

(c) at the request of the head of any department or agency who is a member of the Committee, unless the Chairman of the Committee declines the request, promptly review and provide advice on a policy or policy implementation action on ocean-related matters proposed by that department or agency;

(d) provide and obtain information and advice to facilitate:

- (i) development and implementation of common principles and goals for the conduct of governmental activities on ocean-related matters;
- (ii) voluntary regional approaches with respect to ocean-related matters;
- (iii) use of science in establishment of policy on ocean-related matters; and
- (iv) collection, development, dissemination, and exchange of information on ocean-related matters; and

(e) ensure coordinated government development and implementation of the ocean component of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems.

Sec. 5. Cooperation. To the extent permitted by law and applicable presidential guidance, executive departments and agencies shall provide the Committee such information, support, and assistance as the Committee, through the Chairman, may request.

Sec. 6. Coordination. The Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, and, with respect to the interagency task force established by Executive Order 13340 of May 18, 2004, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall ensure appropriate coordination of the activities of the Committee under this order and other policy coordination structures relating to ocean or maritime issues pursuant to Presidential guidance.

Sec. 7. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) authority granted by law to a executive department or agency or the head thereof; or
- (ii) functions assigned by the President to the National Security Council or Homeland Security Council (includ-

ing subordinate bodies) relating to matters affecting foreign affairs, national security, homeland security, or intelligence.

(b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(c) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 17, 2004.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:46 a.m., December 20, 2004]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 21.

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.

December 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, where he had his annual physical examination and visited injured U.S. military personnel.

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

December 12

In the afternoon, at the National Building Museum, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in the taping of the annual “Christmas in Washington” concert for later television broadcast.

In the evening, on the State Floor, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a holiday reception.

December 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael O. Leavitt to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

December 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, at Blair House, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a holiday reception for members of the diplomatic corps.

In the evening, on the State Floor, the President participated in a holiday reception.

The President announced his recess appointment of Ronald Rosenfeld as a Director and designation as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Federal Housing Finance Board.

December 15

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President-elect Traian Basescu of Romania to congratulate him on his December 12 election victory. He then had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President met with Members of Congress and some of their constituents, who presented the President with gifts.

In the afternoon, in the Residence, the President had lunch with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy.

In the evening, in Room 350 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, the President participated in a holiday reception for moderators and panelists from the ongoing White House Conference on the Economy.

Later in the evening, on the State Floor, the President participated in a holiday reception.

December 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a holiday reception for members of the press.

December 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President received an update on the report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. Later, he signed Executive Order 13366—Committee on Ocean Policy.

The President announced his intention to appoint Bobby R. Burchfield as a member of the Antitrust Modernization Commission.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to West Virginia, which was impacted by severe storms, flooding, and landslides on September 16–27.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released December 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan