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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Proclamation 7913—Captive Nations Week, 2005

July 15, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America stands for freedom and supports those who are oppressed. During Captive Nations Week, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing democracy, defending liberty, and protecting human rights around the world.

When President Eisenhower issued the first Captive Nations Week proclamation in 1959, freedom was being denied by communist regimes in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Millions were deprived of their rights to freely practice religion, assemble in public, and exercise freedom of speech. The Cold War and the captivity of millions of people in Central and Eastern Europe have since ended, and we have witnessed the rise of democratic governments in countries across the globe.

Building a free and peaceful world is the work of generations, and this work continues. America believes that freedom is God's gift to each man and woman in this world and that spreading freedom's blessings is the calling of our time. We are continuing to work to help spread liberty and democracy to people who have known fear and oppression. The gains in places like Afghanistan, Iraq, Ukraine, and Georgia have been achieved through the courage, determination, and sacrifice of millions of men and women in those countries, with the assistance of the United States and other allies.

As a Nation forged from the ideals of freedom, justice, and human dignity, we will continue speaking out on behalf of oppressed people. We will support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation. This young century will be liberty's century, and during Captive Nations Week, we pledge to advance the cause of liberty for all people.

The Congress, by Joint Resolution approved July 17, 1959 (73 Stat. 212), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week in July of each year as "Captive Nations Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim July 17 through July 23, 2005, as Captive Nations Week. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to reaffirm their commitment to all those seeking liberty, justice, and self-determination.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 19, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 20. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Executive Order 13383—Amending Executive Orders 12139 and 12949 in Light of Establishment of the Office of Director of National Intelligence

July 15, 2005

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section. 1. Section 1–103 of Executive Order 12139 of May 23, 1979, is amended by:

(a) striking "(c) Director of Central Intelligence" and inserting in lieu thereof "(c) Director of National Intelligence";

(b) striking "(g) Deputy Director of Central Intelligence" and inserting in lieu thereof "(g) Director of the Central Intelligence Agency"; and

(c) adding at the end thereof "(h) Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.".

Sec. 2. Section 3 of Executive Order 12949 of February 9, 1995, is amended by:

(a) striking "(c) Director of Central Intelligence" and inserting in lieu thereof "Director of National Intelligence";

(b) striking "and" at the end of subsection (f);

(c) striking "(g) Deputy Director of Central Intelligence." and inserting in lieu thereof "(g) Director of the Central Intelligence Agency; and"; and

(d) adding at the end thereof "(h) Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.".

Sec. 3. 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, or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 15, 2005.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 19, 2005]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on July 20. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Memorandum on Drawdown of Commodities and Services From the Department of Defense To Support African Union Peacekeeping in Darfur, Sudan

July 15, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005–30

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Drawdown of Commodities and Services from the Department of Defense to Support African Union Peacekeeping in Darfur, Sudan.

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 552(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, I hereby determine that:

(1) as a result of an unforeseen emergency, the provision of assistance under Chapter 6 of Part II of the Act in amounts in excess of funds otherwise available for such assistance is important to the national interests of the United States; and

(2) such unforeseen emergency requires the immediate provision of assistance under Chapter 6 of Part II of the Act.

I therefore direct the drawdown of up to $6 million in commodities and services from the Department of Defense to support the transportation of African Union forces to Darfur, Sudan.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 26, 2005]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 27. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments

July 15, 2005

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2006 budget amendments for the Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services; the Environmental Protection Agency; International Assistance Programs; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and the Small Business Administration. In total, these amendments would not increase the discretionary budget authority proposed in my FY 2006 Budget.

The details of these proposals are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

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

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Review of Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996

July 15, 2005

Dear _____ :

Consistent with section 306(c)(2) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–114)(the "Act"), I hereby determine and report to the Congress that suspension for 6 months beyond August 1, 2005, of the right to bring an action under title III of the Act is necessary to the national interests of the United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Richard G. Lugar, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Thad Cochran, chairman, and Robert C. Byrd, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; and Jerry Lewis, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

July 16, 2005

Good morning. Under the Constitution, I have the responsibility to nominate a successor to Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. This past week, I met with Democratic and Republican leaders in the United States Senate and sought their views on the process and their thoughts on the qualities to look for in a potential nominee. Also, my staff has talked with more than 60 Members of the United States Senate. Members of the Senate are receiving a full opportunity to provide their opinions and recommendations, and I appreciate their advice.

I will be guided by clear principles as I make my decision. My nominee will be a fair-minded individual who represents the mainstream of American law and American values. The nominee will meet the highest standards of intellect, character, and ability, and will pledge to faithfully interpret the Constitution and laws of our country. Our Nation deserves, and I will select, a Supreme Court Justice that Americans can be proud of.

The American people also expect a Senate confirmation process that rises above partisanship. When I met with Senate leaders, we discussed our shared goal of making sure that the confirmation process is dignified. The nominee deserves fair treatment, a fair hearing, and a fair vote. I will make my nomination in a timely manner so the nominee can be confirmed before the start of the Court's new term in October.

The experiences of the two Justices nominated by President Clinton provide useful examples of fair treatment and a reasonable timetable for Senate action. In 1993, the Senate voted on and confirmed Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the Supreme Court 42 days after President Clinton submitted her nomination. And despite the significant philosophical differences many Senators had

with Justice Ginsburg, she received 96 votes in favor of confirmation.

The following year, Justice Stephen Breyer was confirmed 73 days after his nomination was submitted, with 87 votes in his favor. Again, Republican Senators, in large numbers, voted for confirmation of Justice Breyer despite significant philosophical differences. These examples show that the thorough consideration of a nominee does not require months of delay.

As we continue the process to fill the opening on the Supreme Court, we are also moving forward on other important priorities for the American people. This past week, we received more good news on the economy. The 2005 deficit is projected to be $94 billion less than previously expected. I told the Congress and the country we would cut the deficit in half by 2009. This week's numbers show that we are ahead of pace, so long as Congress acts wisely with taxpayer dollars.

This good news on the budget is coupled with other news that shows the economy is strong and getting stronger. Our economy is growing faster than any other major industrialized nation. The unemployment rate is down to 5 percent, lower than the average rate of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. We have created more than 2 million jobs in the past 12 months. More Americans are working today than ever before in our Nation's history, and homeownership in America is at an alltime high.

To keep our economy growing and creating jobs, Congress needs to continue working in the upcoming weeks on our progrowth economic agenda. First, for the sake of our economic security and our national security, the Congress must complete its work on a good energy bill that will reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

Second, the House needs to follow the Senate's lead by approving the Central American and Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement. By lowering trade barriers for our exports, this agreement will level the playing field for America's goods, services, and crops, and help create jobs for American workers.

Third, Congress needs to send me a fiscally responsible highway bill that modernizes roads and bridges, improves safety, and opens up new job opportunities.

Finally, Congress needs to move forward with Social Security reform. For those of you who were born before 1950, Social Security will not change. But the system has made promises to our younger workers that it cannot pay for. And the cost of fixing the system grows higher with every year we wait. So Congress needs to act now to strengthen Social Security for our children and grandchildren.

The American people expect members of both parties to offer a positive agenda and get things done for our country. By working together in the weeks ahead, I am confident we will achieve positive results for all Americans.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on July 15 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 16. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 15 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India

July 18, 2005

Mr. Prime Minister, Mrs. Kaur, Laura and I are honored to welcome you to the White House.

We meet as leaders of two great democracies committed to working together for a better and a safer world. Your visit reflects the growing bonds of cooperation between your nation and mine. Our nations have ties that are strong and warm. These ties are enriched by hundreds of thousands of Americans of Indian origin who contribute so much to America's vitality. Our people share the bonds of friendship and a commitment to prosperity, peace, and regional stability. Our nations believe in freedom, and our nations are confronting global terrorism.

As diplomatic partners, we're meeting this threat in our own nations and abroad. And as economic partners, we're working around

the world to displace hatred and violence with prosperity, hope, and optimism. India's embrace of democracy and human rights has ensured that its great diversity will remain a national strength. And since enacting economic reforms in the early nineties, India has become an emerging economic power to the betterment of its people.

The relationship between our two nations has never been stronger, and it will grow even closer in the days and years to come. This transformed relationship was seen vividly in the response to the December 26th tsunami that devastated parts of Asia. Along with Japan and Australia, our two nations launched a coordinated and effective disaster relief mission, providing assistance and relief where it was most needed.

Mr. Prime Minister, the United States and India have built a relationship of great potential as we face this century's challenges. We look forward to building on our strong bilateral relationship to expand our economic ties and to lay the foundation of peace and prosperity for our children and our grandchildren.

Welcome, Mr. Prime Minister, and thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:11 a.m. at the South Portico at the White House, where Prime Minister Singh was accorded a formal welcome with full military honors. In his remarks, he referred to Gursharan Kaur, wife of Prime Minister Singh. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Prime Minister Singh.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Singh of India

July 18, 2005

President Bush. Thank you. I'm proud to stand here today with Prime Minister Singh, the leader of one of the world's great democracies. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome to America. I applaud your vision, and I applaud your leadership. Laura and I are honored to welcome you and Mrs. Kaur to the White House.

We just had a great discussion, a very frank and open discussion. And tonight we look forward to welcoming you for a little family dinner.

India and the United States share a commitment to freedom and a belief that democracy provides the best path to a more hopeful future for all people. We also believe that the spread of liberty is the best alternative to hatred and violence. Because of our shared values, the relationship between our two countries has never been stronger. We're working together to make our nations more secure, deliver a better life to our citizens, and advance the cause of peace and freedom throughout the world.

The Governments of India and the United States are working together to safeguard our people. We are charting new steps in our defense relationship through the recently signed new framework that will help our two nations work toward common security objectives. We're working together on counterterrorism to help protect our people and make the world a safer place. We're also committed to increasing the prosperity of the people of India and America alike. Today we announced the completion of the next steps in strategic partnership. Completing this partnership will help us further enhance our cooperation in the areas of civil nuclear, civil space, and high technology commerce.

Last month, we launched a reinvigorated U.S.-India economic dialog to focus high-level attention on trade, finance, investment, and the environment. Prime Minister Singh and I are about to meet with business leaders from both our nations who have joined us here today for the inaugural meeting of the CEO Forum. The expertise of these private sector leaders will help our two Governments build trade and increase investment for the good of our peoples. Cleaner energy resources, including nuclear power, are vital for the future of both our economies. We have begun a bilateral energy dialog to find ways to work together in this important area. Our two nations also have a common interest in bettering the lives of people around the world. We are launching a disaster response initiative to better respond to future disasters, just not in Asia but around the world.

I appreciate Prime Minister Singh's leadership. He's a man who's committed to peace and liberty. I look forward to working with

you, Prime Minister. I thank you for coming. The podium is yours.

Prime Minister Singh. Thank you very much, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the press, I would like to begin by thanking President Bush for the warmth of his hospitality and the wide-ranging discussions that we've had this morning with him. These discussions have been, indeed, very productive and focused on the future direction of a transformation in our multifaceted relations.

I am happy that the President and I share the common goal of making this one of the principal relationships for each of our countries. The President's personal commitment to this relationship is deeply admired by the people of India. The support and good will of the friendly people of the United States in managing the transition from a developing country to a fast-expanding economy is something we greatly welcome and greatly appreciate. The President's assurance to me that India's sustained economic growth has his strong support and support of the United States means a lot to us.

The joint statement that we have agreed upon lays out the full potential of our multifaceted cooperation. The President has accepted my invitation to visit India at the earliest, and we are confident that the results of the understanding that we have reached today would be fully evident by then.

Our partnership is one between rigorous and vibrant democracies, and we have agreed today to give expression to our shared values in a variety of ways. The President's steadfast determination and leadership in meeting the challenges of international terrorism is widely appreciated by us, in particular, but all the world, all civilized men and women all over the world. There can be no cause that justifies the killing of innocent and defenseless civilians. There must be an international norm of zero tolerance for terrorists.

Meeting global challenges requires credible and effective global institutions. Today, the world is debating the reform of the United Nations. In our talks, President and I were of one mind that the contemporary reality must be fully reflected in the central organs and decisionmaking processes of the U.N. India has a compelling case for permanent membership of the Security Council. We are convinced that India can significantly contribute to U.N. decisionmaking and capabilities.

A growing Indian economy, with an accelerated growth rate averaging about 6 to 7 percent in recent years, and its integration with the world economy would expand the scope for commerce, investment, and technological cooperation between our two countries. Shortly after this press interaction, the President and I will spend a few minutes with corporate leaders from both countries of the first meeting of the CEO's Forum. This forum includes some of the best business minds of our two countries. We have announced today a series of other initiatives designed to build a long-term, knowledge-driven partnership between India and the United States. These reflect the vision that the President and I have of our shared future.

We also discussed the importance of ensuring adequate energy and affordable supplies at a time when oil prices remain high. Both of us recognize that civilian nuclear energy has a greater role in meeting global energy demands. We in India have an ambitious and attainable national roadmap in this regard. We look forward to President Bush's strong leadership on this important issues.

I must, once again, thank you, Mr. President, for the warmth of your welcome and for your deep and abiding personal commitment to the building of our partnership.

I would now be glad to take your questions.

President Bush. Hold on a second. The way this is going to work, the way this will work is, I'll call on somebody from the American side, and then the Prime Minister will do so. Then I'll call somebody, and the Prime Minister will do so. We'll answer two questions apiece, starting with Terry [Terence Hunt, Associated Press].

Disclosure of CIA Employee's Identity

Q. Mr. President, you said you don't want to talk about an ongoing investigation, so I'd like to ask you, regardless of whether a crime was committed, do you still intend to fire anyone found to be involved in the CIA leak case? And are you displeased that Karl Rove told a reporter that Ambassador Joe Wilson's wife worked for the Agency on WMD issues?

