

**Remarks Following Discussions With  
North Atlantic Treaty Organization  
Secretary General Jaap de Hoop  
Scheffer**

*January 30, 2004*

**President Bush.** Mr. Secretary General, welcome. We are proud that you're here. The Secretary General and I have had a good discussion about NATO, my administration's commitment to a strong and vibrant NATO, our mutual desire to make the world more peaceful through freedom. I appreciate your willingness to discuss important theaters like Afghanistan and Iraq, the need for us to make sure our militaries are transformed and modern. I know that we will have a good working relationship, and I know you'll do a great job on behalf of all of us who treasure the NATO—the NATO Alliance.

So welcome, sir.

**Secretary General de Hoop Scheffer.** Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Mr. President. Also, from my side, may I say that I entirely share your opinion, as we discussed in our conversation. But NATO is about values. NATO is defending values which might be normal for us, but our—in other parts of the world, less normal.

And that's why we are in Afghanistan fighting terrorism. And NATO is going to take a larger role in Afghanistan. That's what we discussed. We have, of course, touched upon Iraq, the political developments in Iraq, the upcoming 1st of May for the transfer of sovereignty in Iraq, and a possible greater NATO role after that. We discussed the Balkans. We have discussed NATO-Russian relationship.

In other words, the full range of subjects NATO is dealing with, defending these values as an organization which is undergoing a fundamental transformation process, taking in, in a short time, new member states, seven new member states—it's a matter of weeks—transforming into an organization which can defend those values wherever there is a necessity in the world—be it in the Balkans, where NATO has been very successful be it in Afghanistan; be it in Iraq, where NATO is now supporting the Polish-led multinational division and where NATO might take on a greater role when the sovereign

Iraqi Government would ask NATO to do that.

So I very much enjoyed, Mr. President, my conversation with you. And I'm sure that with your support, with the support of the United States, and all the other NATO Alliance, we are going to make this a success.

Thank you so much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

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**Digest of Other  
White House Announcements**

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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.

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**January 24**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, at the Capitol Hilton Hotel, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the Alfalfa Club Dinner.

**January 26**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Little Rock, AR, where, upon arrival, he greeted USA Freedom Corps volunteer Mary Lynn Roberson. Then, at the Baptist Health Medical Center, he participated in a roundtable discussion on medical liability reform.

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

In the evening, the President hosted an annual meeting and dinner with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and combat commanders.

The President announced his intention to nominate Pamela M. Iovino to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Congressional Affairs.

The President announced his intention to appoint Dionel E. Aviles and Susan C. Schwab as members of the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

The President announced his intention to appoint J.C. Watts, Jr., and David Horton Wilkins as members of the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Military Academy.

### **January 27**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Old Family Dining Room, the President hosted a lunch for President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland.

The President declared an emergency in Maine and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by record/near record snow on December 14–15, 2003.

The President declared a major disaster in Ohio and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, mudslides, and landslides on January 3, 2004, and continuing.

### **January 28**

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

Later in the morning, at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, the President met with small-business owners and individuals to discuss medical savings accounts and association health plans.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey in the Residence. Later, he met with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell.

### **January 29**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he participated in an interview with the Arabic language satellite television station Al Hurra, for later broadcast.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Merrimack, NH, where, upon arrival, he greeted USA Freedom Corps volunteer Daniel Hebert.

In the evening, the President traveled to Greenwich, CT, where, upon arrival, he greeted USA Freedom Corps volunteer Kimberly Lucia. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sue Ellen Wooldridge to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

The President announced his intention to nominate Isaac Fulwood, Jr., to be a Commissioner of the U.S. Parole Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Maria Otero to be a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace.

### **January 30**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, he made remarks at a Republican National Committee winter meeting at the White House.

In the evening, at the Naval Observatory, the President had dinner with Vice President and Mrs. Cheney.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany to the White House for a meeting and working lunch on February 27.

The President announced his intention to nominate William T. Hiller, Juan R. Olivarez, and Richard Kenneth Wagner to be members of the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals to be members of the Presidential Commission on Implementation of United States Space Exploration Policy: Edward C. Aldridge, Jr. of Virginia; Carleton S. Fiorina of California; Michael P. Jackson of Virginia; Laurie Ann Leshin of Arizona; Lester L. Lyles of Ohio; Paul Spudis of Maryland; Neil deGrasse Tyson of New York; Robert Smith Walker of Pennsylvania; Maria Zuber of Massachusetts.

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**Nominations  
Submitted to the Senate**

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

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**Submitted January 26**

Peter Eide,  
of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of 5 years, vice Joseph Swerdzewski, resigned.

Susanne T. Marshall,  
of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, vice Beth Susan Slavet.

Neil McPhie,  
of Virginia, to be a member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of 7 years expiring March 1, 2009, vice Beth Susan Slavet, term expired.

James C. Miller III,  
of Virginia, to be a Governor of the U.S. Postal Service for the term expiring December 8, 2010, vice Einar V. Dyhrkopp, term expired.

David B. Rivkin, Jr.,  
of Virginia, to be a member of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States for the term expiring September 30, 2004, vice Laramie Faith McNamara.

Louis S. Thompson,  
of Maryland, to be a member of the Reform Board (Amtrak) for a term of 5 years, vice John Robert Smith, term expired.

Kirk Van Tine,  
of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation, vice Michael P. Jackson, resigned.

**Submitted January 28**

Linda Mysliwy Conlin,  
of New Jersey, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2007, vice April H. Foley.

Eugene Hickok,  
of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Secretary of Education, vice William D. Hansen, resigned.

Pamela M. Iovino,  
of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional Affairs), vice Gordon H. Mansfield.

Alphonso R. Jackson,  
of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Melquiades Rafael Martinez, resigned.

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**Checklist  
of White House Press Releases**

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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.

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**Released January 26**

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

**Released January 27**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

**Released January 28**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Fact sheet: The President's Health Care Agenda

**Released January 29**

Fact sheet: USA Freedom Corps Celebrates Two-Year Anniversary

**Released January 30**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany

Fact sheet: Strong Economic Growth Shows President's Policies Are Working