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December 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had telephone conversations with President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland and President Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania to discuss the situation in Ukraine.

In the afternoon, in an Oval Office ceremony, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Federico Humbert de Arias of Panama, Francisco Tomas Duenas Leiva of Costa Rica, Jehangir Karamat of Pakistan, Mahamoud Adam Bechir of Chad, John Bruton of the European Commission, and Maris Riekstins of Latvia.

Later in the afternoon, in Room 476 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, the President met with rabbis and Jewish community leaders. Later, on the State Floor, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a holiday reception.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Europe in February 2005 for meetings with European leaders, beginning his consultations in Brussels, Belgium, on February 22, meeting with allied heads of state and Government at NATO. The President will also meet with the EU Presidency, the European Council, and the European Commission President.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jim Nicholson to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

December 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he participated in an interview with People magazine.

In the afternoon, the President dropped by a meeting of the National Security Council and participants of the U.S.-Russia Volunteer Initiative.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Fort Belvoir, VA. Later, they returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will host Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy for a meeting and lunch on December 15.

The President announced his intention to nominate Samuel W. Bodman to be Secretary of Energy.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Committee on the National Medal of Science: Bruce N. Ames; Randolph W. Bromery; Winfred M. Phillips; and Jean'ne Marie Shreeve (Chairperson).

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People (HELP) Around the Globe Commission: Carol Craigle Adelman; Mary K. Bush; Glenn Estess; C. Boyden Gray (Chairman); Carla Hills; and Walter H. Kansteiner.

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 December 7

James William Carr,
of Arkansas, to be a member of the National Security Education Board for a term of 4 years, vice Manuel Trinidad Pacheco, term expired.

George M. Dennison,
of Montana, to be a member of the National Security Education Board for a term of 4 years, vice Bruce Sundlun, term expired.

Andrew J. McKenna, Jr.,
of Illinois, to be a member of the National Security Education Board for a term of 4 years, vice Robert N. Shamansky, term expired.

Harry Robinson, Jr.,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Museum Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2008 (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 December 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released December 7

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Trent Duffy

Released December 8

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 4818 and S. 2618

Released December 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's upcoming visit to Europe

Released December 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2655, H.R. 4302, S. 437, S. 1466, S. 2192, S. 2486, S. 2873, and S. 3014

Statement by the Press Secretary on Bernard B. Kerik's withdrawing his name from consideration for Secretary of Homeland Security

Announcement: Securing Our Economic Future: White House Conference on the Economy, December 15–16, 2004

Acts Approved by the President

Approved December 3 *

H.R. 1047 / Public Law 108–429
Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act of 2004

H.R. 1630 / Public Law 108–430
Petrified Forest National Park Expansion Act of 2004

H.R. 2912 / Public Law 108–431
To reaffirm the inherent sovereign rights of the Osage Tribe to determine its membership and form of government

H.J. Res. 110 / Public Law 108–432
Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II

H.J. Res. 111 / Public Law 108–433
Appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Ninth Congress

H.J. Res. 115 / Public Law 108–434
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2005, and for other purposes

S. 150 / Public Law 108–435
Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act

S. 434 / Public Law 108–436
Idaho Panhandle National Forest Improvement Act of 2004

S. 1146 / Public Law 108–437
Three Affiliated Tribes Health Facility Compensation Act

S. 1241 / Public Law 108–438
Kate Mullany National Historic Site Act

S. 1727 / Public Law 108–439
To authorize additional appropriations for the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978

S. 2214 / Public Law 108–440
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3150 Great Northern Avenue in Missoula, Montana, as the "Mike Mansfield Post Office"

* These Public Laws were not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.