President Bush. We have a serious ongoing investigation here—[*laughter*]—and it's being played out in the press. And I think it's best that people wait until the investigation is complete before you jump to conclusions. And I will do so as well. I don't know all the facts. I want to know all the facts. The best place for the facts to be done is by somebody who's spending time investigating it. I would like this to end as quickly as possible so we know the facts, and if someone committed a crime, they will no longer work in my administration.

Kashmir

Q. My question is to President Bush. The question relates to the line of control in Kashmir, Mr. President. President Clinton had made clear the U.S. policy that in the interest of peace, the sanctity of the line of control must be maintained by every side.

Would you, Mr. President, like to reaffirm the U.S. stand that the sanctity of the line of control cannot be violated by anyone in future, in the interest of the peace? Mr. President.

President Bush. Well, U.S. policy has not changed. This problem will be solved by India and Pakistan. And our role is to encourage the leaders from both countries to work in good faith to solve this long-standing problem. And I am pleased with the progress being made, as should the people of India. I think the people of India ought to applaud strong leaders that are willing to work to achieve peace. And I think we have an opportunity to help facilitate the dialog on this long-standing issue.

But the truth of the matter is, in order for there to be a solution, the Prime Minister, representing the great people of India, and President Musharraf, representing the people of Pakistan, are going to have to come to a mutually acceptable agreement. To the extent we can help, we're more than willing to try to help. But we're not a party to the agreement, of course. I'm hopeful—I'm hopeful that the progress achieved thus far can be continued. And I applauded the Prime Minister in my private meeting with him for taking a step toward peace.

Adam [Adam Entous, Reuters].

Upcoming Supreme Court Nomination

Q. Thank you.

President Bush. Yes, thanks.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. We understand you are now close to a decision on a Supreme Court nominee.

President Bush. Really? [*Laughter*] It's amazing how Washington works, Mr. Prime Minister. [*Laughter*]

Q. Have you narrowed down the list and met with finalists? Will you now share the list with Senate leaders to avoid a confirmation battle, as Democrats have proposed?

President Bush. Well, thank you for telling me where I am in the process. I appreciate that. We've consulted with the Senate. We will continue to consult with the Senate. I, of course, am the person that picks the nominee, and they get to decide whether or not the nominee gets confirmed. That's the way it has worked in the past. That's the way it's going to work in this administration.

And of course I'm reviewing a different candidate. I'm reviewing their curriculum vitae, as well as their findings. I will sit down with some and talk to them face-to-face, those who I have not known already. You know, we've got some people that—perhaps in contention that I've already spent time with, that I know. In other words, I'm familiar with some of the people that are being speculated about in the press. And so I don't need to interview those. But of course I'm going to take a very thorough approach.

What they're referring to is a Supreme Court vacancy. And this is a really important decision. And I'm going to take my time, and I will be thorough and deliberate. But make no mistake, we have heard a lot of suggestions from Members of the United States Senate—a lot. It turns out, many of the Senators have got strong opinions one way or the other, and of course we're listening to them.

But my desire, Adam, is to get this process moving so that someone will be confirmed, whoever he or she is, will be confirmed by October. And if that's the backstop, we're working back to try to accommodate the Senate and their desire. Part of the consultation was to ask the Senators, "What's it take to get somebody in place by the October session?"

And thank you for your question, and thank you for telling me how close I am to—or at least indicating what others think. [*Laughter*]

Nuclear Technology

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, you have sought the removal of restrictions on nuclear and high technology supplies to India. After the meeting with President Bush, how do you see the prospects in this area?

Prime Minister Singh. Well, I think we have had a very constructive and productive meeting. And as you will see from the joint statement, this issue has been addressed in a manner which gives me great satisfaction. And I thank the President for his personal role and interest in facilitating a solution to this complex problem.

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you. Very good job. Well done. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:08 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gursharan Kaur, wife of Prime Minister Singh; and President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India

July 18, 2005

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Bush today declare their resolve to transform the relationship between their countries and establish a global partnership. As leaders of nations committed to the values of human freedom, democracy and rule of law, the new relationship between India and the United States will promote stability, democracy, prosperity and peace throughout the world. It will enhance our ability to work together to provide global leadership in areas of mutual concern and interest.

Building on their common values and interests, the two leaders resolve:

- To create an international environment conducive to promotion of democratic values, and to strengthen democratic practices in societies which wish to become more open and pluralistic.
- To combat terrorism relentlessly. They applaud the active and vigorous counterterrorism cooperation between the two countries and support more international efforts in this direction. Terrorism is a global scourge and the one we will fight everywhere. The two leaders strongly affirm their commitment to the conclusion by September of a UN comprehensive convention against international terrorism.

The Prime Minister's visit coincides with the completion of the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) initiative, launched in January 2004. The two leaders agree that this provides the basis for expanding bilateral activities and commerce in space, civil nuclear energy and dual-use technology.

Drawing on their mutual vision for the U.S.-India relationship, and our joint objectives as strong long-standing democracies, the two leaders agree on the following:

For the Economy

- Revitalize the U.S.-India Economic Dialogue and launch a CEO Forum to harness private sector energy and ideas to deepen the bilateral economic relationship.
- Support and accelerate economic growth in both countries through greater trade, investment, and technology collaboration.
- Promote modernization of India's infrastructure as a prerequisite for the continued growth of the Indian economy. As India enhances its investment climate, opportunities for investment will increase.
- Launch a U.S.-India Knowledge Initiative on Agriculture focused on promoting teaching, research, service and commercial linkages.

For Energy and the Environment

- Strengthen energy security and promote the development of stable and efficient energy markets in India with a view to ensuring adequate, affordable energy supplies and conscious of the need for sustainable development. These issues will be addressed through the U.S.-India Energy Dialogue.

- Agree on the need to promote the imperatives of development and safeguarding the environment, commit to developing and deploying cleaner, more efficient, affordable, and diversified energy technologies.

For Democracy and Development

- Develop and support, through the new U.S.-India Global Democracy Initiative in countries that seek such assistance, institutions and resources that strengthen the foundations that make democracies credible and effective. India and the U.S. will work together to strengthen democratic practices and capacities and contribute to the new U.N. Democracy Fund.
- Commit to strengthen cooperation and combat HIV/AIDs at a global level through an initiative that mobilizes private sector and government resources, knowledge, and expertise.

For Non-Proliferation and Security

- Express satisfaction at the New Framework for the U.S.-India Defense Relationship as a basis for future cooperation, including in the field of defense technology.
- Commit to play a leading role in international efforts to prevent the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The U.S. welcomed the adoption by India of legislation on WMD (Prevention of Unlawful Activities Bill).
- Launch a new U.S.-India Disaster Relief Initiative that builds on the experience of the Tsunami Core Group, to strengthen cooperation to prepare for and conduct disaster relief operations.

For High-Technology and Space

- Sign a Science and Technology Framework Agreement, building on the U.S.-India High-Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG), to provide for joint research and training, and the establishment of public-private partnerships.
- Build closer ties in space exploration, satellite navigation and launch, and in the commercial space arena through mechanisms such as the U.S.-India Working Group on Civil Space Cooperation.
- Building on the strengthened nonproliferation commitments undertaken in the NSSP, to remove certain Indian organizations from the Department of Commerce's Entity List.

Recognizing the significance of civilian nuclear energy for meeting growing global energy demands in a cleaner and more efficient manner, the two leaders discussed India's plans to develop its civilian nuclear energy program.

President Bush conveyed his appreciation to the Prime Minister over India's strong commitment to preventing WMD proliferation and stated that as a responsible state with advanced nuclear technology, India should acquire the same benefits and advantages as other such states. The President told the Prime Minister that he will work to achieve full civil nuclear energy cooperation with India as it realizes its goals of promoting nuclear power and achieving energy security. The President would also seek agreement from Congress to adjust U.S. laws and policies, and the United States will work with friends and allies to adjust international regimes to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India, including but not limited to expeditious consideration of fuel supplies for safeguarded nuclear reactors at Tarapur. In the meantime, the United States will encourage its partners to also consider this request expeditiously. India has expressed its interest in ITER and a willingness to contribute. The United States will consult with its partners considering India's participation. The United States will consult with the other participants in the Generation IV International Forum with a view toward India's inclusion.

The Prime Minister conveyed that for his part, India would reciprocally agree that it would be ready to assume the same responsibilities and practices and acquire the same benefits and advantages as other leading countries with advanced nuclear technology, such as the United States. These responsibilities and practices consist of identifying and separating civilian and military nuclear facilities and programs in a phased manner and

filing a declaration regarding its civilians facilities with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); taking a decision to place voluntarily its civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards; signing and adhering to an Additional Protocol with respect to civilian nuclear facilities; continuing India's unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing; working with the United States for the conclusion of a multilateral Fissile Material Cut Off Treaty; refraining from transfer of enrichment and reprocessing technologies to states that do not have them and supporting international efforts to limit their spread; and ensuring that the necessary steps have been taken to secure nuclear materials and technology through comprehensive export control legislation and through harmonization and adherence to Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) guidelines.

The President welcomed the Prime Minister's assurance. The two leaders agreed to establish a working group to undertake on a phased basis in the months ahead the necessary actions mentioned above to fulfill these commitments. The President and Prime Minister also agreed that they would review this progress when the President visits India in 2006.

The two leaders also reiterated their commitment that their countries would play a leading role in international efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical, biological and radiological weapons.

In light of this closer relationship, and the recognition of India's growing role in enhancing regional and global security, the Prime Minister and the President agree that international institutions must fully reflect changes in the global scenario that have taken place since 1945. The President reiterated his view that international institutions are going to have to adapt to reflect India's central and growing role. The two leaders state their expectations that India and the United States will strengthen their cooperation in global forums.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh thanks President Bush for the warmth of his reception and the generosity of his hospitality. He extends an invitation to President Bush to visit India at his convenience and the President accepts that invitation.

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

Remarks at a State Dinner Honoring Prime Minister Singh of India

July 18, 2005

Mr. Prime Minister, Mrs. Kaur, Laura and I are honored to welcome you to the White House. It is a great privilege to have you here, along with our distinguished guests tonight.

India and the United States are separated by half the globe. Yet today, our two nations are closer than ever before. The ties that bind us are enriched by the hundreds of thousands of Americans of Indian origin. These citizens contribute a lot to America's vitality. Today, these Americans are leaders in their professions in business and science, in space exploration and technology, and in many other fields. And the United States is a better place because of the thousands of students who come here from India to study in our universities.

Today, our two nations are bound by our common interests. Our trading partnership has grown dramatically in recent years, which brings greater prosperity and opportunity to citizens of both our countries. America and India also understand the danger of global terrorism, which has brought grief to our nations and united us in our desire to bring peace and security to the world.

Above all, India and the United States are bound together by common values. As two strong, diverse democracies, we share a commitment to the success of multi-ethnic democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law. And we believe that by spreading the blessings of democracy and freedom, we will ensure lasting peace for our own citizens and for the world.

Last year, Mr. Prime Minister, you said that the best is yet to come in the relationship between India and the United States. The good meetings we have had today demonstrate your foresight. America looks forward to working even more closely with India

in the coming years to spread prosperity and freedom and peace.

And so tonight, Mr. Prime Minister, as we celebrate the friendship of our two nations, I offer a toast to you, to your gracious wife, and to the great people of India.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:07 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gursharan Kaur, wife of Prime Minister Singh. The transcript made available by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Prime Minister Singh.

Videotaped Remarks to the African Growth and Opportunity Act Forum

June 30, 2005

On behalf of America, I send greetings to the people of all the African nations represented at the AGOA Forum. I am grateful to all of you who have traveled far to discuss our shared vision for an Africa that is home to democracy, prosperity, and opportunity.

This is a hopeful moment in the history of Africa. The governments of many African nations are being transformed. Many African economies are vibrant and growing. In Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole, economic growth is now at its highest level in 8 years.

An important part of Africa's rising prosperity is the African Growth and Opportunity Act or AGOA. This wise legislation is reducing barriers to trade, increasing exports, creating jobs, and expanding opportunity for Africans and Americans alike.

AGOA is getting results. Political reforms in Africa have inspired confidence among American investors. Last year, U.S. exports to Sub-Saharan Africa increased 25 percent, and America's imports from AGOA countries rose 88 percent. The success of AGOA is proving that open trade and international investment are the surest and fastest ways for Africa to make progress. So last year, I was proud to sign a law extending the benefits of this vital program.

Over the next several days, you will discuss further ways to expand and diversify trade so we can sustain economic growth. I am confident that your efforts will lead to greater interest and investment in AGOA nations. You will also be offered practical information about meeting U.S. export requirements and entering U.S. markets. As part of America's long-term commitment to increased trade with Africa, I intend to launch the African Global Competitiveness Initiative, which will give a record number of entrepreneurs access to the information and advice they need to succeed in business and foreign trade.

I appreciate the good work you are doing, and I look forward to our continued partnership on AGOA. Africa is a continent of promise and talent and opportunity, and together we will help the people of Africa realize the bright future they deserve.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped on June 30 at 4:10 p.m. in the Map Room at the White House for later transmission to the forum meeting in Dakar, Senegal. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 19. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the District of Columbia's Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Request Act

July 18, 2005

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to my constitutional authority and consistent with section 446 of The District of Columbia Self-Governmental Reorganizational Act as amended in 1989, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Request Act.

The proposed FY 2006 Budget Request Act reflects the major programmatic objectives of the Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia. For FY 2006, the District estimates total revenues and expenditures of $7.35 billion.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 18, 2005.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 19.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister John Howard of Australia

July 19, 2005

President Bush. Thank you all. Laura and I are honored to welcome Prime Minister John Howard and Janette back to the White House. We're really glad you're here. We're looking forward to having, this time, a true family lunch, upstairs. It's a chance to—for two old friends, friends who happen to be old—[*laughter*]—to visit and to talk and to strategize and to think aloud about how to work together.

I got to tell you, I admire John Howard a lot. He's a man of conviction. He's got backbone. He's not afraid to make the hard decision. He's not afraid to lead, and we're really thrilled you're here. Plus, he married well. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate a man of vision. I am looking forward to working with him in his fourth term in office, for the betterment of our own people and for the betterment of the world.

Australia and the United States share a commitment to freedom. We understand we compete against an ideology of hatred, an ideology that murders the innocent in order to achieve objectives. We know we must be steadfast and strong when it comes to bringing to justice those who would kill innocent life, like those who got killed in New York City and Washington, DC, and Bali and London and other places around the world. But we also understand that to defeat an ideology, you've got to have a better ideology, and we do, one based upon human rights and human dignity, minority rights, and freedom.

And the thing I appreciate about John Howard is he understands that. I appreciate the commitment of the Australian Government to help in the democracy movements in both Iraq and Afghanistan. We had a good talk today about the way forward in Iraq. I assured him that our position is one that says, "As the Iraqis stand up, America stands down." In other words, we're going to help Iraqis to defend themselves and, at the same time, promote a political process that will lead to a constitution—a validation of the constitution and permanent elections. We talked as well about Afghanistan and how important it is for a country like Afghanistan to show the world what is possible when it comes to democratic institutions and freedom.

I appreciated the Prime Minister's strong advice about Malaysia and Indonesia, two really important countries. And John Howard has got a lot of experience with the leaders in those countries as well as the political process in the countries. And it's always good to visit with a friend about how he sees the world.

We talked about China and North Korea. I told him that we're committed to solving the North Korean nuclear issue in a diplomatic way and that we're pleased that the six-party talks has become renewed and that we're sincere about working with China and South Korea and Japan and Russia to bring some common sense to the leader of North Korea.

We talked about the benefits of the free trade agreement we signed: Our economies are strong and that trade will help our economies stay strong and that free trade and fair trade is important for the working people in both our countries and that we're dedicated to making sure the next round of the WTO goes forward.

All in all, we had a really good discussion, the kind of discussion you'd expect from friends. And we're looking forward to continuing it over lunch.

John, welcome.

Prime Minister Howard. Thank you very much, George. And I say to you, Mr. President, and to your wife, Laura, thank you very much for the great hospitality that you've extended to Janette and to me.

This is not only a close relationship between Australia and the United States but it is a shared commitment by two peoples who have so much history and so much in the way of common values as a basis for the relationship.

Australia and the United States have never been closer than they are at the present time. But the reason that we are so close is that we are engaged together in quite a struggle against some forces and elements of evil around the world that threaten not only the

people of our countries but also the people of other nations.

Terrorists indiscriminately murder people irrespective of their race, their nationality, their religion, their political party, or their political belief. And those who doubt that, I invite them to look at the casualty lists of the London Underground and the bus. You will find not 55 people of Anglo-Celtic-Protestant composition, but you will find 55 people of different races, different ethnicities, different attitudes, and different beliefs. And I say that to encapsulate the view that I hold very strongly, that to see this as some kind of struggle between the West and the rest is to completely misunderstand and completely misread what's involved.

I want to thank the President and the Congress of the United States for the support that was given so generously to the passage of the free trade agreement legislation. It passed through the two Houses of the American Congress with, I think, record majorities. And I believe that the economic association between Australia and the United States will be more important to Australia as the years go by, particularly in the area of services, where, because of the commonalities we share in language and legal systems and in so many other areas, the opportunities are going to be very much greater.

The President and I had a very extensive discussion about the involvement of both of our countries in the Asian-Pacific region, about the critical importance of Indonesia, the third largest democracy in the world, the largest Islamic country in the world, and a nation whose success is immensely important to the ideological and intellectual debate in relation to terrorism, because if Indonesia is a success story, it can be held up as an example to the rest of the Islamic world that the path forward, the path to prosperity and stability, is a path away from hatred and extremism and a path of moderation.

Can I say to you, Mr. President, that the personal relationship that we have established on behalf of our two countries means a great deal to me. But it is, as you rightly say, based on a common view of the world, that individual freedom is still the greatest glue that nations and peoples can have, that societies that honor the family as the most stabilizing influence in our community and also societies that recognize that the basis of national wealth is individual wealth built on competitive capitalism.

Not everybody in our two countries would entirely share every part of that statement of my philosophical beliefs, but I'm happy to say that in both countries, a sufficient number of people—[*laughter*]—in recent times have shared those views to put smiles on both our faces. [*Laughter*] And I must say, on a somewhat partisan note, how much I enjoyed my discussion with you on the night of the 9th of October of last year and, equally, the opportunity I have of congratulating you on your remarkable victory, which—after an election campaign that I followed with enormous interest. I come here as a friend of the United States. I come here as the leader of 20 million people who are committed, as you are, to the great causes of individual liberty and freedom. And together we can work to make a better world.

President Bush. We'll answer two questions apiece. Jennifer [Jennifer Loven, Associated Press].

Upcoming Supreme Court Nomination

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Can you tell us, as you consider Supreme Court nominees, how important it is to you to replace Justice O'Connor with another woman? And can you bring us up to date on whether you've completed interviewing candidates?

President Bush. First, I'm comfortable with where we are in the process. That's important for you to know. Secondly, that I have thought about a variety of people, people from different walks of life, some of whom I've known before, some of whom I had never met before. I'm trying to figure out what else I can say that I didn't say yesterday that sounds profound to you without—without actually answering your question. [*Laughter*]

As I say, I do have an obligation to think about people from different backgrounds but who share the same philosophy, people who will not legislate from the bench. That's what I told the people when I ran for President. I want to be known as the kind of person who does what he says he's going to do and—because I believe it's right. And so, I guess

the best way to put it is, I'll let you know when I'm ready to tell you who it is.

John, go ahead, ask—want to call on some——

Iraq

Q. Dennis Shanahan, The Australian. Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, before the invasion of Iraq, Mr. Howard said that our troops would be there for months, not years. It is now years. Realistically, how long can the Australian people expect our troops to be in Iraq and Afghanistan? Is it, now, more years?

President Bush. Well, first, I think, if you're going to ask how long the Australian troops will stay, you ought to ask the person who decides where the Australian troops go in the first place. I can tell you about the American troops, and that is that they'll be there as long as necessary to complete the mission.

There's a great temptation to get me or John to put a timetable on our actions there. That doesn't make any sense. Why would you tell the enemy how long you're going to stay somewhere? Why would you—it just doesn't—we're at war, and during a war, you do the best you can to win the war, and one way to embolden an enemy is to give them an artificial timetable. I'm sure probably—timetables need to be asked—I get asked about timetables all the time here. And—but the answer is, when the Iraqis are ready to do the fighting themselves. And that's happening on a steady basis, and they're taking more and more of the fight to the enemy.

And like I'm sure in Australia, people in America want to know when the troops are coming home—and as quickly as possible, but we've got to complete the mission. The mission is really important. We're laying the foundation for peace. A free Iraq, a democratic Iraq in the heart of the Middle East is a part of a vision that understands free societies are peaceful societies.

We're fighting an ideology, and the way you defeat an ideology that is so backward, so evil, and so hated they kill innocent men and women regardless of religion, is to spread freedom. And that's why it's important we complete the mission in Iraq.

Prime Minister Howard. Dennis, I did make that statement, and I made it in a particular context, which I'm sure you will recall. I'm not going to try and put a time limit on our commitment in Iraq. I'm not. It will be governed by circumstances, rather than by the calendar, to borrow an expression you may have heard yesterday when I was at the Pentagon. I thought it was a very good expression, and that's why—and I won't plagiarize it; I'll acknowledge the source—that is why I use it.

But I believe that progress is being made. I think we do face a situation where, because of the horror of suicide bombing, there is a constant high level of publicity, understandably, given to that, and to the detriment of the progress that is being made at a political level. I mean, nothing can answer and deny the fact that 8 million people risked their lives to vote. Now, that is a stunning personal commitment to democracy that Australians haven't been required to do in my lifetime or, indeed, the average American citizen, either. Now, I think we have to pay some regard to that. And that is a cause worth fighting for, and it's a cause worth promoting and supporting.

Now, the great burden in Iraq is being carried by the United States, and I feel very deeply for the American people the burden they are carrying. I also pay tribute to the burden that's being carried by the British. Our commitment is significant, but obviously, it's much smaller than that of those two countries. But we will stay the distance in Iraq. We won't go until the job has been finished, and you've heard me say that before. That's been my view for a long time, and it will remain my view.

President Bush. Caren [Caren Bohan, Reuters].

Disclosure of CIA Employee's Identity

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. In light of the concerns that the CIA leak investigation is distracting from your agenda, has Mr. Rove or any of your aides offered their resignation? And what, short of a crime, constitutes a firing offense?

President Bush. You know, I appreciate you bringing that up. My answer really hasn't changed—[*laughter*]—from 24 hours ago.

It's the same answer. Now, I'll be glad to answer another question if you've got one. I—I mean, I'll be glad to repeat what I said yesterday, which is, there's an ongoing investigation, and people shouldn't jump to conclusions in the press until the investigation is over. And once the investigation is over, I'll deal with it.

Have you got another question? I don't want to shortchange you on a——

Upcoming Supreme Court Nomination

Q. I do, actually. [*Laughter*] What do you think of Edith Clement?

President Bush. Pardon me?

Q. What do you think of Edith Clement for the Court?

President Bush. Oh, well, I think it's important—let me refer you back to the first question. [*Laughter*]

Q. Can she have one more? [*Laughter*]

President Bush. I don't know, the Prime Minister is a friend. Why would I subject him to—no. [*Laughter*] Do you speak French? [*Laughter*] It's unfair I get the last word at the mike. It's all inside—I'm sorry. Please.

China

Q. Mark Riley from the Seven Network in Australia. Can I ask you both, please, for your view on China in the coming period? It seems that Australia views China principally as an economic opportunity. And we read increasingly that the U.S. sees it as an emerging military challenge, particularly in light of the comments made by General Zhu, just recently, about the possibility of a nuclear response over Taiwan. What I want to ask you particularly is what role you both see Australia playing in managing that emerging relationship?

President Bush. It's a great question. Thanks for asking it. Our relationship—let me start with our relationship with China. It is a complicated relationship. We obviously have an economic relationship with China. That's an important relationship. Our exports to China are increasing. If you're a soybean farmer in America, you're really pleased with the fact that the Chinese market is open for our soybeans.

China is a—I think it's in the world's interest that China grow an open market economy. I think open markets and free economies tend to cause people to demand additional freedoms. So it's in our economic interests, and I think it's in the world's interest that we encourage free and fair trade.

We have some difficulties on the trade front with China. One such difficulty is their currency, and we've worked with China to convince them that it makes sense for them to change how they value their currency.

A second difficulty is on intellectual property rights. It's very important for emerging economies to understand that they—in order to be a fair trading partner, that you've got to honor somebody else's intellectual property. And sometimes that's a hard concept for countries to understand. And so we're working very closely on that issue with China. By the way, that's the same message that Australia gives, and so there's one area where Australia and the United States can work together to help convince China that intellectual property rights are important.

We have a diplomatic relationship with China, obviously. And that's manifested in the recent six-party talks in North Korea. I view it very important that China be an equal partner in those talks. We've got the capacity to bring something to the table when it's—in discussions with North Korea, and so does China. And therefore, diplomatically, we have an opportunity to affect world security and to make sure that the ultimate objective of the terrorists is not achieved, and that is the spread of weapons of mass destruction, for example. These are areas where we can cooperate and work hard.

We've got areas of issues when it comes to values. For example, I happen to believe religious freedom is very important for any society and that people ought to be allowed to worship freely—worship any way they see fit. Every time I've met with the Chinese leaders, I've, in a respectful way, shared with them the importance, I feel, for a healthy society to recognize that people think differently and worship differently and, therefore, ought to be encouraged to do so. And so our relationship is very important and very vibrant. It's a good relationship, but it's a complex relationship.

I think that Australia, first of all, has got to act in her own interests. And there's no

doubt in my mind the Prime Minister will do that. Secondly, though, that we can work together to reinforce the need for China to accept certain values as universal, the value of minority rights, the value of freedom for people to speak, the value of freedom of religion, the same values we share.

Secondly, I know that Australia can lend a wise message to the Chinese about the need for China to take an active role in the neighborhood to prevent, for example, Kim Chong-il from developing a nuclear weapon. We've got a lot of common interests, and it's when those common interests and common values intersect, is where we can reinforce each other's message.

Prime Minister Howard. Mark, I think your question is based on a misapprehension shared by a number of people in Australia, and that is that we are trying to manage a relationship we have with two countries where some kind of conflict between those two countries is inevitable, and I'm not as pessimistic as that. I am a lot more optimistic for the reasons I outlined in the speech I delivered to the Lowy Institute a few months ago in Australia.

We have different relationships with the United States and China. I mean, of course, our relationship with the United States is closer and deeper than it is with China, because it's a relationship that is based upon shared values and a lot of shared history. The Chinese understand that. I think one of the bases—the basis of our relationship successfully with China over the last 8 or 9 years is that I have never disguised that fact in my discussions with the Chinese, and I've encouraged them to accept that our close defense alliance with the United States is not in any way directed against China.

But we have a good relationship with China. It's not just based on economic opportunity. There are a lot of people-to-people ties between Australia and China, and they're growing all the time. We are going to differ with China on human rights issues. You've seen recently, in the debate over Mr. Chen, you've seen an expression of views from China. But equally, I think the relationship between our two countries is mature enough to ride through temporary arguments such as that. I think China sees a growing place for herself in the world, but I think there's a great level of pragmatism in the Chinese leadership.

Now, the economic relationship between Australia and China is different from the economic relationship between the United States and China. And I understand that, and the President and I talked about that today. But I have a more optimistic view about the relationship between China and the United States, and I know that the leadership of both countries understands the importance of common sense in relation to Taiwan, a recognition that there are differences of philosophy between the two societies.

