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Chiang was a close friend of the United States throughout her life and especially during the defining struggles of the last century. Generations of Americans will always remember and respect her intelligence and strength of character. On behalf of the American people, I extend condolences to Madame Chiang's family members and many admirers around the world.

## Message on the Observance of Ramadan

*October 24, 2003*

I send greetings to Muslims in the United States and around the world observing the holy month of Ramadan.

Ramadan is the holiest season in the Islamic faith, commemorating the revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammed. This month of introspection provides Muslims a time to focus on their faith and practice God's commands. Through fasting, prayer, contemplation, and charity, Muslims around the world renew their commitment to lead lives of honesty, integrity, and compassion.

Throughout our history, people of different faiths have shaped the character of our Nation. Islam is a peaceful religion, and people who practice the Islamic faith have made great contributions to our Nation and the world. As Americans, we cherish our freedom to worship and we remain committed to welcoming individuals of all religions. By working together to advance freedom and mutual understanding, we are creating a brighter future of hope and opportunity.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes. *Ramadan mubarak.*

**George W. Bush**

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

## 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.

### *October 18*

In the morning, at the U.S. Ambassador's residence in Tokyo, Japan, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Manila, Philippines, where they greeted U.S. Embassy personnel and members of the American community at the Embassy.

In the afternoon, at the Rizal Monument, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a wreath-laying ceremony with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines. Later, at Malacanang Palace, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a welcoming ceremony with President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo. The two Presidents then had a meeting.

In the evening, in the Ceremonial Hall at Malacanang Palace, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a state dinner hosted by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

### *October 19*

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Bangkok, Thailand. Later, at the Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok, he met with Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat of Thailand.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a review of Thai troops recently returned from Afghanistan. Later, he and Mrs. Bush toured the Grand Palace.

Later in the afternoon, at the Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok, the President met with President Hu Jintao of China.

In the evening, at the Grand Palace, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a state dinner hosted by King Phumiphon Adunyadet and Queen Sirikit of Thailand.

### *October 20*

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok, he had a breakfast meeting with President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea. He then met with President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

In the afternoon, at Government House, the President participated in the first session of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

(APEC) Leaders' Retreat. Later, he attended an APEC Business Advisory Council reception.

In the evening, at the Grand Palace, the President and Mrs. Bush and other APEC leaders and their spouses had an audience with King Phumiphon Adunyadet and Queen Sirikit of Thailand. Later, the President participated in a photo opportunity with APEC leaders.

Later in the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the APEC leaders' gala dinner at the Royal Thai Navy Conference Hall and a cultural performance at the Royal Thai Navy Institute.

The President announced his intention to nominate James M. Strock to be a member of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy.

### *October 21*

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Old Parliament Building, he participated a photo opportunity with APEC leaders and the second session of the APEC Leaders' Retreat. In the afternoon, he attended a reception for APEC leaders.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Singapore. In the evening, the President met with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore at the Istana.

The President announced his intention to nominate Edward McPherson to be Under Secretary of Education.

### *October 22*

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Bali, Indonesia, where, at Bali International Airport, he met with President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia.

In the afternoon, at the airport, the President met with religious leaders. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Canberra, Australia.

The President announced the laureates of the 2002 National Medals of Science and National Medals of Technology, which will be presented at a White House ceremony on November 6.

The President announced his intention to nominate Carol Kinsley to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

### *October 23*

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a courtesy call on Governor-General Michael Jeffery of Australia and Mrs. Jeffery at Australia's Government House.

Later in the morning, at Australia's Parliament House, the President met with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Australian War Memorial.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Hickam Air Force Base on the island of Oahu, HI, crossing the international date line and arriving Thursday morning, October 23.

Upon arriving at Hickam Air Force Base, the President and Mrs. Bush greeted Gov. Linda Lingle and Lt. Gov. James ''Duke'' Aiona of Hawaii, U.S. military leaders, and National Park Service volunteer Hilma Chang.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Pearl Harbor, where they participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the U.S.S. *Arizona* (BB–39) Memorial and met with eight survivors of the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Later, aboard the U.S.S. *Missouri*, the President participated in a briefing by Adm. Thomas Boulton Fargo, USN, combatant commander, U.S. Pacific Command. He then toured the U.S.S. *Missouri* and greeted veterans and former *Missouri* crewmembers. Later, he and Mrs. Bush visited second-grade students at Pearl Harbor Elementary school.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Honolulu, HI, where, at the Kahala Mandarin Oriental Hotel, he attended a Hawaii Republican Party reception. Later, he met with delegates of 13 Pacific Island nations attending the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush departed for Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate James M. Loy to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security and to designate

him as Acting Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

### *October 24*

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush arrived in Washington, DC. Later in the day, they traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe of Sri Lanka to the White House on November 4.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the White House on November 5.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Rolandas Paksas of Lithuania to the White House on December 8.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission: Ralph F. Archbold, Wayne A. Budd, John Anderson Fry, Charles R. Gerow, Judith Rodin, and Jeffrey L. Sedgwick.

The President announced his intention to nominate Edward E. Kaufman, Fayza Veronique Boulad Rodman, and Steven J. Simmons to be members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to attend the commemoration ceremony of the 20th anniversary of the restoration of democracy to Grenada in St. George's: Otto J. Reich (head of delegation), Marcia Bernicat, Adm. Joseph Metcalf III, Langhorne Anthony Motley, and Ken Tomlinson.

## Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

### *Submitted October 22*

Neil Vincent Wake,
of Arizona, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona, vice Paul G. Rosenblatt, retiring.

### *Submitted October 23*

Carol Kinsley,
of Massachusetts, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2006, vice Toni G. Fay.

### *Submitted October 24*

Floyd Hall,
of New Jersey, to be a member of the Reform Board (Amtrak) for a term of 5 years, vice Amy M. Rosen, term expired.

Edward E. Kaufman,
of Delaware, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2006 (reappointment).

Fayza Veronique Boulad Rodman,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2006, vice Robert M. Ledbetter, Jr., term expired.

Steven J. Simmons,
of Connecticut, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2006 (reappointment).

## 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 October 18*

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan