenges as well. I will continue to work on our economy until everybody who wants to work and is not working today can find a job.

And we have a duty to keep our commitment to America's seniors by strengthening and modernizing Medicare. Last week, the United States Congress took historic action to improve the lives of older Americans. For the first time since the creation of Medicare, the House and Senate have passed reforms to increase choices to our seniors and to provide coverage for prescription drugs. The next step is for both Houses to come together, to iron out details, and get a bill to my desk. The sooner they finish the job, the sooner America's seniors will get the health care they need.

And for the sake of our health care system, we need to cut down on the frivolous lawsuits which increase the cost of medicine. People who have been harmed by a bad doc deserve their day in court. Yet, the system should not reward lawyers who are simply fishing for rich settlements. Because frivolous lawsuits drive up the cost of health care, they affect the Federal budget. And therefore, medical liability reform is a national issue which requires a national solution. I ask you to contact your United States Senators to make your voices heard. No one has ever been healed by a frivolous lawsuit. This Nation needs

medical liability reform now, and so does the State of Florida.

I have a responsibility as President to make sure the judicial system runs well. And I have met that duty. I have nominated superb men and women for the Federal courts, people who will interpret the law, not legislate from the bench. Some Members of the United States Senate are trying to keep my nominees off the bench by blocking up-or-down votes. Every judicial nominee deserves a fair hearing and an up-or-down vote on the floor of the Senate. It is time for Members of the United States Senate to stop playing politics with American justice.

Congress needs to pass a comprehensive energy plan. Our Nation must promote energy efficiency, new conservation techniques and develop technologies that will make exploration for natural gas more safe and more green. But for the sake of economic security and for the sake of national security, we need to be less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

Our strong and prosperous Nation must be a compassionate nation. We'll continue to advance our agenda of compassionate conservatism, applying the best and most innovative ideas to the task of helping our fellow citizens in need. There's still millions of men and women who want to end their dependence on Government and become independent through work. We must build on the success of welfare reform to bring work and dignity into the lives of more of our fellow citizens. Congress should complete the ''Citizen Service Act'' so that more Americans can serve their communities and their country. Both Houses should reach an agreement on my Faith-Based Initiative to support the armies of compassion that are mentoring children or caring for the homeless and offering hope to the addicted.

A compassionate society must also promote opportunity for all, including the independence and dignity that come from ownership. This administration will constantly strive to promote an ownership society in America. We want more of our citizens owning their own home. We want people to own and manage their own health care plan. We want people to own and manage their own retirement accounts. We want more small-business owners in America. We understand that when a person owns something, he or she has a vital stake in the future of our country.

In a compassionate society, people respect one another and take responsibility for the decisions they make in life. We're changing the culture of America from one that said, ''If it feels good, just go ahead and do it,'' and ''If you've got a problem, blame somebody else,'' to a culture in which each of us understands that we are responsible for the decisions we make in life.

If you are fortunate enough to be a mother or father, you're responsible for loving your child with all your heart. If you're concerned about the quality of education in your community, you're responsible for doing something about it. If you're a CEO in corporate America, you're responsible for telling the truth to your shareholders and your employees. And in a responsibility society, each of us is responsible for loving our neighbor just like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

We can see the culture of service and responsibility growing around us. I started what we call the USA Freedom Corps to encourage Americans to extend a compassionate hand to neighbors in need. And the response has been strong. All across our country, the faith-based institutions and charities are vibrant, bringing hope to people who suffer. And policemen and firefighters and people who wear our Nation's uniform are reminding us what it means to sacrifice for something greater than yourself. Once again, the children of America believe in heroes because they see them every day.

In these challenging times, the world has seen the resolve and the courage of America. And I've been privileged to see the compassion and the character of the American people. All the tests of the last 2½ years have come to the right nation. We're a strong country, and we use that strength to defend the peace. We're an optimistic country, confident in ourselves and in ideals bigger than ourselves.

Abroad, we seek to lift whole nations by spreading freedom. At home, we seek to lift up lives by spreading opportunity to every corner of our country. This is the work that history has set before us. We welcome it. And

we know that for our country and for our cause, the best days lie ahead.

May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:04 p.m. in the Audubon Ballroom at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay. In his remarks, he referred to Zach Zachariah and Tom Petway III, Florida State finance co-chairmen, Bush-Cheney '04, Inc.; Al Hoffman, finance chairman, Republican National Committee; and Al Austin, finance chairman, Republican Party of Florida.

Proclamation 7689—To Modify Duty-Free Treatment Under the Generalized System of Preferences

June 30, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Pursuant to sections 501, 503(a)(1)(A), and 503(c)(1) of title V of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2461, 2463(a)(1)(A), and 2463(c)(1)), the President may designate or withdraw designation of specified articles provided for in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) as eligible for preferential tariff treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) when imported from designated beneficiary developing countries.

2. Pursuant to section 503(a)(1)(B) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(a)(1)(B)), the President may designate articles as eligible articles only for countries designated as least-developed beneficiary developing countries under section 502(a)(2) (19 U.S.C. 2462(a)(2)), if the President determines that such articles are not import-sensitive in the context of imports from such least-developed beneficiary developing countries.

3. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)), beneficiary developing countries, except those designated as least-developed beneficiary developing countries or beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(D) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(D)), are subject to competitive need limitations on the preferential treatment afforded under the GSP to eligible articles.

4. Section 503(c)(2)(C) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(C)), provides that a country that is no longer treated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to an eligible article may be redesignated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to such article if imports of such article from such country did not exceed the competitive need limitations in section 503(c)(2)(A) during the preceding calendar year.

5. Section 503(c)(2)(F) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(F)), provides that the President may disregard the competitive need limitation provided in section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)(i)(II)) with respect to any eligible article from any beneficiary developing country if the aggregate appraised value of the imports of such article into the United States during the preceding calendar year does not exceed an amount set forth in section 503(c)(2)(F)(ii) (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(F)(ii)).

6. Pursuant to section 503(d) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(d)), the President may waive the application of the competitive need limitations in section 503(c)(2)(A) with respect to any eligible article from any beneficiary developing country if certain conditions are met.

7. (a) Pursuant to sections 501 and 503(a)(1)(A) of the 1974 Act, and after receiving advice from the International Trade Commission in accordance with section 503(e) (19 U.S.C. 2463(e)), I have determined to designate certain articles, previously designated under section 503(a)(1)(B), as eligible articles when imported from any beneficiary developing country. In order to do so, it is necessary to subdivide and amend the nomenclature of existing subheadings of the HTS.

(b) Furthermore, I have determined that it is appropriate to modify the application of duty-free treatment under title V of the 1974 Act for a certain article, in particular for a good previously eligible for such treatment that the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection reclassified.

8. Pursuant to section 503(a)(1)(B) of the 1974 Act, I have determined to designate certain articles as eligible articles under the GSP only for least-developed beneficiary developing countries.

9. Pursuant to section 503(c)(1) of the 1974 Act, and having considered the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c), I have determined to limit the application of duty-free treatment accorded to certain articles from certain beneficiary developing countries.

10. Pursuant to sections 503(c)(1) and 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that certain beneficiary countries should no longer receive preferential tariff treatment under the GSP with respect to certain eligible articles that were imported in quantities exceeding the applicable competitive need limitation in 2002.

11. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(C) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that certain countries should be redesignated as beneficiary developing countries with respect to certain eligible articles that previously had been imported in quantities exceeding the competitive need limitations of section 503(c)(2)(A).

12. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(F) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that the competitive need limitation provided in section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) should be waived with respect to certain eligible articles from certain beneficiary developing countries.

13. Pursuant to section 503(d) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that the competitive need limitations of section 503(c)(2)(A) should be waived with respect to certain eligible articles from certain beneficiary developing countries. I have received the advice of the International Trade Commission on whether any industries in the United States are likely to be adversely affected by such waiver, and I have determined, based on that advice and on the considerations described in sections 501 and 502(c), that such waivers are in the national economic interest of the United States.

14. Section 604 of the 1974 Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2483), authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including but not limited to title V and section 604 of the 1974 Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to provide that one or more countries that have not been treated as beneficiary developing countries with respect to one or more eligible articles should be redesignated as beneficiary developing countries with respect to such article or articles for purposes of the GSP, and, in order to provide that one or more countries should no longer be treated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to one or more eligible articles for purposes of the GSP, general note 4(d) to the HTS is modified as provided in section A of Annex I to this proclamation.

(2) In order to designate certain articles as eligible articles for purposes of the GSP, the HTS is modified by amending and subdividing the nomenclature of certain existing HTS subheadings as provided in section B of Annex I to this proclamation.

(3) (a) In order to designate certain articles as eligible articles for purposes of the GSP when imported from any beneficiary developing country, the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for such HTS subheadings is modified as provided in section C(1) of Annex I to this proclamation.

(b) In order to designate certain articles as eligible articles for purposes of the GSP when imported from any beneficiary developing country other than India, the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for such HTS subheadings is modified as provided for in section C(2) of Annex I to this proclamation.

(c) In order to designate certain articles as eligible articles for purposes of the GSP when imported from any least-developed beneficiary developing country, the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for such HTS subheadings is modified as provided in section C(3) of Annex I to this proclamation.

(d) In order to provide preferential tariff treatment under the GSP to a beneficiary developing country that has been excluded

from the benefits of the GSP for certain eligible articles, the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for such HTS subheadings is modified as provided for in section C(4) of Annex I to this proclamation.

(e) In order to provide that one or more countries should not be treated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to certain eligible articles for purposes of the GSP, the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for such HTS subheadings is modified as provided for in section C(5) of Annex I to this proclamation.

(4) A waiver of the application of section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the 1974 Act shall apply to the eligible articles in the HTS subheadings and to the beneficiary developing countries listed in Annex II to this proclamation.

(5) A waiver of the application of section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act shall apply to the eligible articles in the HTS subheading and to the beneficiary developing countries set forth in Annex III to this proclamation.

(6) Any provisions of previous proclamations or Executive orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(7) (a) The modifications made by Annex I to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after July 1, 2003.

(b) The actions taken in Annex II to this proclamation shall be effective on July 1, 2003.

(c) The actions taken in Annex III to this proclamation shall be effective on the date of publication of this proclamation in the *Federal Register*.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, 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, 11:39 a.m., July 1, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 1, and it and its attached annexes were published in the *Federal Register* on July 2.

Memorandum Waiving Prohibition on United States Military Assistance to Parties to the Rome Statute Establishing the International Criminal Court

June 30, 2003

Presidential Determination No. 2003–27

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiving Prohibition on United States Military Assistance to Parties to the Rome Statute Establishing the International Criminal Court

Consistent with the authority vested in me by section 2007 of the American Servicemembers' Protection Act of 2002, title II of Public Law 107–206 (22 U.S.C. 7421 *et seq.*), I hereby determine that:

(1) Gabon, the Gambia, Mongolia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Tajikistan have each entered into an agreement with the United States pursuant to Article 98 of the Rome Statute preventing the International Criminal Court from proceeding against U.S. personnel present in such countries and waive the prohibition of section 2007(a) of the American Servicemembers' Protection Act with respect to these countries for as long as such agreement remains in force;

(2) it is important to the national interest of the United States to waive, until November 1, 2003, the prohibition of section 2007(a) with respect to Afghanistan, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, East Timor, Ghana, Honduras, and Romania, and waive that prohibition with respect to these countries until that date; and

(3) it is important to the national interest of the United States to waive, until January 1, 2004, the prohibition of section 2007(a) with respect to Albania, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Panama, and Uganda, and waive that prohibition with respect to these countries until that date.