But let us not look at this issue from an Australia vantage point, from believing that there's some inevitable dust-up going to occur. I don't believe that, and I share a great deal of optimism that that is going to be prevented. From Australia's point of view, well, we don't presume any kind of intermediary role. That would be absurd. We have relationships with the United States, which I've talked about and categorized in an unambiguous way. Everybody understands the centrality of that relationship to Australia. The Chinese understand it. But we are unashamed in developing our relations with China, and I am well pleased with the way the economic relationship has developed. And I'll continue to do everything I can in the interests of Australia to ensure that it develops further.

President Bush. Good job, John. Thank you.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:53 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Janette Howard, wife of Prime Minister Howard; and Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea. Prime Minister Howard referred to former Chinese diplomat Chen Yonglin, who was granted a permanent protection visa by Australia on July 8. Reporters referred to Edith Brown Clement, U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit; and Maj. Gen. Zhu Chenghu of China, dean, China's National Defense University.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency Blocking Property of Certain Persons and Prohibiting the Importation of Certain Goods from Liberia

July 19, 2005

On July 22, 2004, by Executive Order 13348, I declared a national emergency and ordered related measures blocking the property of certain persons and prohibiting the importation of certain goods from Liberia, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706). I took this action to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and other persons, in particular their unlawful depletion of Liberian resources and their removal from Liberia and secreting of Liberian funds and property, which have undermined Liberia's transition to democracy and the orderly development of its political, administrative, and economic institutions and resources. I further noted that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed on August 18, 2003, and the related cease-fire have not yet been universally implemented throughout Liberia, and that the illicit trade in round logs and timber products is linked to the proliferation of and trafficking in illegal arms, which perpetuate the Liberian conflict and fuel and exacerbate other conflicts throughout West Africa.

Because the actions and policies of these persons continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on July 22, 2004, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond July 22, 2005. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13348.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 19, 2005.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 20, 2005]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on July 21.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency Blocking Property of Certain Persons and Prohibiting the Importation of Certain Goods from Liberia

July 19, 2005

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with the provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication stating that the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of certain persons and prohibiting the importation of certain goods from Liberia are to continue in effect beyond July 22, 2005.

The actions and policies of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and other persons, in particular their unlawful depletion of Liberian resources and their removal from Liberia and secreting of Liberian funds and property, continue to undermine Liberia's transition to democracy and the orderly development of its political, administrative, and economic institutions and resources. These actions and policies pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of certain persons and prohibiting the importation of certain goods from Liberia.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 19, 2005.

Address to the Nation Announcing the Nomination of John G. Roberts, Jr., To Be an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court

July 19, 2005

Good evening. One of the most consequential decisions a President makes is his appointment of a Justice to the Supreme Court. When a President chooses a Justice, he's placing in human hands the authority and majesty of the law. The decisions of the Supreme Court affect the life of every American.

And so a nominee to that Court must be a person of superb credentials and the highest integrity, a person who will faithfully apply the Constitution and keep our founding promise of equal justice under law. I have found such a person in Judge John Roberts.

And tonight I'm honored to announce that I am nominating him to serve as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. John Roberts currently serves on one of the most influential courts in the Nation, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Before he was a respected judge, he was known as one of the most distinguished and talented attorneys in America. John Roberts has devoted his entire professional life to the cause of justice and is widely admired for his intellect, his sound judgment, and personal decency.

Judge Roberts was born in Buffalo and grew up in Indiana. In high school, he captained his football team, and he worked summers in a steel mill to help pay his way through college. He's an honors graduate of both Harvard College and Harvard Law School. In his career, he has served as a law clerk to Justice William Rehnquist, as an Associate Counsel to President Ronald Reagan, and as the Principal Deputy Solicitor General in the Department of Justice.

In public service and in private practice, he has argued 39 cases before the Supreme Court and earned a reputation as one of the best legal minds of his generation. Judge Roberts has earned the respect of people from both political parties. After he was nominated for the Court of Appeals in 2001, a bipartisan group of more than 150 lawyers sent a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee. They wrote:

> "Although as individuals we reflect a wide spectrum of political party affiliation and ideology, we are united in our belief that John Roberts will be an outstanding Federal court appeals judge and should be confirmed by the United States Senate."

The signers of this letter included a former Counsel to a Republican President, a former Counsel to two Democratic Presidents, and a former—and former high-ranking Justice Department officials of both parties.

My decision to nominate Judge Roberts to the Supreme Court came after a thorough and deliberative process. My staff and I consulted with more than 70 Members of the United States Senate. I received good advice from both Republicans and Democrats. I appreciate the care they took. I'm grateful for their advice. I reviewed the credentials of many well-qualified men and women. I met personally with a number of potential nominees.

In my meetings with Judge Roberts, I have been deeply impressed. He's a man of extraordinary accomplishment and ability. He has a good heart. He has the qualities Americans expect in a judge: experience, wisdom, fairness, and civility. He has profound respect for the rule of law and for the liberties guaranteed to every citizen. He will strictly apply the Constitution and laws, not legislate from the bench.

He's also a man of character who loves his country and his family. I'm pleased that his wife, Jane, and his two beautiful children, Jack and Josie, could be with us tonight. Judge Roberts has served his fellow citizens well, and he is prepared for even greater service.

Under the Constitution, Judge Roberts now goes before the United States Senate for confirmation. I've recently spoken with leaders Senator Frist and Senator Reid and with senior members of the Judiciary Committee, Chairman Specter and Senator Leahy. These Senators share my goal of a dignified confirmation process that is conducted with fairness and civility. The appointments of the two most recent Justices

to the Supreme Court prove that this confirmation can be done in a timely manner.

So I have full confidence that the Senate will rise to the occasion and act promptly on this nomination. It is important that the newest Justice be on the bench when the Supreme Court reconvenes in October. I believe that Democrats and Republicans alike will see the strong qualifications of this fine judge, as they did when they confirmed him by unanimous consent to the judicial seat he now holds.

I look forward to the Senate voting to confirm Judge John Roberts as the 109th Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Judge Roberts, thank you for agreeing to serve, and congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:02 p.m. on the State Floor at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Judge Roberts. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to Reporters Following a Meeting With Associate Justice-Designate Roberts

July 20, 2005

Good morning, how are you? I just had a cup of coffee with the nominee and told him I thought things were off to a very good start for his nomination. I'm not surprised; he's highly qualified for the job. He's the kind of person that will bring great dignity to the Court. Judge Roberts is off to the Senate this morning to begin his consultations. I'm confident the Senators will come to realize what I've come to realize: We're lucky to have a man of such wisdom and intellectual strength willing to serve our country.

I'm also confident that the process will move forward in a dignified, civil way. In my conversations with Senators last night, we discussed how important it is that Judge Roberts get a fair hearing, a timely hearing, and a hearing that will bring great credit to our Nation and to the United States Senate. And so I told Judge Roberts over coffee that we'll provide all the support that's necessary for the Senators to be able to make up their minds, that we will push the process forward, because he and I both agree that it's important that he be sworn in prior to the Court reconvening in October, and that I wished him all the best.

So I appreciate you coming by for coffee this morning.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:30 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks Honoring the Baylor University 2005 NCAA Women's Basketball Champions

July 20, 2005

The President. Congratulations. Welcome. I thought I'd have my picture with you, and then we'll go into the Oval Office.

It is my honor to welcome some highly successful women from the neighborhood. [*Laughter*] First, I want to congratulate the coach. She's—obviously knows what she's doing. But I love her spirit. I love her can-do spirit that says, "We're going to win, and we're proud to win."

And I appreciate the women who are here too. The Lady Bears were really great. And I know I'm supposed to be working hard, but I watched you. [*Laughter*] And I was really impressed. And I want to thank you for being such great athletes and such wonderful role models. And I appreciate you representing Baylor University, which is a great university, so well, with such class.

I'm here to welcome you to the Rose Garden and congratulate you for a job well done and wish one of you a happy birthday. [*Laughter*]

All right, have at it. [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, team members presented the President with gifts.*]

The President. Ten, two, and four. [*Laughter*] Congratulations. All right, anybody want to see the Oval Office? Let's go look at it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:28 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Kim Mulkey-Robertson, head coach, Baylor University women's basketball team.

Remarks on the PATRIOT Act in Baltimore, Maryland

July 20, 2005

Thanks for the warm welcome. It's good to be back in Baltimore, home of the mighty Orioles and my friend Rafael Palmiero. I had the honor of calling—I call him Raffy—the other day to congratulate him on his 500 home run, 3,000 hit club membership. And I know you're proud of him here. He's a—as you can tell, I'm a baseball guy. And one of the things about Baltimore is you're great baseball fans, and I think we're all thrilled that our friend Rafael Palmiero is such a great player.

It's also an honor to be here at the Port of Baltimore. It's an impressive place to chopper over. There is a lot of action here in Baltimore. And I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to come by to talk about how to secure this port, other ports, the borders, and our country. That's the task at hand. And for those of you involved with protecting our homeland, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your hard work.

I want to thank the Governor for welcoming me, and I appreciate the first lady coming as well. The Governor asked how my mountain bike is going. It's not going well when you fall. [*Laughter*] It seems like it's happening quite often these days. Congratulations on a billion-dollar surplus.

I want to thank the Attorney General, Al Gonzales, for joining me. Al has been a longtime friend of mine. He is a superb lawyer. He's been my counselor, as Governor of Texas and in the White House. He is now the Attorney General of the United States of America, and I'm proud of the job he's doing for our country.

And I appreciate my friend Mike Chertoff for agreeing to become the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. He has got a mighty task, to make sure that old ways are abandoned for new ways, that we work closely together, that the kind of giant bureaucracy that has been created out of other bureaucracies functions smoothly. And he's doing a very good job of leading this important agency in the right direction. Mike, thanks for serving; thanks for your leadership; thanks for your clear vision about the job that you need to do.

I want to thank Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger for being here. Dutch, it's good to see you. I appreciate you coming. You're a good man to take time out of your schedule to be here.

I want to thank the mayor for joining us. Mr. Mayor, proud you're here. Thanks for taking time out of your schedule to come by to say hello.

I want to thank Brooks Royster, the executive director, for hosting this event. It is not easy to host a President. It turns out the entourages are quite large these days. But I want to thank you for making this an important event. I want to thank all of you who are here. Once again, I want to thank those who wear the uniform for joining us.

Last night I announced my nomination of a good and highly qualified man to the Supreme Court, Judge John Roberts. He's somebody Americans will be proud to have seated on that bench. He has the qualities that our country expects in a judge, experience, wisdom, fairness, and civility. He has profound respect for the rule of law. He has respect for the liberties guaranteed to every single citizen. He will strictly apply the Constitution and laws. He will not legislate from the bench. I urge the Senate to rise to the occasion, to provide a fair and civil process, and to have Judge Roberts in place before the next Court session begins on October the 3d.

I not only have the duty to nominate good people to the bench, I have the duty to work with you all to protect this country. That's our most solemn duty.

I'm going to talk about securing the homeland. But I want you to remember, as we work to secure the homeland, we have to be right 100 percent of the time, and the enemy only has to be right one time. And so, therefore, the best way to protect the homeland is to go on the offense, is to find these people in foreign lands and bring them to justice before they come here to hurt us.

And that's exactly what we're doing. We're pursuing a two-pronged strategy. We're sharing intelligence with our allies. We're working with people around the world. We're on the hunt, and we will stay on the hunt. If

your most important duty is to protect the homeland, it's important not to lose our nerve, our will, and our focus. And the United States will not do so. We'll continue to lead, to bring people to justice all around the world.

We're facing coldblooded killers who have an ideology that is the opposite of ours. These people believe that there should be no dissent, no freedom, no rights for women, that there only ought to be one religion—which is a misinterpretation of the great religion of Islam. That's what they believe. And they have designs; they have goals. And what are those goals? Well, they want to topple nations. They want to drive the United States and freedom-loving countries out of parts of the world so their ideology can take hold. That's what they want, and they want to shake our will and weaken our determination.

See, the only real weapon they have is the capacity to kill innocent people and to shake our conscience, to get us to withdraw. That's what they want. And there's a reason why they want us to withdraw from the world, because they want to impose their vision, their dark vision on people.

The only way to defeat an ideology of hatred is with an ideology of hope. And so our strategy is not only, stay on the offense and to bring these people to justice; our strategy is to spread the ideology of hope found in democracy and freedom. History has proven that democracies are peaceful countries. History has proven that democracy and freedom have the capability of converting enemies into allies. The best way to secure the future for our children and grandchildren is to spread democracy and hope and freedom to parts of the world that simmer in resentment and anger and hatred.

And that's precisely what the United States of America is doing and will continue to do. These terrorists will not shake our will. They will not cause us to retreat. I believe strongly we have a duty not only to defend our homeland today; we have a duty to lay the foundation of peace for generations to come, which is precisely what we're doing.

As we work to defend the country overseas—first of all, for those of you who have got relatives in the service, for those of you who wear the uniform, I want to thank you for what you're doing. And tell your loved one—and if you're in contact with a loved one in Iraq or in Afghanistan, you can tell them this: The citizens of this great country, the citizens of the United States of America stand squarely with those who wear the uniform of the United States military.

I found an interesting contrast that when I was in Scotland a while ago, that we were there to talk about how to end poverty and disease, how to help women, how to educate young girls on the continent of Africa. That's what we were there to discuss. We were there to discuss how nations that have been blessed with riches can do our part to save lives. I don't know if you know this or not, but the United States of America is, by far, the most generous nation in the world when it comes to feeding the hungry or providing help for those who are suffering from HIV/AIDS. I believe that to whom much is given, much is required.

And in the midst of those discussions, terrorists murdered in cold blood people from all walks of life, innocent people. It's an interesting contrast, isn't it? It should be a vivid reminder about the world in which we live. We will not let down our guard. And therefore, at home, we're doing everything we can to protect the American people.

There are a lot of people who are working hard, and you're some of them. And I want to thank you for what you're doing. Oftentimes, you don't get recognized enough by the citizens. We take your work for granted often. But I know how hard you're working, and I want to thank you for that. And the Federal Government has a responsibility to help you in your work.

We're taking four key steps to protect the homeland. The first thing is to make sure that we spend resources necessary to protect the Nation—spend the money, and spend it wisely, by the way, make sure that we spend it on areas that need the help. And we're spending unprecedented resources to protect our Nation. We have more than tripled funding for homeland security since September the 11th. I want to thank the Members of Congress for working on that. Dutch, thanks.

We're developing innovative programs to defend this country against a biological,

chemical, or nuclear attack. In other words, one of the biggest dangers we face is if a biological, chemical, or nuclear device gets in the hands of terrorists. Listen, they will use them. By the way, you can't negotiate with these people or reason with them. That's what you've got to understand. These are not the kind of people you sit down and send a counselor over and hope to convince them to change their ways. These are coldblooded ideologs who will kill, and therefore, we've got to plan for the worst.

We provided—since that fateful attack on our country, we provided more than 14 billion to train, equip State and local first-responders. That makes sense, doesn't it? Those who are going to be responsible for responding to an attack are at the local level, the Federal Government ought to help, as part of the homeland security strategy, help train people. And we're spending money to do so. We've increased Federal homeland security funding by more than tenfold for firefighters and police officers and other responders. I mean, if we're asking you to be on the frontline, we ought to help you. And that's what we've done at the Federal level.

Secondly, we're strengthening the defenses at our most important and vulnerable locations. In other words, part of the strategy is to try to figure out where the enemy may attack. You assess your weaknesses, and you build on those—and you strengthen your weaknesses. Remember, this is a war. This isn't a—maybe a law enforcement adventure. We're at war with these people. And therefore, during a time of war, you've got to do everything you can to strengthen your defenses. And so we'll continue to enhance protection at our borders and coastlines and airports and bridges and nuclear powerplants and water treatment facilities and other critical sites, including transportation infrastructure.

Since September the 11th, we've provided more than $350 million to help State and local authorities improve security on mass transit. I'm sure you can figure out why I'm trying to explain what we've done about mass transit. That's what the enemy hit the other day on one of our strong allies. They used their mass transit system to try to shake our will.

The city of Baltimore and other cities around the country have received $2.4 billion in urban security grants, which they have the choice to use for mass transit security. I think that makes sense to say to a mayor, "If you've got a problem with your mass transit, here's a grant, and if you feel that's the best use of the money, use it there."

My budget for the next year proposes a 64-percent increase in infrastructure protection grants—in other words, grants that will go specifically for infrastructure, to safeguard subway, light rail, city buses, and other critical systems. And we're going to continue to work closely with State and local leaders to make other vital improvements in mass transit security.

First of all, we're constantly monitoring intelligence reports. And part of our job is to collect intelligence, look at it, analyze it, and if it's a problem that relates to a security system at a local level, we'll let you know as quickly as possible.

We take extra precautions at times of heightened risks. That's what Mike Chertoff recommended to me after the London bombings. In other words, he took a look at the situation and said, "Let's enhance our security at infrastructure points," and he raised the threat level. We're widening the use of explosive detection teams and nearly doubling the number of rail security inspectors. We're targeting assets and resources to our infrastructure. We're accelerating the development and deployment of new technologies to rapidly detect biological, radiological, and chemical attacks. That's what Mike announced last week. We're going to continue to make sure that we assess our weaknesses and strengthen our transportation systems.

Our seaports are another critical element of our national infrastructure. We've done a lot of work at our seaports, and I want to thank those of you here who have helped. In the Port of Baltimore, ships from around the world arrive with products ranging from lumber to fuel to electronics and automobiles, and you've got a lot of it coming in, which is good news. Commerce at this port generates more than a billion dollars of revenue and sustains thousands of Maryland jobs. This port is important for your economy, in other words.

This is a gateway for foreign markets, which provides an opportunity and an important challenge for us. And we recognized that early. We've made dramatic advancements in port security since September the 11th. We've established strict new safety rules for both domestic and international shipping, and we have taken new steps to identify and inspect high-risk cargo. And that's important for our citizens to understand.

We launched what we call the Container Security Initiative, to screen American-bound containers at more than 35 foreign ports so we can identify dangerous cargo before it reaches our shore. Doesn't that make sense? It seems like it does to me. In other words, we're stationing Customs folks overseas, and we're working with places that ship goods to us, to inspect cargo there so we don't burden our ports. Since September the 11th, we've provided more than $700 million in Federal grants to close off the vulnerabilities at individual ports, including 15 million for this port right here.

The success of all these efforts depends on the vigilance of the men and women protecting the ports. And you're taking critical steps here in Baltimore. And I want the citizens of this city to understand what you're doing. You've upgraded cargo inspection technology from clipboards to keyboards. I just saw some of your new cargo inspection technology. It's sophisticated. It enables a person to do a lot of inspections relatively easy. You're employing advanced screening devices, such as new radiation detectors and x-ray equipment that can penetrate steel containers. That's what I saw. I mean, you can look inside the truck; you don't even have to get in it. That's called technology, and it's working. It makes a big difference. You're patrolling the waters around the port.

I want to thank all of you who are working hard here. I want to thank members of the Coast Guard and Border Patrol and the Baltimore Port Authority.

At a major international port like this, there's a lot to do to safeguard the people. And so we're committed to help you build on the progress. The budget for next year proposes 2.3 billion in port security funding, 10 times higher than the funding since September the 11th. The budget increases the Coast Guard budget by more than 11 percent, including new funding for patrol boats. The budget boosts support for cutting-edge cargo screening technologies. I mean, we're really good at technology, and we might as well be using that technology to protect the American people.

What I'm telling you is, is that we're focused here in—and I want to thank again, thank Congress for staying focused with us. When you're at war, you can't lose sight of the fact that you're at war. And if your most important priority is to protect the people, you've got to work together to do so.

Thirdly, to protect this homeland we're making our security operations more unified and more effective. More than 180,000 men and women from 22 different agencies are working together at the Department of Homeland Security. That's a lot of folks with a lot of agencies. So Chertoff's job is to make sure everybody heads in the same direction. And we're making good progress, changing cultures, streamlining cultures, and getting people to work under a unified Department.

The FBI is changing its mission. Its primary mission is to prevent a terrorist attack. Of course, we want the FBI agents to find people and to bring them to justice when they break the law. We want them to be a part of the preventative aspect of this war on terror too. We've reformed the intelligence community to stay a step ahead of our enemies. We created a new Director of National Intelligence to help integrate our intelligence. We want our intelligence folks sharing information and talking better.

I went to the National Counterterrorism Center the other day. It's an impressive place. It's a place where people from different agencies in our Government sit side by side to share information. This is a new kind of war. We're dealing with people who hide in the shadows of our cities. They kind of lay low, and then they show up with deadly devices. And therefore, the best way to stop them is to share intelligence. And so we're constantly working to make sure our intelligence is as good as possible.

And to strengthen the security, we've got to strengthen our partnership with State and local officials. It doesn't do any good if we can figure something out and we don't share

it with people at the local level. In this State, the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, known as MCAC, brings together more than 20 Federal, State, and local agencies. You're doing a good thing in the State and for the local level to coordinate information. I want to tell you a story about MCAC's success.

Last summer, Baltimore County Police officers spotted a suspicious person videotaping the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. First of all, you have somebody who is alert on the ground. It was odd looking; somebody is videotaping the bridge. Maybe that happens a lot; maybe it doesn't. Anyway, this person was wise. He saw something suspicious. So they alerted the Maryland Transportation Authority Police, which then notified MCAC. When the personnel team there learned that the man was part of a Federal terrorism investigation in Illinois, they secured a warrant and arrested the guy within hours.

Think about what you just heard. You got a local man sees somebody doing something suspicious; he immediately makes a call; it goes to MCAC. Because we have information-sharing from State to State and from Federal Government to State, information popped up that this person was more than suspicious; he was wanted.

Today I got to see Gary McLhinney. I appreciate you being here, Gary. He is the chief of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police. I don't know who gets the credit in your organization, but whoever did acted wisely. Let me tell you what he said. He said, "Our officers would not have been successful in detaining and subsequently arresting the individual without the MCAC. This is how it's supposed to work." You're right: This is how it's supposed to work. Congratulations on setting up a smooth system here in the State of Maryland to better protect the people. You're serving as a model.

And see, that's what's taking place all around the homeland. People have got to understand, we're changing the old ways so people can better talk. We're all in this deal together. We all have a responsibility to protect our local citizens. And therefore, it makes sense to have a seamless capacity to talk to each other in a real-time basis, and it's working—it's working.

Fourth, to protect the homeland, we've got to give our law enforcement better tools to track and stop terrorists before they strike. And one of the most important tools is the U.S.A. PATRIOT Act. The PATRIOT Act closed dangerous gaps in America's law enforcement and intelligence capabilities, gaps that terrorists exploited when they attacked us on September the 11th.

Both Houses of Congress passed the PATRIOT Act by overwhelming bipartisan majorities, and I was proud to sign this law. And it's working. The PATRIOT Act authorized better sharing of information between law enforcement and intelligence. Before the PATRIOT Act, criminal investigators were separated from intelligence officers by a legal and bureaucratic wall. Imagine that. You get somebody investigating a problem and somebody collecting intelligence, and they couldn't share information. And so the PATRIOT Act broke down that wall. How in the heck can people expect us to protect our country when you can't share intelligence with people who are investigating? The PATRIOT Act helped tear down the wall so that people can share information better and work as a team and break up terror networks.

Listen, finding our enemies in the war on terror is tough enough. Law enforcement should not be denied vital information their own colleagues already have. And so, for the sake of our security, the United States Congress must not rebuild the wall that prevents law enforcement from doing its job.

The PATRIOT Act allowed investigators to pursue terrorists with the same tools they use against other criminals. Think about that statement. We had people that could use certain tools against drug dealers, but couldn't against terrorists. Before the PATRIOT Act, it was easier to track the phone contacts of a drug dealer than the phone contacts of a terrorist. Before the PATRIOT Act it was easier to get the credit card receipts of a tax cheat than that of an Al Qaida bank-roller. Before the PATRIOT Act agents could use wire taps to investigate a person committing mail fraud but not specifically to investigate a foreign terrorist carrying deadly weapons. Before the PATRIOT Act, investigators

could follow the calls of mobsters who switched cell phones but not terrorists who switched cell phones. That didn't make any sense. The PATRIOT Act ended all these double standards.

The theory is straightforward, and it makes sense to me, Dutch, and I know it does to a lot of your colleagues. If we have good tools to fight street crime and fraud, then our law enforcement ought to have the same tools to fight terrorism. The PATRIOT Act also has updated the law to meet high-tech threats like computer espionage and cyberterrorism. For example, before the PATRIOT Act, Internet providers who notified Federal authorities about threatening e-mails ran the risk of getting sued. Needless to say, that stopped some people from sharing threatening e-mails. Nobody likes to get sued. It happens too often in our society, by the way. The PATRIOT Act modernized the law to protect Internet companies who voluntarily disclose information to save American lives.

Terrorists are using every advantage of the 21st century technology, and we've got to make sure our law enforcement has got the tools to fight off that advantage. The PATRIOT Act helps us defeat our enemies while safeguarding civil liberties for all Americans. The judicial branch has a strong oversight role in the application of the PATRIOT Act. Law enforcement officers need a Federal judge's permission to wiretap a foreign terrorist's phone or to track his calls or to search his property. Officers must meet strict standards to use any of the tools we're talking about, and they are fully consistent with the Constitution of the United States.

Congress also oversees the use of the PATRIOT Act. Our Attorney General, Al Gonzales, delivers regular reports on the PATRIOT Act to the House and the Senate. The Department of Justice has answered hundreds of questions from Members of the Congress. In other words, there is a strong oversight role.

I want you to hear what Senator Dianne Feinstein of California said the other day. She said, "We have scrubbed the area and have no reported abuses." She was speaking about the PATRIOT Act. I want you to remember that the next time you hear someone make an unfair criticism of this important, good law. The PATRIOT Act hasn't diminished American liberties. It has helped to defend American liberties.

Over the past 3½ years, our law enforcement and intelligence personnel have put the PATRIOT Act to effective use. In other words, it's working, because we've got good people using the tools within the PATRIOT Act. They've used the law to break up terrorist cells in New York and Oregon and Virginia and Florida. We prosecuted terrorist operatives and supporters from California to Texas and New Jersey to Illinois, North Carolina, and Ohio. In other words, we're making progress. It's one thing to have the tools. It's another thing to use them effectively within the guidelines of the United States Constitution.

The PATRIOT Act has accomplished exactly what it was designed to do. The problem is, at the end of this year, 16 critical provisions of the PATRIOT Act are scheduled to expire. All 16 provisions are practical, effective, and constitutional, and they are vital to defending our freedom.

This week, the House of Representatives will vote on legislation to renew the PATRIOT Act. As we saw in London, the terrorists are still active, and they are still plotting to take innocent life. So my message to the Congress is clear: This is no time to let our guard down and no time to roll back good laws. The PATRIOT Act is expected to expire, but the terrorist threats will not expire. I expect, and the American people expect, the United States Congress and the United States Senate to renew the PATRIOT Act without weakening our ability to fight terror, and they need to get that bill to my desk soon.

I appreciate you letting me come by to talk to you about the war on terror. This is going to be a long war, but freedom is going to prevail. This Nation of ours has always handled duties brought to us—history has always brought us challenges and problems. We've always handled them. We'll handle this one too.

See, the enemy doesn't understand the nature of the American people. We're not going to be blackmailed. We're not going to be threatened. We'll stay strong. When history

has called us to action in the past, we've responded. And history is calling us now. It's the great struggle of the 21st century, and we're going to stay in the fight until it's won. We're going to make this country safer. And as importantly, for the moms and dads out there and grandfolks, we're laying the foundation of peace for your children and grandchildren.

It is such an honor to be involved with good men and women like you all who are—we're all joined together in this solemn duty to protect this great country.

I want to thank you for your hard work. I want to thank you for your dedication. May God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:02 a.m. at the Port of Baltimore. In his remarks, he referred to Rafael Palmiero, infielder, Baltimore Orioles; Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., of Maryland and his wife, Kendel; Mayor Martin O'Malley of Baltimore, MD; and F. Brooks Royster III, executive director, Maryland Port Administration.

Remarks on the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement

July 21, 2005

Thank you all. *Sientese.* Thank you very much for the warm welcome. Thank you to the Hispanic Alliance for Free Trade for inviting me here today. And thanks to the Organization for American States for providing this fantastic forum.

What a beautiful building. What makes it even more beautiful is that the Organization of American States promotes democracy and freedom. There's nothing more beautiful than freedom. And I appreciate your commitment to democracy and freedom. And I appreciate the chance to come to talk about a treaty, CAFTA, that will not only provide more prosperity in our hemisphere; it's not only a good deal for American workers and businessowners and farmers, this treaty will help spread democracy and peace.

Thanks for letting me come by. Raul, thank you. *Muchas gracias.* It's good to see you again. Raul is such a strong leader in the Latino community in my State of Texas that he had the high honor of having a school named for him. I can't thank you enough for being the leader you have been. And thank you and Alonzo for inviting me here today and for helping us get the bill passed.

For those of you who are members of the Hispanic Alliance for Free Trade, I want to remind you, it's one thing to come and listen to a President speak; it's another thing to work the Halls of Congress, so people speak by their votes, people that listen to you in a concrete way. So thanks for coming. Thanks for being a part of passing CAFTA.

I want to thank the Secretary General, General Insulza. Thank you, sir, for you. I want to thank the Vice President, Samuel Lewis, of the Republic of Panama. I appreciate the members of the diplomatic corps who are here. I particularly want to thank the diplomats from Central America and the Dominican Republic. I urge you to work the bill. I urge you to let people know the consequence of passage and the consequences of failure. It's important for people to understand the stakes.

I want to thank the permanent representatives to the Organization of American States. I want to thank my friend Ambassador Juan Maisto—*Embajador.* Thank you, Juan, for being here.

I appreciate the members of my Cabinet who are working hard on this piece of legislation. We got the Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Johanns, who is with us. Secretary Carlos Gutierrez is with us here. Ambassador Rob Portman, who is the point person from my administration on this important piece of legislation. They're working hard; I'm working hard.

I want to thank the people from the United States Congress who've joined us. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen from Florida, I'm glad you're here. Thanks for coming. Randy Neugebauer from West Texas. Thank you for coming, Randy. Henry Cuellar, *de* south Texas, *del sur de Tejas.* And finally, Charlie Dent, thanks for coming. I'm proud you all are here. Thanks for lending your support to this important occasion. I've made my decision to support this bill because I think it's in the best interest of the country.

As a matter of fact, I make a lot of decisions as your President. I made one the other

night, when I announced my nomination of Judge John Roberts to the Supreme Court. I appreciate so very much the reception he's receiving in the United States Senate. I want to thank the Senators from both political parties who are giving Judge Roberts a chance to talk about his heart, to talk about his philosophy.

He is a person that will make all Americans proud to be a member of the Supreme Court. He is a—he's got the experience, wisdom, fairness, and civility to be a really good judge. He has a profound respect for the rule of law. He respects the liberties guaranteed in our Constitution to all Americans, from—people from all walks of life. He'll strictly apply the Constitution. He's not going to legislate from the bench.

The United States Senate can show our country that it's able to have a civil debate on this very important nomination, not only a civil debate but a timely debate. It's important for Judge Roberts to be confirmed by the time the Court reconvenes in October. I thank the Senate for their action today. I urge the Senate to do its duty to have a fair, timely hearing and get this good man confirmed in time for the October reconvening of the Court.

We'll be talking about our economy and liberty in our neighborhood here in a minute, but I want to remind you all, want to remind leaders from our country and of course the leaders from other countries that are here, that we're living in historic times. And one of the reasons I say that is we're still at war, see. And it's important for all of us who love freedom to understand that this is a war being fought against ideologs that use terror to advance an agenda. This is a war against killers, coldblooded killers who embrace an ideology of hatred. Their vision of the world is the opposite of our vision of the world. We believe in human rights, human dignity, minority rights, and religious rights. We believe in universal freedoms.

They have a different view of the world. They don't believe in women's rights. They have usurped a great religion and defined it in their terms. And if you happen to live in a society in which they're dominant, like the Taliban was in Afghanistan, and if you don't adhere to their view of religion, you're punished. They have territorial designs. They have the desire to use their terrorist techniques to frighten us. In other words, they understand when they kill in cold blood, it ends up on our TV screens. And they're trying to shake our will. And they're trying to create vacuums into which their ideology can move.

They don't understand our country, though. They don't understand that when it comes to the defense of universal freedoms, this country won't be frightened. We will defend ourselves by staying on the offense against these killers. We will find them overseas so we don't have to face them here at home. And at the same time, we understand that to defeat an ideology of hate, you work to spread an ideology of hope. And there's nothing more hopeful than a system which recognizes the rights of people, in which government is accountable to the people. And that system is democracy, based upon universal freedom.

We are laying the foundation for peace for generations to come. As we fight the terrorists and defend this homeland, we're also working to make sure this economy is strong and vibrant, and we've got reason for optimism. The tax relief we delivered is working. This economy of ours has overcome a lot, and now it's the fastest-growing economy of any major industrialized nation in the world. Inflation is low. We're well ahead of reaching our goal to cut our deficit in half by 2009. We've had 25 consecutive months of job gains. The unemployment rate is down to 5 percent. More people are working today in America than ever before in our Nation's history.

And one of the reasons why is because this administration recognizes that the way you grow an economy is you stimulate the entrepreneurial sector. Government doesn't create wealth. Government creates an environment in which the entrepreneur is willing to take risk. And I'm pleased to report the entrepreneurial spirit in our Latino communities across the country is strong, vibrant, and doing well.

We believe in encouraging ownership. The more people own something, the better off this country will be. We want more people owning their own business. Because of the

vibrancy of our economy, the Hispanic unemployment rate has dropped to 5.8 percent, down from 8.4 percent 2 years ago. More people are working. More Hispanics own their home than ever before in our Nation's history, and that's great news for the American society. SBA loans to Hispanic-owned businesses are up by—doubled since I took office. In other words, there is a role for Government to help. But the Hispanic community is an entrepreneurial community to begin with, and it's responding, and it's really good news for the country.

Therefore, it doesn't surprise me to learn that many Hispanic entrepreneurs and businessowners and leaders understand the importance of expanding trade within our hemisphere. And that is why you have come to lend your support to the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement, and I'm grateful. By eliminating barriers to exports from our country, CAFTA will help keep the U.S. economy growing. In other words, this is a jobs program. This will help jobs.

By opening up Central America and the Dominican Republic to U.S. trade and investment, CAFTA will help those countries develop a better life for their citizens. That seems to make sense to me. I mean, if you're living in a neighborhood, you want your neighbors doing well. If you're a good neighbor, you say, "Gosh, I hope everybody in the neighborhood is succeeding." And by helping those economies improve, CAFTA will help the nations strengthen their democracies. And that's in our national security interest. That's makes us all more secure.

So this bill is more than a trade bill. This bill is a commitment of freedom-loving nations to advance peace and prosperity throughout the Western Hemisphere. And that's important for Members of Congress to understand.

CAFTA begins by ensuring that free trade is fair trade. I mean—you know, I traveled the country quite extensively in the recent past and said, "I'm a free trader." But I reminded people in our country, I'm also for fair trade. It's one thing to advocate free trade. I believe the Government has a role to make sure that trade is fair for all of us. In other words, we want people treating us the way we treat them.

It turns out that exports from Central America into the United States face almost no tariffs. Now, I don't see how a Member of Congress can go back to his or her district and say this is a good deal for America, when our exports to Central America face hefty tariffs. In other words, if you're for free trade you ought to be insisting that the trade be fair. And the only thing that makes the trade fair to me, seems like, is to say to our friends in Central America, "Just treat us the way we treat you."

And that's what CAFTA does. It eliminates tariffs on our goods and services going into Central America. In other words, they treat us the way we treat them. It levels the playing field, which makes this a good deal for America's farmers and small-business owners and manufacturers.

Last year, United States businesses exported more than $15 billion of goods to Central America. Now, when I say "export goods," people have got to understand that means somebody is more likely to have a job. It means somebody is producing something that somebody wants in Central America, which is part of the employment picture in our country. Our business leaders say that CAFTA would significantly increase exports to the region. That's why I say this is a job program. As exports go up, somebody is either more likely to find a job or somebody is more likely to retain a job.

Take this example, California's Haas Automation Company. It is the largest machine tool manufacturer in the United States. They strongly support this piece of legislation. It says that with CAFTA, it expects to increase sales to Central America tenfold. In other words, they see business opportunity, which means job opportunity for somebody who's helping Haas Automation manufacture equipment that somebody in Central America wants to purchase.

Again, another company example here. It's called Bush Hog. I don't know why they would have put this example in this speech. [*Laughter*] I hope it wasn't named after me. [*Laughter*] But it is an Alabama company that makes farm equipment like backhoes and tillers and rotary cutters. And the folks

at Bush Hog say that farmers in Central America would find their high-quality, made-in-the-United States machinery attractive if the tariffs on that equipment would be eliminated. So when you hear me say "tariff," that really means it's pricing our equipment out of the reach of the market. That's what a tariff does. It's like a tax.

So the good folks at Bush Hog manufacture something somebody wants to buy, but it's too pricey, not because of the cost of the product they produce but because of Government action. And so the purpose of NAFTA [CAFTA]* is to remove the trade barriers. Now, we've had people look at this piece of legislation, and the National Association of Manufacturers, people that represent people who manufacture something here in America, say that CAFTA would increase our manufacture exports to the region by a billion dollars, a 7-percent increase. That's good news for the manufacturing sector of the American economy.

The American Farm Bureau—they represent farmers, needless to say—estimate that by the time CAFTA is fully implemented, it would increase U.S. farm exports by as much as $1.5 billion. Let me talk about farming real quick. We produce more than we consume in the United States. And therefore, it makes sense for Government policy and for our Secretary of Agriculture to work to find markets for that which we produce. And if the products we produce are taxed via tariff, it makes those products more expensive than need be. And therefore, by reducing tariffs on agricultural exports from the United States, it opened up markets for our ranchers and farmers.

The U.S. International Trade Commission says that by passing CAFTA, we will reduce trade deficit by more than $750 million. So, in other words, this bill is good for the overall financial picture of the United States. That's why the United States House of Representatives, next week, ought to understand the economic wisdom of this bill and open up the market of 44 million consumers to U.S. businesses, U.S. farms, and U.S. manufacturers.

CAFTA includes strong enforcement provisions that go further than previous trade agreements. To protect our textile workers from unfair competition, CAFTA gives our Customs agents the ability to conduct surprise visits on Central American factories. It's one way you make sure trade is fair, you're being treated fairly.

To promote a cleaner environment, CAFTA includes provisions that will monitor and enforce environmental progress. To ensure that Central American factories abide by acceptable labor standards, CAFTA insists on stiff fines for violations. And the United States Government has committed about $180 million over 5 years to ensure that labor laws are enforced. CAFTA is a trade agreement that will be enforced, and we've got the money in the budget to do so.

CAFTA will help the nations of Central America deliver prosperity and opportunity for their citizens. Let me repeat that. CAFTA is not only good for us; it's good for their partners. That's a fair deal. That's what you want. You want an agreement to be balanced and fair. We want the agreement to be good for us, but we also want the agreement to be good for our friends. It's a lousy deal if it's a zero-sum deal. This is a good deal for CAFTA nations.

CAFTA will help nations attract investment they need for their economies to grow. In other words, with a stable trading agreement with the United States, it will make it much easier for investment to flow to our CAFTA friends. And investment means growth and opportunity. That's what that means.

By reducing tariffs on our products, CAFTA will allow consumers in their countries to enjoy goods and services at better prices. If a country doesn't produce a lot of a particular product and they need it and it's got a tariff on it, it means the consumers pay an additional price. By reducing tariffs, it means that consumers in the CAFTA nations will be able to more likely purchase that which they want at a better price. It seems like to make sense to me that if you lower the cost of food products coming from the United States to CAFTA, that's beneficial for a mom trying to buy food for her child. This

* White House correction.

is consumer-friendly in the CAFTA countries.

By lowering tariffs, CAFTA will give Central American businesses less costly access to high-quality machinery. In other words, it's going to be beneficial for the small-business owner or the large-business owner, the person who employs people in the CAFTA country to be able to buy machinery necessary to stay competitive.

By bringing economic growth—in other words, these are all elements of creating growth, increasing consumer demand by lowering prices, increasing investment, make it more likely people will be able to purchase the equipment they need to stay competitive. All this leads to more growth, which will help contribute to a vibrant middle class. And that's what we want in our neighborhood. We want there to be prosperity. We want people to have a better chance at a better life. It's in our Nation's advantage that prosperity grow throughout the neighborhood.

Elected leaders of Central America know that by opening up their nations' markets to competition, they're helping to raise standards for their own businesses and farmers. In other words, if you protect industries, it tends to become noncompetitive. It's very important for our societies to remain productive, and productivity increases happen because of competition.

By giving their garmentmakers an incentive to use U.S. fabrics and materials, our partners are creating really a regional partnership that will help both of us, both the CAFTA nations and the Dominican Republic and the United States, compete with Asian producers that are using Asian materials. And that's important for Members of Congress to understand, that if we want to—this agreement will help us remain competitive with Asian producers on certain products.

People of Central America have made their choice. They know their economic future lies in free and fair trade with the United States. They've said, "We want to join with the United States." And that's important. When this bill is passed, this country will be sending a strong message: We want to join with you as well. You want to join with us in free and fair trade; we want to join with you. And it's that alliance of interest that will make this neighborhood better. And it's important for Members of Congress to understand that.

We cannot and should not reject these young democracies. We must support democracy in our neighborhood. And CAFTA will strengthen democracies. CAFTA nations a while ago were struggling with dictatorship and tyranny and civil strife. It wasn't all that long ago that a lot of our foreign policy was occupied by actions that had been taken by governments in Central America. Today, I'm more than proud to welcome democracies to the Oval Office. These are peaceful countries. These are freedom-loving countries.

The leaders of these nations have made impressive gains toward establishing—firmly establishing democracy. But these gains cannot be taken for granted. And that's important for Members of the United States House of Representatives to understand clearly. Democracy cannot be taken for granted. We must provide the foundation for democracy through smart policy. CAFTA's smart policy. It's good trade policy. It makes it more likely somebody is going to be able to work in America when we pass CAFTA, but it also helps the neighborhood.

You see, there's no democracy—those new democracies in Central America still face forces that oppose democratic government. Make no mistake about it: There are people in our own neighborhood that oppose democracy; they're trying to separate our friends from the United States by sewing resentment and anger. People of this region need to see that democracy produces more than just free elections, that democracy produces measurable progress in their lives. As the oldest democracy in this hemisphere, we have a moral obligation and a vital interest in helping the Central American economies and societies succeed. And therefore, CAFTA needs to be passed.

By strengthening democracy in the region, CAFTA will lead to greater security and stability. I appreciate so very much the hard work of the Central American leadership. I've had a chance to visit with these good folks. As a matter of fact, they've been coming to America quite often, and I've been going there sometimes. And that's important. That's what friends do. They strategize. They

talk. The American people have got to understand, we've got friends in the leadership in Central America. And they're working hard to punish corruption and keep the streets safe. They're working hard to make sure they have a society that respects human rights and the rule of law. We're working together to nail the drug traffickers and terrorists and criminal gangs who feed on lawlessness and instability.

CAFTA will strengthen those who are taking on the forces of radicalism and violence in this hemisphere, and it will make our country more secure. As former Governor of a State that shares a long border with Mexico, I know first hand the importance of improving ties with our neighbors. It's really important that we've got strong ties in a neighborhood in which you live. I understand the importance of removing trade barriers that make it difficult for our businesses and farmers to compete.

This bill that the House of Representatives will be voting on next week is pro-jobs, pro-growth, and pro-democracy. It is important that we pass this piece of legislation. And I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to come and talk about its importance. And I encourage you to keep doing what you're doing, is talking to Members of the United States Congress and remind them, set aside partisan politics for the good of the United States of America. It's in our economic interests, it's in our national security interests that the House of Representatives join the United States Senate and pass that CAFTA bill, which I'll proudly sign on behalf of America's workers and small businesses and those of us who love and cherish democracy.

May God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:12 a.m. at the Organization of American States. In his remarks, he referred to Raul Yzaguirre, former president and chief executive officer, National Council of LaRaza; Anne Alonzo, co-founder, Hispanic Alliance for Free Trade; and Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza of the Organization of American States. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the PATRIOT Act

July 21, 2005

I commend the House for voting to reauthorize provisions of the PATRIOT Act that are set to expire this year. The PATRIOT Act has enhanced information sharing between law enforcement and intelligence personnel, updated the law to adapt to changes in technology, and provided critical tools to investigate terrorists that have been used for years in cases against organized crime and drug dealers. The PATRIOT Act is a key part of our efforts to combat terrorism and protect the American people, and the Congress needs to send me a bill soon that renews the Act without weakening our ability to fight terror.

Proclamation 7914—Parents' Day, 2005

July 21, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Parents are role models for their children. With patience, sacrifice, and love, they teach their children life lessons and prepare them for the future. On Parents' Day, we express our gratitude for the hard work of parents throughout America and reaffirm our commitment to promoting a culture of responsible parenthood.

Mothers and fathers love their children unconditionally and make daily sacrifices to provide for them. Parents create a safe, nurturing environment in which their children can grow and learn. By instructing their children to make right choices, parents instill lifelong values and prepare their children for the challenges and opportunities ahead. Parents experience the great joy of watching their sons and daughters mature into responsible adults and good citizens.

On Parents' Day, we recognize the boundless love and generosity of all parents, including the foster and adoptive parents who demonstrate the compassionate spirit of America.

We honor parents for their dedication to providing our Nation's children with the love and support they need.

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 and consistent with Public Law 103–362, as amended, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 24, 2005, as Parents' Day. I encourage all Americans to express love, respect, and appreciation to parents across our Nation. I also call upon citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:09 a.m., July 25, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 26.

Memorandum on Assignment of Certain Functions Under Section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930

July 21, 2005

Memorandum for the United States Trade Representative

Subject: Assignment of Certain Functions Under Section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby assign to you the functions of the President under section 337(j)(1)(B), section 337(j)(2), and section 337(j)(4) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1337(j)(1), (j)(2), and (j)(4)).

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 25, 2005]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 26.

Memorandum on Assignment of Reporting Functions

July 21, 2005

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Interior

Subject: Assignment of Reporting Functions

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby assign to you the functions of the President under section 104(h) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–188).

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 25, 2005]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 26.

Remarks in a Visit With Seniors in Atlanta, Georgia

July 22, 2005

The President. How are you? Say hello to my mother. How's everybody? So what are you doing here, Patty?

Patti Patterson. We're talking about the extra help application. I'm trying to get these guys to help me spread the word to anybody and everybody that they might know might be eligible for this extra help.

The President. Well, thank you. You know, sometimes when a person hears that their Medicare program is going to change, it creates a little anxiety. And what we need is people all around the country saying to a friend, "Just take a look at the new plan." I'm telling you, we're coming with a good plan for seniors. It's really going to help a lot of people.

So this is an effort to reach out to people all around the country—here in Atlanta and all around the country—to explain to people there are some new options in Medicare that

will make their lives better. It's voluntary. If you like what you got, you can stay with what you got. If you're interested in the new ideas, we're out making sure people know those options are available.

I want to thank you for being interested in helping. This is going to require a lot of chatter, a lot of people talking to their neighbors, and a lot of people helping people understand what's available and the forums that are available and the programs that are available. And I want to thank you all for reaching out.

Ms. Patterson. Thank you.

The President. I brought somebody with me—[*laughter*]—my favorite senior citizen. [*Laughter*]

Former First Lady Barbara Bush. I have to be, I've got an almost 60-year-old son. [*Laughter*]

The President. We'd like to say hello to you. Thanks for doing this. This is a national effort that you're a part of.

Former First Lady Bush. Weren't you going to tell people they ought to ask doctors, lawyers, people they trust whether this is a good deal for them?

The President. Yes, I am.

Former First Lady Bush. Yes, you are. [*Laughter*]

The President. You ought to ask your people that you count on for advice, that this is a good deal. You know, for a lot of seniors, the prescription drug benefit is going to help change their lives in a positive way. Again, if you're happy with what you're getting from Medicare or your private insurance plan, nothing changes. That's what people have got to understand. But for a lot of folks, this new modernization of Medicare is going to provide some new benefits that are going to be incredibly important.

Former First Lady Bush. It saves them money.

The President. And save money, yes. See? That's why she's here—to remind me of what to say—[*laughter*]—and save their lives.

One of the things that's interesting about Medicare is that there's a new benefit that enables people to get preventative screenings early. If you now join Medicare, the first thing that happens is the Government will give you a screening to determine whether or not there's any illnesses or conditions that need to be addressed now. That's a change in Medicare. That seems to make sense to me. If you diagnose a problem early, it's easier to solve the problem. And then starting in January of next year, there's going to be a new prescription drug benefit. And seniors, by the way, will get more choices to choose from. But it's all voluntary. In other words, the Government is not saying, "You have to do this." The Government is saying, "These programs are available to you."

So we've got a lot of good folks explaining what's available. Mother and I are going to go over to have a little forum. And one of the persons in the forum is a pharmacist. So the corner store pharmacists are now beginning to understand what the new program is, and they'll help other seniors understand, when it becomes available.

Anyway, thanks for letting us come by and say hello. It's good to see you. We're coming around to shake hands.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:18 a.m. on the Budd Terrace at the Wesley Woods Center. Participating in the visit was Patti Patterson, Deputy Regional Communications Director, Social Security Administration, Atlanta Region.

Remarks in a Discussion on Senior Security in Atlanta

July 22, 2005

The President. Thank you all. Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Thank you. I'm proud—thank you. Thank you all. We got work to do here. Thanks for the warm welcome. I know you're really cheering for Mother.

I'm really thrilled to be back in Atlanta. We're going to talk about Medicare and Social Security. Thanks for letting me come by to discuss these two really important programs with you. I think you're going to find it interesting.

I want to thank the Atlanta Chamber for sponsoring this event. I think it's a good use for the Chamber's time to let us come. I say "us" because there's going to be more than one speaker—you'll be happy to hear—to talk about things that are important for our

senior citizens. This is an educational experience for people. And I can't thank you enough for sponsoring this. So to all the Chamber folks, Tom Bell and Sam Williams and the members of the Chamber, thanks a lot for letting us come by.

I want to thank my friend Sonny Perdue. You know, I saw Sonny at the airport. He and Mary kindly came by, and I said, "Sonny, how is your budget?" He said, "We got a surplus." I said, "Congratulations. That's a sign of leadership." And I want to thank you, Sonny, for serving your State.

I want to thank very much Jim Wagner, the president at Emory. We have just come from a Medicare education seminar at—on the campus of that fantastic university. It is a special place. Thanks for letting us come by. I appreciate you very much for letting us—for coming today as well.

It turns out when you fly from Washington on Air Force One, people sometimes like to get a ride. [*Laughter*] So I was honored to have coffee today on Air Force One with some really great members of the Georgia congressional delegation, starting with the United States Senator, Saxby Chambliss. And Johnny Isakson is with us too. I appreciate you, Johnny. And we flew down with Congressman Jack Kingston, Congressman John Linder, and Congressman Lynn Westmoreland, three Members of the House.

I want to thank the members of the statehouse who are here, Eric Johnson, Bill Stephens, Jerry Keen. I appreciate you all serving in the senate and the house of representatives here in the State of Georgia.

I want to thank my friend Julie Gerberding. She is the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Where are you, Julie? Somewhere. Thanks for coming. Oh, there you are. It's a really important agency, and she's doing a really fine job. I'm proud of your service to the country, and it's great to see you again.

Today Mom and I met Bill and Nina Hartman. They came out to the airport. They are volunteers with the Clayton County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. The reason I bring them up is they are like thousands of other people around our country who have heard the call to volunteer. They've heard the call to serve our country by becoming a volunteer. These good folks help senior citizens stay healthy and active by working in a fitness center. In other words, they're taking time out of their life to help somebody else. And the reason I bring volunteering up is that if you want to serve America, a great way to do so is to feed the hungry, find shelter for the homeless, help those who need help.

Yesterday in the Oval Office, I had an extraordinary experience. A young man from Ghana, who was born lame, was basically adopted by a faith-based program here in America, and he got a prosthesis. He's now a bicycler and a triathlete. He set an example for others in his country that just because you're lame, doesn't mean you're a second-class citizen.

As well, a fellow came to the Oval Office who had as a dream of providing wheelchairs for those who are disabled all around the world. He wants to lift their spirits by giving them a chance to be mobile, other than—so that they're not stuck on the street corners of their cities. He realized wheelchairs were too expensive. So he designed one that will be available at a reasonable price all throughout the—I said, "Why are you doing it?" He said, "I heard a call." See, thousands of people make up the great strength of the country. And the strength of this country is the hearts and souls of our citizens. If you want to serve, volunteer. Make somebody's life better. Surround somebody who hurts with love, and you'll be doing your country a great service. I want to thank Bill and Nina for the example they've set.

How am I doing?

Former First Lady Barbara Bush. Okay. [*Laughter*]

The President. I want to make a couple of points before we get to retirement security for our seniors. First thing is, is the people of Great Britain must understand how strongly America stands with them during these trying times. I'm confident, like our country, the citizens of that country will not be intimidated by thugs and assassins. They understand what we know. They understand what the citizens of this country understand, is that we will hold true to our principles of human rights and human dignity and the freedom to worship. We're not going to let

anybody frighten us from our great love of freedom.

For those of you who have got a loved one who has joined the war on terror, I want to to ask you a favor: Send them an e-mail and tell them the Commander in Chief is incredibly proud, and the United States of America stands squarely with them.

We're engaged in a global war on terror, and we're facing an enemy that has got an ideology based upon hate. If you're trying to figure out their ideology, just think the opposite of America. We believe in religious tolerance. We believe in equal rights for women. We believe in human rights and human dignity and minority rights. We believe people ought to be able to live in a free society and express themselves the way they see fit.

These folks believe in a dark vision of the world where there's no such thing as dissent or religious liberty. All you got to do is think about the Taliban in Afghanistan, where if you spoke your mind, you were whipped in the public square, and young girls weren't given an education. That's what they think, and they have designs. They have goals. They want to topple governments. They want us to retreat from the world so they can spread their ideology of hate.

The only way to protect America is a dual strategy: One, stay on the offense, bring these people to justice before they hurt us, and at the same time, spread an ideology that competes with their ideology, and that's an ideology of democracy and freedom. [*Applause*] Thank you.

We are laying—I just want you to know, for those of you who have got children and grandchildren, I firmly believe that the actions we're taking today to defend ourselves, by taking those actions, we're laying the foundation of peace for generations to come.

I want to talk about one other decision I've made recently, and then we'll get on to Medicare and Social Security. One of my most solemn duties is to find good, honorable, decent people to serve on our courts, and I did. And I had the opportunity, as you know, upon the retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, to find such a person. And I looked hard, and I consulted with the Senate and interviewed quite a few people and came to the conclusion that Judge John Roberts will make a great Supreme Court Justice.

I came to that conclusion after analyzing his record and having a good, extensive chat with him. He's a man who loves our country. He's a man who loves his family. He's a person who understands what it means to be a strict constructionist, somebody who looks at the words of the Constitution for what they are, somebody who will not legislate from the bench.

