

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 14. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Proclamation 7854—Human Rights Day, Bill of Rights Day, and Human Rights Week, 2004**

*December 10, 2004*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

During Human Rights Day, Bill of Rights Day, and Human Rights Week, we celebrate the founding ideals of our Nation and emphasize the importance of protecting human liberty throughout the world.

As a Nation, we cherish the values of free speech, equality, and religious freedom, and we steadfastly oppose injustice and tyranny. Since the founding of America, the Bill of Rights has protected basic human rights and liberties. In the United States, all citizens have the opportunity to voice their opinions, practice their faith, and enjoy the blessings of freedom.

After the tragedies of World War II, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as part of a global effort to curb the cruelty and systematic injustice that had destroyed so many lives. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms the inalienable rights of people everywhere.

In the time since, progress has been made in ensuring that human dignity is respected, and we have witnessed the rise of democratic governments around the world. No other system of government has done more to protect minorities, secure the rights of labor, raise the status of women, or channel human energy to the pursuits of peace than democracy.

My Administration continues to encourage free and open societies around the world. In Burma, we have called on the ruling junta to release Aung San Suu Kyi and engage in dialogue to bring democracy to that country. We are helping lead the international effort to end the suffering in Sudan. We seek to help the people of North Korea, who are struggling to survive under severe repression

and difficult living conditions, and our Nation continues to stand with those who strive for democracy in Belarus, Cuba, Iran, and Zimbabwe.

My Administration also has advanced the fight against human trafficking and the abuse and exploitation of women and children, particularly of young girls in the sex trade. In addition, we have expanded our Nation's support for democracy promotion programs globally and have increased the budget for the National Endowment for Democracy to strengthen support for free elections, free markets, free speech, and human rights advocacy around the world.

Freedom and dignity are God's gift to each man and woman in the world. During this observance, we encourage all nations to continue working towards freedom, peace, and security, which can be achieved only through democracy, respect for human rights, and the rule of law.

**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 December 10, 2004, as Human Rights Day; December 15, 2004, as Bill of Rights Day; and the week beginning December 10, 2004, as Human Rights Week. I call upon the people of the United States to honor the legacy of human rights passed down to us from previous generations and to mark these observances with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

**George W. Bush**

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**Memorandum on Renewal of Trade Agreement With the Socialist Republic of Vietnam**

*December 10, 2004*

Presidential Determination No. 2005–11

*Memorandum for the United States Trade Representative*

*Subject:* Renewal of Trade Agreement with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Pursuant to my authority under subsection 405(b)(1)(B) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2435(b)(1)(B)), I have determined that actual or foreseeable reductions in U.S. tariffs and nontariff barriers to trade resulting from multilateral negotiations are being satisfactorily reciprocated by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. I have further found that a satisfactory balance of concessions in trade and services has been maintained during the life of the Agreement on Trade Relations between the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

**George W. Bush**

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NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 21. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Presidential Determination To Waive the Application of Section 901(j) of the Internal Revenue Code With Respect to Libya**

*December 10, 2004*

Presidential Determination No. 2005–12

*Memorandum for the Secretary of Treasury*

*Subject:* Presidential Determination to Waive the Application of Section 901(j) of the Internal Revenue Code with Respect to Libya

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United

States, including section 901(j)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code (the “Code”), I hereby waive the application of section 901(j)(1) of the Code with respect to Libya.

I hereby authorize and direct you to arrange for publication of this determination in the *Federal Register*.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**The President’s Radio Address**

*December 11, 2004*

Good morning. Social Security is one of the great moral achievements of American Government. For almost 70 years, it has kept millions of elderly citizens out of poverty and assured young Americans of a more secure future.

The Social Security system is essential, yet it faces a deepening long-term problem. While benefits for today’s seniors are secure, the system is headed towards bankruptcy down the road. If we do not act soon, Social Security will not be there for our children and grandchildren.

So this week I met with the bipartisan leadership of Congress and asked them to join me in a great cause, preserving the essential promise of Social Security for future generations. We must begin by recognizing an essential fact, the current Social Security system was created for the needs of a different era. Back in 1935, most women did not work outside the home and the average life expectancy for American workers was less than 60 years. Today, more moms are working and most Americans are blessed with longer lives and longer retirements. The world has changed, and our Social Security system must change with it.

Today, Social Security is not a personal savings plan. There is no account where your money goes to earn interest. Benefits paid to today’s retirees come directly from the taxes paid by today’s workers. And each year there are more retirees taking money out of the system and not enough additional workers to support them.