You are 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 July 1.

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

June 30, 2003

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

Consistent with section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c), I am transmitting a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order 12543 of January 7, 1986.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 1.

Remarks at the KIPP DC: KEY Academy

July 1, 2003

Thank you all very much. Thanks for coming. Please be seated. Thanks for coming. I'm honored that—I'm honored you'd have me—[*laughter*]—here at KIPP Academy. Susan, thanks for your hospitality.

I know something about KIPP Academy, the network. The reason I do is, when I was the Governor of Texas, I went to a school in Houston that was called KIPP Academy. Nobody had ever heard of it. I think Steve—is that you back there, Steve? No, it's not. I thought Steve was here. You look like Steve. [*Laughter*] And they said—the principal—and they said, ''Come by the school.'' And it was full of kids that were not supposed to be able to learn. You know, our State at that time was suffering what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. Perhaps that's happening in places in the District as well. You see, when you lower the bar, that's what you get, low results. So they had labeled these kids, you know, unable to learn, difficult to learn.

So I go to this KIPP Academy. And first of all, I was overwhelmed by the spirit of the kids, the involvement of the parents, the dedication of the teachers, and the entrepreneurial spirit of the principal. And then I said, ''Well, are you making any progress here at KIPP Academy with these so-called hard to educate?'' And the answer was, ''Yes. They're the best middle school in the city of Houston.'' The reason we knew is because we measured. We wouldn't have known that had we not measured.

The KIPP Academy sets high standards. It's got the absolute right attitude for education, in my judgment. First of all, it says, ''Every child can learn. We refuse to condemn any child to mediocrity and failure. We have high standards; we have high expectations; and we're going to meet those high standards and high expectations with a curriculum which works.''

And so I want to congratulate you, Susan, and the KIPP Academy entrepreneurs who are challenging mediocrity on a daily basis and raising standards for those who in some communities have been condemned to failure. Thanks for having us here, and thanks for the bright example you've set.

What we're really here is to talk about how do we make sure that the education system works for everybody. That's why the act that we passed out of Congress, the law, was called the No Child Left Behind Act. And the reason why it was called the No Child Left Behind Act, it set out a goal for the country that every child deserves a good education. And it said no child should be left behind, which means we'd better understand whether any—we'd better answer the question, ''Is every child learning?''

But that wasn't the case oftentimes in America, public schools. We didn't know whether or not we were achieving what we expected. And so we passed this law. And the law basically said, in return for Federal dollars, the Federal Government will finally start asking the question, ''What are the results?''—that we expect to spend money, and as a matter of fact, we set record levels of expenditure for elementary and secondary education programs and Title I programs. That's an obligation of the Federal Government. We met the obligation with the largest budget increases in our history. But instead of just spending money, we're starting to ask the question, ''What's happening in the classrooms.'' And if things are good, we want to praise the schools that are working, like KIPP Academy. But if we find things are lousy and children are being left behind, instead of just accepting the status quo, it is now time for our society to challenge failure. And that's what we're doing.

And I'm proud of Washington, DC. Washington, DC, is willing to challenge failure and to praise success. This is not an easy issue for some in the political process. It is hard to take on the established order, particularly when you have to blow the whistle on failure. Nobody likes to have the whistle blown. But for the sake of our children, we need to be blowing whistles. And so I appreciate very much the Mayor. Mayor Williams has stood strong, along with the Councilman Chavous. And I appreciate my friend David being here as well, for standing strong and making sure that the children—we focus on results, not process.

I want to thank very much my friend Rod Paige. When I hired—hired—I asked Rod to join me. I didn't hire him. [*Laughter*] He gets hired by school boards, not by Presidents. [*Laughter*] I was interested in somebody that actually had been on the frontlines of public school education. He had a tough job in Texas. He was running the Houston Independent School District, which is a heck of a lot tougher than being President. [*Laughter*] And the results in Houston were exceptional because Rod challenged the soft bigotry of low expectations and raised the bar. And he understands you've got to hold people accountable in life. And so he's doing a fine job for our country.

And Peggy, I appreciate you being here, too. Peggy is the head of the school board. That is a tough job. That's a tough job, and I thank you for taking it on.

I appreciate the Members of Congress coming. Tom, I'm glad you're here. I'm honored you're here. He's the chairman of the House Government Reform Committee. He is concerned about making sure DC functions well, its schools function well. He's going to work closely with the Mayor. And Rodney Frelinghuysen is here as well. He's the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the District of Columbia. I'm sure he and the Mayor spend a lot of time talking and coming up with the amount of money the Mayor thinks is appropriate to run this important city. My only admonition is to make sure the potholes in front of the White House are full. [*Laughter*]

But I want to thank you guys for coming here today. We're going to talk about an extremely important initiative that will make a difference in the lives of children here in the city. And I want to describe it a little bit, this Federal initiative that is going to serve as a model for the rest of the country. I want my second home to become a model of excellence so that when people see the educational entrepreneurial spirit alive and well in DC, they realize they can do the same in their own communities.

Father McCarrick, thank you for coming, too, sir. I appreciate the—I appreciate your presence. I appreciate the excellence of the Catholic school system, not only here in Washington but around the country. I think it's very important for our fellow citizens to see the Catholic school system as a model of what is possible, how to provide a high-quality education at a reasonable cost per student. And it's an interesting—these Catholic schools can serve not only as an interesting go-by but as a model as well for other schools in the District.

Listen, the No Child Left Behind Act understands that there must be accountability, and the way you achieve accountability is you measure. And so now we're measuring a lot. We're measuring annually to determine whether or not the children can read and

write and add and subtract. We've got to know that. The first fundamental question in terms of achieving educational excellence is to measure and to provide the test and to see whether or not the children have got the basics—and if they do, recognize that the curriculum being used is working; if they don't, recognize something has got to change.

See, the measurement is not meant to punish; it is meant to remedy. It is meant to serve as a diagnostic tool. No one ever wants to measure, to hold a good teacher up and say, ''You know, gosh, you've got a good heart, but you're doing a lousy job. Therefore, you're a failure.'' That's not the reason you measure. The reason you measure is you say to a teacher, ''You've got a great heart, but you need to fine-tune what you're doing because it's not working right now.''

You've also got to measure in order to begin to effect change that's just more—when there's more than talk, there's just actual—a paradigm shift. That's what measurement does. It provides the foundations for significant change.

Accountability is important. But accountability without consequences means nothing. So in other words, if you measure and find success, there needs to be—something needs to happen, which is praise. And parents will say, ''Well, gosh, if that's successful, I think we'll continue sending my child to that school.'' But if parents don't have any options other than a public school system, there's no accountability—really no accountability. In other words, if there's nothing else can happen, if you find failure and you're stuck, why measure? And so one of the things that we're going to talk about today is making sure that any accountability system has got—has got some oomph to it, by trusting parents to make the right decision for their particular child.

The District of Columbia needs to improve. Let me just put it bluntly. [*Laughter*] There are some great schools in the District, and there are some lousy schools in the District. There has been a recent measurement to determine how the District schools do relative to other schools around the country. Ninety—in grades four and eight—those were the two grades tested—the District of Columbia scored below every single State in the Union in terms of basic skills. And that's unacceptable. It's unacceptable to the Mayor. It's unacceptable to the City Council. It's unacceptable to Peggy. It's unacceptable, most importantly, to the parents. And we need to do something about it.

And the Mayor and the City Council and Peggy have started by invigorating a—having a vigorous charter school program. See, charter schools say to the world, ''If you've got a better idea, show up and show us whether or not you can do a better job of challenging the status quo, if the status quo is failing.'' And that's what's happening in Washington, and I want to applaud the city for being on the front edge of the charter school initiative.

I'm going to work with Congress—and I appreciate the Members of Congress being here to—we need to boost our budget for charter schools. I proposed $320 million for charter schools. I want to work specifically with the city of Washington, DC. The Mayor and I have—I answer the Mayor's calls, and he occasionally answers mine. [*Laughter*] And one of the things that he likes to talk about is the need to make sure that the charter school system here is—receives good Federal attention. After all, the Federal Government has got a lot to do with how the schools in Washington, DC, are funded. So we're committed to a charter school program in my administration. I think it's one of the options that ought to be made available to parents.

KIPP Academy is a charter school. The money follows the child, and that makes sense. The problem is that oftentimes there's not enough charter schools in certain communities to meet the demand. And there is big demand here in Washington, DC, for alternatives other than the status quo. And so I've got an idea that I want to share with you today about how to meet that demand. And that is, I'm going to request $75 million from the Congress for what we call a choice incentive fund. This will be basically scholarships for students to be able to use the money as they see fit, public or private. Obviously, private is where you're going to require tuition.

Fifteen million of that dollars will stay here in Washington. It is the beginning of a school

choice program funded by the Federal Government for students here in Washington, DC. The scholarships will range up to $7,500 per student. If the private school charges less than that, then the remainder, the difference between $7,500 and the tuition, goes back into the pot so that more children will be funded. We think this will affect a couple of thousand children here in Washington, DC. It is the beginning of an experiment that will show whether or not private school choice makes a difference in quality education in public schools. I happen to believe it will.

I do believe that competition will serve its purpose, and that will—other schools will say, ''Wait a minute. We're losing folks. We better try something differently. The accountability system says we're not doing so well. We need to remember the customer.'' The customer happens to be the parent and the student. And I believe the change will cause folks to want to invigorate their own curriculum and to figure out what's going right or wrong. It will certainly shake the system up. And it sounds like to me the system needs to be shaken up if you're not doing as well as you should be here in Washington, DC.

People say, ''Well, gosh, if you're going to do that, then there will be no accountability.'' Of course, if a school receives a scholarship, then the school needs to be held accountable as well. The same accountability system applies to the recipient school as it does to the public schools in Washington. We want there to be accountability throughout the system. Father McCarrick wouldn't mind that at all. He runs a system that is anxious to be held accountable. And so if a private scholarship ends up in a Catholic school, people will be held to account. After all, it's taxpayers' money. We want to know. We want to know whether it—in a public school or a private school, whether or not the children are learning.

Now, if there—if we run out of—if there's more applicants than scholarships, then people will say, ''What's going to happen?'' Well, there needs to be a lottery. I mean, there needs to be a fair way—this isn't—to make sure that everybody has got an equal shot. And then, of course, the Congress is going to want to know whether or not the program is working, just like the President will want to know. And so therefore, what we'll end up doing is, Rod will measure and then submit a report to the Congress on an annual basis, so that people will begin to see firsthand whether or not what we're attempting to do in Washington, DC, has got the positive effect that a lot of us think it will have.

Look, what we're trying to do is to give parents more options. Step one was to measure; step two was to post the results so everybody knows, so they can compare school to school. Step three is to say, ''In any accountability system, there has to be consequences.'' And the consequences—when it comes to education—for failure is the parent says, ''I've had it. I'm going to a different option for my particular child.''

The other thing that's important is we've got to have the philosophical notion that we cannot have a two-tiered education system in America, one tier for those who can afford a certain type of school and one tier for those who can't. And so this plan is an attempt to say: The two-tiered deal is over with; we're starting to a new tier.

And there's a demand for this, by the way, in Washington. The Washington Scholarship Fund is an interesting idea where people came together—I presume from the business community and others—and put up money to help children. There are 1,000 applications last year for 100 slots. It's a measurement, a data point, a measurement of demand, where people are interested in doing something differently.

