

A lot of people on the frontlines in the fire out there were volunteers. The reason I bring that up is, it should remind us that the strength of the country is not our military, is not our pocketbooks; it's the heart and soul of people. The entrepreneurial spirit is the strength of the country. The willingness for people to volunteer in a fire department is the strength of the country. And once you realize how strong this country is in spirit, you can't help but be optimistic about the future.

Thank you for having me here, Doc. Listen, I want to thank you all for sharing your stories. It's not easy to stand up in front of all these cameras. I know. *[Laughter]* Although the cameramen are fine people. But it's—you were able to help us make a point, that people who have lost work should have hope, that with a little initiative, a little ingenuity, a little drive, there's help for you. The economy's growing, new jobs are being created. And we—there's an opportunity, and I hope you seize it. I hope you seize it, because there's a wonderful, wonderful future ahead for people who may at this moment think their days are—the future is a little dark. And we've got three citizens right up here who are willing to see the—can see that bright light. So thanks for coming.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The discussion began at 1:05 p.m. Participants in the discussion included: Gary M. Green, president, Lucas D. Shallua, biotechnology program coordinator, and Scott Hiner, Sandra Moser, and Jan Robertson, students, Forsyth Technical Community College; Richard Dean, president, Wake Forest University Health Sciences; and William Dean, president, Idealliance. In his remarks, the President also referred to Representative Richard Burr of North Carolina; and Brian Koontz, fire chief, County Line Volunteer Fire Department.

Memorandum on Waiver of Restrictions on Assistance to Russia Under the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 and Title V of the FREEDOM Support Act

November 7, 2003

Presidential Determination No. 2004-08

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver of Restrictions on Assistance to Russia under the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 and Title V of the FREEDOM Support Act

Consistent with the authority vested in me by section 1306 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-314), I hereby certify that waiving the restrictions contained in subsection (d) of section 1203 of the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 (22 U.S.C. 5952), as amended, and the requirements contained in section 502 of the FREEDOM Support Act (22 U.S.C. 5852) during Fiscal Year 2004 with respect to the Russian Federation is important to the national security interests of the United States.

I have enclosed the unclassified report described in section 1306(b)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003, together with a classified annex.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this certification and report with its classified annex to the Congress and to arrange for the publication of this certification in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

**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.

November 1

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

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Southaven, MS, and then to Paducah, KY.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to London, KY, and later to Gulfport, MS.

In the evening, the President returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

November 3

In the morning, the President traveled to Birmingham, AL. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had an intelligence briefing. Upon arrival in Birmingham, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Jason Nabors. Later, he met with small-business owners at CraneWorks.

In the afternoon, the President returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate Francis Joseph Harvey to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Douglas Buttrey and Francis Patrick Mulvey to be members of the Surface Transportation Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gordon Hall Mansfield to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate David Hossein Safavian to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy at the Office of Management and Budget.

The President announced his intention to nominate Laurie Susan Fulton to be a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace.

November 4

In the morning, the President traveled to Miramar, CA. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had an intelligence briefing. Upon arrival at Marine Corps Air Station, he

met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Suellen Mayberry.

Later in the morning, the President, joined by Governor Gray Davis and Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger of California, California Department of Forestry Division Chief Bill Clayton, and Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response Mike Brown, took an aerial tour of the San Diego area affected by wildfires. Later, he participated in a walking tour of the Harbison Canyon community damaged by wildfires. He then traveled to El Cajon, CA, where, at Gillespie Field, he participated in a briefing by area fire chiefs on the wildfires.

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

In the evening, the President had separate telephone conversations with Governors-elect Haley Barbour of Mississippi and Ernie Fletcher of Kentucky to congratulate them on their electoral victories earlier in the day.

November 5

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President met with President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Later, also in the Oval Office, he met with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe of Sri Lanka to discuss peace efforts in Sri Lanka and free trade.

In the afternoon, the President met with Polish philosopher and writer Leszek Kolakowski to congratulate him on winning the John W. Kluge Prize in Human Sciences.

November 6

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President met with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kiron Kanina Skinner to be a member of the National Security Education Board.

November 7

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Carlos Diego Mesa Gisbert of Bolivia to discuss

democracy in Bolivia, President Mesa's plans for a national referendum on Bolivian natural gas resources, and cooperation in counter-narcotics efforts; President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain to discuss the situation in Iraq and transatlantic relations; and President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland to express his condolences concerning the death of a Polish officer in Iraq on November 6 and to discuss other issues.

Later in the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Winston-Salem, NC, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Brian Koontz.

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

The President announced his intention to nominate Linda Morrison Combs to be Assistant Secretary of Transportation and, upon confirmation, to designate her as Chief Financial Officer.

The President announced his intention to nominate Steven J. Law to be Deputy Secretary of Labor.

The President announced his intention to nominate J. Robinson West to be a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace.

The President declared a major disaster in Washington and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on October 15-23.

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 November 3

Gordon H. Mansfield, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, vice Leo S. Mackay, Jr., resigned.

Gene E. K. Pratter, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, vice William H. Yohn, Jr., retiring.

Submitted November 5

William S. Duffey, Jr., of Georgia, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, vice J. Owen Forrester, retiring.

Laurie Susan Fulton, of Virginia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace for a term expiring January 19, 2007, vice Harriet M. Zimmerman, term expired.

James M. Loy, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, vice Gordon England, resigned.

Peter G. Sheridan, of New Jersey, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of New Jersey, vice Stephen M. Orlofsky, resigned.

Submitted November 6

Francis J. Harvey, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice John P. Stenbit.

Lawrence F. Stengel, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, vice Ronald L. Buckwalter, retiring.

Submitted November 7

Steven J. Law, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor, vice Donald Cameron Findlay, resigned.

Kiron Kanina Skinner, of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the National Security Education Board for a term of 4 years, vice Herschelle S. Challenor.

J. Robinson West, of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace for a term expiring January 19, 2007, vice Marc E. Leland, term expired.