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PATRIOT Act and other laws respect privacy and civil liberties, and I'll soon name five talented Americans to serve on that board. Attorney General Gonzales delivers regular reports on the PATRIOT Act to the House and the Senate. And the Department of Justice has answered hundreds of questions from Members of Congress. One Senator, Dianne Feinstein of California, has worked with civil rights groups to monitor my administration's use of the PATRIOT Act. Here's what she said, "We've scrubbed the area, and I have no reported abuses." Remember that the next time you hear someone make an unfair criticism of this important, good law. The PATRIOT Act has not diminished American liberties; the PATRIOT Act has helped to defend American liberties.

Every day the men and women of law enforcement use the PATRIOT Act to keep America safe. It's the nature of your job that many of your most important achievements must remain secret. Americans will always be grateful for the risks you take and for the determination you bring to this high calling—you have done your job. Now those of us in Washington have to do our job. The House and Senate are moving forward with the process to renew the PATRIOT Act. My message to Congress is clear: The terrorist threats against us will not expire at the end of the year, and neither should the protections of the PATRIOT Act.

I want to thank you for letting me come and talk about this important piece of legislation. I want to thank you for being on the frontlines of securing this country. May God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless our Nation. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:22 a.m. at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio; Kenneth L. Morckel, director, Ohio Department of Public Safety; Col. Paul D. McClellan, superintendent, Ohio State Highway Patrol; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Judges for the United States Court of Appeals

June 9, 2005

I am pleased that the Senate voted today to confirm three distinguished and highly qualified judges to the United States Court of Appeals: Judge Bill Pryor, Judge Richard Griffin, and Judge David McKeague.

More than a year ago, I recess appointed Judge Pryor to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit to fill a vacancy that had been designated a judicial emergency by the Judicial Conference of the United States. Judge Pryor's recent service on the Eleventh Circuit has built on an impressive career of public service in which he has applied the law fairly and impartially to all people. I commend the Senate for fulfilling its constitutional responsibility to vote on Judge Pryor and for confirming him so that he will continue his service on this court.

Both Judge Griffin and Judge McKeague have served on the Michigan courts for more than a decade, during which time each has demonstrated a strong commitment to the rule of law. Both are well qualified to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and will fill vacancies that have been designated judicial emergencies by the Judicial Conference of the United States.

These three nominees have waited a combined total of over 8 years for their votes. I applaud the Senate for today giving these fine nominees the up-or-down votes they deserve.

Videotape Remarks to the People of Africa

June 8, 2005

For the past several years, the United States has worked with African leaders on bold initiatives to encourage reform within the continent. Our goal is to improve the lives of the African people, and our partnership is yielding results. The economies of

many African nations are growing. And in sub-Saharan Africa as a whole, economic growth is now at its highest level in 8 years.

The growth of your economies has been helped by strong trade ties between our continents. Last year I signed the African Growth and Opportunity Acceleration Act, which will continue to reduce barriers to trade, increase exports, create jobs, and expand opportunity for Africans and Americans alike. This agreement is giving American businesses greater confidence to invest in Africa. It also encourages African nations to reform their economies. And the law is producing results: Last year, U.S. exports to sub-Saharan Africa increased 25 percent, and America's imports from AGOA countries rose 88 percent.

This success reflects the growing consensus in both Africa and the United States that open trade and international investment are the surest and fastest ways for Africa to make progress. AGOA nations are strengthening the rule of law. They are lowering trade barriers. They are combating corruption and protecting workers and eliminating child labor. They are setting an important example for the entire continent, demonstrating that governments that respect individual rights and encourage the development of their markets are more likely to grow economically and achieve political stability.

As we increase trade, we are also reforming the way we deliver aid. For too many years, our assistance to Africa was sent without regard to results. Under my Administration, U.S. development aid to African nations has increased, but we are not just giving more aid; we are being wiser about how it is spent.

The idea is based on common sense: Aid works best in countries that are proving their commitment to govern justly, respect the rule of law, invest in their citizens, and open up their economies. When nations do these things and expand freedom and opportunities to all their citizens, entire societies can be lifted out of poverty and despair. In 2002, we launched the Millennium Challenge Account to provide aid to poorer nations based on these principles. In April, Madagascar became the first country to sign a Compact with the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and I am confident that other African nations will follow.

At a time when freedom is on the march around the world, it is vital that the continent of Africa be a place of democracy and prosperity and hope where people grow up healthy and have the opportunity to realize their dreams. Africa is a continent of promise, and the United States wants to help the people of Africa realize the brighter future they deserve.

NOTE: The President's remarks were taped at 11:05 a.m. in the Map Room at the White House for broadcast on Voice of America's radio and television stations beginning June 8. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 10.

Remarks on the PATRIOT Act in McLean, Virginia

June 10, 2005

Thanks for the warm welcome. It is really exciting to come and spend time in this fine facility and to meet the men and women who work at the National Counterterrorism Center. I just met with some who spend long hours preparing threat assessments, and it was my honor to tell them how much I appreciate their hard work and appreciate the daily briefing I get every single morning.

I want to thank you all for taking on such demanding assignments and important assignments. My message to the folks here is, thanks for being on the frontline and protecting America during the war on terror. You know, it's a different kind of war. It's a war that seems like there's maybe no action taking place, that maybe the enemy is not active. You know, I was concerned after September the 11th that the tendency would be to forget the nature of the people with whom you deal on a daily basis. But I understand that there is an enemy that still lurks, and you know it as well.

And so on behalf of a grateful nation, I want to thank you for working hard to protect America. I want to thank you for your dedication. I want to thank you for your service and sacrifice.

The NCTC plays a key part in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. It's