Virginia Walden-Ford, who I met, is the executive director of the DC Parents for School Choice. She says that hundreds of calls come in each week to her organization. Parents are wondering, ''Do I have a choice? Is there something else I can do? I'm frustrated.''

Virginia is a good person to be running the program. She—mom of three—her youngest son looked like he was a—I guess the best way to describe it would be a train wreck. He wasn't doing well in the public school system. He might say, the system quit on him, but he certainly quit on the system. And Virginia pulled him up and got him into a Catholic school. The ninth grade on, he

became a student. He was challenged. It raised his standards. He's now a United States Marine. He's preparing to go to the college. It's a wonderful story about Archbishop Carroll High School. More importantly, it's a wonderful story about a mom who never gave up.

So she's taking that experience and is now trying to help other parents who are frustrated and other parents who are looking for different options for a particular child. I want to thank her for that very much. Here's what she said. She said, ''Low-income parents don't want handouts. They just want the same opportunities to send their children to schools that meet their children's needs.'' And I appreciate that comment, and I appreciate you working on this.

I appreciate meeting Valarie Garland today. We had a very emotional meeting. Valarie is concerned, frustrated, worried. We had a—we shed a tear or two about the future. Valarie is a single mom—which, by the way, is the toughest job in America. It's really hard to be a single mom in our country. And then she's a single mom who is worried about the education system, on top. And her emotions came forth, and we had a good visit about trying to provide a hopeful future for Valarie's child. And I believe we can get the Congress to move on this. It will make a difference in a lot of people's lives here in Washington.

Let me summarize by saying, first of all, there's a lot of great teachers in America. There's a lot of great teachers right here in Washington, DC. There's a lot of good, hard-working folks. And we need to always keep in mind the need to praise our teachers and to praise people on the frontlines of education.

Sometimes, however, the system, the curriculum, whatever it may be, it becomes stagnant. And wherever we find mediocrity, this society has an obligation to challenge that. And that's what we're talking about today. We're talking about making sure no child gets left behind by focusing on each child. And the best way to focus on each child is to look at results and then remember the decisionmaker, who the decisionmaker is in society. The decisionmaker is the mom or the dad.

The District of Columbia is setting a bright example of what is possible in education reform. And I'm here to praise the public school system of Washington, DC, and for those who are working hard to make it better. I'm here to praise the elected officials of Washington, DC, for your willingness to step out and to confront failure when you see it and to praise success when you see it as well.

And I'm here to say to the parents of Washington, DC: We care about your children. Each child matters. We believe every child can learn. We're going to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations in the Nation's Capital and around the country, because we know a more hopeful America depends on this Nation's capacity to educate each and every child.

I want to thank you for coming, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:05 a.m. in a classroom at the school. In his remarks, he referred to Susan Schaeffler, principal, KIPP DC: KEY Academy; Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC; Kevin Chavous and David Catania, members, District of Columbia City Council; Peggy Cooper Cafritz, president, DC Board of Education; Representative Tom Davis; and Theodore E. Cardinal McCarrick, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Washington.

Remarks at a Reenlistment Ceremony on the 30th Anniversary of the All-Volunteer Force

July 1, 2003

Please be seated. Welcome. Thank you all very much. Welcome to the White House. We're joined today by 30 men and women who have chosen to reenlist in the United States Armed Forces. Each of them decided years ago to serve and defend our country. Today they reaffirm their commitment and take the oath again.

Like many thousands of other soldiers, sailors, airmen, coast guardsmen, and marines who will reenlist this year, these men and women are answering the highest call of citizenship. They have stood between the American people and the dangers of the world, and we are glad they are staying on duty.

I want to thank Paul Wolfowitz, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, for joining us, and members of the defense team. I want to thank Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and Pete Pace, the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. I want to thank James Roche, the Secretary of the Air Force, Les Brownlee, the Acting Secretary of the Army, H.T. Johnson, the Acting Secretary of the Navy, for being with us today.

I appreciate Admiral Vernon Clark, the Chief of Naval Operations, for being here; General Michael W. Hagee, the Commandant of the Marine Corps; General John M. Keane, Acting Chief of Staff for the Army. I appreciate Terry D. Scott, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, for being with us today, John L. Estrada, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Frank A. Welch, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, members of the Armed Forces, and our fellow Americans.

Before the draft ended on July 1st, 1973, generations of men entered military service by the decision of others. And during two World Wars and in Korea and in Vietnam, they served nobly, and they served well. Yet in the past 30 years, we have seen the great advantages of a military in which all serve by their own decision. Our country's all-volunteer force attracts idealistic and committed young Americans. They stay in service longer because they have chosen the military life. The result is a military with the highest levels of training, experience, motivation, and professionalism.

The military life is rewarding. Yet, even at its best, that life is difficult, often involving separation and danger. Those who willingly make these sacrifices and the families who share their hardships have the respect and the gratitude of their fellow Americans.

All in our military are serving in one of history's critical hours. Less than 2 years ago, determined enemies of America entered our country, committed acts of murder against our people, and made clear their intentions to strike again. As long as terrorists and their allies plot to harm America, America is at war. We did not choose this war. Yet, with the safety of the American people at stake, we will continue to wage this war with all our might.

From the beginning, we have known the effort would be long and difficult and that our resolve would be tested. We know that sacrifice is unavoidable. We have seen victories in the decisive defeat of two terror regimes and in the relentless pursuit of a global terror network. Yet the war on terror goes on. We will not be distracted, and we will prevail.

Of those directly involved in organizing the September the 11th attacks, almost all are now in custody or confirmed dead. Of the senior Al Qaida leaders, operational managers, and key facilitators we have been tracking, 65 percent have been captured or killed.

Still, we recognize that Al Qaida has trained thousands of foot soldiers in many nations and that new leaders may emerge. And we suspect that some Al Qaida deserters will attach themselves to other terrorist groups in order to strike American targets. Terrorists that remain can be certain of this: We will hunt them by day and by night in every corner of the world until they are no longer a threat to America and our friends.

At this moment, American and allied forces continue the work of fighting terrorists and establishing order in Afghanistan. When we removed the Taliban from power, surviving Al Qaida members fled from most of that country. However, many terrorists sought sanctuary along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, and some are still hiding there. These Al Qaida and Taliban holdouts have attacked allied bases with unguided rockets, conducted ambushes, and fired upon border posts. In close cooperation with the Afghan and Pakistani Governments, America is engaged in operations to find and destroy these terrorists.

Since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom, it is important for our fellow citizens to know that Pakistan has apprehended more than 500 terrorists, including hundreds of members of Al Qaida and the Taliban.

As this fight continues, the people of Afghanistan are moving forward with the reconstruction of their country and the founding

of a democratic government. They have selected a President. They're building a national army, and they are now in the final stages of drafting a new constitution.

America and other countries continue to provide humanitarian aid and assistance in building clinics and schools and roads. Joined by other nations, we are deploying the first group of provincial reconstruction teams to various cities in Afghanistan, groups of experts who are working with local officials to improve public safety, promote reconstruction, and solidify the authority of elected governments.

Afghanistan still has many challenges, but that country is making progress, and its people are a world away from the nightmare they endured under the Taliban. Pakistan and Afghanistan are among many governments that understand the threat of terror and are determined to root it out.

After the terrible attacks in Riyadh on May the 12th, the Government of Saudi Arabia has intensified its longstanding efforts against the Al Qaida network. Recently, Saudi's security services apprehended Abu Bakr, believed to be a central figure in the Riyadh bombing, and killed a major Al Qaida operational planner and fundraiser, a man known in terrorist circles as ''Swift Sword.'' Saudi authorities have also uncovered terrorist operations in the holy city of Mecca, demonstrating once again that terrorists hold nothing sacred and have no home in any religion. America and Saudi Arabia face a common terrorist threat, and we appreciate the strong, continuing efforts of the Saudi Government in fighting that threat.

The war on terror also continues in Iraq, where coalition forces are engaging remnants of the former regime, as well as members of terrorist groups. We met the major combat objectives in Operation Iraqi Freedom. We ended a regime that possessed weapons of mass destruction, harbored and supported terrorists, suppressed human rights, and defied the just demands of the United Nations and the world.

The true monuments of Saddam Hussein's rule have been brought to light, the mass graves, the torture chambers, the jail cells for children. And now we are moving forward with the reconstruction of that country by restoring basic services, maintaining order, searching for the hidden weapons, and helping Iraqis to establish a representative government.

The rise of Iraq as an example of moderation and democracy and prosperity is a massive and long-term undertaking. And the restoration of that country is critical to the defeat of terror and radicalism throughout the Middle East. With so much in the balance, it comes as no surprise that freedom has enemies inside of Iraq. The looting and random violence that began in the immediate aftermath of war remains a challenge in some areas. A greater challenge comes from former Ba'ath Party and security officials who will stop at nothing to regain their power and their privilege. But there will be no return to tyranny in Iraq. And those who threaten the order and stability of that country will face ruin, just as surely as the regime they once served.

Also present in Iraq are terrorist groups seeking to spread chaos and to attack American and coalition forces. Among these terrorists are members of Ansar Al Islam, which operated in Iraq before the war and is now active in the Sunni heartland of the country. We suspect that the remnants of a group tied to Al Qaida associate Al Zarqawi are still in Iraq, waiting for an opportunity to strike. We're also beginning to see foreign fighters enter Iraq.

These scattered groups of terrorists, extremists, and Saddam loyalists are especially active to the north and west of Baghdad, where they have destroyed electricity lines and towers, set off explosions at gas pipelines, and ignited sulfur fires. They have attacked coalition forces, and they're trying to intimidate Iraqi citizens. These groups believe they have found an opportunity to harm America, to shake our resolve in the war on terror, and to cause us to leave Iraq before freedom is fully established. They are wrong, and they will not succeed.

Those who try to undermine the reconstruction of Iraq are not only attacking our coalition; they are attacking the Iraqi people. And we will stand with the Iraqi people strongly as they build a hopeful future. Having liberated Iraq as promised, we will help

that country to found a just and representative government as promised. Our goal is a swift transition to Iraqi control of their own affairs. People of Iraq will be secure, and the people of Iraq will run their own country.

At present, 230,000 Americans are serving inside or near Iraq. Our whole Nation, especially their families, recognizes that our people in uniform face continuing danger. We appreciate their service under difficult circumstances and their willingness to fight for American security and Iraqi freedom. As Commander in Chief, I assure them, we will stay on the offensive against the enemy. And all who attack our troops will be met with direct and decisive force.

As America fights our war against terror, we will continue to depend on the skill and the courage of our volunteer military. In these last 22 months, our Armed Forces have been tested and tested again. In every case, in every mission, America's service men and women have brought credit to the uniform, to our flag, and to our country. We have needed you, and you have never let us down.

I want to thank you for keeping your pledge of duty to America, and thank you for renewing that demanding pledge today.

And now, General Myers will administer the oath of enlistment in the Armed Forces of the United States. May God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; senior Al Qaida associates Abu Bakr Al Azdi and Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation 7690—30th Anniversary of the All-Volunteer Force

July 1, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout our history, members of the United States Armed Forces have inspired our citizens with their bravery, honor, and dedication. Our Nation continues to be grateful for the courageous men and women who have demonstrated extraordinary patriotism in choosing to help defend America and the cause of freedom.

