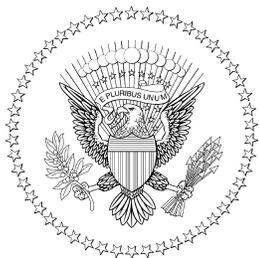


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, May 16, 2005
Volume 41—Number 19
Pages 767–806

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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on May 13, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

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SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS
Washington DC 20402

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Week Ending Friday, May 13, 2005

Remarks on Being Presented the Order of Three Stars, First-Class in Riga, Latvia

May 7, 2005

Madam President, I gratefully accept. I am so honored and so thrilled to be here in your beautiful country.

I was telling the President that it's such a joy to come to a country that loves and values freedom and to be in the presence of a President who speaks so clearly about the need for people to be free and her recognition that a free world will yield peace.

And so Madam President, thank you for your hospitality, and thank you so much for this great honor. Appreciate it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:55 a.m. at Riga Castle. In his remarks, he referred to President Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia in Riga

May 7, 2005

President Vike-Freiberga. We are, of course, very gratified for this sudden interest in Latvia that we're seeing among the journalists. [Laughter] And it's truly a great pleasure to see these wonderful journalists coming to my country and having a look around. And Mr. President, I think that you have something to do with that. [Laughter]

President Bush. Well, thank you for having us, Madam President. It's been a trip I've really been anxious to fulfill. I admire your leadership; I admire your country's courage. I love the fact that you're a free nation and willing to speak out so clearly for freedom. So, thanks for the hospitality.

President Vike-Freiberga. And we're pleased that the cameras are now turned on Latvia while you are here. [Laughter]

President Bush. That's right.

Q. Mr. President—

President Bush. Thank you all. We'll have ample opportunity in an open press conference. And I certainly wouldn't want you to fire your best question here. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 11:10 a.m. at Riga Castle. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's News Conference With President Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia, President Arnold Ruutel of Estonia, and President Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania in Riga

May 7, 2005

President Vike-Freiberga. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for coming to this joint press conference of the three Baltic Presidents and the President of the United States of America. We have just had a meeting together and the most fruitful discussion about our transatlantic relationships and also on the relationship between the two institutions of which Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania have become members since the past year, the relationship between NATO and the European Union.

We are honored and pleased to have this opportunity to have a great leader from a great and powerful country come to our region and show interest in what happens here and to have this open and very frank debate with the three Baltic Presidents. With this, I pass the floor to the President of Lithuania, President Valdas Adamkus.

President Adamkus. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, this was an extremely good meeting and at a very good time. We are welcoming the President of the United States here; as I said, welcome back to the

shores of the Baltic Sea. And it was during the discussions we really touched on vital issues: the relationship between the United States and the European continent as—in a whole. We touched on issues concerning directly the relationship between Baltic States and, of course, on the global issues.

On the part of Lithuania, I have reassured the President that we are staunch allies in a fight against terrorism. We will be standing shoulder-to-shoulder on general global issues concerning the humanity and especially in an event when we are celebrating the end of World War II against—the victory against nazism and, at the same time, standing for the principles which are dear to the rest of the world community, principles of democracy, protection of the human rights, principles of free expression.

And there was total agreement, and I can reassure the President of the United States that we will be standing and defending the rights of the people, even those neighbors who are still—for them, democracy is a dream. And by standing and speaking freely, and I would say, introducing some kind of a dose of oxygen into the resistance and opposition which is striving for those same rights we are enjoying, we will definitely defend and make a better world, looking into the future.

And I am grateful to the President for his presence here in the Baltic States, his inspiration and strength for all of us to continue our commitments. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Vike-Freiberga. President Ruutel.

President Ruutel. Honored colleagues, esteemed press, I'm very happy about today's meeting, and the high-level contacts between our countries have produced very essential and fruitful cooperation. The will and desire with which the United States has supported the endeavors of our people have proven to be very fruitful.

It has already been a year since we have become members of NATO and the European Union. Today's meeting once again reaffirms the deep friendship and the strong relationship between our countries.

We were talking about the means with which we can help democracy, peace, and welfare to other countries, which some coun-

tries do not enjoy even in the 21st century. We reassure you that Estonia is willing to share its experiences with these countries that are going towards these goals.

I want to thank those soldiers from Estonia and the United States who are now fighting in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kosovo. Estonia is very satisfied with the progress made in Ukraine and Georgia and is prepared to continue supporting their endeavors.

We also talked about our relationship with Russia in our discussions. Not only Estonia but in the interests of all countries, it is best to have as a partner a stable and democratic Russia who shares our values and is open for constructive cooperation.

Although we talk primarily of the future, we must realize that the analysis of the past is essential for future relationships between countries. We are celebrating the passing of 60 years from the end of the Second World War and the defeat of nazism. But this victory did not bring freedom and democracy to many peoples, and of course I mean the Baltic States, who lost their independence for a long period of time. And I would especially like to emphasize the United States' role, who never recognized the occupation of the Baltic States.

The efforts of the United States and the Baltics allow us here in Riga today to celebrate the victory of freedom. Our people are working together in the transatlantic sphere and throughout the world. Thank you for your attention.

President Vike-Freiberga. Questions? No. First, we have President Bush, who would like to make a statement. [*Laughter*] I think maybe company from across the ocean should be given a chance to make a statement as well. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. It's kind of dangerous—as you know, I'm a little long-winded. But thank you, Madam President. Thank you for hosting Laura and me and my delegation here to Latvia. The hospitality has been tremendous, and we really thank you.

And it's such an honor to be standing here with the leaders of three close allies and friends, such incredibly important symbols of what freedom can mean to this neighborhood and to countries in the world. And so we—

we're proud to be here with you all, fellow members of NATO.

One objective of my trip is to honor the memories of those who sacrificed 60 years ago in the struggle against nazism and fascism. Tomorrow I'll be in the cemetery in the Netherlands to pay tribute to a generation that was willing to sacrifice for freedom and peace. But I recognize that in the West, the end of the Second World War meant peace, but in the Baltics, it brought occupation and Communist oppression. And the American people will never forget the occupation and Communist oppression of the people of the Baltics. We recognize your painful history.

I want to congratulate our friends and allies who stand here with me on the progress you've made in the past decade. You see, one of the important examples of these three countries is that not only have they become free societies, but they've learned to adapt to the conditions of a free society. It's not easy to go from communism to democracy, and yet, these three nations have shown the world how to do so, and we congratulate you on your good, hard work. Your economies are flourishing; people are allowed to express their opinions. As a result, you've been readily accepted into NATO and now the EU. And the world is better off because of the hard decisions your Governments have made.

I also want to thank you for your hard work in helping democracy spread in the neighborhood. We had a really good discussion today about Belarus. We talked about the Ukraine and Georgia and Moldova. We talked about Russia and the relationship between the Baltics and Russia. These three nations have also recognized that those of us who are free have a responsibility to help others be free outside of our neighborhoods. And I want to thank you for your contributions in Iraq and Afghanistan. To this end, I discussed my request for the U.S. Solidarity Fund—my request to the Congress for the U.S. Solidarity Fund to help these nations who have deployed troops to be able to better afford those deployments.

We talked about bilateral relations as well. As you can imagine, one topic that came up with all three leaders was visa policy. I talked

about the way forward to make sure our visa policy works well with our friends and allies. Part of the issue, of course, is that in the past—we've looked to past history to determine future visa policy, and now we've begun to change looking at the past. In other words, the overstays during occupation must be viewed differently now that the three countries have been freed. And we look forward to working with you on the way forward to reasonable and fair visa policy.

There are thousands of people in my country who have come from your countries. They send best regards. And I say to you, thank you for being such good friends and colleagues, and thank you for your hospitality again, Madam President.

Now, if you'd like to do something—[*inaudible*]. [*Laughter*]

President Vike-Freiberga. Thank you for that statement, Mr. President.

We do have a limited time at our disposal, and I understand that the framework is to be one question to each President. So we'll start with a question to President Adamkus.

President Bush. Or you have four Presidents to me—questions to me, if that's what you would like.

President Vike-Freiberga. There's a question out there.

Belarus

Q. Yes—[*inaudible*]*—*from Lithuanian Television. Actually, I have a question to President Bush.

President Bush. Yes, I thought that might be the case. [*Laughter*]

Q. Regarding what you said recently, that democratic Belarus is also in Russia's interest, can there be a deal between Washington and Moscow whereby Russia would make sure that President Lukashenko is not re-elected next year, and in return, Washington would encourage or would hail the democracy there but turn a blind eye on the continued Russia's influence there? Or are you prepared to go all the way?

President Bush. No, that's an interesting question: Can you make a deal to determine somebody else's fate? I think that's what we're lamenting here today, about what happened to the Baltics—you know, kind of one of those secret deals amongst large powers

that consigns people to a way of government. No, we don't make secret deals. The only deal that I think is a necessary deal for people is the deal of freedom. They should be allowed to express themselves in free and open and fair elections in Belarus.

And that's—and as to whether or not it's in Russia's interest that democracies be on her border, absolutely it's in Russia's interest that she have friends and have neighbors who are democracies. We're used to that in America. We've got democracies on our border. And it's a blessing to have democracies on our border. We don't always agree, by the way, with our friends on our borders, but we are able to settle disputes peacefully because we are democracies.

And so I will continue to speak as clearly as I can to President Putin that it's in his country's interests that there be democracies on his borders. I mean, after all, look at the three nations here. These are peaceful, prosperous nations that are good neighbors with Russia and good neighbors with each other and good neighbors elsewhere as well.

Estonia-U.S. Relations

President Vike-Freiberga. A question from the Estonian side.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—I have a question to Mr. President Bush, but it's in Estonia language.

[*At this point, the reporter continued in Estonian.*]

President Bush. All right, I need the English translation. Start over.

Interpreter. For Estonia, it's very important to have good relations with the United States, and right now the relation has been very good. Which ranking would the relations of Estonia have in American foreign policy today and also in the future? Thank you.

President Bush. Say that again. I'm getting kind of old, and I'm having trouble hearing.

Interpreter. I would like to know what is the ranking today and in the future in American foreign policy, the relations with Estonia? What is the ranking?

President Bush. Now that the President's standing here, very important. No—[*laughter*]—look, I don't think a President can rank, but a President can praise, and I praise Esto-

nia for being an open-market economy that is a free society. And therefore, if you're a free society that embraces market economies, you'll rank very high with me and the United States.

The example of the Baltics is so vital for countries who are emerging from tyrannies to—and oppressive governments to free societies. It's really important. And that's why the active participation of the three leaders here in helping NGOs and civil societies develop in new democracies is vital, because who has got more credibility with leaders in new democracies than the three leaders here, who have had the experience of helping a democracy emerge?

And so you rank very high, as far as I'm concerned, as participants in the freedom movement, the ability to inspire by example and lend expertise because of the experience you've had.

President Vike-Freiberga. Thank you very much. A question from the Latvian side.

Democracy in Eastern Europe

Q. My question goes to Mr. Bush.

[*The reporter continued in Latvian, and his question was translated as follows.*]

Interpreter. Today, during negotiations, you talked about the relationship with Russia. Did you talk about the possibility of asking Mr. Putin to recognize occupation of the Baltic States in Moscow? You have, of late, so strongly supported the attempts of the Baltic States to explain their history. Do you expect anything to come of it? Thank you.

President Bush. My position on that issue is very clear and has been clear about the occupation. And the position of my country has been clear about the occupation ever since the occupation took place. We proudly flew the flags of independent nations above your Embassies in Washington, DC, and the statement was clear: We never recognized nor accepted the occupation that did take place.

I think this moment in history will be—give everybody a chance to recognize what took place in the past and move on. And look, I fully understand there's a lot of anger and frustration involved in the three Baltic countries about the occupation. I expressed that

to President Putin, but he didn't need me to tell him. He fully understands there's a lot of frustrations and anger about what took place.

My hope is that we're now able to move beyond that phase of history into a phase that is embracing democracy and free societies. These are extraordinary times that we're living in, and the three Baltic countries are capable of helping Russia and other countries in this part of the world see the benefits of what it means to live in a free society.

And so we have a great opportunity to move beyond the past. Again, I repeat to you, I recognize the painful history, and my hope is that we're able to learn the lessons from that painful history, that tyranny is evil and people deserve to live in a free society.

As I'm going to say in my speech a little later on here, I'm going to say, "Never again should we allow Jews and Gypsies to be exterminated and the world not pay close attention to it. Never again should we let—shall we tolerate tyranny and subjugating people to incredible death. We have an obligation as free societies never to forget that history and to do something about the possibility of that arising again."

And so, I am inspired by the example of the Baltic nations. I'm inspired by your courage of the past and your determination to move forward in a free society.

Jennifer [Jennifer Loven, Associated Press].

Q. Russia has expressed some displeasure with your travel itinerary, stopping here—

President Bush. With what, now?

Q. Russia has expressed some displeasure with your travel itinerary on this trip, stopping here in Latvia and going to Georgia—

President Bush. Yes.

Q. There's also some criticism that the U.S. is behind the revolutionary change in Georgia, Ukraine, and Kyrgyzstan. What do you say to talk that the U.S. is inappropriately meddling in the neighborhood?

President Bush. Oh, no, I thank you for that. First of all, this is not my first trip to the Baltics, and hopefully, it will not be my last trip to the Baltics. We've got good friends here. And as I travel around the world, I like to touch base with our friends.

Revolution—I think you said the word "revolution"—freedom is universal. Freedom is etched in everybody's soul. And the idea of countries helping others become free, I would hope that would be viewed as not revolutionary but rational foreign policy, as decent foreign policy, as humane foreign policy.

I repeat to you that I think countries ought to feel comfortable with having democracies on their borders. After all, democracies are peaceful countries. Democracies don't fight each other, and democracies are good neighbors. You know, it's amazing how far this continent has come because of the freedom movement. Sixty years ago—it's really not all that long ago in the march of history, is it? It's pretty long if you're 30 years old, like you are, but 60 is not all that long for an old guy like President Adamkus. [Laughter] But now we're standing here talking about other parts of the world taking for granted that Europe is whole, free, and at peace. It shows how much life has changed as a result of people embracing an ideology that encourages peace.

And we now have the same opportunity, this generation has the same opportunity to leave behind lasting peace for the next generation by working on the spread of freedom and democracy. And the United States has got great partners in doing what I think is our duty to spread democracy and freedom, with the three nations represented here.

And so my trip here, Jennifer, is to say as clearly as I can to the people of these three great countries, "Thank you for your sacrifices. Thank you for your courage, and thank you for your willingness to elect people who are willing to spread freedom and peace around the world."

May God bless your countries, and may God continue to bless mine. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 2:40 p.m. at the Riga Latvian Society House. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia. A reporter referred to President Aleksandr Lukashenko of Belarus. President Ruutel spoke in Estonian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

The President's Radio Address

May 7, 2005

Good morning. On Sunday and Monday, I will attend ceremonies in the Netherlands and Russia to commemorate the 60th anniversary of V-E Day.

These events will celebrate a great triumph of good over evil. We will never forget the acts of courage that made possible the liberation of a continent or the heroes who fought in the cause of freedom. And we honor the brave Americans and Allied troops who humbled tyrants, defended the innocent, and liberated the oppressed. By their courage and sacrifice, they showed the world that there is no power like the power of freedom and no soldier as strong as a soldier who fights for that freedom.

The defeat of Nazi Germany brought an end to the armed conflict in Europe. Unfortunately, for millions of people on that continent, tyranny remained in a different uniform. In Latvia, where I'm also visiting on this trip, free people were taken captive by another totalitarian empire. Germany was split into free and unfree halves. And countries like Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary were cut off from liberty by an Iron Curtain. The people of these countries survived the cold war through great courage, and then they took history into their own hands and reclaimed their freedom.

The result is, the continent of Europe, wounded by decades of conflict and oppression, is today whole, free, and at peace for the first time in its history. The wave of democracy that swept Central and Eastern Europe in 1989 has now swept to nations like Georgia and Ukraine. And the victory for freedom represented by V-E Day has become a reality for millions of people.

On my trip, I will visit Freedom Square in Tbilisi, Georgia, to applaud the people there for the Rose Revolution that advanced democracy in their land. Georgia has survived oppression, fought for liberty, and taken its place among free nations. America is proud to call Georgia our partner in freedom, and we will help the people of that country enhance prosperity, improve security, and spread liberty at home and abroad.

The new democracies of Europe still have much work to do. Free elections are a significant achievement, yet they are only part of a fully functioning democracy. Democratic governments must be committed to providing full and equal rights for minorities, resolving conflicts peacefully, encouraging a vibrant political opposition, and ensuring the rule of law. As the nations of Central and Eastern Europe work to build up the institutions necessary for a free society, America will stand by their side.

Today, these nations are standing with us as we defend liberty abroad. Freedom has no better friends than those with a fresh memory of tyranny. That is why countries like Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, and Georgia have been partners in our coalition in Iraq and Afghanistan. We're grateful for their contributions and especially for the example they are setting for other aspiring democracies.

America and these new democracies are bound together by history, by the universal rights we have defended together, and by our deepest convictions. All of us understand that the advance of freedom is the concentrated work of generations, from the brave Americans who fought against Nazi Germany 60 years ago to those who struggle for liberty today. And by working together, we will ensure that the promise of liberty and democracy won on V-E Day will one day reach every person and every nation in the 21st century.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 2:55 p.m. e.d.t. on May 5 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. e.d.t. on May 7. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 6 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. Due to the 7-hour time difference, the radio address was broadcast after the President's news conference and before his remarks in Riga. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks in Riga

May 7, 2005

Sveiki Draugi. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for the warm welcome. Madam

President, Laura and I thank you for your kind words of introduction. We thank you for your principled leadership. I thank you for your friendship, and we thank you for the hospitality that you and Dr. Freibergs have shown us.

I want to thank the people of the Republic of Latvia for being such gracious hosts for my visit here. And I want to also thank the Prime Minister for joining us, and members of the Government. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

Laura and I are so pleased to make this second journey to the Baltic States and our first visit to the great land of Latvia. We're honored as well to be in the company of President Ruutel of Estonia and President Adamkus of Lithuania. Thank you both for coming. These are good friends to Latvia and good friends to America.

The Baltic countries have seen one of the most dramatic transformations in modern history, from captive nations to NATO Allies and EU members in little more than a decade. The Latvian, Estonian, and Lithuanian people showed that the love of liberty is stronger than the will of an empire. And today, you're standing for liberty beyond your borders, so that others do not suffer the injustices you have known. The American people admire your moral courage in the cause of freedom.

This week, nations on both sides of the Atlantic observe the 60th anniversary of Hitler's defeat. The evil that seized power in Germany brought war to all of Europe and waged war against morality, itself. What began as a movement of thugs became a Government without conscience and then an empire of bottomless cruelty. The Third Reich exalted the strong over the weak, overran and humiliated peaceful countries, undertook a mad quest for racial purity, coldly planned and carried out the murder of millions, and defined evil for the ages. Brave men and women of many countries faced that evil and fought through dark and desperate years for their families and their homelands. In the end, a dictator who worshiped power was confined to four walls of a bunker, and the fall of his squalid tyranny is a day to remember and to celebrate.

Causes can be judged by the monuments they leave behind. The Nazi terror is remembered today in places like Auschwitz, Dachau, Rumbula Forest, where we still hear the cries of the innocent and pledge to God and history: Never again. The Alliance that won the war is remembered today in carefully tended cemeteries in Normandy, Margraten, St. Petersburg, and other places across Europe where we recall brief lives of great honor, and we offer this pledge: We will always be grateful.

The Baltic States had no role in starting World War II. The battle came here because of a secret pact between dictators. And when the war came, many in this region showed their courage. After a puppet government ordered the Latvian fleet to return to port, sailors on eight freighters chose to remain at sea under the flag of free Latvia, assisting the United States Merchant Marine in carrying supplies across the Atlantic. A newspaper in the State of South Carolina described the Latvian crew this way: "They all have beards and dressed so differently . . . They are . . . exhausted, but full of fighting spirit."

By the end of the war, six of the Latvian ships had been sunk and more than half the sailors had been lost. Nearly all of the survivors settled in America and became citizens we were proud to call our own. One American town renamed a street Ciltvaira to honor a sunken ship that sailed under a free Latvian flag. My country has always been thankful for Latvia's friendship, and Latvia will always have the friendship of America.

As we mark a victory of 6 days ago—six decades ago, we are mindful of a paradox. For much of Germany, defeat led to freedom. For much of Eastern and Central Europe, victory brought the iron rule of another empire. V-E Day marked the end of fascism, but it did not end oppression. The agreement at Yalta followed in the unjust tradition of Munich and the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. Once again, when powerful governments negotiated, the freedom of small nations was somehow expendable. Yet this attempt to sacrifice freedom for the sake of stability left

a continent divided and unstable. The captivity of millions in Central and Eastern Europe will be remembered as one of the greatest wrongs of history.

The end of World War II raised unavoidable questions for my country: Had we fought and sacrificed only to achieve the permanent division of Europe into armed camps? Or did the cause of freedom and the rights of nations require more of us?

Eventually, America and our strong allies made a decision: We would not be content with the liberation of half of Europe, and we would not forget our friends behind an Iron Curtain. We defended the freedom of Greece and Turkey and airlifted supplies to Berlin and broadcast the message of liberty by radio. We spoke up for dissenters and challenged an empire to tear down a hated wall.

Eventually, communism began to collapse under external pressure and under the weight of its own contradictions. And we set the vision of a Europe whole, free, and at peace, so dictators could no longer rise up and feed ancient grievances, and conflict would not be repeated again and again.

In these decades of struggle and purpose, the Baltic peoples kept a long vigil of suffering and hope. Though you lived in isolation, you were not alone. The United States refused to recognize your occupation by an empire. The flags of free Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania, illegal at home, flew proudly over diplomatic missions in the United States. And when you joined hands in protest and the empire fell away, the legacy of Yalta was finally buried, once and for all. The security and freedom of the Baltic nations is now more than a noble aspiration. It is the binding pledge of the alliance we share. The defense of your freedom—in defense of your freedom, you will never stand alone.

From the vantage point of this new century, we recognize the end of the cold war as part of an even broader movement in our world. From Germany and Japan after World War II to Latin America to Asia and Central and Eastern Europe and now to the broader Middle East, the advance of freedom is the great story of our age. And in this history, there are important lessons.

We have learned that free nations grow stronger with time, because they rise on the creativity and enterprise of their people. We have learned that governments accountable to citizens are peaceful, while dictatorships stir resentments and hatred to cover their own failings. We have learned that the skeptics and pessimists are often wrong, because men and women in every culture, when given the chance, will choose liberty. We have learned that even after a long wait in the darkness of tyranny, freedom can arrive suddenly, like the break of day. And we have learned that the demand for self-government is often driven and sustained by patriotism, by the traditions and heroes and language of a native land.

Yet we've also learned that sovereignty and majority rule are only the beginnings of freedom. The promise of democracy starts with national pride and independence and elections, but it does not end there. The promise of democracy is fulfilled by minority rights and equal justice under the rule of law and an inclusive society in which every person belongs. A country that divides into factions and dwells on old grievances cannot move forward and risks sliding back into tyranny. A country that unites all its people behind common ideals will multiply in strength and confidence. The successful democracies of the 21st century will not be defined by blood and soil. Successful democracies will be defined by a broader ideal of citizenship, based on shared principles, shared responsibilities, and respect for all.

For my own country, the process of becoming a mature, multiethnic democracy was lengthy and violent. Our journey from national independence to equal injustice [justice]* included the enslavement of millions and a 4-year civil war. Even after slavery ended, a century passed before an oppressed minority was guaranteed equal rights. Americans found that racial division almost destroyed us, and the false doctrine of "separate but equal" was no basis for a strong and unified country. The only way we found to rise

* White House correction.

above the injustices of our history was to reject segregation, to move beyond mere tolerance, and to affirm the brotherhood of everyone in our land.

Latvia is facing the challenges that come with ethnic diversity, and it's addressing these challenges in a uniformly peaceful way. Whatever the historical causes, yours is now a multiethnic society, as I have seen on my visit. No wrongs of the past should ever be allowed to divide you or to slow your remarkable progress. While keeping your Latvian identity and language, you have a responsibility to reach out to all who share the future of Latvia. A welcoming and tolerant spirit will assure the unity and strength of your country. Minorities here have a responsibility as well, to be citizens who seek the good of the country in which they live. As inclusive, peaceful societies, all of the Baltic nations can be models to every nation that follows the path of freedom and democracy.

In recent months, the Baltic Governments gave assistance during the election in Ukraine, and the people of that country chose a wise and visionary leader. As President Yushchenko works to strengthen the rule of law and open Ukraine's economy, the United States will help that nation join the institutions that bind our democracies.

Later on this trip, I'll travel to Georgia, another country that is taking a democratic path and deserves support on its journey. My country will stand by Georgian leaders who respect minority rights and work to peacefully unify their country and grow closer to the free nations in Europe.

We're also committed to democratic progress in Moldova, where leaders have pledged to expand freedom of the press, to protect minority rights, and to make Government institutions more accountable.

All of us are committed to the advance of freedom in Belarus. The people of that country live under Europe's last dictatorship, and they deserve better. The Governments of Latvia and Lithuania have worked to build support for democracy in Belarus and to deliver truthful information by radio and newspapers. Together we have set a firm and confident standard: Repression has no place on this continent. The people of Minsk deserve

the same freedom you have in Tallinn and Vilnius and Riga.

All the nations that border Russia will benefit from the spread of democratic values, and so will Russia, itself. Stable, prosperous democracies are good neighbors, trading in freedom and posing no threat to anyone. The United States has free and peaceful nations to the north and south of us. We do not consider ourselves to be encircled; we consider ourselves to be blessed. No good purpose is served by stirring up fears and exploiting old rivalries in this region. The interests of Russia and all nations are served by the growth of freedom that leads to prosperity and peace.

Inside Russia, leaders have made great progress over the last 15 years. President Putin recently stated that Russia's future lies within Europe, and America agrees. He also stated that Russia's democratic future will not be determined by outsiders, and America agrees as well. That nation will follow its own course according to its own history. Yet all free and successful countries have some common characteristics: Freedom of worship, freedom of the press, economic liberty, the rule of law, and the limitation of power through checks and balances. In the long run, it is the strength of Russian democracy that will determine the greatness of Russia. And I believe the Russian people value their freedom and will settle for nothing less.

For all the problems that remain, it is a miracle of history that this young century finds us speaking about the consolidation of freedom throughout Europe. And the stunning democratic gains of the last several decades are only the beginning. Freedom is not tired. The ideal of human dignity is not weary. And the next stage of the world democratic movement is already unfolding in the broader Middle East.

We seek democracy in that region for the same reasons we spent decades working for democracy in Europe, because freedom is the only reliable path to peace. If the Middle East continues to simmer in anger and resentment and hopelessness, caught in a cycle of repression and radicalism, it will produce terrorism of even greater audacity and destructive power. But if the peoples of that region gain the right of self-government and find hopes to replace their hatreds, then the

security of all free nations will be strengthened.

We will not repeat the mistakes of other generations, appeasing or excusing tyranny and sacrificing freedom in the vain pursuit of stability. We have learned our lesson: No one's liberty is expendable. In the long run, our security and true stability depend on the freedom of others. And so, with confidence and resolve, we will stand for freedom across the broader Middle East.

In this great objective, we need a realism that understands the difficulties. But we must turn away from a pessimism that abandons the goal and consigns millions to endless tyranny. And we have reason for optimism. When the people of Afghanistan were finally given the vote, they chose humane rulers and a future of freedom. When the people of the Palestinian Territories went to the polls, they chose a leader committed to negotiation instead of violence. When Iraqi voters turned out by the millions, they repudiated the killers who hate and attack their liberty. There's much work ahead, but the direction of events is clear in the broader Middle East: Freedom is on the march.

Recent elections have brought a tremendous catalyst for change, and more are on the way. Elections are set to start at the end of this month in Lebanon, and those elections must go forward with no outside interference. The people of Lebanon now have the opportunity to bridge old divides and build an independent government. Egypt will hold a Presidential election this fall. That election should proceed with international monitors and with rules that allow for a real campaign.

As in other parts of the world, the work of democracy is larger than holding a fair election. It requires building the structures that sustain freedom. Selective liberalization—the easing of oppressive laws—is progress, but it is not enough. Successful democracies that effectively protect individual rights require viable political parties, an independent judiciary, a diverse media, and limits on executive power. There is no modernization without democracy. Ultimately, human rights and human development depend on human liberty.

As in other parts of the world, successful democracies in the broader Middle East must also bridge old racial and religious divides, and democracy is the only force capable of doing so. In Iraq, the new Cabinet includes members of all of Iraq's leading ethnic and religious groups who, despite their differences, share a commitment to democracy, freedom, and the rule of law. The new President of Iraq is a member of a minority group that was attacked with poison gas by the former regime. Democracy is fostering internal peace by protecting individual rights while giving every minority a role in the nation's future. Iraq's free Government is showing the way for others and is winning the respect of a watching world.

In the Middle East, we are seeing the rule of law—the rule of fear give way to the hope of change. And brave reformers in that region deserve more than our praise. The established democracies have a duty to help emerging democracies of the broader Middle East. They need our help, because freedom has deadly enemies in that region, men who celebrate murder, incite suicide, and thirst for absolute power. By aiding democratic transitions, we will isolate the forces of hatred and terror and defeat them before violence spreads.

The Baltic States are members of a global coalition, and each is making essential contributions every day. Lithuania is preparing to deploy a reconstruction team to western Afghanistan and has troops in Iraq conducting patrols and aiding in reconstruction. Estonians are serving in Afghanistan. They're detecting and removing explosives, and Estonian troops serve side by side with Americans in Baghdad. Latvia has a team in Kabul, Afghanistan, clearing mines and soldiers in Iraq providing convoy security and patrols.

Your commitment to freedom has brought sacrifice. We remember Lieutenant Olafs Baumanis, who was killed in Iraq. We ask for God's blessings for his family, and we're honored that his wife, Vita, is here with us today.

It's no surprise that Afghanistan and Iraq find strong allies in the Baltic nations. Because you've recently known tyranny, you are offended by the oppression of others. The men and women under my command are

proud to serve with you. Today I'm honored to deliver the thanks of the American people.

Sixty years ago, on the 7th of May, the world reacted with joy and relief at the defeat of fascism in Europe. The next day, General Dwight D. Eisenhower announced that "history's mightiest machine of conquest has been utterly destroyed." Yet the great democracies soon found that a new mission had come to us, not merely to defeat a single dictator but to defeat the idea of dictatorship on this continent. Through the decades of that struggle, some endured the rule of tyrants; all lived in the frightening shadow of war. Yet because we lifted our sights and held firm to our principles, freedom prevailed.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, the freedom of Europe, won by courage, must be secured by effort and good will. In our time, as well, we must raise our sights. In the distance we can see another great goal, not merely the absence of tyranny on this continent but the end of tyranny in our world. Once again, we're asked to hold firm to our principles and to value the liberty of others. And once again, if we do our part, freedom will prevail.

Thank you, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:09 p.m. at the Small Guild Hall. In his remarks, he referred to President Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia and her husband, Imants Freibergs; Prime Minister Aigars Kalvitis of Latvia; President Arnold Ruutel of Estonia; President Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania; President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority; and President Jalal Talabani of the Iraqi Transitional Government.

**Remarks With Prime Minister
Jan Peter Balkenende at a
Youth Roundtable in Valkenburg,
the Netherlands**

May 8, 2005

Prime Minister Balkenende. Well, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. It's very good that you're here. But in the first place, I would like to say to the President of the United States, be welcome in the Netherlands. We really enjoy that you're here. It's an important day that you're in the Nether-

lands today, because on the 6th of May—that's what we call our Liberation Day—and we always think about our freedom. And at your last event, you said a lot about importance of freedom and democracy, and you realize what Americans meant for the European countries after the Second World War. During the Second World War, your people were here, but after, you helped us.

And it's very important that you're here today and that you'll have the meeting in Margraten. It's so important to be there and also for us to show our respect and to say thanks for what all the Americans have done for the Netherlands.

We already had a breakfast meeting. We talked about some very important issues. We talked about the Middle East peace process. We talked about the struggle against terrorism because we are—we have the same position. It's a threat to world society. We have to work together. We talked about the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan. We talked about China and some other issues. We talked about political situation in the Netherlands and the United States. It was a very fruitful and interesting meeting.

Mr. President, it's great that you're in the Netherlands. We appreciate very much that you're here today and that we have the meeting in Margraten. But also today we have a meeting with students, and we thank you for being here and be willing to have a discussion with these young people. It's very important. It's always challenging and encouraging if you have the meeting with the students.

And now, Mr. President, I give you the floor.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. It's an honor to be in the Netherlands. Laura and I have been really looking forward to coming to your beautiful country. I want to thank you for the meeting we just had. It was a fruitful discussion. I appreciate your leadership, appreciate your friendship.

You know, I will be honoring a generation that made enormous sacrifices so that my generation could grow up in a free world. I'm really looking forward to going to the cemetery and paying homage to those who fought for freedom. It will be a solemn occasion but an important moment to reflect upon. And I look forward to talking to the

next generation about the responsibilities that you'll have to make sure the communities in which you grow up are hopeful communities and this country in—which you love is a free country.

I want to thank you all for coming. I'm honored that you took time out of your life to come and have a visit with me. There's nothing like a young generation of Americans to keep an old guy—I mean, young generation of citizens to keep an old guy like me feeling young.

But Mr. Prime Minister, again, thanks for your hospitality. I want to thank Her Majesty as well for joining Laura and me today. It's awfully, awfully kind of her to do so. Thank you.

Prime Minister Balkenende. Thank you, Mr. President. Now the time is for the students. Looking to the relationship between the United States and the Netherlands, it's good to say that many things are uniting us, but also sometimes you have some division. That's also possible, and that's also good for the debate. And maybe it's good now to give the floor to you, and maybe it's good to start with Miss Madeline Hoffmeister.

Q. Thank you very much. Mr. President, I have a question relating of—concerning the terrorism. And you made many laws after 9/11, many laws and many measures. And I'm wondering, will there be a time when you drop those laws and when you decrease the measures?

President Bush. No, I appreciate that question. Look, a free society such as ours, obviously, must balance the Government's most important duty, which is to protect the American people from harm, with the civil liberties of our citizens. And every law we passed that was aimed to protect us in this new era of threats from abroad and the willingness for people to kill without mercy has been scrutinized and, of course, balanced by our Constitution. But the question really is, can a transparent society openly deal with a debate about civil liberty versus the tension of protecting ourselves? And I believe we have done so in good balance in America, but we're constantly reevaluating law.

The PATRIOT Act was passed. It was a very important measure to enable our law enforcement officials to share information,

which they weren't able to do at times, to be able to protect ourselves. And yet, Congress is now evaluating certain aspects of that law. That's what happens in democracies and stands in stark contrast, by the way, to societies that are closed and nontransparent, where people don't get to determine the course of action.

And so to answer your question, it depends upon what Congress says and whether or not I agree with it, because I have the right to veto any law as well. Of course, they have the right to override my veto. But I feel comfortable in telling you that we've been able to successfully balance the civil liberties of our citizens with the necessary—the necessity to protect ourselves.

Listen, one of the interesting things about September the 11th that I want you to understand as we have this discussion is that I fully understand that for some, September the 11th was an important moment and a terrible moment—and we appreciate the condolences of the people of the Netherlands—but for us, it was a change of attitude. I mean, it changed a lot about how I looked at the world, and a lot of Americans, it changed how they looked at the world. I mean, it was more than just an attack. It was a whole mindset. And that's why your question is really relevant—did that mindset, did that change of attitude cause us to then begin to take away certain civil liberties? And I would argue, it did not.

Prime Minister Balkenende. You're convinced by the President? [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Don't put her on the spot. [*Laughter*] That's a little rough question, Mr. Prime Minister.

Q. Thank you. I've a question about the reason you are here. We are honoring the soldiers who died in the Second World War. In the years later, America was involved in a lot of conflicts, in a lot of wars. What's the benefit when you can ask to your people—you are, in the first place, President of America, you're responsible for your own people—

President Bush. Right—

Q. —what can you ask from your people, not only the dead and the wounded but also the economic consequences? Last week

I received a brochure about raise funding for U.S. aid for poor people. So what—

President Bush. You received—I beg your pardon—received a brochure for?

Q. —raise funding for poor people—

President Bush. Oh, to raise funding, yes.

Q. —the economic consequences of all this involvement in conflicts, what's the balance between the responsibility to the world and the responsibility to your own people?

President Bush. I think we have a responsibility to both. And at home, of course, economic vitality is really important and to make sure the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well. Seventy percent of new jobs in America are created by small-business owners, which is—it speaks to our—the environment of encouraging entrepreneurship, which means less lawsuits and good tax policy and less regulations. A vibrant, growing economy is one which we collect more revenues, and therefore, we're more capable of helping and doing our duty to those who can't help themselves.

And that's the interesting balance of a free society, by the way, is the extent to which the welfare state is prevalent. And I believe we—Government has a role to help those who cannot help themselves and then encourage people who can help themselves to realize dreams through good education and good policy.

Abroad, we have a responsibility as well. First, let me just tell you, the hardest decision a President makes is war. Nobody wants to be at war—nobody. Now the question is, how do we spread peace? And one way you spread peace is spread democracy. That's the lesson of World War II. If that thought troubles you, we can discuss this a little more. But the lesson of World War II, at least, was that by spreading democracy throughout Europe, that Europe at last became whole, peace—free, whole, and at peace. See, that's the lesson that people at least ought to take away from the experience of the last 60 years. I believe it applies to the next 60 as well.

But we have other duties as well. HIV/AIDS, for example, in the continent of Africa is a pandemic that has got to be appalling to the free world. And my Government is spending \$15 billion as part of a global effort to help defeat HIV/AIDS. We feed more of

the hungry than any nation, and it's an obligation we readily accept. But as well, as we work to help those who hurt, we also have got to put practical policies in place.

And that's why I'm such a believer in free trade, because trade ultimately—the benefits of trade, the benefits of economy, the benefits of growing businesses far exceed the capacity of governments to hand out aid to people. And so, in Africa, for example, we've got a policy of feeding the hungry and providing money for help, but we've also got a free trade policy with Africa, which is helping these economies grow, which provides opportunity and hope for people that are living in those countries. So we have a balanced obligation at home and abroad.

Thank you, sir.

Prime Minister Balkenende. We'll give the press one minute to do other things, and then we can go on with our discussion.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 9:15 a.m. at the Selys de Fanson Zaal-Schatkaner Building at the Chateau St. Gerlach. In his remarks, he referred to Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands.

Remarks at the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial in Margraten, the Netherlands

May 8, 2005

Your Majesty; Mr. Prime Minister; Mr. Mayor; distinguished officials of the Netherlands; veterans and their families, including the 104th Infantry Division, known as the Timberwolves, the unit of Harold B. Welch, my father-in-law, the father of First Lady Laura Bush; Congressman Hoekstra; General Jones; General Franks; Superintendent Schwind; fellow Americans and friends:

On this peaceful May morning, we commemorate a great victory for liberty, and the thousands of white marble crosses and Stars of David underscore the terrible price we paid for that victory.

For the Americans who rest here, Dutch soil provides a fitting home. It was from a Dutch port that many of our pilgrim fathers first sailed for America. It was a Dutch fort that gave the American flag its first gun salute. It was the Dutch who became one of

the first foreign nations to recognize the independence of the new United States of America. And when American soldiers returned to this continent to fight for freedom, they were led by a President who owed his family name to this great land—Roosevelt.

Some of those brave troops are here with us today, and we welcome you and we honor you. And they're here with their Dutch comrades. They share a love of liberty. In the war that came to an end 60 years ago this day, all those who fought for freedom made sacrifice, and many gave their lives.

In the Voice of America's radio broadcast from London on the first V-E Day, the announcer asked Europe to "think of these Americans as your dead too." In Dutch hearts, they already were. The Americans saw the Dutch spirit in action within weeks of liberation, when this new cemetery marked its first Memorial Day. It was still a time of hardship and want and deprivation, yet Dutch citizens from 60 local villages collected 20 truckloads of flowers so that every American grave here would be decorated when the sun came up on Memorial Day.

And in the six decades since, the Dutch have continued this wonderful tradition by adopting and attending to the graves of the people they never met. Your kindness has brought comfort to thousands of American families separated from their loved ones here by an ocean. And on behalf of a grateful America, I thank you for treating our men and women as your sons and daughters.

Today we join them at this hallowed ground. We come first to remember the young Americans who did not live to comb gray hair. Each man or woman buried here is more than a headstone and a serial number. Each person here has a name that is precious to some family. And in faded black and white photographs, each one here looks back at us in the full glow of youth: the fresh-faced American in uniform; the newly minted officer with a smiling sweetheart on his or her arm; or the young dad proudly holding a baby son or daughter on his knee. Every one of these Americans added his own unique contribution to the story of freedom.

In this cemetery lies Willy F. James, Jr., one of seven African American soldiers from the Second World War to win the Medal of

Honor. On this memorial wall is inscribed the name Raymond Kelly, a young man studying to be a priest in Detroit who could have sat out the war but gave up his exemption to serve his country. And in this ground rests Maurice Rose, the brilliant division commander who led the first Allied troops into Germany. Here they rest in honored glory with thousands of their comrades in arms, and here we come to affirm the great debt we owe them.

We come to this ground to recall the evil these Americans fought against. For Holland, war began with the bombing of Rotterdam. The destruction of Rotterdam would be a signpost to the terror and inhumanity that the Nazi lie would impose on this continent. Like so much of Europe, over the next years of occupation, Holland would come to know curfews and oppression and armed bands with yellow stars and deportation for its Jewish citizens.

The winter just before liberation was the worst. When Dutch railway workers went on strike to make it harder for the German army to reinforce their troops, the Nazis responded with a blockade that made fuel and food even more scarce. Amsterdam would wait for liberation longer than almost any other city in Europe. Before it came, more than 20,000 Dutch men and women and children would perish in what was called the "hongerwinter," and many others were reduced to eating tulip bulbs to stay alive.

For some, V-E Day brought hope for normalcy after almost 5 long years of occupation. For many others, including a Jewish girl named Anne Frank hiding in an attic, V-E Day would come too late, 2 months after the institutionalized evil of Bergen-Belsen took her young life. And for still others, V-E Day would bring a lasting sense of solidarity with those who fought. One resistance leader put it well: "We are one because, together, we believed in something."

And so we come to this ground to remember the cause for which these soldiers fought and triumphed. At the outset of the war, there were those who believed that democracy was too soft to survive, especially against a Nazi Germany that boasted the most professional, well-equipped, and highly trained military forces in the world. Yet, this military

would be brought down by a coalition of armies from our democratic Allies and freedom fighters from occupied lands and underground resistance leaders. They fought side by side with American GIs who only months before had been farmers and bank clerks and factory hands. And the world's tyrants learned a lesson: There is no power like the power of freedom and no soldier as strong as a soldier who fights for that freedom.

Private Robert Lee Rutledge was one of those soldiers. He gave his life fighting against a brutal attack by two Nazi divisions. Weeks before he died, he wrote a letter to his daughter on her fifth birthday. The letter was addressed to little Ginger Rutledge in Lumpkin, Georgia. Private Rutledge told his daughter, "You're too young to understand it now, but you will later. It's all for your benefit. You came into a free world, and I want you to finish in one."

Sixty years later, Ginger is still free, and she does understand. And so do her three children and eight grandchildren. Private Rutledge did his job well, and the men who fought and bled and died here with him accomplished what they came for. The free America that Ginger grew up in was saved by their courage. The free Europe where many of them lie buried was built on their sacrifice. And the free and peaceful world that we hope to leave to our own children is inspired by their example.

On this day, we celebrate the victory they won, and we recommit ourselves to the great truth that they defended, that freedom is the birthright of all mankind. Because of their sacrifice and the help of brave Allies, that truth prevailed at the close of the 20th century.

As the 21st century unfolds before us, Americans and Europeans are continuing to work together and are bringing freedom and hope to places where it has long been denied, in Afghanistan, in Iraq, in Lebanon, and across the broader Middle East. Freedom is a permanent hope of mankind, and when that hope is made real for all people, it will be because of the sacrifices of a new generation of men and women as selfless and dedicated to liberty as those we honor today.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:09 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Queen Beatrix and Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende of the Netherlands; Mayor H.J.G. (Harrie) van Veers of Margraten, the Netherlands; Gen. James L. Jones, USMC, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, Europe; Gen. Frederick M. Franks, Jr., USA, (Ret.), Chairman, American Battle Monuments Commission; and Frank Schwind, Superintendent, Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial.

Statement on the Death of Lloyd Cutler

May 8, 2005

Laura and I are saddened by the passing of Lloyd Cutler. Lloyd Cutler served our Nation with dedication and distinction throughout his extraordinary career, including as Counsel and adviser to President Carter and President Clinton, and most recently on the Commission on weapons of mass destruction. He was a devoted public servant who had a profound influence on the legal profession. Laura and I extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Vladimir Putin of Russia in Moscow, Russia

May 8, 2005

President Putin. Mr. President, allow me to cordially welcome you to Moscow. I'd like to thank you for having decided to visit Moscow to participate in the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, giving confirmation by that fact to the immense role played by the United States, Soviet Union, and Russian Federation in the victory over nazism.

Tomorrow we'll be pleased to receive our guests of ours, but the visit by the President of the United States is of special importance. On top of that, even today, we've enjoyed a very large volume of cooperation between our countries. And I hope that this cooperation will be helpful to us in addressing our domestic problems in both countries.

And I'm aware of the fact that you currently are confronted with immense tasks

with respect to social sphere. [*Laughter*] So if we are very positive in addressing those energy-related and security-related questions, that will be very helpful in addressing the problems which are confronted by people in the street in our countries. Besides, I recently visited the Middle East. Therefore, I'd like in this conversation with you today to compare the notes regarding the current state of the Middle East.

President Bush. Vladimir, thank you for having me. It's such an honor to be here. This locale where we are is a place where the President welcomed me and Laura 2 years ago, and it's great to be back here. I am looking forward to the celebration tomorrow. It is a moment where the world will recognize the great bravery and sacrifice the Russian people made in the defeat of nazism. The people of Russia suffered incredible hardship, and yet the Russian spirit never died out.

I'm equally grateful that you would take—invite me and Laura for dinner tonight. And having had one of your meals before, I'm looking forward to this one a lot.

President Putin. Recently I took a look at the coverage of your meeting with the press corps. Well, I could see how Laura attacked you sometimes, so at today's dinner we will have a chance to protect you. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. She was quite the comedian. But I'm looking forward to—Russia is a great nation, and I'm looking forward to working on—together on big problems. And I want to thank you for your work on Iran and the Middle East, and there's a lot we can do together. And so thank you for having us.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 7:45 p.m. at Novo Ogarevo, the Putins' residence in Moscow. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement Calling for Prompt Senate Consideration of Judicial Nominees May 9, 2005

Four years ago today, I nominated Justice Priscilla Owen and Judge Terry Boyle to serve on the Federal courts of appeals. Four

years later, neither has received an up-or-down vote in the Senate. Both have been rated well-qualified by the American Bar Association, the highest ABA rating a judicial nominee can receive. Both have been waiting to fill vacancies that have been designated judicial emergencies by the Judicial Conference of the United States. Much more than enough time has passed for the Senate to consider these nominations. The Senate should give these extraordinarily qualified nominees the up-or-down votes they deserve without further delay.

It is only fair that the Senate promptly consider judicial nominees on the floor, discuss and debate their qualifications, and then vote to confirm or not to confirm them. Nominees who have the support of a majority of the Senate should be confirmed. Unfortunately, a minority of Senators is blocking the will of the Senate.

Over the course of the past 4 years, the blocking of judicial nominees in the Senate has escalated to an unprecedented level. Last Congress, 10 of my appeals court nominees were filibustered. Each of these highly qualified nominees enjoyed the bipartisan support of a majority of Senators. Each would have been confirmed if given a simple up-or-down vote. Each deserved a simple up-or-down vote by the entire Senate.

I urge the Senate to put aside the partisan practices of the past and work together to ensure that all nominees are treated fairly and that all Americans receive timely justice in our Federal courts.

The President's News Conference With President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia in Tbilisi, Georgia

May 10, 2005

President Saakashvili. I'll say a few words in English. I want to welcome you, Mr. President, for this historic occasion. You know, right now we have in the streets of Tbilisi, as they are telling me, more than 150,000 people assembled, and I can tell you, no event in the history of this country has ever assembled anything close to these numbers. It shows the importance of this visit.

I can tell you, and you were seeing yesterday, crowds—unfortunately, I didn't see them on the networks—I mean, there were CNN and the others—but they were there and we could see them, the crowds along the airport. And of course, it was very genuine. This is not North Korea here. You cannot tell people to go out unless—if they don't feel like it. [*Laughter*] And it was a very—I mean, for me, it was something very emotional. The posters they made were very emotional.

You know, outside this building, 18 months ago, also 100,000 Georgians came in defense of democracy with a dream of living free. And in the weeks and months after the Rose Revolution, no country stood closer to Georgia than the United States, whether it was diplomatic support, economic aid, security assistance, or—[*inaudible*]—the United States was there. For this support, the Georgian people will be eternally grateful.

So I once again want to welcome Mr. President to Georgia. The partnership between the U.S. and Georgia is about more, and we should make it very clear, the strategic interests—more than oil pipelines, more than any kind of economic or military cooperation. It's about shared values and our shared belief in freedom and in democracy.

And President Bush is a man of vision who believes in the triumph of liberty over forces of tyranny. I know he was also inspired by our journey toward democracy. President Bush is in Georgia because we agree that free people cannot rest while tyranny exists. We know that our liberty must be defended from those who seek to extinguish it. And of course, when we are together, that's much more hopeful and much more efficient.

That's why over 800 troops are in Iraq, Georgian troops side by side with the Americans and Iraqis and many others, to defeat those who live only to kill, to enslave, to frighten people. That is why Georgians are in Afghanistan and NATO-led missions, and that is why we appreciate the U.S. support for our NATO aspirations, just like the U.S. supported Ukraine on its NATO aspirations.

The United States supports the territorial integrity of Georgia, sovereignty of Georgia, within its internationally recognized borders. We appreciate this support and recognize

our responsibilities. We will peacefully resolve our disputes with our long-suffering South Ossetian and Abkhaz citizens and the territories. We will widen and deepen our democratic reforms to better the lives of Georgians. And we seek friendly relations with all our neighbors. And we know we can count on the support of the United States in all these vital tasks.

Mr. President, you are a decisive and visionary leader. Georgia is humbled and honored that you have come to visit our small country but great land. We Georgians have a belief that guests are a gift from God, and you are a most treasured guest. Mr. President, welcome.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President. I'm—first, I'm so grateful for your hospitality. Laura and I really enjoyed our time last night. I learned firsthand what it means to be fed by a Georgian. I'm really full. [*Laughter*] And the food was great. I should have eaten my meal first and then danced. [*Laughter*]

The cultural dancing and singing was spectacular. It was really impressive. And I want to thank those who put on the performance last night.

I also appreciate our visit today. We had a very frank discussion. That's what I like about the President. He speaks his mind. If he's got something on his mind, he'll tell you. What I find on his mind is very refreshing; he loves democracy and loves freedom, and he loves the people of Georgia.

The Rose Revolution was a powerful moment in modern history. It not only inspired the people of Georgia; it inspired others around the world that want to live in a free society. I think people will look back at this moment in history and be—and marvel at the courage of people who have said, "I want generations to grow up in a hopeful world."

And so, Mr. President, thank you for setting such a good example, you and your people. I appreciate the reforms you have put in place here. Georgia has come a long way very quickly. The President recognizes there's a lot of work to be done to leave the foundations, institutional foundations in

place so that no one will ever be able to overturn democracy—that's an independent judiciary, rule of law, a free media. He was complaining about the media, which is a good sign. [Laughter] It means you're free. I sometimes complain about ours but not too publicly, of course.

I'm looking forward to the meeting with members of the civil society. The President kindly set up a meeting where I will remind people that a truly democratic society is one that honors and respects minorities. This is a very diverse country. You've had a great tradition of honoring minorities in this country, and your democracy will continue to do so.

We talked about NATO. The President is very clear about his intentions to meet the obligations to join NATO. And Mr. President, we look forward to working with you to meet those obligations. NATO is a very important alliance for the United States of America. It's a place where we have our strategic conversations with our transatlantic friends, and we want to help you achieve your objective there.

I thank the President again; I want to thank the people of Georgia for contributing troops to Iraq and Afghanistan. You've got a fine group of people that are helping serve the cause of freedom. We discussed the way forward in Iraq, discussed the importance of a democracy in the greater Middle East in order to leave behind a peaceful tomorrow.

We talked about the peaceful resolution of regional issues. And I look forward to working with the President on his request, if he so chooses, to help deal with some of these issues, like stuff he says here—[inaudible]. But one of the things that I was most appreciative of is his full understanding of the need and the desire to settle these issues peacefully. And I'm confident, with good work and cooperation, we can solve them peacefully, or he can solve them peacefully, with our help.

This has been a visit I've really been looking forward to. I look forward to going into Freedom Square—think about that, Freedom Square—to represent my country and to give our thanks to the Georgian people for the example they've set and the pledge

to the Georgian people that you've got a solid friend in America.

Thank you, Mr. President.

President Saakashvili. Thank you, Mr. President. So we'll have, like, two questions each. First, I guess, Georgian journalists, and then whoever.

Q. Shall I ask the question in Georgian?

President Bush. You can ask anybody you want. You can ask me—

Military Bases in Georgia

Q. I have a question regarding—to Mr. President, President Bush. Did you have a conversation with Putin regarding the military bases, with old military bases from Georgia? Do you think this question and this issue—this question will be the decision of the OSCE Summit?

President Bush. This question was about the presence of military troops—Russian troops in Georgia. We discussed this at the meeting with President Putin at his house. He knew that I was coming to Georgia, of course. I said I was looking forward to talking to my friend President Saakashvili and was confident that the issue of military bases would come up. After all, we discussed this—[inaudible]—and I've discussed this issue with the Russians before as well. So this isn't the first time I've had this conversation with President Putin on this issue. [Inaudible]—an agreement in place—[inaudible]—said to the Russians, we want to work with the Government to fulfill—[inaudible]—and I think that is a commitment, an important commitment for the people of Georgia to hear, and it's a—it shows there's grounds for work to get this issue resolved.

Jennifer [Jennifer Loven, Associated Press].

Democracy in Georgia

Q. Sir, how important is it for the United States to step into issues like that troop issue to ensure democratic progress? And also, does your commitment to democracy mean that separatist regions deserve independence if they want it?

President Bush. Two points to that question. One, my commitment to democracy

means that democracies can solve their problems in peaceful ways. And in terms of separatist movements within a—within Georgia, that, one, the issue can be resolved peacefully; secondly, it will be resolved in a transparent way. The President has put a way forward that encourages autonomy and self-government but does not encourage dividing up this great country. It would seem like to me to be a very reasonable proposition. But his commitment—and an important commitment—is one that this issue will be resolved peacefully.

And secondly, it's always important for the United States to stand strongly for democracy and freedom. That's what we believe in. And so standing with the President of Georgia should send a message that we embrace freedom movements and we stand with young democracies and we want to help where we can help build the institutions that outlast the moment, so that future generations of Georgians can grow up in a free society. And we've got a great partner in President Saakashvili. He is a strong believer in democracy. And I appreciate his leadership on the issue.

President Saakashvili. Well, just to add one thing, that certainly I believe that—I believe in strong self-government. I myself came to this—to my office from self-government. I know what self-government means. I know how people can feel strongly about their identities. Georgia's strength is its diversity. It's not its weakness; it's our strength.

Now, the problem with those regions are, especially with Abkhazia, that they're throughout almost whole populations. So we are talking about democratic choice. First, those people should be able to regain their property, to regain their right to be there, to regain their right to be safe, and rules for their self-government, rules for autonomy, rules for all kind of arrangement that would materialize their rights.

It's not like this, that you throw out the people and then you hold elections with 10 percent of the population to decide, and you call it democracy. It's not democracy. It's something else. And that's why it's so important to speak about peace, about peaceful settlements, about democratic choices within the framework of peace, because when guns

are used, then people cannot materialize their rights. That's obvious for us. And we suffered a lot, and this region suffered enough from the conflicts, and we don't want any more of them. And this is our very strong position.

U.S. Role in Resolution of Georgian Conflict

Q. Question to Mr. Bush. You discussed the settlement—[inaudible]—in Georgia, and United States will play an active role in this process. In specific, what kind of help United States can offer to Georgia for conflict resolution? Because Georgian Government has a position to settle this resolution peacefully and this conflict peacefully, do you think that the main problem is outside force—third force?

President Bush. [Inaudible]—disputes. And first, I'm confident that the Government of Georgia has got a good strategy to move forward to resolve the disputes. And obviously, if the President were to call and wanted me to make a phone call or two, I'd be more than happy to do so. But this is a dispute that is going to be resolved by the Georgian Government and by the folks in the separatist region.

The United States cannot impose a solution, nor would you want us to. But what we can do is we can help. We can work with international bodies and work with the U.N., for example. We can work with other groups, all aimed at helping resolve this issue peacefully. But this is an issue that will be resolved by the duly elected Government of Georgia in a peaceful way. And the President has, as just mentioned, reached out in a constructive way, suggested autonomy and self-government, but he doesn't want to—he wants the country to remain intact. And we're more than willing. Listen, we talk quite often. When he calls, if he's got some suggestions where I can—where he thinks I can help and I think it makes sense, I will be glad to do so.

Georgia-Russia Relations

Q. Did you get President Putin to see the importance of democracies on his border? And you've also complimented a recent speech he gave on democracy. But has he

taken any concrete steps to satisfy your concerns?

President Bush. Well, he gave the speech, I think, 3 days ago, and it was—or maybe 4 or 5 days ago—it was a very constructive speech, I thought, where he did talk about the benefits of democracy for his people. And democracies are peaceful countries. And when you have peaceful countries on your border, it—you benefit. And Georgia is a peaceful country. Georgia is a democracy. The people here are trying to right the wrongs of the past and move forward. The President spends a lot of time talking to me about economic improvements, entrepreneurship and small businesses and vitality of the economy so people can make a living. And when you have countries focused on the needs of the people, it tends to make them peaceful neighbors.

And so, over time, any country will recognize the benefits of democracy on her border. And I'm confident Russia will recognize the benefits of having democracies on her border. And Georgia is a great example of a peaceful democracy that wants to resolve whatever lingering disputes there may be in a peaceful fashion.

And so I want to, one, again thank the President for his hospitality and for setting such a vivid example of what is possible when the people speak. And it's this democratic movement that took place here in Georgia that is going to help transform the greater Middle East. And that's important for people in Georgia and around the world to understand, that democracies in the greater Middle East will make the world a more peaceful place. A democracy in Iraq will send such a strong and vivid example to others about what is possible. And democracies are peaceful societies. And one of the things that we all long for—at least I long for; I'm confident the President does as well—is to leave behind a more peaceful world for our children and grandchildren.

So, thank you, Mr. President. Thank you all for the press conference.

President Saakashvili. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 10:27 a.m. at the Parliament Building. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Some reporters spoke

in Georgian, and their questions were translated by an interpreter. A portion of this news conference could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks With President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia in a Discussion With Civil Society Leaders in Tbilisi

May 10, 2005

President Bush. Thank you for having me. I'm anxious to hear from you. There is—one of the great things about—and one of the most important things about democracy is to honor minority rights, is to recognize the rights of minorities. In my own country, we have struggled with this issue throughout our history, and yet, we're constantly reminding ourselves of the need to respect minorities.

And I want to thank you for giving me the chance to come and visit with you. You've got a great country. It's a hopeful example, and to the extent that—as you move forward, I know you will honor your country but, at the same time, the heritage of those who live in the country.

So thank you for giving me a chance to come by and visit with you. I look forward to hearing from you. I'm honored to be here. It's an exciting moment for me and my wife, Laura, to be in this—in this beautiful country. Thank you.

President Saakashvili. Well, I'll just say maybe one or two words. You know, we are—I've always been impressed and excited to see how people of all different ethnic origins, Hispanics and Russians and all the others, speaking to American system of democracy and rule of law and how all of them are proud to be Americans by also preserving their identity.

And we strongly believe that Georgia is not weak because it's diverse. On the contrary, our diversities are our strength. So this is our firm belief. You see all different people here, Mr. President. In fact, you saw yesterday comprised elements of all different ethnic groups. You went to the area where all the different ethnic groups have lived for generations and for thousands of years.

And again, thank you very much for coming. And thank you for sharing this conversation with all of us.

President Bush. Okay, thanks.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. at the Parliament Building. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks in Freedom Square in Tbilisi

May 10, 2005

Mr. President, thank you for that introduction. Citizens of a free Georgia, Laura and I were in the neighborhood; we thought we'd swing by and say *gamarjoba*.

I am proud to stand beside a President who has shown such spirit, determination, and leadership in the cause of freedom. And Laura and I are proud to stand with the courageous people of Georgia in this place that has earned a proud name, Freedom Square.

When Georgians gathered here 16 years ago, this square had a different name. Under Lenin's steely gaze, thousands of Georgians prayed and sang and demanded their independence. The Soviet army crushed that day of protest, but they could not crush the spirit of the Georgian people.

The following year, Georgians returned to this square and pulled down the statue of Lenin. And on April 9th, 1991, you declared to the world that Soviet Georgia was no more and that the independent nation of Georgia was born. On that historic day, you reclaimed your sovereignty, but the hopeful start you made was not fulfilled. So 18 months ago, Georgians returned to this square to complete the task you began in 1989. You gathered here armed with nothing but roses and the power of your convictions, and you claimed your liberty. And because you acted, Georgia is today both sovereign and free and a beacon of liberty for this region and the world.

The path of freedom you have chosen is not easy, but you will not travel it alone. Americans respect your courageous choice for liberty. And as you build a free and democratic Georgia, the American people will stand with you.

You are building a free future for your children and grandchildren, and you are helping other nations to do the same. When the Afghan people defied terrorists to vote in that nation's first free Presidential elections, Georgian soldiers were there to provide security. And last year, when terrorist violence in Iraq was escalating, Georgia showed her courage. You increased your troop commitment in Iraq fivefold. The Iraqi people are grateful, and so are your American and coalition allies.

You are making many important contributions to freedom's cause, but your most important contribution is your example. In recent months, the world has marveled at the hopeful changes taking place from Baghdad to Beirut to Bishkek. But before there was a Purple Revolution in Iraq or an Orange Revolution in Ukraine or a Cedar Revolution in Lebanon, there was the Rose Revolution in Georgia. Your courage is inspiring democratic reformers and sending a message that echos across the world: Freedom will be the future of every nation and every people on Earth.

Building a free society is the work of generations. It took nearly 15 years of struggle before liberty and justice fully took root in this country. Many of the students and workers who gathered here on this square 18 months ago were too young to remember the protests of 1989, but they took up freedom's cause and finished the work that their parents had begun.

Now, across the Caucasus, in Central Asia, and the broader Middle East, we see the same desire for liberty burning in the hearts of young people. They are demanding their freedom, and they will have it.

As free nations, the United States and Georgia have great responsibilities, and together, we will do our duty. Free societies are peaceful societies. And by extending liberty to millions who have not known it, we will advance the cause of freedom and we will advance the cause of peace.

In this global struggle for liberty, our duties begin at home. While peaceful revolutions can bring down repressive regimes, the real changes—the real challenge is to build up free institutions in their place. This is difficult work, and you are undertaking it with

dignity and determination. You have taken tough steps to reform your economy and to crack down on corruption. You are building a democratic society where the rights of minorities are respected, where a free press flourishes, a vigorous opposition is welcome, and unity is achieved through peace. In this new Georgia, the rule of law will prevail and freedom will be the birthright of every citizen.

This was the dream of your late Prime Minister Zhvania, who once said, “It is not by mere chance that we have adopted two very important ideas as our watchwords, freedom and responsibility.” Today we pay tribute to this Georgian patriot who became a great leader of the global democratic revolution. In building a free and responsible society, you honor his memory and you carry on his legacy.

As you build free institutions at home, the ties that bind our nations will grow deeper as well. We respect Georgia’s desire to join the institutions of Europe. We encourage your closer cooperation with NATO. Georgia’s leaders know that the peaceful resolution of conflicts is essential to your integration into the transatlantic community. At the same time, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia must be respected—the territorial [territory]* and sovereignty of Georgia must be respected by all nations.

We are living in historic times when freedom is advancing from the Black Sea to the Caspian to the Persian Gulf and beyond. As you watch free people gathering in squares like this across the world, waving their nations’ flags and demanding their God-given rights, you can take pride in this fact: They have been inspired by your example, and they take hope in your success.

As you build freedom in this country, you must know that the seeds of liberty you are planting in Georgian soil are flowering across the globe. I have come here to thank you for your courage. The American people value your friendship and admire your determination. On behalf of all Americans, thank you; God bless you; *Sakartvelos gaumarjos*.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:27 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia.

Statement on Congressional Action on the Proposed “Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005”

May 10, 2005

I applaud the Congress for its strong bipartisan support for our troops and our continued effort to win the war on terror. New democracies are taking root in Iraq and Afghanistan, and America is proud to stand with them. This legislation will help America continue to promote freedom and democracy. It also will assist in the continuing tsunami recovery efforts. I appreciate the leadership in the House and Senate for working together to reach a final agreement that focuses taxpayer dollars on providing our troops and diplomats with the tools they need. I look forward to signing the bill into law.

Proclamation 7899—National Hurricane Preparedness Week, 2005

May 10, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Each year from June through November, Americans living on the Eastern seaboard and along the Gulf of Mexico face an increased threat of hurricanes. These powerful storms can create severe flooding, cause power outages, and damage homes and businesses with their high winds, tornadoes, storm surges, and heavy rainfall. The effects of these storms can be devastating to families and cause lasting economic distress. During National Hurricane Preparedness Week, we call attention to the importance of planning ahead and securing our homes and property in advance of storms.

Last year, six hurricanes and three tropical storms hit the United States, causing the loss of dozens of lives and billions of dollars in damage. Across the United States, Americans

* White House correction.

responded to these natural disasters with extraordinary strength, compassion, and generosity. Many volunteers donated their time and talents to help with the cleanup, recovery, and rebuilding of communities devastated by the hurricanes and tropical storms.

To prepare for the 2005 hurricane season, I urge all our citizens to become aware of the dangers of hurricanes and tropical storms and to learn how to minimize their destructive effects. Our Nation's weather researchers and forecasters continue to improve the accuracy of hurricane warnings, enabling residents and visitors to prepare for storms. By working together, Federal, State, and local agencies, first responders, the news media, and private citizens can help save lives and diminish the damage caused by these natural disasters.

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 May 15 through May 21, 2005, as National Hurricane Preparedness Week. I call upon government agencies, private organizations, schools, and the news media to share information about hurricane preparedness and response to help save lives and prevent property damage. I also call upon Americans living in hurricane-prone areas of our Nation to use this opportunity to learn more about protecting themselves against the effects of hurricanes and tropical storms.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 12, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 13.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

May 11, 2005

I thank the Members of the Congress for coming down to give me and the Secretary of State a chance to talk about our recent trip to Europe. It was a great trip, and it's such an honor to represent the United States.

Sitting in Red Square honoring the veterans of World War II was an amazing event. I remember as a kid watching the missiles parade through Red Square, and here I sat as the President of the United States in Red Square, paying homage to people who died to defeat nazism. And I was sitting beside a friend. Russia is not an enemy. Russia is our friend. And it's important that we work together to achieve peace. Obviously, we have a difference of opinion on certain issues, but we don't have a difference of opinion on working together for peace.

I went to the Baltics, had a great trip to Latvia. It's such an inspiring experience to be in countries that are newly minted democracies that love freedom. And I met with civil society advocates. I look forward to briefing you on the situation that this young democracy faces in making sure that all people are participating in the democracy.

Went to the Netherlands. Her Majesty kindly came and visited—paid a visit with us. I laid a wreath with Her Majesty honoring the U.S. soldiers who died at the end of World War II. Interestingly enough, some of my father-in-law's unit were there, and it was neat for Laura to be able to hug them and to remember her dad as she paid tribute to the veterans.

Then I went to Georgia. It was—standing in front of 150,000 people that love freedom was a fantastic experience.

The lessons of World War II is to honor the sacrifice of those who helped us keep the peace and to remember that the United States is always the beacon of freedom and that when we find people living under tyranny, we've got to work to free them in order to make the world more peaceful.

And so I want to thank you all for coming. I look forward to briefing you in specific on some of the conversations I had, and I'm looking forward to your comments as well.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:05 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands.

Statement on Signing the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief Act, 2005

May 11, 2005

Today, I have signed into law H.R. 1268, the “Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005” (the “Act”). The Act provides funds for ongoing military and intelligence operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and selected other international activities, including tsunami relief and reconstruction. The Act supports new benefits for service members who have suffered traumatic injury and for survivors of fallen service members. The Act also provides additional border enforcement resources, which will strengthen the Nation’s ability to prevent foreign terrorists from operating in the United States.

The executive branch shall construe subsection 1025(d) of the Act, which purports to determine the command relationships among certain elements of the U.S. Navy forces, as advisory, as any other construction would conflict with the President’s constitutional authority as Commander in Chief.

Provisions of the Act, such as sections 2104 and 6024, purport to require congressional committee approval prior to certain obligations or expenditures of funds appropriated by the Act. The executive branch shall construe such provisions to require only prior notification to congressional committees, as any other construction would be contrary to the constitutional principles set forth by the Supreme Court of the United States in 1983 in *INS v. Chadha*.

Section 6025 purports to regulate the content of the President’s annual budget submission, which is a proposal for enactment of legislation to appropriate funds. In addition, section 301 calls for submission of legislative recommendations by an executive branch official to the Congress. The executive branch

shall construe these and any other similar provisions in a manner consistent with the Constitution’s commitment to the President of exclusive authority to supervise the unitary executive branch and to recommend for the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President shall judge necessary and expedient.

Several provisions of the Act, including sections 6041, 6042, 6043, 6052, 6053, 6069, 6070, 6071, and 6072 make specified changes in statements of managers of the House-Senate conference committees that accompanied various bills reported from conference that ultimately became laws. As with other committee materials, statements of managers accompanying a conference report do not have the force of law. Accordingly, although changes to these statements are directed by the terms of the Act, the statements themselves are not legally binding.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 11, 2005.

NOTE: H.R. 1268, approved May 11, was assigned Public Law No. 109–13.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Central American Leaders

May 12, 2005

Good morning. Thank you for coming. Welcome to the White House, and welcome to the Rose Garden.

I want to thank the six Presidents who have joined me today. We’ve just had a constructive dialog in the Cabinet Room about our mutual interests. Our mutual interests are prosperity for our people and peace in the region. I am honored to be here with six really fine leaders, people who have stood strong for democracy and who care deeply about the people of their nations.

We’re here today, as well, because the best way to achieve peace and prosperity for our hemisphere is by strengthening democracy and continuing the economic transformation of Central America and the Dominican Republic. All of us agree that the Central American and Dominican Republic Free Trade

Agreement presents us with an historic opportunity to advance our common goals in an important part of our neighborhood.

CAFTA brings benefits to all sides. For the newly emerging democracies of Central America, CAFTA would bring new investment that means good jobs and higher labor standards for their workers. Central American consumers would have better access to more U.S. goods at better prices. And by passing this agreement, we would signal that the world's leading trading nation was committed to closer partnership with countries in our own backyard, countries which share our values.

For American farmers, businesses, and workers, CAFTA would create a more level playing field. Under existing rules, most of Central America's exports already enter the United States duty free. But our products still face hefty tariffs there. By passing CAFTA, we would open up a market of 44 million consumers who already import more of our goods and services than Australia or Brazil. And we would create incentives for factories to stay in Central America and use American materials rather than relocate to Asia, where they are more likely to use Asian materials.

Finally, for the Western Hemisphere, CAFTA would bring the stability and security that can only come from freedom. Today, a part of the world that was once characterized by oppression and military dictatorship now sees its future in free elections and free trade, and we must not take these gains for granted. These are small nations, but they're making big and brave commitments, and America needs to continue to support them as they walk down the road of openness and accountability. By transforming our hemisphere into a powerful free trade area, we will promote democratic governance, human rights, and economic liberty for everyone.

The United States was built on freedom, and the more of it we have in our own backyard, the freer and safer and more prosperous all of the Americas will be. I applaud these leaders for their vision. I thank them for working with Members of Congress from both political parties to persuade those Members about the importance of this piece of legislation. I assured them I will join in the

efforts to get this bill passed. This bill is good for Central American countries; it is good for America.

I want to thank you all for being here. *Que Dios los bendiga.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:39 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. Participating in the meeting with the President were: President Abel Pacheco of Costa Rica; President Leonel Fernandez Reyna of the Dominican Republic; President Elias Antonio Saca Gonzalez of El Salvador; President Oscar Berger of Guatemala; President Ricardo Maduro of Honduras; and President Enrique Bolanos of Nicaragua. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation 7900—World Trade Week, 2005

May 12, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Free and fair trade creates jobs, raises living standards, and lowers prices for families throughout America. It also strengthens our relationships with other countries, helping us to forge new partnerships based on a commitment to generate new prosperity and a better way of life for people in America and throughout the world. This year, as we mark the tenth anniversary of the World Trade Organization, World Trade Week provides an opportunity to recognize the many benefits of free and fair trade in strengthening economies and improving lives.

Because 95 percent of the world's population resides outside of our borders, trade creates opportunities for American farmers, small businesses, and manufacturers to sell their products to consumers across the world. Trade also raises up the world's poor, bringing hope to those in despair.

Millions of American jobs depend on exports, and my Administration is committed to opening markets around the world for American products. Since 2001, we have completed free trade agreements with 12 nations, representing a combined market of 124 million consumers for American products, goods, and services. These agreements will

create millions of new consumers for America's farmers, manufacturers, and small business owners, and deepen our friendships with countries in other parts of the world.

As we open up new markets to trade, we must always ensure that American workers are treated fairly. Our workers can compete with anyone, anywhere, so long as the rules are fair. My Administration will continue to enforce trade agreements and insist upon a level playing field for America's workers.

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 May 15 through May 21, 2005, as World Trade Week. I encourage all Americans to observe this week with events, trade shows, and educational programs that celebrate the benefits of trade to our Nation and the global economy.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:31 a.m., May 13, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 17.

**Executive Order 13378—
Amendments to Executive Order
12788 Relating to the Defense
Economic Adjustment Program
May 12, 2005**

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including 10 U.S.C. 2391 and the Defense Economic Adjustment, Diversification, Conversion, and Stabilization Act of 1990, enacted as Division D, section 4001 *et seq.*, of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991, Public Law 101-510, and in order to update the Defense Economic Adjustment Program, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 12788 of January 15, 1992, as amended, is further amended as follows:

Section 1. The text of section 2 of Executive Order 12788 is revised to read as follows: "The Defense Economic Adjustment Program shall (1) assist substantially and seriously affected communities, businesses, and workers from the effects of major Defense base closures, realignments, and Defense contract-related adjustments, and (2) assist State and local governments in preventing the encroachment of civilian communities from impairing the operational utility of military installations."

Sec. 2. (a) The text of section 3(c) is amended by deleting "and communities" and inserting in lieu thereof "communities, and businesses";

(b) The text of section 3(l) is amended by deleting "and" after the semicolon;

(c) The text of section 3(m) is amended by adding "and" after "diminish;" and

(d) A new section 3(n) is added to read: "(n) Encourage resolution of regulatory issues that impede encroachment prevention and local economic adjustment efforts."

Sec. 3. (a) Section 4(a) is amended by: (i) deleting "(19) Director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency;" (ii) deleting "(21) Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;" and (iii) renumbering the remaining subsections listing the officials on the Economic Adjustment Committee (the "Committee") accordingly;

(b) The text of section 4(b) is revised to read as follows: "The Secretary of Defense, or the Secretary's designee, shall chair the Committee.;" and

(c) The text of section 4(c) is revised to read as follows: "The Secretaries of Labor and Commerce shall serve as Vice Chairmen of the Committee. The Vice Chairmen shall co-chair the Committee in the absence of both the Chairman and the Chairman's designee and may also preside over meetings of designated representatives of the concerned executive agencies."

Sec. 4. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any party at law or in equity against the United

States, its departments, agencies, entities, officers, employees, agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 12, 2005.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:31 a.m., May 13, 2005]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 17.

Remarks to the National Association of Realtors

May 13, 2005

Thank you all. Thanks for the warm welcome. Sorry Laura is not here with me. [Laughter] As you know, we just got back from an overseas trip, and even President Putin had heard about Laura's new job as the "Comedienne in Chief." [Laughter] I'm really proud of her. She's a great First Lady. And she said, "Don't go over there and start looking for a house yet; you've got 3½ more years." [Laughter] But I really want to thank you all for inviting me. I'm looking forward to sharing some thoughts with you.

Before I do so, I want to thank my Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Alphonso Jackson, my fellow Texan.

I want to thank Al Mansell, the president of the National Association of Realtors, and the board of directors and all the members.

We have got an important agenda here in Washington. It's an agenda to keep this country prosperous and safe and free. The war on terror continues. I have an obligation as your President to remind people about the realities of the world we live in. There are still people out there who would like to inflict harm on our people. We will be unrelenting in searching the—unrelenting in trying to find those who would harm our people and bring them to justice. And we will be unrelenting in our desire to spread freedom, because America understands that free societies are peaceful societies.

It's such an honor to represent the United States of America around the world, and it

was such an honor to represent our country last week in Europe. We must not forget the lessons of Europe. When we see tyranny, we must resist and free people from tyranny. And we must remember the lessons of Europe, and that is, democracies are able to live peacefully side by side; a part of the world that—where there was war after war, where thousands of American soldiers had died, not only in World War I and World War II, is now whole, free, and peaceful because of the spread of democracy. And it's that spread of democracy in the greater Middle East that will yield a more peaceful world for our children and our grandchildren.

We're also putting policies in place to make this country more free and to enhance opportunity here at home. And our realtors play a crucial role in creating opportunity in America. After all, you help people attain an important part of the American experience and the American Dream, and that is owning a home. I believe the proper role of Government is to encourage ownership, is to promote an ownership society. An ownership—when you own a home, it brings stability to a neighborhood or security to a family. I love it when somebody—a first-time homeowner opens up the door to their house and says, "Welcome to my piece of property. Welcome to my home."

And we're making progress. In this country, homeownership set a new record last year: 69 percent of American families own a home. Think about that. There are 74 million homeowners in America today, and that's the most ever in our Nation's history. I want to thank you for working hard to help people realize that dream.

In 2002, I was working with Alphonso, and we set a goal of increasing the number of minority homeowners by 5½ million by the year 2010. Minority homeownership in America is at an alltime high. We just set a new quarterly record this year of 51.6 percent of minorities own their own home; 2.3 million minorities own a home. We're halfway toward our goal of over 5 million by 2010. Housing starts—we're at the highest level in over 25 years, reaching nearly 2 million homes. That's the best annual performance since 1978.

There's more work to be done. A year and a half ago, I signed the American Dream Downpayment Act. My 2006 budget requests \$200 million for that initiative. And it's an important initiative. You see, that money will help thousands of families with their downpayment and closing costs, which will help more people realize the great joy of owning their own home.

To boost housing sales even more, Congress needs to pass my single-family homeownership tax credit. We estimate this credit would increase the supply of affordable single-family homes by as many as 50,000 each year. The idea is to increase the supply of affordable homes by 7 million over the next 10 years.

In other words, there is a proper role for Government, to provide incentives for entrepreneurs and small businesses to expand. One thing we've got to make certain is to understand that the mortgage interest deduction enables more Americans to be able to own their own home. It is an important part of our Tax Code.

We not only want more people owning their own home; we want more people owning their own business. The entrepreneurial spirit in America is strong, and we need Government to put policies in place to keep it that way.

Here are some ideas to help small businesses flourish and for the entrepreneurial spirit to be strong. We need to make it less costly for small businesses to provide health care for their employees. We continue to expand health savings accounts. We must allow small businesses to pool risk across jurisdictional boundaries so they can buy insurance at the same discounts big companies are able to do. And to make sure health care is available and affordable to people from all walks of life, Congress needs to pass medical liability reform.

My administration will continue to press for legal reform here in Washington. Junk lawsuits make it awfully hard for small businesses to expand. I have submitted a no-nonsense budget to the United States Congress, and part of that budget is to keep taxes low on our entrepreneurs.

To make sure this economy continues to grow and the entrepreneurial spirit is strong,

our country needs to have access to affordable, reliable, and a secure supply of energy. Millions of small businesses and families are hurting because of higher gasoline prices. When gasoline prices go up, it's like taxing people—taxing our families. It's taxing small businesses. I understand, if you're trying to meet a payroll or trying to meet a family budget, small changes at the pump can have a big impact on your life. And that's why we have got to address the root causes that are driving up the price of gasoline.

I told a soldier in Fort Hood when I was visiting with him the other day, I said, "How's it going in the military?" He said, "Fine, but how come you don't do something about gas prices?" [*Laughter*] And I said, "If I could, I would. If I could just say, 'Lower the price,' I'd say that." That's not the way it works. We need to address the root causes that are causing gasoline prices to go up. The root cause is that we're consuming energy faster than we're producing it, which means we're becoming more dependent on oil from overseas.

To reduce that dependence, we've got to take four key steps. First, we must be better conservers of energy. And we can use technology in a wise way to encourage conservation. Secondly, we must find innovative and environmentally sensitive ways to make the most of our existing energy resources, including oil and natural gas and coal as well as safe, clean nuclear power. Third, we must develop promising new sources of energy such as hydrogen and ethanol and biodiesel. And fourth, we must help growing energy consumers overseas like China and India. We must help them apply new technologies so they can use energy more efficiently and reduce the global demand for oil.

I applaud the House of Representatives for passing a good energy bill that meets the four criterion I outlined. And it is now time for the United States Senate to act. Congress needs to get a bill to my desk before the August recess.

I want to spend some time today talking about another challenge which faces this country, and that is the challenge of Social Security. I have traveled the country a lot to talk to the people about Social Security. And one thing is for certain: The American

people now understand that Social Security is headed for serious financial trouble. And they expect the folks here in Washington, DC, to do something about it. They expect us to put aside partisan differences and focus on the good of the country.

Franklin Roosevelt did a smart thing when he created Social Security. The system has meant a lot to a lot of people. Social Security has brought peace of mind to millions of Americans in their retirement. It's made a huge difference in people's lives. It is very important for our seniors to understand that when I talk about strengthening the Social Security system, nothing will change for you. If you're on Social Security today, you're going to get your check. The system is solvent enough to take care of anybody who was born prior to 1950.

Now, I understand how this works in politics. I mean, you start talking about Social Security, and the first thing that happens, there's all kinds of fliers and propaganda that go out that try to frighten today's seniors. I'm going to continue to remind these people about the truth, and the truth is twofold. If you're getting a check, if you've retired, nothing changes for you. But if you're a younger American, our Government has made promises to you that it cannot keep.

Social Security worked fine, but the problem is the math has changed. And the reason the math has changed is because people like me are getting ready to retire. [Laughter] And there's a lot of us. We are called the baby boomers. Do you realize today there are about 40 million retirees receiving benefits, 40 million folks counting on the Social Security check. By the time the baby boomers fully retire, there will be 72 million people receiving a check. So you're beginning to get to see how the math is changing. More people will be getting checks.

There's a second difference: We're living longer. People my age are going to live longer than the previous generation. The previous generation lived longer than the previous generation. That's what happens with good technology and medicine and wise choices. I strongly urge you to exercise on a regular basis. [Laughter]

And thirdly, Congress promised greater benefits to my generation than the previous

generation. In other words, people were running for Congress, and they'd say, "Vote for me. I'll make sure the baby boomers get better benefits." So you've got people living longer—a lot of people living longer—getting better benefits, and there's fewer people paying into the system. That's the other half of the equation.

In 1950, there were 16 workers paying for every beneficiary. In other words, people were able to share the load, the responsibility of taking care of a retiree. Today, there are 3.3 workers paying for every beneficiary; soon there will be two workers paying for every beneficiary. And so here's the problem: You've got fewer workers paying for more retirees who are living longer and have been promised greater benefits.

And so I tell people that this math has created a significant problem for the solvency of Social Security. In other words, Social Security really is on the path to bankruptcy—because of the math, because of what's taking place in the demographics in America. When baby boomers start to retire 3 years from now, the Social Security will start heading into the red. See, we take your money, and we spend it. [Laughter] That means there will be more people—the benefits—the Social Security benefits will be greater than your payroll taxes, starting in 3 years. In 2017, the system will pay out more in benefits than it collects in payroll taxes. In other words, there will be more going out than coming in. I think I probably said that for the first 3 years; it's not—it starts going in the red. It goes into the red in 2017, and every year thereafter the situation gets worse.

Let me just give you an example: In 2027, there will be \$200 billion in that year alone going out to pay people who are living longer, like me, greater benefits, than are coming in through payroll taxes. So it's 200 billion. And it gets worse and worse and worse, until the system is broke in 2041. That's a problem.

Now, some in Washington say, "Well, it's not 2017; isn't that pretty far down the road?" It's not very far down the road. If you're—if you got a 6-year-old kid, that means your kid is going to be driving when the system starts going into the red. If you're a young worker paying into the system, paying your

payroll taxes, and all of a sudden you see the facts, and the system starts going into the red, that's not a problem down the road.

The Social Security trust—trustees have made it clear that every year we wait to fix the problem costs the country at least \$600 billion to save the system. In other words, there's a—it's time to get something done. If we wait, if we take the politically easy path, it's conceivable that young workers will have to pay an 18-percent payroll tax in order to pay for my generation, or the Government is going to have to slash benefits by about 30 percent or other Government programs. We're in a bind. And now is the time to come together and fix the problem.

The job of the President—my job is to confront problems, not to pass them on to future Presidents and future generations. So we have a duty, I think; we have a duty to solve this problem once and for all.

I say “once and for all”; in 1983, you might remember when President Reagan and Tip O'Neill got together, and they put together what they said was a 75-year fix. First of all, I love the spirit of people coming together to fix the problem. They set the right example. The problem was the 75-year fix didn't last 75 years. Here we are, 22 years later, talking about the problem again.

And so we need to fix this permanently. We need to do our duty. And as we do so, we need to provide extra help to those most in need and make it—make the system a better deal for younger workers.

Congress needs to be guided by three goals as they begin work on this legislation. First, future generations should receive benefits equal to or greater than the benefits today's seniors get. That's a reasonable goal.

Second, a reformed system should protect those who depend on Social Security the most. More than one in five Americans rely on Social Security for nearly all their retirement income. Think about that. So I proposed a Social Security system in the future where benefits for workers with the lowest incomes will grow faster than the benefits for people who are better off. Economists call this idea progressive indexing. It means that in the future, all workers will get Social Security checks bigger than the ones they re-

ceive today, but that the benefits will rise at a rate we can better afford.

This idea was suggested by a fellow named Robert Pozen, an investment expert and a Democrat who served on the Commission to Strengthen Social Security. Here's how it works: Today, all workers' benefits grow at the rate that reflects growth in wages. Under his plan, benefits for the poorest 30 percent of workers would continue to be tied to wages. For the highest earning one percent of Americans, benefits would be linked to inflation, which grows at a slower rate than wages. For all those in between, benefits would grow at a rate higher than inflation. By changing the system this way, this country will make this commitment, and I think it's an important commitment to make: If you work hard and pay into Social Security your entire life, you will not retire into poverty.

I met two of our citizens today. January Igot—she's 26 years old. She works in Washington, DC. She earned \$33,000 last year. When she retires, her annual benefit under the reform plan I just outlined would be \$21,700 in today's dollars. That is \$3,800 more in real terms than a similar retiree receives today. I'm just trying to give you a sense of what this would mean to the average citizen.

Rick Brandt is with us, a 38-year-old guy. He's a realtor from Newport News, Virginia. He's got four daughters, and he's married. *[Laughter]* He's earned about \$75,000 over the past 2 years. Under the reformed system, his annual benefit when he reaches retirement age would be \$24,300 in today's dollars, 3,300 more in real terms than beneficiaries receive today.

A reformed system will introduce greater fairness into Social Security. And as importantly, for those who are paying into the system in the future, it puts Social Security on the road to solvency. As a matter of fact, by reducing the growth in benefits for the wealthiest Americans, we would permanently solve most of the funding challenges facing Social Security today. In other words, the reform I just outlined would provide most of the reform necessary to say that we've permanently solved Social Security.

Now, there are other ways to solve the rest of it, and I look forward to working with Congress to do so. But one thing we will not do is raise the payroll tax rate.

I have an obligation as we go through the discussion of Social Security not to talk—only talk about the problem but to talk about commonsense ways to solve the problem. You just heard a commonsense way to put this system on a more solvent footing, forever. We have a duty to younger workers to do that. If you're getting your check, you don't have a thing to worry about. Nothing will change for people who are receiving their Social Security check today. As a matter of fact, those of us born in 1950, the system will be exactly the way it is. But younger workers need to listen to this debate, because if Congress will not do anything, the situation gets worse every year, and you'll be paying into a system that will be bankrupt in 2041. Those are the facts.

Now, as we fix the system permanently, I think we should give our workers—younger workers the opportunity to have a better deal in Social Security as well. See, Social Security is a pay-as-you-go system. I alluded to it earlier: You pay; we go ahead and spend. [Laughter] You're paying your payroll taxes. Some people in this country believe as you pay your payroll taxes, the Government holds it, and then when you retire, we give it back to you. [Laughter] No, the Government takes your payroll taxes; we pay out to current retirees; and with any money left over, we fund the rest of Government. And that which—and then what ends up happening is, there is a filing cabinet in West Virginia that's got an IOU in it. [Laughter] I know firsthand. I saw the filing cabinet with the IOUs. [Laughter] That's the solvency of the system. The solvency of the system is paper.

See, I think we ought to replace the empty promises of Government with real assets. In other words, give younger workers the opportunity, if they so choose, to put a portion of their payroll taxes in a voluntary personal savings account. They should be allowed—notice I said, “voluntary.” In other words, we're giving younger workers the option. Government is not going to say, “You must do this.” Government is going to say, “You can do this if you so choose.” In other words,

we're trusting you to make the right decision. After all, it's your money.

You should be allowed, if you so choose, to invest in a conservative mix of bonds and stocks, which would give you the benefits of the power of compound interest. In other words, if you hold your money and keep reinvesting it over a period of time, it grows and grows and grows. That's what compound interest means. The accounts would give you an opportunity to earn a better rate of return on your money than the current Social Security system does.

Today, for example, Social Security provides an annual rate of less than 2 percent for younger workers in the workforce. That's not a very good deal. You're paying into a system which will be broke in 2041, and not only that, you don't earn very much on your money. A mixed portfolio of conservative investments could be expected to pay you 4.6 percent, minimum. In other words, you put money aside in a conservative mix of bonds and stocks, you should be able to get 4.6 quite easily. Many of you who are managing your own money know that over time, you get a lot better than that.

And here's what a personal account earning 4.6 percent would mean for a 20-year-old mom earning \$8 an hour over her career—in other words, the kind of person that we want to make sure doesn't retire into poverty. If she so chooses to invest \$600 of her payroll taxes in a voluntary account each year, by the time she retired, she could expect to have a nest egg worth about \$100,000 in today's dollars. In other words, that \$600 contribution would grow over time, in a conservative mix of bonds and stocks.

Take this as an example, just to give you a sense of how interest will cause your assets to grow: Say one of your children becomes a nurse, and she marries a policeman. And both enter the workforce in 2011, and they work their entire careers. And they contribute a third of their payroll taxes, and they put it in a conservative mix that yields a 4.6 percent investment. By the time they reach 65, they would have accounts worth \$669,000 that they could call their own. That's 669,000 in today's dollars, not the dollars when they're 65 years old.

In other words, money grows. It doesn't grow very much at 2 percent; it grows a heck of a lot better at 4.6 percent or better. And I think Government ought to give people the chance, the option, of taking some of their own money and watching it grow at a better rate than the Government can get for them in the Social Security system.

The money off of your own asset base, the money off your voluntary personal savings account, would be used to supplement the Social Security check you got. In other words, Government can afford to pay something—I just laid out a plan that will cause most of the problem to be permanently solved, and there's some other things we can do to solve it forever. And so you'll get a check. And so the personal account, the personal savings account will give you money to supplement your Social Security check, if that's what you choose to do. That's just an important concept. In other words, if there is—it's a combination of that which the Government can afford to pay you as well as what you earn, what you—as you watch your assets grow.

The other thing that's important about this account—you see, when I said we're going to replace IOUs in a file cabinet with real assets, that means this is your money, see. This is your account. Government can't take it away. Government can't spend it on something else.

Voluntary accounts would help with some of the unfairness in today's system. And the system is unfair for some folks. If your spouse dies before you're 62 years old, the Social Security system gives you a burial benefit. In other words, you—two families working—two people working in the family all their life, spouse dies prior to 62, what you get as your benefit is they bury your spouse for you. That's it. When you reach retirement age, the system says you can take your check or your spouse's check, which is ever higher, but not both.

Now, think about that system. Been working all your life, you pay in. You die early, and the money you put in just goes away. That's not a fair system. We got people working all their lives at hard work, contributing by payroll taxes into a Social Security system. The good Lord takes one of the members of the family away, and all the money you

put in, into the system, does not accrue to the benefit of your loved one. You get the benefit—you get the higher of the spouse's benefits or your benefits, which is ever higher, but not both. That's the way the system works.

If you're able to put aside some of your own money in an account you call your own and if you die early, you can leave that asset base to your spouse or your kids to help them along.

I fully understand some citizens are not comfortable with the idea of managing their money in a voluntary personal savings account. That's natural. That concept makes some people nervous. That's why the accounts are voluntary. If you don't like the idea, you can stay in the current system, the system that will be reformed. You don't have to worry about it.

The other thing is there will be plenty of options. For example, you can invest all in T-bills, Treasury bonds. But there will be other options that will be easy to understand. As a matter of fact, an amazing thing has happened since I was 20 years old, and that is the advent of 401(k)s came along. And for those of you who were born about my time, if you look back, I don't remember sitting around talking about 401(k)s when I was 20, or IRAs—all different kinds of options to encourage people to manage their own money. But that's changed in our society today. There are a lot of people looking after their own assets now. People are used to investing. Thousands of young Americans are becoming accustomed to watching their own assets grow through 401(k)s and IRAs.

As a matter of fact, this idea has caught on so much that Government is now adopting—giving people the ability to take some of their own money and putting it aside in a personal savings account as a part of the retirement system. I mean, the Federal Government developed what's called the Thrift Savings Plan. Here we are, debating Social Security; some people are saying, "We can't have—give people the right to manage some of their own money," yet guess what's happening in Washington. They've decided that they're going to set aside some of their own money and get a better rate of return on their money because it grows over time.

It seemed like a pretty good deal to those who write the laws, and so, therefore, in the Federal Thrift Savings Plan, if you're a Member of the United States Congress and you so choose, you can set aside some of your own money and put it in a personal savings account. My message to the United States Congress is, if that idea is good enough for you, it is good enough for workers all across America.

We have an obligation to confront problems head on here in Washington. Our children's retirement security is too important for politics as usual. If you're getting a check, you having nothing to worry about. If you're retired, the system is just fine for you. But if you're a grandma or granddad, you better be talking to the Members of the United States Congress about what they intend to do to fix the system for your grandchildren.

We have a shared responsibility here in Washington to work together. We've got a great opportunity to permanently reform Social Security so that seniors will be kept out of poverty when they retire. We've got a chance to spread ownership. I talked about homeownership earlier; I talked about owning your own business. Another way to encourage ownership in America is to let more people manage their own money when it comes time for their retirement.

I don't think investments ought to be confined just to the investment class. I understand the more that people own something, the more they watch their assets grow, the better off America is. I want people from all walks of life working hard and developing assets and savings that they can pass on to their children, if that's what they choose to do. The more ownership we have in America, the better off America is.

It is time we take on this debate with courage and honesty, and I believe we'll succeed. And I ask you to contact the Members of the House of Representatives and Senate—Members of the Senate from your States and encourage them to work in good faith to solve this problem. And when we do, Republicans and Democrats will be able to stand together and take credit for doing what is right for our children and our grandchildren.

Thanks for letting me come by today, and may God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:14 a.m. at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Remarks Honoring Spring and Fall NCAA Championship Teams

May 13, 2005

The President. Please be seated. Thank you. Welcome to the White House, the people's house. We're glad you're here. Today we honor four outstanding NCAA championship teams. The—it's a great—I love this day in the White House. It's a chance to honor people who have worked hard, made right decisions with their lives, and served something greater than themselves, their team. So, really glad you're here. I hope you're excited—as excited about being here as I am as excited about receiving you.

I first want to say thanks to Congresswoman Anna Eshoo for coming. I think—I suspect you're here to support the mighty Stanford women's volleyball team.

Ed Royce from California is here. He's a Cal State grad—Cal State, Fullerton, grad. And you like baseball?

Audience member. [Inaudible]

The President. Yes. All right, good. I'm glad Marie is with you. Welcome, Marie.

I want to thank Mike Sodrel for coming. Mike, it's good to see you, sir, and your wife, Keta. Mike is from Indiana. He's here because of the men's soccer team, right, Michael?

Audience member. Yes, sir.

The President. Good. Glad you all are here.

Milton Gordon is the president of Cal State, Fullerton—and his wife, Dr. Margaret Faulwell Gordon. I'm glad you all are here.

Mike Freitag, the head coach, is with us from mighty Indiana University, his wife, Renee, and his daughter Hanna. Welcome.

I appreciate Randy Waldrum, who's the head coach of the University of Notre Dame women's soccer team. Randy, it's good to see you, sir. I know your son is here as well.

I appreciate George Horton, who is the baseball coach at Cal State, Fullerton.

I want to thank John Dunning, who's the head coach of the women's volleyball team

at Stanford. I welcome his wife, Julie, and his daughter Lauren.

But most of all, I want to thank the players who are here. Good going, and congratulations.

The first team we honor is the Indiana men's soccer team. They are the champs for the second year in a row. I kind of like that idea, back-to-back trips to the White House. [Laughter] Glad you all are back. And the championship game was pretty darn exciting, wasn't it? The game was tied after regulations, 20 minutes of overtime. It came down to penalty kicks. Congratulations.

Coach, I want to congratulate you as well. Pretty good job for a rookie. [Laughter] One of the interesting things the coach made the decision on—the back-to-back championship, he said, “If we win, the team can go ahead and shave his head.” That's something we don't want to get started here in the White House. [Laughter]

Interestingly enough, the team made an incredibly generous gesture. They purchased a water buffalo in Laura and my honor and gave it to a family overseas so that the family could better make a living. And I want to thank you for that great act of generosity. Thank you all. It really does mean a lot.

I want to welcome the Notre Dame women's soccer team. I think it helps a lot you've got coaches from Texas. [Laughter] What do you think? Yes. Anyway, what a great victory the women's team had as well. You beat UCLA on penalty kicks. I loved your slogan, like, GOAT, “Greatest of All Time,” in reference to your team. I appreciate you setting high standards and working hard. And congratulations on a job well done.

And the mighty Titans from Cal State, Fullerton, had a motto of their own. The motto was, “Think How Good It's Gonna Feel.” I didn't feel so good for the Longhorns. [Laughter] But I do want to congratulate you. I love baseball. I was telling the players that's my favorite sport of all. It's a hard game to play, and it's definitely a team game, and it's really hard to win the national championship in all sports. And this is a team that was, like, under .500 in your first 30 games or so, and then you went 32 out of 38 for the final—in the final stretch of the season.

I really appreciate what Coach Horton said. He said about the championship victory, “I still have chills. It's not from the cold water that was dropped on my head.” [Laughter] You don't have much hair to protect your head anyway, but—[laughter]—that was kind of a cheap shot, wasn't it? [Laughter] The guy is a pretty good coach, though. Good luck.

I also want to welcome the Stanford women's volleyball team. I was telling the women from Stanford that I was just with Condoleezza Rice, former provost of Stanford University. I said, “Come by and welcome the home girls. Come by and tell them, good going for the second visit in 4 years to the White House.” She said she had to meet with a leader from another nation. So she sends her best to you.

I want to welcome you all back here. I appreciate the fact that you won 15 games in a row and you weren't supposed to win the championship. You know, sometimes they count you out of a race—[laughter]—a little too soon, right? [Laughter] But we're glad you're back.

And I want to thank all the teams. I particularly want to thank all the teams not only for being such good role models as you play your games, but also off the fields of play. And it's really important that you recognize that as champs, there's some person watching you and some person trying to learn from you and some person that if you—whose life you can affect more than you know.

And so, when I'm told that the Indiana men's soccer team volunteer for youth soccer programs and go to schools encouraging people to make good choices in life, it heartens my soul. And I want to thank you all for doing that. You just don't know what it means to be a champion and have an eighth-grade kid or a seventh-grade kid hear from a star, “Make a good choice. Love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.”

And the Notre Dame women's soccer players volunteer at an after-school program. That's great. You know, it can't be a greater gift than to teach a child to read or to encourage a child to read. It's a lasting legacy. Frankly, it's more important than a sports trophy. And I want to thank you for doing that.

I appreciate the Stanford women's volleyball players who read to children at local elementary schools and then help young girls learn the great value of being on a team sport through a volleyball clinic. Keep doing it, not only as college students but after you get out. It's one great way to serve our Nation.

And I appreciate the fact that the Cal State, Fullerton, players took time out of the World Series last year to go to the hospital and say something to somebody who hurts.

What I'm telling you is, you can be a champ on the field and you can be a champ off the field. You'll have a full life when you're able to say to yourself, "I've really helped somebody in need."

Congratulations for setting such a great example. Welcome to the White House. Maybe you'll be back next year. I'll be here to greet you if you come back. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:02 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Marie Royce, wife of Representative Edward R. Royce; and professional soccer player Ben Waldrum, son of University of Notre Dame women's soccer head coach Randy Waldrum.

Proclamation 7901—Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week, 2005

May 13, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Across our Nation, the courageous men and women who protect our communities wear the uniform and badge with pride as they safeguard our families, homes, and communities. On Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week, we honor the memory of those heroes who have fallen in the line of duty and recognize all those who put themselves at risk in the fight against crime, violence, and terrorism.

More than 800,000 men and women serve as officers of the law in the United States. They serve in varying capacities, including as U.S. Marshals, county sheriffs, deputies,

State patrolmen, municipal police, and Federal agents. They share the fundamental qualities of discipline, integrity, and courage. Since our Nation's founding, peace officers have upheld the rule of law and defended the innocent, and we are grateful to them and their families for all they do to strengthen our communities.

On Peace Officers Memorial Day, we pause to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. These brave men and women accepted the responsibilities of a noble calling and were willing to face danger for our safety. By having their names engraved into the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., and praying for their families, we honor the memory of these fallen heroes and show the respect of a grateful Nation.

During Police Week and throughout the year, I urge all Americans to support law enforcement officers in the fight against crime. Every citizen can assist his or her local police force to help make our communities safer. Successful Citizen Corps programs like Neighborhood Watch and Volunteers in Police Service are making a difference in the lives of others, one heart and one neighborhood at a time. Information about these and other volunteer programs can be obtained by visiting the Citizen Corps website at citizencorps.gov. By working together, we can continue to build a safer America.

By a joint resolution approved October 1, 1962, as amended, (76 Stat. 676), the Congress has authorized and requested the President to designate May 15 of each year as "Peace Officers Memorial Day" and the week in which it falls as "Police Week," and by Public Law 103-322, as amended, (36 U.S.C. 136), has directed that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2005, as Peace Officers Memorial Day and May 15 through May 21, 2005, as Police Week. I call on all Americans to observe these events with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call on Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as

appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day. I further encourage all Americans to display the flag at half-staff from their homes and businesses on that day.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:58 a.m., May 17, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 18.

Proclamation 7902—National Defense Transportation Day and National Transportation Week, 2005
May 13, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

We rely on the men and women of our transportation industry to ensure efficient, secure, and reliable travel for our citizens and to keep our economy growing. On National Defense Transportation Day and during National Transportation Week, we recognize those who maintain and support our transportation system.

Our transportation system is vital to our national security. It is used to deploy troops around the world and to deliver crucial equipment and supplies in the field. Each day Americans also rely on our transportation system to reach their travel destinations and to transport billions of tons of freight across our country. My Administration has taken important steps to protect our Nation's bridges, tunnels, highways, waterways, rail lines, pipelines, and airports to help keep our citizens safe and our economy running smoothly.

Transportation professionals keep our country moving and support our citizens as they conduct business, tour our great Nation, and reunite with family and friends. The strong work ethic and professionalism of transportation employees help increase efficiency and production across our Nation and advance American prosperity. Their efforts reflect the values that make our country strong and help ensure that our transportation infrastructure will continue to benefit Americans for generations to come.

To recognize the men and women who work in the transportation industry and who contribute to our Nation's well-being and defense, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 16, 1957, as amended (36 U.S.C. 120), has designated the third Friday in May each year as "National Defense Transportation Day," and, by joint resolution approved May 14, 1962, as amended (36 U.S.C. 133), declared that the week during which that Friday falls be designated as "National Transportation Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 20, 2005, as National Defense Transportation Day and May 15 through May 21, 2005, as National Transportation Week. I encourage all Americans to learn how our modern transportation system contributes to the security of our citizens and the prosperity of our country and to celebrate these observances with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:58 a.m., May 17, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 18.

Memorandum on Assignment of Function To Submit a Report to the Congress

May 13, 2005

Memorandum for the Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Subject: Assignment of Function to Submit a Report to the Congress

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, the function of the President of providing to the Congress a report under section 9012 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108-287) is assigned to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

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

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

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.

May 7

In the morning, at the Radisson SAS Daugava Hotel in Riga, Latvia, the President had an intelligence briefing. He and Mrs. Bush then participated in a greeting with U.S. Embassy personnel. They then went to Riga Castle, where they participated in an arrival ceremony with President Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia and her husband, Imants Freibergs. Later, in the Gold Room at Riga Castle, the President met with President Vike-Freiberga and Prime Minister Aigars Kalvitis of Latvia.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush, accompanied by President Vike-

Freiberga and her husband, Imants Freibergs, went to Freedom Memorial Park, where they participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Freedom Monument.

In the afternoon, in the White Hall at the Riga Latvian Society House, the President and President Vike-Freiberga participated in a roundtable discussion with civil society leaders.

Later in the afternoon, in the Ligo Room at the Riga Latvian Society House, the President had a lunch meeting with President Vike-Freiberga, President Arnold Ruutel of Estonia, and President Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Maastricht, the Netherlands, where, upon arrival at the Maastricht Aachen Airport, they participated in a greeting with U.S. Embassy personnel. They then traveled to the Chateau St. Gerlach in Valkenburg, the Netherlands.

May 8

In the morning, at the Chateau St. Gerlach, the President had a breakfast meeting with Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende of the Netherlands.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Margraten, the Netherlands. Upon arrival, they went to the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial, where they participated in a greeting with Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands.

Later in the morning, at the Cemetery's Visitor Center, the President and Mrs. Bush signed the guest book. He and Queen Beatrix then participated in a wreath-laying ceremony.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Moscow, Russia.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a dinner hosted by President Vladimir Putin of Russia and his wife, Lyudmila Putin, at Novo Ogarevo, the Putins' residence in Moscow.

May 9

In the morning, at the Marriott Grand Hotel in Moscow, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then participated in a coffee with civil society leaders.

Later in the morning, in the Red Square of the Kremlin, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a parade commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. Later, they participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at Russia's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin wall.

In the afternoon, at the Kremlin State Palace, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a lunch for delegations to the anniversary ceremonies. Later, they went to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, where they greeted Embassy personnel.

Later in the afternoon, at Spaso House, the President and Mrs. Bush met with U.S. and Russian veterans.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Tbilisi, Georgia, arriving in the evening.

Later in the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended cultural events in Old Town Tbilisi.

May 10

In the morning, at the Marriott Hotel in Tbilisi, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a greeting with U.S. Embassy personnel.

Later in the morning, in the Plaza of the Parliament Building, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in an arrival ceremony with President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia and his wife, Sandra Roelofs. Later, he met with President Saakashvili in President Saakashvili's office.

Later in the morning, in the Parliament Building, the President met with Speaker of the Georgian Parliament Nino Burjanadze.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of the Presidential delegation to Austria to attend the 50th Anniversary of the Austrian State Treaty, on May 15: Rudolph E. Boschwitz (head of delegation); W.L. Lyons Brown; Vincent Obsitnik; Alfred Hoffman; and Davis Phillips.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark A. Limbaugh to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior (Water and Science).

The President announced his intention to nominate Henrietta Holsman Fore to be Under Secretary of State for Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Alan Eaton to be Ambassador to Panama.

May 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Pamela E. Bridgewater to be Ambassador to Ghana.

The President announced his intention to appoint Tamala Lynne Longaberger as Chairperson of the National Women's Business Council.

May 12

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

Later in the morning, the President met with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with 2005 MATHCOUNTS National Competition award recipients.

The White House announced that the President will welcome former President Nelson Mandela of South Africa to the White House on May 17.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Ahmed Mohamed Nazif of Egypt to Washington on May 18.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark to the White House on May 20.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan to the White House on May 23.

May 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Larry Miles Dinger to be Ambassador to the Fiji Islands and Ambassador to Nauru, Tonga, Kiribati, and Tuvalu.

The President announced his intention to nominate Terence Patrick McCulley to be Ambassador to Mali.

The President announced his intention to nominate Paul A. Trivelli to be Ambassador to Nicaragua.

The President announced his intention to nominate Anne Wagner to be Ambassador to Luxembourg.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael E. Hess to be Assistant Administrator (Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Response) at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Janice B. Gardner to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis at the Department of the Treasury.

The President announced his intention to nominate Victoria Nuland to be the U.S. Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Daniel R. Stanley to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.

The President intends to designate Gordon R. England as Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense.

The President intends to select the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee to the White House Conference on Aging, for the life of the Conference: Rodolfo Arredondo; Lupo Carlota; Kathleen Correa; Joseph F. Coughlin; Anthony M. DiLeo; Peggys Dilworth-Anderson; T. Bella Dinh-Zarr; Margaret Lynn Duggar; Katherine Freund; F. Michael Gloth III; Carolyn Gray; Carole Green; Cynthia Hughes Harris; Edward Martinez; Melvina McCabe; Michael McLendon; Lawrence Polivka; Isadore Rosenfeld; William J. Scanlon; Sandra Schlicker; Joanne Schwartzberg; and William J. Turenne, Sr.

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 May 9

James M. Derham, of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guatemala.

Robert Johann Dieter, of Colorado, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Belize.

Rodney E. Hood, of North Carolina, to be a member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for a term expiring April 10, 2009, vice Dennis Dollar, resigned.

Zalmay Khalilzad, of Maryland, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Iraq.

Jill L. Sigal, of Wyoming, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs), vice Rick A. Dearborn.

John J. Sullivan, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce, vice Theodore William Kassinger, resigned.

James Philip Terry, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals for a term of 6 years, vice Eligah Dane Clark, term expired.

Rodolphe M. Vallee, of Vermont, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Slovak Republic.

R. Thomas Weimer, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, vice Patricia Lynn Scarlett.

Submitted May 11

Pamela E. Bridgewater, of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Ghana.

William Alan Eaton, of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Panama.

Henrietta Holsman Fore, of Nevada, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management), vice Grant S. Green, Jr., resigned.

Mark A. Limbaugh, of Idaho, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, vice Bennett William Raley, resigned.

Submitted May 13

James B. Letten, of Louisiana, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of 4 years, vice Eddie J. Jordan, Jr., resigned.

**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 May 7

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Advance text: President's remarks in Riga, Latvia

Released May 8

Transcript of a press gaggle by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on the President's upcoming visit with President Vladimir Putin of Russia

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of State Rice and Russian Federation For-

eign Minister Lavrov on the President's visit with President Vladimir Putin of Russia

Released May 9

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley on the President's visit to Moscow

Statement by the Press Secretary on American and Russian negotiators' progress on a common approach to resolving the question of liability protections for cooperative programs

Released May 11

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1268

Released May 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Nelson Mandela

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt Ahmed Mohamed Nazif

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Rasmussen of Denmark to Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Karzai of Afghanistan to Washington

Released May 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved May 11

H.R. 1268 / Public Law 109-13
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005