For the last 30 years, we have been fortunate to have a military composed entirely of volunteers. When our country's All-Volunteer Force was born on July 1, 1973, no comparable military in the world operated on a fully volunteer basis. Throughout most of the 20th century, the majority of our Armed Forces personnel were drafted, serving our Nation in both World Wars, the Korean conflict, and Vietnam. In the late 1960s, the American public's dissatisfaction with the draft prompted President Richard Nixon to establish The President's Commission on an All-Volunteer Armed Force. After studying whether to retain the draft or establish a volunteer military, the Commission concluded that a volunteer force would be economically viable and potentially more effective. After much debate, the Nixon Administration and the Congress allowed the authority for the draft to lapse, and the All-Volunteer Force was created.

Since that time, our volunteer Armed Forces personnel have upheld the finest traditions of our military and our country. Today, more than 1.4 million men and women choose to serve on active duty, along with nearly 880,000 members of the National Guard and Reserves. These volunteer soldiers helped to win the Cold War, turn back aggression during the Persian Gulf War, keep the peace in the former Yugoslavia, liberate oppressed people in Afghanistan and Iraq, and defend freedom around the world.

As we look toward the future of our country and our military, our Nation gives thanks for the prowess of our military, and we remain committed to providing our service men and women with the tools and training they need to continue to be the best in the world. On the celebration of the 30th anniversary of our All-Volunteer Force, I join Americans in thanking these brave men and women for choosing to serve in defense of the Nation.

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 July 1, 2003, as the 30th Anniversary of the All-Volunteer Force. I call upon all Americans to join me in recognizing this anniversary with heartfelt thanks and continued support for the men and women who defend our great Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, 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., July 3, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 7.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Peacekeeping Operations

July 1, 2003

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I transmit herewith the 2002 Annual Report to the Congress on Peacekeeping, prepared by my Administration, consistent with section 4 of the United Nations Participation Act (Public Law 79–264), as amended.

United Nations and other peacekeeping operations around the world helped the United States protect our interests, and ensured that other nations shared with us the burdens, risks, and costs of maintaining international stability. In 2002, my Administration worked closely with the United Nations and key member states to promote sound peacekeeping policies, realistic mandates, and appropriately sized missions.

I will continue to work with the Congress to ensure that peacekeeping, under the right circumstances, remains a viable option for maintaining international peace and security.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Richard G. Lugar, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, John W. Warner, chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services, Ted Stevens, chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Henry J. Hyde, chairman, House Committee on International Relations, C.W. Bill Young, chairman, House Committee on Appropriations, and Duncan Hunter, chairman, House Committee on Armed Services.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on Sanctions Under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Act

July 1, 2003

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I hereby report, pursuant to section 804(d) of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act, 21 U.S.C. 1903(d) (the "Kingpin Act"), on the status of sanctions imposed upon significant foreign narcotics traffickers designated this year.

On May 29, 2003, I designated the following seven foreign persons and entities as appropriate for sanctions, and subsequently imposed sanctions against them, under the Kingpin Act:

Juan Jose Esparragoza Moreno
Jose Albino Quintero Meraz
Hector Luis Palma Salazar
United Wa State Army
Leonardo Dias Mendonca
Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia, "FARC")
United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia, "AUC")

Attached is individual background information on each of the above foreign persons and entities. Each individual and entity is now subject to all of the sanctions authorized under the Kingpin Act. As a result, United States persons are prohibited from engaging in financial transactions and conducting business with these individuals. In addition, any assets within the United States or within the possession or control of United States persons that are owned or controlled by significant foreign narcotics traffickers are blocked. Finally, significant foreign narcotics traffickers and immediate family members who have knowingly benefited from their illicit activity will be denied visas for entry into the United States. While all of the sanctions are currently in effect, to date I have not been

notified of any specific enforcement action taken since the date of their imposition.

The Department of the Treasury, in consultation with the Departments of Justice, Defense, and State, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Drug Enforcement Administration, continues to work toward identifying derivative designations for these newly designated individuals pursuant to the powers granted under section 805(b) of the Kingpin Act, 21 U.S.C. 1904(b).

In addition to the foregoing actions, the Department of the Treasury, in consultation with the Departments of Justice, Defense, and State, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Drug Enforcement Administration, continues to research potential foreign persons for future recommendations for designation as kingpins.

Enclosed is a classified table reflecting expenses incurred and projected for fiscal year 2003. Other than certain intelligence expenses reflected in the enclosed table, total reportable expenses incurred by Federal agencies in fiscal year 2002 are approximately $1,022,115. These expenses are those directly attributable to the imposition of the Kingpin Act sanctions. The personnel costs portion, $591,562, is centered principally in the Department of the Treasury. The remaining $430,553 of the $1,022,115 total was for resource expenditures.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Porter J. Goss, chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and Pat Roberts, chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 2.

Remarks Announcing the Nomination of Randall Tobias To Be Global AIDS Coordinator and an Exchange With Reporters

July 2, 2003

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated. I appreciate very much our Secretary of State for joining us, and Tommy Thompson, the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary. I want to thank Andrew Natsios, who's the Administrator of USAID. I want to thank Joe O'Neill, who is the Office of National AIDS Policy, for joining us. I want to thank Elias Zerhouni, who is the Director of the NIH. Where are you, Elias? There you are. Thank you for coming, Doctor. And Tony Fauci is here as well. Honored you're here, Tony. It's good to see Richard Lee Armitage, who is the Deputy Secretary of the Department of State. Thank you for coming, Rich.

I appreciate the Tobias family for joining us. Marianne, thanks for coming, and Paige and Tim and Todd and Amy, I'm honored you all are here as well.

Five weeks ago I signed into law the Emergency Action Plan for AIDS Relief. It's one of the largest humanitarian undertakings in our history. The plan will provide $15 billion over the next 5 years to fight AIDS abroad. Millions of lives depend on the success of this effort, and we are determined to succeed.

To direct this mission, I have chosen a superb leader who knows a great deal about lifesaving medicines and who knows how to get results. I'm pleased to announce my nomination of Randall Tobias to serve as the Global AIDS Coordinator.

Randy is one of America's most talented and respected executives. He was vice chairman of AT&T and chairman of ATT International, guiding the firm through immense organizational challenges. He went to head Eli Lilly and Company, one of our Nation's largest and most innovative pharmaceutical companies. He is a highly regarded civic leader and philanthropist in his home State of Indiana. Throughout his career, Randy has shown the ability to manage complex organizations and to navigate government bureaucracies. He has earned a reputation as an executive of great energy, resourcefulness, good judgment, and integrity.

As Global AIDS Coordinator, Randy will have the rank of Ambassador and will report directly to Secretary of State Powell. He will coordinate all of our international HIV/AIDS

activities for all of our Government departments and agencies. He will oversee all resources of this program. And he will work with the faith-based and community groups to get the job done. He will report regularly to Congress on the progress and effectiveness of our efforts.

Randy Tobias has a mandate directly from me to get our AIDS initiative up and running as soon as possible. We'll work quickly to get help to the people who need it most, by purchasing low-cost antiretroviral medications and other drugs that are needed to save lives. We will set up a broad and efficient network to deliver drugs to the farthest reaches of Africa, even by motorcycle or bicycle.

We will train doctors and nurses and other health care professionals so they can treat HIV/AIDS patients. Our efforts will ensure that clinics and laboratories will be built or renovated and then equipped. Childcare workers will be hired and trained to care for AIDS orphans, and people living with AIDS will get home-based care to ease their suffering.

Throughout all regions of the targeted countries, we will provide HIV testing. We will support abstinence-based prevention education. Faith-based and community organizations will have our help as they provide treatment and prevention and support services in communities affected by HIV/AIDS. And we're developing a system to monitor and evaluate this entire program, so we can be sure we're getting the job done.

Next week I will go to Africa to meet with leaders of African countries and with some of the heroic men and women who are caring for the sick and are saving lives. They deserve our praise. They deserve our help without delay, and they will have our help.

When I visit Africa, I will reaffirm our Nation's commitment to helping Africans fight this disease. America makes this commitment for a clear reason directly rooted at our founding: We believe in the value and dignity of every human life. We're putting that belief into practice.

We have a lot of work ahead of us, and we're eager to get started. I'm hopeful that the Senate will act quickly to confirm Randall Tobias as our Global AIDS Coordinator and that the United States Congress will fully fund my request for this lifesaving initiative. I'm also hopeful that other nations of the world will join us to combat the AIDS pandemic.

I want to thank you very much for coming. May God bless our work, and may God bless the work of Randy Tobias.

[*At this point, Mr. Tobias made brief remarks.*]

The President. Thank you, Randy. Good job.

I'll answer a couple of questions here today. Let me start off with Deb [Deb Reichman, Associated Press].

Multinational Forces for Iraq

Q. Mr. President, a posse of small nations like the Ukraine and Poland are materializing to help keep the peace in Iraq. But with the attacks on U.S. forces and the casualty rates rising, what is the administration doing to get larger powers like France and Germany and Russia to join the American occupation there?

The President. Well, first of all, we'll put together a force structure to meets the threats on the ground. And we've got a lot of forces there ourselves. And as I said yesterday, anybody who wants to harm American troops will be found and brought to justice. There are some who feel like that if they attack us, that we may decide to leave prematurely. They don't understand what they're talking about, if that's the case.

Let me finish. There are some who feel like that the conditions are such that they can attack us there. My answer is: Bring them on. We've got the force necessary to deal with the security situation. Of course we want other countries to help us. Great Britain is there. Poland is there. Ukraine is there, you mentioned. Anybody who wants to help, we'll welcome the help. But we've got plenty tough force there right now to make sure the situation is secure. We always welcome help. We're always glad to include others in. But make no mistake about it—and the enemy shouldn't make any mistake about it—we will deal with them harshly if they continue to try to bring harm to the Iraqi people.

I also said yesterday an important point, that those who blow up the electricity lines

really aren't hurting America. They're hurting the Iraq citizens. Their own fellow citizens are being hurt. But we will deal with them harshly as well.

Holland [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Liberia

Q. Sir, Liberians are hopeful the U.S. will send peacekeepers. What's the likelihood of that, and how soon will you decide?

The President. Yes.

Q. And is there a danger of U.S. forces being stretched too thin?

The President. Well, look, we're looking at all options. I've tasked the Secretary of State to talk to Kofi Annan on how best to deal with Liberia. And we're concerned when we see suffering; there's people who are suffering there. They've got the—the political instability is such that people are panicking.

But the good news is, there's a cease-fire in place now. And one of the things that Colin is going to do is to work closely with the United Nations to see how best to keep the cease-fire in place. We're exploring all options as to how to keep the situation peaceful and stable.

One thing has to happen: Mr. Taylor needs to leave the country. And Colin has made that a—I made it clear publicly. I've just made it clear again. He made it clear to Kofi Annan. In order for there to be peace and stability in Liberia, Charles Taylor needs to leave now.

And—but we're looking at all options, Steve, and—but Colin has got the diplomatic initiative taking place.

Dick [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

Conversation With President Putin

Q. Mr. President, we understand you talked with President Putin this morning.

The President. I did. He wished me a happy birthday. [*Laughter*]

Q. It was a birthday phone call?

The President. I expect you to do the same thing. [*Laughter*]

Q. Happy birthday to you, a few days early.

The President. Thank you, sir. It's not until the 6th, however. [*Laughter*]

Q. You can never be too early with these things.

The President. That's right. [*Laughter*]

Q. But did you discuss the situation in Iran——

The President. Yes, we did.

Q. ——and did you discuss the situation in Liberia?

The President. No, we did not discuss the situation in Liberia. We did discuss the situation in Iran. I thanked him for keeping the pressure on the Iranian Government to dismantle any notions they might have of building a nuclear weapon.

And we're making progress on that front. Not only does Vladimir Putin understand our concerns and shares the concerns; the EU, for example, has sent out a very strong statement to the Iranians that the world expects them to conform with the IAEA, to cooperate with the IAEA, and to get rid of any plans to develop a nuclear weapon.

We also talked about North Korea. And I appreciate his understanding that the best way to deal with North Korea is to do so in a multinational forum, where the United States and China and South Korea and Japan and, hopefully, Russia all sit down with the North Koreans and make it clear that the world expects them to dismantle a nuclear weapons program and, at the same time, will be willing to help the starving North Korean people.

We're making progress on both fronts, and it's helpful to be able to cooperate with Russia in dealing with matters of international security.

Yes, Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Definition of Marriage

Q. Mr. President, do you support or do you oppose a Federal constitutional amendment that would define marriage as a union between a man and a woman?

The President. I don't know if it's necessary yet. Let's let the lawyers look at the full ramifications of the recent Supreme Court hearing. What I do support is the notion that marriage is between a man and a woman.

Any other questions? I'm willing to exhaust questions today. I feel like I'm on a roll. [*Laughter*]

Q. I've got——

The President. Yes, Steve.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. There's been some recent good news out of the Middle East; would you like to comment on that? What do you expect the parties to do now, the Palestinians and Israelis?

The President. Well, we're pleased with——

Q. And when is Prime Minister Abbas coming?

The President. I don't know that yet.

Q. Okay.

The President. We are pleased with the progress in the Middle East. I want to thank the parties in the Middle East for willing to take a risk for peace. I am pleased with the hard work that our Secretary of State has done, along with Ambassador Wolf, who has been shuttling back and forth between parties, reminding people of the commitments they made to our Government—me personally—the commitments they made to me personally in Jordan.

I am optimistic, but I also recognize the nature of the Middle East. I mean, there are people there who still hate. They hate Israel. They hate the idea of peace. They can't stand the thought of a peaceful state existing side by side with Israel. And they are willing to—may be willing to attack. And what we must continue to do is to reject that kind of thought. That's why we spoke out clearly. I spoke out, the Secretary of State has spoken out, on Hamas. Hamas is not a peaceful organization when they're willing to blow people up and destroy innocent life. And so we are making progress, but the progress will be ultimately made when the world, particularly that part of the world, firmly and finally rejects terrorist activities.

The other thing that needs to happen, Steve, is that institutions that will enable a Palestinian state to emerge need to be—continue to be fostered and put in place. There needs to be a constitution. There needs to be a capable security force. There needs to be economic hope. The Palestinian people must know that by accepting a peaceful government, by embracing the Prime Ministership of Abu Mazen, that there is a better day ahead for them when it comes to making a living. And so we will work with all parties to promote economic development in a secure environment.

And so we're making progress. I'm pleased. I think we're all—the best way to describe it is, we're really happy with what we've seen so far. But we're realists in this administration. We understand that there has been years of hatred and distrust. And we'll continue to keep the process moving forward.

I talked to President Mubarak and King Abdullah of Jordan today. I praised them for their efforts. I continue to—I urged them to continue to stay involved in the process, that we all must continue to reject terror, that we must call terrorists what they—by their real name. We must condemn terror in all instances. We must cut off money to terrorist organizations in order to keep this progress moving.

Yes, Terry.

Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction

Q. On weapons of mass destruction, is it fair to say now, after 2 months of looking for them, that there is a discrepancy between what the intelligence community and you and your top officials described as the threat from Saddam Hussein, and what was actually there on the ground?

The President. No, Saddam Hussein had a weapons program. Remember, he used them. He used chemical weapons on his own people. Saddam Hussein is no longer a threat to the United States, because we removed him. But he was a threat, such a threat that my predecessor, using the same intelligence, in 1998 ordered a bombing of Iraq. I mean, so, no, he was a threat. He's not a threat now. And the world is more peaceful by virtue of the fact that he is not in power.

See, we've been there, what, how many days? You're counting the days since we've been there? Because I'm not. Eighty, ninety? Frankly, it wasn't all that long ago that we started military operations. And we got rid of him much faster than a lot of people thought. And so we're bringing some order to the country, and we're beginning to learn the truth.

But he played his hand, Terry—he, Saddam Hussein—when he used chemical weapons. And then he played his hand by

not letting people come in and inspect for the weapons. He had them, and it's just a matter of time. It's a matter of time. The man was a threat to America. He's not a threat today.

But what we're really finding out as well is the threat he posed to the Iraqi people. I mean, we have uncovered some unbelievable scenes. I have not seen them myself. They've been described to me, what it means to see mass graves opened up, with the remains of men and women and children murdered by that regime.

Yes, he was a threat to America. He was a threat to freedom-loving countries. He was a threat in the Middle East. But what we're finding out is the nature of this man when it came to how he dealt with the Iraqi people as well. And it was—it's unbelievable what he did. And I—when it comes to—like the AIDS initiative, we believe in human dignity; we also believe that everybody ought to live in free societies too.

And so we'll stay the course in Iraq. You know, as I said, there's people there that would like to run us out of there, create the conditions where we get nervous and decide to leave. We're not going to get nervous, and we're not leaving until we accomplish the task. And that task is going to be a free country run by the Iraqi people. And that in turn will help the peace in the Middle East. That in turn will bring stability in a part of the world that needs stability. And I am—I'm optimistic about achieving this objective because I believe that people want to be free. I believe it's in the nature of the individual to love freedom and embrace freedom.

And so it has been a great honor to lead our Nation in not only the cause of humanitarian relief through an AIDS initiative but also to lead our Nation to free people from the clutches of what history will show was an incredibly barbaric regime.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:59 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Anthony Fauci, M.D., Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health; Mr. Tobias' wife, Marianne Williams Tobias, and his children, Paige T. Button and Todd C. Tobias; Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations; President Charles Taylor of Liberia; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority; Assistant Secretary of State for Nonproliferation John S. Wolf; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; King Abdullah II of Jordan; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Mr. Tobias.

Interview With African Print Journalists

July 3, 2003

The President. Thank you all for coming. What I thought I would do is make a couple of opening comments about the upcoming trip and answer some questions, maybe go around the horn a couple of times and give everybody a chance to fire away.

First, I'm really looking forward to the trip. I have been to the continent of Africa twice, but I've never been as President, nor have I been on as extensive a tour as the one we are going on.

I'll be carrying a message to the African people that, first, America cares about the future of Africa. It's in our national interests that Africa become a prosperous place. It's in our interest that people will continue to fight terror together. It's in our interest that when we find suffering, we deal with it.

I've laid out some initiatives that I'll be further describing to the African people and African nations: an AIDS initiative; the Millennium Challenge Account; our education initiative, where we'll be spending now $600 million over a 5-year period of time; a $100 million to fight terrorism in east Africa. In other words, just a series of specific initiatives behind a well-intentioned administration. And it's important for the leaders to understand precisely what I mean when I talk about these different initiatives.

And so when we go to Senegal, we'll be talking to not only my friend President Wade but other leaders from western Africa. When I go to South Africa, of course, it'll be a significant platform from which to speak to leaders in the southern region of Africa. I'll be going to Botswana as well and then up to Nigeria and, finally, Uganda and then home. So it's an extensive trip, and it's an

important trip, and I'm very much looking forward to it.

And I'll be glad to answer any questions. Why don't we start with you, Mr. Babou.

President's Upcoming Visit to Senegal

Q. Thank you very much. Mr. President, when will you be going to Senegal and how long will you stay?

The President. We're leaving Monday night from here, flying all night long and arriving in Senegal in the morning, and we'll be there for about a half a day. I'll be meeting with President Wade in a bilateral meeting, and then we'll be meeting with—I'm not sure how many western African leaders have RSVP'd yet; maybe Jendayi knows.

African Affairs Senior Director Jendayi Frazer. Seven.

The President. Seven other leaders. And then we'll be going to Goree Island, where I'll be giving a speech about race, race in the world, race as it relates to Africa and America. And we're in the process of writing it. I can't give you any highlights of the speech yet because I, frankly, haven't seen it. But I'll be fine-tuning the speech. It's an important speech for me to give, and it's one I'm looking forward to giving.

I look forward to seeing President Wade on his home turf, because I admire him. I admire his leadership. He is a man who believes in the same principles I believe in. He believes in the dignity of each life. He believes in democracy. He believes in open markets. He understands trade. And in our discussions—and we've had quite a few discussions with President Wade—he has constantly talked about the need for infrastructure development to link markets.

So he's got a—he cares deeply about the people of Senegal, but he's also got a regional vision that makes sense. He is a leader, he is one of the leaders of—every time we meet at, like, the G–8, President Wade is one of the representatives of the African nations, because he believes in the principles of NEPAD, and he is a good fellow. I'm looking forward to seeing him at home.

Yes, sir.

Situation in Zimbabwe

Q. Thank you, sir. On Zimbabwe, Mr. President, in recent days there has been several references from yourself and Secretary Powell to Zimbabwe once again.

The President. Yes, there has been.

Q. Now, beyond President Mbeki and President Obasanjo's efforts in the past to get Mugabe and Tsvangirai to sit down together, which has not been very successful, what more do you think they should do? Or what more——

The President. Well, that's a good question; I appreciate that. Yes, we have been outspoken on the subject because we believe that a democracy in Zimbabwe will improve the lives of all the citizens of that important country.

Listen, one of the things that we must—this country cares about is the plight of each human. And when we see and hear about suffering because of lack of food in sub-Saharan Africa, part of our attention is focused on places where there's political instability. And there's no reason why Zimbabwe is not capable of feeding not only herself but others in the region.

And the reason why now is because of political instability created by a lack of adherence to the principles of democracy. So when you hear me speak out or when you hear Colin speak out, we're speaking out for principles. And the answer to what more can be done, the world needs to speak with common voice in insisting that the principles of democracy are adhered to by the ruling party in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe—the economy of Zimbabwe at one time was a powerful economy for the region. It was a successful economy. People grew food in plentiful supply. Now the people of that country are starving. This country is putting up a billion dollars of money to help people who are starving. Then we're also—I'm asking Congress to put up what they call a $200-million fast reaction—or a fund for fast reaction to confront famine. We need that so that the flexibility—sometimes the appropriators like to put strings on appropriations, so it makes it hard for the executive branch to move with speed. I would like to have more capacity to move with speed when it comes to dealing with emergencies. The

reason I bring that up is that it would be incredibly helpful for the continent of Africa to have its countries that are able to feed people prosperous and whole.

The other issue I want to bring up, now that I brought up the issue of food, is genetically modified crops. I think it is essential that throughout the continent of Africa, nations be encouraged to develop—use the technologies that have been developed to deal with pestilence and drought. And I have been very outspoken on that subject as well, not to be putting thoughts in your mind that you didn't want to hear about, but I've got the mike. [*Laughter*]

But I do want to emphasize, and I will emphasize on the continent of Africa, the need for our agricultural economies on the continent of Africa to adjust with modern technology so that in places where there is drought or likelihood of drought, there can be drought-resistance crops being given a chance to succeed. Where there's pests that some agriculture economy has not been able to deal with, we use pest-resistant crop, and they're available. The problem, of course, we have is that much of the enthusiasm for what we believe is scientifically proven safe crops have been condemned by the refusal of some countries and/or accumulation of countries to accept exports into their markets from countries that use genetically modified crop.

That's a very long answer to a short question. Yes, sir.

Q. Mr. President, sir——

The President. Where is The Guardian based?

Q. In Nigeria.

The President. Very good.

U.S. Policy Toward Africa

Q. I'd like to know what's your reaction to people who say that the major driving force for your interest in Africa is oil and that, you know, what you are trying to do, essentially, is to shift the focus from Saudi—with first your relationship between Saudi and U.S. now to Africa. Now, how much of that——

The President. Saudi Arabia?

Q. Yes. So I'd like to know how much of that is actually for instance, in your interest in Africa?

The President. Well, conspiracy theorists about everywhere, I guess. That's one of the most amazing conspiracies I've heard. Heck, no one has ever made that connection, and so I would say—well, first, look, I have been talking about Africa since I was sworn in as President. I've met with 22, I believe it is, heads of state here. And I have met with President Obasanjo, gosh, I would say—I better be careful, because every number I put out there, people scrutinize—a lot, maybe five times——

Dr. Frazer. Five times, yes, sir.

The President. ——President Wade, several times in the Oval Office, several times in overseas meetings, President Mbeki, quite a few. In other words, Africa has been on the—we've been thinking about Africa ever since I've been sworn in.

Secondly, the initiatives I've laid out are bold initiatives. The Millennium Challenge Account is a very bold initiative. We're going to increase our basic developmental aid by 50 percent, with a new approach which basically says we'll reward those countries which make correct choices on behalf of the people of the countries, countries which are not corrupt, countries which focus on the health and education of the people, countries which adopt market-oriented policies which will enable a country to more likely grow in a prosperous fashion, which would then benefit the people.

I spoke out early on free trade with Africa. Certainly, the AGOA initiative was not my administration's initiative. I readily understand that. But we built on the AGOA initiative because I believe in free trade and, as a matter of fact, took the free trade argument to the Halls of Congress and got trade promotion authority, which was not an easy vote, by the way. It was a tough vote. There's a protectionist element in our country that works beneath the political surface. But I feel strongly that trade is an engine of opportunity for developing countries.

These are all initiatives I spoke about prior to—during the war on terror, I guess. I wasn't in office very long before the war on terror became evident here in America.

We've got good relations with Saudi. I gave a speech—just to put it in context, I gave a speech—I swore in some folks the other

day to reenlist in our military. I pointed out that the relationship with Saudi Arabia, when it comes to tracking down terrorists, is strong. I reminded our citizens that Abu Bakr, who is a key operative, and ''Swift Sword'' are no longer issues for America and Saudi Arabia because of the cooperation that is an ongoing cooperation inside the Kingdom.

And anyway, no, listen, let me speak specifically to Nigeria. I have got good relations with President Obasanjo. Every time we have visited, it has been a very cordial, up-front way. I appreciate his cooperation on the U.S.' desire to work with countries such as Nigeria to train troops necessary to be able to handle some of the difficult situations on the continent. As a matter of fact, I believe the United States in working with Nigeria has trained five battalions of Nigerian troops, preparing them for issues such as Liberia or other areas on the continent. And we will continue that relationship with the President of Nigeria. And I appreciate his leadership on that issue.

Mr. Cobb.

Uganda/Liberia

Q. Yes, sir. You're going at least in two of the regions of Africa. You're going to West Africa and—well, Uganda being next door to the Congo.

The President. Right.

Q. There's a fair amount of tumult in those regions. First, I have two specific questions related to that and your trip. Will you make a decision about U.S. troops in Liberia before you go? Or will you be bringing some message about these U.S. troops in Liberia when you visit in Senegal?

Secondly, what will you tell Mr. Museveni—whom I know you admire in terms of his work with HIV/AIDS and his economic policy—with regard to the role of militias that he created and are responsible for much of the violence in eastern Congo?

The President. Right, let me start with that. I also talked to him about ongoing democracy in Uganda. We talked about transfer of power. We talked about the fact that he's been a remarkably good leader on many fronts and that we would hope that he would adhere to the concept of having any democracy with a peaceful transfer of power at the appropriate time.

We did talk about that part of the region. I spoke very clearly about the need for all countries to recognize the peace agreements that we have been involved with—we're not the lead country on, but we're very much supportive of the peace agreements. And he listened very carefully to our admonition that we expect for people to honor the agreements that are being forged. And I will continue to discuss that with him when I go to Uganda.

As well as Uganda, it's important to—one reason why one would go to Uganda is to make sure that people around the world, and particularly on the continent of Africa, understand that dealing with HIV/AIDS is possible. In other words, you can deal with it in a positive way, and it's a remarkable record of Mr. Museveni and his Government in dealing with the pandemic of AIDS. It's essential that—we're fixing to spend $15 billion—I believe Congress will respond and keep the pressure on as, you know—and that this trip will also help create an awareness of the issue in America.

And it's important for our fellow citizens to realize that while we live a relative luxurious life throughout our society, there is a pandemic taking place that's destroying a lot of people, ruining families. You know, the idea of a 14-year-old little girl raising three brothers and sisters without parents is something that's just—it's sad. It is tragic. It needs to be dealt with. And I want to use this trip to say: Here's an example of what is possible, and let's make sure we follow our hearts as a society.

In terms of Liberia, I am in the process of gathering the information necessary to make a rational decision as to how to bring a—how to enforce the cease-fire, keep the cease-fire in place. I said yesterday—I said a while back and I said it again yesterday, ''Mr. Taylor must go.'' A condition for any progress in Liberia is his removal, in removing himself. And that's the message Colin has taken to the United Nations and to Kofi Annan.

Secondly, that today there is a meeting with ECOWAS, and we had a representative at the—you probably knew this before I did,

Mr. Cobb—but we had a meeting there with our military thinkers to determine feasibility, to look at different options. And they have yet to report back to the White House. Maybe the information has gone to the Pentagon at this point in time.

So I'm gathering information in order to make a decision that will achieve a—that will allow me to make a proper decision as to how to bring stability to that country.

Look, I recognize the United States has got a—has had a, you know, unique history with Liberia. And therefore, it's created a certain sense of expectations. But I also want to make sure that there are certain expectations met as well. And one expectation is Mr. Taylor has got to leave. And that message is clear, and I can't make it any more clear.

As to whether or not—look, once the strategy is in place, I will let people know whether or not I'm airborne or not. In other words, I'm not trying to make any—I don't need to dramatize the decision. It's getting plenty of attention here at home. But we've got—and look, I'm just gathering enough information to be rational in what we do.

You know, you read all kinds of things, of course, in American newspapers—it's sport here. I'm sure it is elsewhere as well. The gathering of the speculator, the leaker, the whatever—what do you call them? The source—[*laughter*]—people speaking out loud, ''The President has done this. The President is thinking this.'' And what I am thinking about is how to bring some stability to the country in a way that will be effective.

And there's no question, step one of any effective policy, whether we are involved or not, is for Charles Taylor to leave.

Yes, sir. Around the horn again. We call it going around the horn.

Temporary Protective Status for Senegalese

Q. We understand that many African countries, like many countries in the world, get a lot of help from their immigrants living in the United States.

The President. Yes.

Q. And in the South America, at one point there were some special programs for immigrants, illegal immigrants, living here from Nicaragua, from El Salvador. Will you consider supporting a special program for countries that are fighting for a democracy—for the——

The President. Temporary protective status, we call that TPS. We analyze that on a case-by-case basis. TPS generally is granted for those who are fleeing a very difficult political situation. In Senegal's case, the situation doesn't look very—it looks the opposite of difficult political situation. It's a very stable political situation. But we'll analyze any TPS requests.

National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice. ——remittances.

The President. Are you talking about remittances, people sending money from here to there?

Q. No, what I'm saying is like a TPS, to support democracy in countries because they can't on that—the Senegalese here sent about $80 million a year to their country.

The President. So it's a combination of status and money being remitted, yes.

Well, we look at that. Of course, you know—TPS recognizes that, first of all, illegal immigration is an issue that we've got to deal with. And nobody wants anything illegal happening. But we recognize people come to our country not legally and that sometimes they come for political reasons. And that's why we have the TPS exceptions. And we'll look at it case by case.

Yes, sir.

South Africa

Q. Mr. President, you mentioned in the efforts of Americans to support peacekeeping in countries like Nigeria. What about South Africa——

The President. Same.

Q. ——presently engaged in the Congo and Burundi?

The President. No, very much so. I should have—I brought it up only in the context of Nigeria. I feel the very same way about—I will not count this as a question, because I should have mentioned South Africa. You're absolutely right. South Africa has been a leader. President Mbeki is a leader. When you think about the continent of Africa, you think about leadership, you think about President Mbeki. He's taking strong

positions along with President Obasanjo, and providing troops—the South African.

I will be visiting, by the way, a training base there in South Africa. I look forward to doing so. The South African Army is a very sophisticated, well-trained army. And President Mbeki has been a leader in peace.

And so now you get a question.

U.S. Support for African Peacekeeping Forces

Q. Along the same lines, do you foresee increased aid from the United States for peacekeeping, like training, equipment?

The President. Yes, I do. I do. We've been active in training up to now. We've trained seven battalions for potential peacekeeping missions. I think this is a very important use of U.S. assets. I think the American people would understand and support the notion of training others to take care of their business in their own neighborhood. And that is a—I say, take care of their business, bring peace is what I mean by that. And yes, I do see continued activity on that front.

Yes, sir.

President's Upcoming Visit to Nigeria

Q. Currently, there is a nationwide strike going on in Nigeria. Does that put a—do you have any—how does that affect your planned trip?

The President. It does not affect it at all. And I've been briefed on the strike. I obviously hope it gets settled in a peaceful way. If I have to, I'll make my own bed at the hotel. [*Laughter*] But I'm going. [*Laughter*]

I'm looking forward to it. It's going to be a very interesting trip. It's a local issue, one that—when I go to different countries, sometimes there's local issues that pop up, not because of my trip, just because of the normal course of business. And this happens to be what's happening in the country. So I'm not changing my mind.

Yes, sir.

War on Terror in Africa

Q. I'm curious, how big a factor—are you concerned about international terrorism on this trip? We've seen the numbers drop very sharply in terms of sympathy towards the United States. In the aftermath of the Iraq war, there were the strains between the United States and South Africa over this issue, and a Pew report, in fact, that said that 44 percent of Nigerians believe that they serve a—believe that Usama bin Laden would do the right thing in world affairs.

The President. Well, I would have to say obviously there needs to be an education program, because Usama bin Laden is nothing but a killer who has hijacked a great religion. And he doesn't care about innocent life. And so I would be glad to have that debate with anybody, anywhere. And I would be glad to take those who believe that he is of some kind of remedial value, to his point of view, to the World Trade Center and introduce them to families who lost life for no reason other than the fact that he is a killer.

Secondly, parts of Africa are—they've got ongoing terrorist threats. And the good news is we are working closely with those governments to deal with those threats. We've got very good intelligence-sharing. We are—the law enforcement officials of these countries where there is a direct threat are moving rapidly upon the—when we enrich the intelligence, when we calibrate the intelligence.

Kenya is a great country, and it has been a place where there's been threats. Everybody knows that. Not only threats, there's been an attack in the past. And the Government of Kenya has been very responsive. And we are—we are helping them. We're helping other countries in Africa. Djibouti comes to mind. There is country after country after country where we're working with their governments when we—or they—they ask for help, and/or we provide information that we have been able to pick up.

Did you ask whether or not the threats are going down?

Q. No, I was saying that the admiration of the United States in surveys has dropped in the aftermath of the Iraq war, particularly in Nigeria.

The President. No, I got what you're saying. Yes, yes, I beg your pardon.

Well, look, it depends upon what the people are being told sometimes. I mean, if there's a constant effort to describe America as a non-caring country, then the people are going to have a bad attitude about us.

But when they know the truth, when the truth comes out, which is that we care deeply about the plight of the African citizen, that we're not only trading partners—and by the way, most nations, I think, would really like to trade with America—that we not only care deeply about the pandemic of AIDS but that we hear the cries of those who are sick and tired of corruption on the continent of Africa. And therefore, we are—we've got a new approach to foreign aid. I think people, when they know the facts, will say, "Well, this is a great country."

And the other thing is that no one likes war, and what you heard—there was kind of attachment to the word "America" with war. What they're going to find out, the word "freedom" and "America" are synonymous. That's what we believe. We believe in freedom. And we believe everybody desires freedom. And that when it's all said and done in Iraq, the world will wake up and say, "Now we understand what a free Iraq means to peace and stability."

And so I—if I conducted our foreign policy based upon polls and focus groups, we would be stumbling all over ourselves. That's not the way I do things. I base our foreign policy based upon deep-seated principles.

And this is a peroration to what's been a very, hopefully, constructive dialog for you. It has been for me. My message to the African people is, we come as a nation that believes in the future of Africa. We believe that people want to be free. We will work with those who embrace the habits of freedom, that when this Nation sees suffering, we will not turn away.

There is tremendous suffering on the continent of Africa. And we will put a strategy in place that effectively spends $15 billion over 5 years to help ease the suffering from HIV/AIDS. When we see starvation, we don't turn our back. We act. We care about the people of the continent. And there are—we've got great relations with leaders and countries on the continent of Africa, relations which will not only make—help enable people to realize their dreams but also make the world more safe.

And that is my message. And I am proud to carry the message on behalf of a great nation to a very important, great continent.

Thank you all for your time.

NOTE: The interview began at 10:30 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal; Dr. Jendayi E. Frazer, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs at the National Security Council; President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria; President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa; Abu Bakr Al Azdi, senior Al Qaida associate responsible for the May 12 bombing in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; President Yoweri Kugata Museveni of Uganda; President Charles Taylor of Liberia; Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. Journalists referred to President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Morgan Tsvangirai, leader of Zimbabwe's opposition party, Movement for Democratic Change. Journalists participating in the interview were: Dame Babou, Sud Quotidien; Charlie Cobb, AllAfrica.com; Lalou Akande, The Guardian; and Deon Lamprecht, Media 24/Naspers. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Interview With the South African Broadcasting Corporation

July 3, 2003

Liberia

Simon Marks. Mr. President, thank you very much indeed for talking to us here today. Let me start by seeing if we can perhaps make a little bit of news.

Liberia: Many West African leaders have asked you to send U.S. peacekeeping troops to join a multinational stabilization force in Liberia. Are you going to? If so, how many and for how long?

The President. We're in the process of determining the course of action necessary to see that peace and stability reign in Liberia. And some of our military people are meeting with ECOWAS leaders today. And I haven't made a decision yet.

Mr. Marks. Are you closing in on a decision?

The President. Yes. Every day that goes by is closer to a decision. But I need—before I make decisions, I like to have facts, and I'm gathering the facts necessary to determine what is necessary, who's willing to participate.

The one thing that must happen is, Charles Taylor has got to leave. A condition for any kind of operation that stabilizes the country is for Mr. Taylor to leave the country, and hopefully, we can achieve that objective diplomatically. Colin Powell is working closely with Kofi Annan and others at the United Nations to prepare the groundwork, if possible, for Mr. Taylor's departure.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Marks. Let me switch countries, if I may, and ask you about Zimbabwe. A short while ago your Secretary of State, Colin Powell, wrote in the New York Times that "South Africa can and should play a stronger and more sustained role in resolving matters in Zimbabwe." Specifically, what would you like to see President Thabo Mbeki do in Zimbabwe that he's not already doing?

The President. Insist that there be elections. Insist that democracy rule. Insist that the conditions necessary for that country to become prosperous again are in place.

I agree with the Secretary of State. I certainly don't want to put any pressure on my friend, but Zimbabwe has not been a good case study for democracy in a very important part of the world. And we hope that not only Mr. Mbeki but other leaders convince the current leadership to promote democracy.

Mr. Marks. Do you think quiet diplomacy can work?

The President. I hope any kind of diplomacy can work. So far, diplomacy hasn't worked. That's part of the problem. You know, it's an interesting question. I guess writing an article may not be viewed as quiet diplomacy, since it was quite public. But I also have spoken out on Zimbabwe. It's a bad example.

Let me give you one reason why. There's a lot of starving people in sub-Sahara Africa; yet, Zimbabwe used to be able to grow more than it needed, to help deal with the starvation. We're a nation that is interested in helping people that are starving. We're going to spend a billion dollars this year on programs to help the hungry. It would be really helpful if Zimbabwe's economy was such that they would become a breadbasket again, a capacity to grow more food that's needed so that we could help—they could help deal with the hunger. And yet, the country is in such that, you know, in such a condition that the agricultural sector of its economy is in shambles right now.

HIV/AIDS Initiative/Debt Relief

Mr. Marks. On HIV, you surprised many in Washington by the vigor with which you've embraced the battle to combat HIV/AIDS. Some say you could do even more by more enthusiastically embracing debt relief for Africa. You favor it enthusiastically for Iraq; why not more enthusiastically for Africa?

The President. Well, let me start with the HIV program. I mean, enthusiasm is to the tune of $15 billion—that's pretty darn enthusiastic—to deal with the pandemic. And I also have agreed to increase the direct developmental aid grants from the United States by 50 percent. However, we expect countries, whether they be in Africa or anywhere else, that are applying for this money to embrace the habits of a free country, like transparency, anticorruption, making sure the people are educated and receive health care. So we're doing a lot in America.

There is a program in place for debt relief. And I would like to see that program implemented in full. I also called for the World Bank to give more grants rather than loans. And so our program across the board is compassionate, in my judgment, because we care about Africa and we care about the people of Africa.

Nelson Mandela

Mr. Marks. And as you head to Africa, you are obviously aware that there are a large number of people on the continent who disagree with many of your policies, particularly your decision to move into Iraq, some of them very prominent personalities. When a statesman like former South African President Nelson Mandela says the very personal things about you that he has said in the past and continues to say even this week, that's got to hurt.

The President. No. I did the right thing. My job is to make sure America is secure. And if some don't like the tactics, that's the nature of a free world, where people can express their opinion.

I admire Nelson Mandela. As a matter of fact, my administration was the one that gave him the Medal of Freedom because of his courage and bravery. I just happen to disagree with him on his view of how best to secure America.

But you can be rest assured that if I think America is threatened, I will act. And you know, I understand criticism. I mean, look, but I'm not the kind of person that runs around trying to take a poll to determine what to do. If I believe it's necessary for my country, I will act.

I also believe it's necessary, when we see people enslaved, to work on behalf of their freedom, because this country believes that freedom is the desire of every human heart. And one of the great benefits of our action in Iraq is not only going to make America more secure, but it's going to make the Iraqi people more free. And you know, these mass graves we're finding is just the tip of the iceberg about what these poor people had to suffer at the hands of Saddam Hussein. And it's that kind of suffering that troubles me. And I believe the use of—proper use of power by America will make the world more peaceful, America more secure, and as importantly, people more free.

Mr. Marks. Mr. President, bon voyage.

The President. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 1:17 p.m. in the Map Room at the White House for later broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to President Charles Taylor of Liberia; Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations; President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Interview With the Voice of America

July 3, 2003

Liberia

Vincent Makori. Mr. President, if the U.S. was to send a peacekeeping force to Liberia, what role will it play and what limitations will you have?

The President. I haven't made up my mind, Vincent, whether we are going to send a so-called peacekeeping force. I have made up my mind there needs to be stability in Liberia, and one of the conditions for a peaceful and stable Liberia is for Mr. Charles Taylor to leave the country.

And so we're working the issue now. And I say "we," it's my—of course, the Secretary of State, the very capable Colin Powell, is working with Kofi Annan, who is also working with others on the continent to facilitate that type of move.

As well, there was a meeting today with ECOWAS leadership as to what the nature of a so-called peacekeeping force might look like. And that's very important information for me, the decisionmaker on this issue, to understand what the recommendations might be. I have yet to get those recommendations, but I expect I will in the next couple of days.

Mr. Makori. Mr. President, you have asked Mr. Charles Taylor to step down for the sake of peace. What will be your response to him if he does not heed your advice?

The President. Oh, I think we'll have to wait, Vincent, on that. You know, I suspect he will, and so therefore, I'm an optimistic person. I'm not going to take "no" for an answer. My hope is—it's not only my voice. It's the voice of a lot of others saying the same thing, and I think it's very important for us to be positive about having a good outcome.

Mr. Makori. And given the historical ties between the United States and Liberia, does the U.S. have a moral obligation to intervene in Liberia?

The President. Well, there's no question there is a—it is a unique relationship between Liberia and the United States, and I suspect that's why we're—I don't suspect; I know—that's why we're very much engaged in the discussions about how to bring a peaceful and secure Liberia to be. I mean, it's—yes, there is a unique history between the United States and Liberia.

Democracy in Africa

Mr. Makori. Mr. President, because all this boils down to leadership, what is the best thing the U.S. can do to discourage despotic and dictatorial rulerships in Africa and promote democracy, true democracy?

The President. Well, I appreciate that question. One thing is, we can help deal with the AIDS pandemic. A society which is ravished by AIDS is a society which is likely to be unstable. And therefore, if we can bring good health care to the millions who suffer and love to the orphans whose parents might have died from AIDS, it makes it easier to have a stable platform for growth.

Secondly, trade: I'm a big backer of what they call AGOA, which is trade agreements between African countries and the United States. Trade is more likely to make societies prosperous. Our aid program needs to promote the habits necessary for the evolution of a free society. In other words, we're not going to give money to corrupt rulers, and we're not going to give money to nontransparent societies. The American taxpayer and this American President believes that in return for aid—and we've got a generous amount of aid available—we expect people to take care of their people by educating them and creating good health care. We expect there to be market-oriented economies growing. And we expect the rulers to be thoughtful and mindful of who they represent, and that is the people of their country, not themselves or their ruling elite.

War on Terror in Africa

Mr. Makori. Mr. President, on the area of terrorism, which parts of Africa do you consider the hotspots for terrorism, and what role is the U.S. playing, especially with the regional leaders, to ensure that you are achieving the desired result?

The President. Well, unfortunately, a hotspot now is your country, Kenya. And we're very closely working with the Government there. And I will tell you, the Kenyan Government is very strong when it comes to fighting terror. The best thing we can do is share intelligence, is to work closely with the intelligence services of a particular country and then, when we find information, provide that information and encourage the Government to act. And Kenya has done a good job of working with the United States to protect Kenya. And that's what we want. We want people to be able to defend themselves against terror.

And unfortunately, some terrorists have been—and this has all come to light recently—obviously, there was a bombing in Kenya, and now it looks like there may be some action there as well. But the Government is making some very strong moves.

Mr. Makori. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The President. Vincent, thank you, sir.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 1:25 p.m. in the Map Room at the White House for later broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to President Charles Taylor of Liberia and Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Interview With CNN International

July 3, 2003

Tomi Makagabo. Mr. President, thank you very much for speaking with us, and welcome to South Africa.

The President. Thanks. Thanks for having me.

Liberia

Ms. Makagabo. If we could begin with the issue of Liberia, President Charles Taylor in particular. You said he needs to step down; he needs to leave the country. The U.S., along with other west African countries, are busy negotiating the whole issue. What are the discussions and options that are being put on the table?

The President. Well, I'm glad you brought up the departure of Charles Taylor. In our judgment, he needs to go in order to create the conditions necessary for a peaceful solution to this difficult situation occurs.

You know, look, we're talking to ECOWAS countries right now to determine whether or not the—what the nature of a peacekeeping force might look like. I'm the kind of person that likes to know all the facts before I make a decision. We've got special ties to Liberia. There are historical ties to the United States. That's why we are involved in this issue, and I am going to look at all the options to determine how best to bring peace and stability.

One thing has to happen. That's Mr. Taylor needs to leave, and I've been outspoken on that. Mr. Colin Powell has been outspoken on that. And I think most of the people involved with this issue understand that that's important, that he do leave.

Ms. Makagabo. You said that he needs to leave. Does that mean that if those negotiations fail and President Charles Taylor refuses to go, that you will send troops to remove him from office and——

The President. Well, first of all, I refuse to accept the negative. I understand it's your job to try to put that forth. I believe he'll listen. And until he doesn't listen, then we can come back and talk about the issue. In other words, I hope he does listen, and I'm convinced he will listen.

Ms. Makagabo. And should he not?

The President. No, you—I'm convinced he will listen and make the decision—the right decision, if he cares about his country.

President's Upcoming Visit to Africa

Ms. Makagabo. Let's talk about, then, your trip to Africa. It hasn't necessarily—it has only recently become more apparent, this particular administration's interest in African affairs and involvement in what's going on in the country.

The President. Yes, can I stop you there? That's not true. As a matter of fact, from the very beginning of my administration, I've been very much involved with African affairs. I've met over 22 African leaders. And I just want to make—correct the record before——

Ms. Makagabo. Absolutely.

The President. ——disabuse you of that misinformation, because Africa has been a very important part of my administration's foreign policy.

Ms. Makagabo. However, many people will say that has only become more apparent to them, perhaps not necessarily to the administration, but more apparent, outwardly, that this administration is becoming involved in African affairs. My question to you, then, is if that is the case and looking at the history which you've pointed out, why now? Why this visit now?

The President. Why am I going now? I thought it was important to go before my first term was over to show the importance of Africa to my administration's foreign policy. And besides going on a trip—I mean, trips are fine, but what's more important is policy.

And I proposed a Millennium Challenge Account, which will, in my judgment, affect the lives of African citizens in an incredibly positive way, which says that in return for aid—and we're increasing the amount of aid available—governments actually have to make decisions which will be positive on behalf of their people, such as educating their people or providing health care for their people, not to steal the money. In other words, don't focus on elite but focus on the people themselves, create the conditions necessary for market growth.

I promoted AGOA. Now, I didn't invent AGOA; that happened in my predecessor's time. But I promoted the extension of AGOA, which was the trade agreements between the African Continent and the United States, which has been incredibly beneficial for a lot of countries and a lot of people on the African Continent.

I proposed an AIDS initiative because I believe it's very important for the United States to not only show its muscle to the world but also its heart. And the AIDS initiative, in our judgment, when implemented, will help affect the lives of thousands of people who are suffering from an incredibly—a pandemic that is actually destroying life. And it is—it's sad for us.

And so my administration is not only, you know, good on trips and meetings but more important, fundamental policy. And I think that's important.

Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction

Ms. Makagabo. One policy that your administration hasn't necessarily agreed on with many African countries is the question of Iraq and the war in Iraq. Can you give us a sense of how close the administration feels you are to finding those weapons of mass destruction and banned weapons?

The President. Oh, sure. Yes, there's no doubt in my mind he had a weapons program. He was—he used them. Remember, he was the guy that gassed his own people. Those were weapons of mass destruction he used on his own people. No doubt. We found

a biological lab, the very same lab that had been banned by the United Nations. It will be a matter of time.

Let me talk about Iraq, and I appreciate you bringing it up. If I think something that needs to be done to enhance the security of the American people, I'll do it. You see, that's my most important job, is to protect the security of America.

Secondly, I believe in freedom for people, and I suffer when I hear the stories of what took place inside of Iraq, the mass graves that have been discovered, the torture chambers, the jails for children. And the Iraqi people are going to benefit mightily from the actions of the United States and a lot of other nations, because they'll be free. And we've been there for about 90 days. And the world is such that they expect democracy to have occurred yesterday. It's going to take a while for a free, democratic Iraq to evolve. But it's going to happen. And history will show you what a—it will show you or the skeptics that we are actually correct in our assessment of Mr. Saddam Hussein.

Ms. Makagabo. All right, Mr. President. I think that's where I'm going to have to leave it.

The President. Thank you very much for coming. Hope to see you in South Africa.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 1:33 p.m. in the Map Room at the White House for later broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Statement on Signing the Strengthen AmeriCorps Program Act

July 3, 2003

Today I have signed into law S. 1276, the "Strengthen AmeriCorps Program Act." The Act clarifies the methods by which the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) records obligations to the National Service Trust for volunteer educational awards by authorizing the use of estimating methodology similar to other comparable programs. In order to ensure appropriate accountability hereafter, the Act also provides for annual independent audits of the Trust.

Section 2(b)(2) of the Act purports to require the CNCS to consult the Director of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), a legislative agent, in executing section 2(b)(1)(B) of the Act relating to determination of a formula for calculating certain obligations for recordation. Because section 191 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (NCSA) (42 U.S.C. 12651) assigns to the CNCS the Executive function to "administer the programs established under the national service laws," and because the CNCS is an "Executive agency" under section 105 of title 5 of the United States Code by virtue of the provisions of section 191 of the NCSA and section 103 of title 5, the CNCS is plainly part of the unitary executive branch.

Since a statute cannot constitutionally require the executive branch to involve a legislative agent in executive decision-making, the executive branch shall construe section 2(b)(2) as requiring the CNCS only to notify the Director of the CBO with regard to the matters addressed by the provision. At the same time, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the CNCS shall, as a matter of comity between the executive and legislative branches, seek and consider the views of the Director of CBO in this matter as the CEO deems appropriate.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 3, 2003.

NOTE: S. 1276, approved July 3, was assigned Public Law No. 108–45.

Message on the Observance of Independence Day, 2003

July 3, 2003

On July 4, 1776, our Founders adopted the Declaration of Independence, creating a great Nation and establishing a hopeful vision of liberty and equality that endures today. This Independence Day, we express gratitude for our many blessings and we celebrate the ideals of freedom and opportunity that our Nation holds dear.

America's strength and prosperity are testaments to the enduring power of our founding ideals, among them, that all men are created equal, and that liberty is God's gift to humanity, the birthright of every individual. The American creed remains powerful today because it represents the universal hope of all mankind.

On the Fourth of July, we are grateful for the blessings that freedom represents and for the opportunities it affords. We are thankful for the love of our family and friends and for our rights to think, speak, and worship freely. We are also humbled in remembering the many courageous men and women who have served and sacrificed throughout our history to preserve, protect, and expand these liberties. In liberating oppressed peoples and demonstrating honor and bravery in battle, the members of our Armed Forces reflect the best of our Nation.

We also recognize the challenges that America now faces. We are winning the war against enemies of freedom, yet more work remains. We will prevail in this noble mission. Liberty has the power to turn hatred into hope.

America is a force for good in the world, and the compassionate spirit of America remains a living faith. Drawing on the courage of our Founding Fathers and the resolve of our citizens, we willingly embrace the challenges before us.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a safe and joyous Independence Day. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

George W. Bush

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

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

July 3, 2003

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

Consistent with section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Benchmarks for a Sustainable Peace Process in Bosnia and Herzegovina

July 3, 2003

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

Consistent with the Levin Amendment to the 1998 Supplemental Appropriations and Rescissions Act (section 7(b) of Public Law 105–174) and section 1203(a) of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261), I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on progress made toward achieving benchmarks for a sustainable peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This eighth report, which also includes supplemental reporting consistent with section 1203(a) of Public Law 105–261, provides

an updated assessment of progress on the benchmarks covering the period January 1 to June 30, 2003.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting Proposed Legislative Changes To Implement the United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement

July 3, 2003

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

On June 6, 2003, the United States Trade Representative signed the United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement on behalf of the United States. Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(B) of the Trade Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–210), I am submitting a description of the changes to existing laws, prepared by my Administration, that would be required to bring the United States into compliance with that Agreement.

I look forward to working with the Congress in developing legislation to implement this important Free Trade Agreement.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting Proposed Legislative Changes To Implement the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement

July 3, 2003

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

On May 6, 2003, I signed the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(B) of the Trade Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–210), I am submitting a description of the changes to existing laws, prepared by my Administration, that would be required to bring the United States into compliance with that Agreement.

I look forward to working with the Congress in developing legislation to implement this important Free Trade Agreement.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

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.

June 28

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

June 30

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Miami, FL.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Tampa, FL.

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

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled: Frederick Beaman, Steven Bernett, Robert Kelly, and Felipe Mendoza.

July 1

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing and met with the National Security Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gwendolyn Brown to be Chief Financial Officer for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeane J. Kirkpatrick for the rank of Ambassador during her service as U.S. Representative on the Human Rights Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The President announced his intention to appoint Joan Avalyn Dempsey as Executive Director of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

July 2

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He also had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia to discuss the situations in Iran and North Korea.

Later in the morning, the President met with Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton to discuss the National Park System. Later, he met with Randall Tobias, his nominee to be Global AIDS Coordinator.

During the day, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, King Abdullah II of Jordan, and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel to discuss the peace process in the Middle East.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joel David Kaplan to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donald K. Steinberg to be Ambassador to Nigeria.

The President declared a major disaster in Kentucky and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, mud and rock slides, and tornadoes on June 14 and continuing.

July 3

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority to discuss the peace process in the Middle East.

July 4

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing and met with the National Security Council. Later, he traveled to Dayton, OH, where, in the afternoon, he made remarks on the celebration of Independence Day and the 100th anniversary of flight at the U.S. Air Force Museum.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, he attended a party hosted by Mrs. Bush to celebrate his upcoming 57th birthday.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush viewed the Independence Day fireworks display on the National Mall from the Truman Balcony.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: 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 June 30

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2312

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2350

Released July 1

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 389, H.R. 519, and H.R. 788

Fact sheet: Progress in the Global War on Terrorism

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York

Announcement of nomination of U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of California

Released July 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Kentucky

Fact sheet: The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

Released July 3

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's upcoming trip to Africa

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 658

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Presidential Envoy James Baker to Tbilisi, Georgia

Fact sheet: USA Freedom Corps Launches "How I Spent My Summer"

Released July 4

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of an interview of the Press Secretary by the TV pool

Acts Approved by the President

Approved June 30

H.R. 2312 / Public Law 108–39
ORBIT Technical Corrections Act of 2003

H.R. 2350 / Public Law 108–40
Welfare Reform Extension Act of 2003

Approved July 1

H.R. 389 / Public Law 108–41
Automatic Defibrillation in Adam's Memory Act

H.R. 519 / Public Law 108–42
San Gabriel River Watershed Study Act

H.R. 788 / Public Law 108–43
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Boundary Revision Act

Approved July 3

H.R. 658 / Public Law 108–44
Accountant, Compliance, and Enforcement Staffing Act of 2003

S. 1276 / Public Law 108–45
Strengthen AmeriCorps Program Act