I want to thank your United States Senators for setting the right tone. I urge Senators from both political parties to rise above needless partisanship and give this good man a fair hearing and a vote as quickly as possible, so he can be seated on the bench prior to the reconvening of the Supreme Court.

It is really important that your Government constantly make—analyzes programs to make sure they work. And one of the programs that I was concerned about was Medicare, and a program I am concerned about is Social Security. I say "was" concerned about Medicare because, working with Republicans and Democrats, we have modernized the Medicare program. And today I want to spend a little time talking to you about our strategy to make sure seniors get the word that there's a modernized Medicare program now available for them.

I say modernized because, if you really think about it—let me put it to you this way—Medicare would pay for heart surgery but not for the drugs that could prevent the heart surgery from being needed in the first place. That didn't make any sense. You know, you pay $100,000 for a surgery, but not $1,000, or whatever it cost, to prevent the surgery from being needed. In other words, the system was old. It worked well for a lot of seniors, but it was bureaucratic in nature. And it wasn't working well for a current generation of seniors. And so I called upon the Congress to change this. Let's do something smart on behalf of our seniors. And today I want to talk about the bill.

First thing that Medicare has done is it says that if you're—when you join Medicare, you get preventative screenings. Put it in Texas terms: In order to solve something, you got to diagnose it. And it makes sense to diagnose something early, before it gets too late.

That's what we're now saying to today's seniors. That seems to make sense. If you're a taxpayer, you want to make sure the Medicare system diagnoses problems so we can solve them quicker. Secondly, we've now got people covered for screenings that can catch illnesses from diabetes to heart disease. We're beginning to change the system. We've provided drug discount cards for our seniors, and it has made a big difference for a lot of seniors. About 6 million seniors have used those cards, and it has been great savings for them.

Now, what's going to change—and this is a voluntary program, by the way. This a program that says, "If you're happy with the way things are in Medicare, don't change. But there's going to be some new options available for you, some new choices." I happen to believe the more choices consumers get, the better off the consumers are. And so what we've done with Medicare is we've said that we've now got a prescription drug benefit available for you. Starting on October the 1st, beneficiaries will start receiving information about the available plans that you can choose from. On November 15th, the enrollment opens; January 1st, prescription coverage—prescription drug coverage begins. So that's the timetable.

I got my man Mark McClellan here. His job is to make sure that seniors get the information necessary to meet the timetable. Part of making sure seniors have got the information necessary to meet the timetable is, Mother and I have come—this is educational. We're trying to get on the TV screens so people understand there's something new coming in Medicare. And we're stimulating a grassroots effort. We're going to hear from two good folks who are involved with spreading the word to our seniors.

I say this is a good deal, and I really, truly believe it is, because, first of all, on average, beneficiaries receive over $1,300 of Federal assistance to pay for prescription drugs. Medicare will cover 95 percent of prescription costs after a senior has spent $3,600. So in other words, you got a catastrophic plan now part of Medicare. Think how important that is for a senior. You sign up—you decide to look at this option. There's an option now available so that you can rest assured that you're not going to go broke because of major medical costs, because of pharmaceuticals. In other words, the Federal Government is saying, "We're going to help you, and we're going to also make sure that there's a catastrophic plan. And we want to help you have surety and comfort as you get older, knowing that you can't get wiped out because of prescription drug bills." I think this is a very important added benefit that will be available for our seniors.

Low-income seniors—about a third of our seniors will be eligible for a drug benefit that includes little or no premium, low deductibles, and no gaps in coverage. On the average, Medicare will pay over 95 percent of the prescription drug cost for these low-income beneficiaries. It's a good deal. This isn't—we're not here to promote a political party. We're here to promote a good deal for our seniors. And I urge you, if you're a son or a daughter, find out what I'm talking about and talk to your mom or dad or talk to your grandparents. If you want to be involved through your church or through a community organization, find out about what we're talking about. And it's not hard. We've got all kinds of—1–800–Medicare. That's not that hard to figure out how to call that—1–800–Medicare or medicare.gov on the Internet. But find out what we're talking about. Verify, and then go out and help a senior make a right decision, the decision best for them.

To receive assistance, low-income beneficiaries need to fill out a simple application. I know you hear Government say, "simple application"—there's no such thing. [*Laughter*] Actually, this is simple. McClellan will tell you how simple it is in a minute. I'm just telling you it's four pages—[*laughter*]—but the print is big. [*Laughter*]

And so we'll talk a little bit about Medicare today. It's changing for the good. Seniors will have more options from which to choose from, and that's always good. Anytime consumers get better options, it means there's going to be a better response to your needs. And again, I repeat, if you're happy the way you are—listen, I understand a lot of seniors simply don't want to change. They're pretty well happy the way things are. They shouldn't be forced to change, and they're not going

to be. I'm just saying there's something else available if you're interested. And our job is to make sure there's enough information out there to show you that it's worthwhile taking a look. So we'll discuss that.

I also want to talk about Social Security. The first thing I want to say on Social Security is, Franklin Roosevelt did a good thing when it came to Social Security. Social Security has been a really important program, and therefore, people who are receiving Social Security today must hear this loud and clear: Nothing is going to change for you.

I understand the politics of Social Security all too well. When I ran for President, they said, "If George W. gets in there, they're going to take away your checks." Well, I got in, and you're still getting your checks. And what I'm here to tell you, you're still going to get your checks. I don't care what the rhetoric is. Seniors have nothing to worry about when it comes to Social Security. What you better worry about is whether or not your grandchildren are going to get any checks.

Here's the problem: First of all, Social Security is a pay-as-you-go system. In other words, there's not a trust. Some people think, well, Social Security is the kind of deal where the Government takes your money and holds it for you and then gives it back to you when you retire. No, the Government takes your money and spends it. [*Laughter*] It's called pay-as-you-go. You pay, and we go ahead and spend. [*Laughter*] And what's left is a file cabinet full of IOUs to future generations. I know firsthand about the file cabinets. I went to West Virginia and looked at them. [*Laughter*] You'll be happy they're there. [*Laughter*] But there's not real assets in them. It's paper.

And so you got a system based upon that, and the strains on the system is this: Baby boomers like me—[*laughter*]—are getting ready to retire. There's about 40-odd-million people who are receiving benefits today. By the time my generation retires, there's going to be over 70 million people. A lot of us are getting ready to retire, and we're living longer. And interestingly enough, we've been promised greater benefits than the previous generation. So think about that. You got a lot of people who will living longer getting greater benefits. And to compound the problem, for the people sitting here today, particularly the young workers, there's fewer of you paying into the system.

In 1950, there was about 16 workers for every beneficiary. Today, there's 3.3 workers for every beneficiary. Soon there's going to be two workers for every beneficiary. That means the pay-as-you-go system is fixing to go into the red, when you think about it. Fewer people paying for a lot of people like me. And it starts in 2017—the system starts paying out more benefits than it collects.

People receiving benefits today have no problem. You got plenty of time and plenty of money that you're going to get what you—what you've been promised. But I'm here to talk to—who I'm here to talk to are the younger folks. I want you to know I cannot in good conscience, as your President, know that the system is going broke and knowing a lot of people are working hard to put payroll taxes into a broke system. And so I called upon—[*applause*].

And I think—I'm thinking about you. Now is the time to act on this. And I understand some in Washington don't want to deal with the issue. It's too politically sensitive. Well, that's fine for someone to think that way, but in my judgment, when it costs 600 billion a year, every year you wait in order to fix the system—ultimately fix it, there's nothing too sensitive. I mean, we're talking about a very important program for a lot of folks.

And so I've made some suggestions. It's one thing to say, "We got a problem," but it's another thing to say, "We got a problem, and here's some suggestions." In other words, I'm saying to the Congress, "Here's some ideas." The first idea is to make sure that future generations will receive benefits equal or greater than the previous generation. We can do that and make the system whole.

Secondly, I believe that the system, at the very minimum, ought to say to somebody who has worked all your life, "You're not going to retire into poverty." I think it's an important principle. And therefore, I subscribe to the idea put forward, interestingly enough, by a Democrat, a fellow named Pozen, who believes that the poorest of our citizens ought to have their benefits increased by wage, at the rate wages increase.

That's the way all people get their benefits today. That's one of the reasons why the system is going to go broke: The benefits are growing too fast, relative to what we can afford. So I believe people at the bottom end of the ladder ought to be able to get their benefits based upon wages.

I think the richest one percent ought to have their benefits indexed on price. And I think it ought to be scaled up in between. And by the way, that suggestion right there will solve, by far, the vast majority of the solvency issue of Social Security. In other words, by changing what has been promised but making sure everybody's benefits increase, you're going to solve the problem for younger generations of people coming up. It's a big step toward solving it. And with some other modifications, we can say that we have done our duty.

So here's some ideas for the Congress to talk about. Now, I think the Congress needs to—both Republicans and Democrats, if they've got a better idea, bring them forward. And we're getting some action. There's some good people acting in good faith, bringing some ideas forward to help make sure we solve Social Security for a generation of people coming up.

But I'll be frank with you, some people are playing politics with the issue there. They just don't, simply, want to do anything. And in my judgment, I think the people, the American people, when they really figure out the problem we got in Social Security, they're going to say to the people who are obstructing any progress, "That's not what we're interested in. We're interested in setting aside politics and doing something for a generation of Americans coming up."

I'll tell you what else we need to do. We need to not only make sure the system is solvent for a younger generation of Americans—and by the way, if you're getting your check, you don't have to worry about it. You'll notice it's the third time I've said it. Sometimes in this business of ours, you've got to keep repeating yourself in order for it to sink in.

But I tell you what else we need to do, we need to—as we fix the system permanently, we need to make it a better deal for younger workers. I think younger workers, at their option, ought to be allowed to take some of their own money and set it aside in a personal savings account. [*Applause*] Thank you.

I'll tell you why I think that. I believe that people can do a better job than the 1.2 percent return they get on their money in the current Social Security system. First of all, it's your money, and I believe that if you're given the option, the opportunity to take some of that money and set it aside in a conservative mix of bonds and stocks, that you can do a lot better than 1.2 percent that we get for you. And that growth of that money, over time, compounds and grows. And that's important. So step one, the reason you ought to be allowed to do this is you get a better deal on your own money, and you can watch it grow.

Secondly, I believe, and I know, that this is a better deal than the current Social Security system for widows. You realize that if you're a two-working family—spouses, both spouses work in the family and one dies early, that eventually the sole surviving spouse can choose the benefits from his plan or her plan, which is ever higher, but not both. The bottom line on what I just told you is that somebody worked a long time, and that money just goes away. That doesn't make any sense to me. I don't think it's fair. I think if the Government lets you set aside some of your own money in an account—I know if the Government lets you do that, you'll have an asset that you can pass on to your spouse.

Thirdly, I think it's important in this society to encourage ownership. Somehow there's this notion that ownership ought to be confined to a few—the investor class is only suitable for certain folks. That's not what I think. I know that the more people own an asset that they call their own, the better off society is.

I want people from all walks of life, all neighborhoods, if they so choose, to open up a statement on a monthly basis, watching their assets grow, assets that the Government cannot take away, assets Government can't use for other programs through the pay-as-you-go system, assets that they can pass on to their loved ones, assets that they call their own. That's going to be good for America when that happens.

Now, there's a big debate about this idea in Washington—there's a big debate about this idea in Washington. Let me just conclude by giving you this fact, and the people of Georgia and the people of America can make their own conclusion about the wisdom of letting people set aside their own money, if that's what they choose to do. I'm going to tell you about the Thrift Savings Plan. It is a Federal Government savings account, passed by the United States Congress. And guess what the Members of the Congress said. They said, "We'd like to set aside some of our own money as a part of the Thrift Savings account in a personal savings account. We want our money to grow better. We want our assets to be there. We want to be able to pass our assets on to whomever we choose." Here's my view. If the Thrift Savings Plan that includes a voluntary personal savings account is good enough for Members of the United States Congress, it is a good enough option of workers all across America.

Ready to go? Thank you all. I just read Mother's mind. She said, don't you think you've been talking a little too long?

Former First Lady Bush. That's not what I was thinking.

The President. Well, don't tell them what you were thinking, then, if that wasn't it. [*Laughter*]

Former First Lady Bush. I was thinking how great you look in the new brown look.

The President. About time somebody noticed. [*Laughter*]

Former First Lady Bush. Cozy.

The President. Well, thanks for coming. Why in the heck are you here? [*Laughter*]

Former First Lady Bush. I'm here because I'm worried about our 17 grandchildren, and so is my husband. They will get no Social Security. I'm also here because—I've been dying to say this. You did say "freedom of speech," I heard you.

The President. Oops. [*Laughter*]

Former First Lady Bush. You better watch out. [*Laughter*] I really think that George W. could have just said, "To heck with Social Security. It won't bother me. I'll get mine. I don't need it," and forgotten the rest of the young people. I'm very proud of him. It's a political nightmare to talk about Social Security, and he's got the guts to do it. So I'm for it. [*Applause*] Thank you.

The President. Is that all you got to say?

Former First Lady Bush. I've had it on my mind. The brown suit just came up, but—[*laughter*]—I'm very proud of him.

The President. You turned 80, and all of a sudden you ran out of things to say; it's amazing. [*Laughter*] Wait a minute, she looks great at 80.

Former First Lady Bush. I just don't like having an almost-60-year-old, white-haired son. [*Laughter*]

The President. Yeah, well—you can see where I got my white hair from. [*Laughter*] Thanks for coming, Mom.

Mom is concerned about, like a lot of other grandmoms are concerned about, whether or not this Government has got the will to solve a Social Security problem. You see, once grandmothers and granddads understand that they're going to get their check, the next question is, "Well, if it's so bad, Mr. President, how come the Congress can't come together with you and save it for my grandchildren?" And that's what's happening. It's going to take a while to get people to understand the importance of this issue. A lot of people would rather—in Congress—say, "Well, let's just don't touch it. We've got a campaign coming up," or something like that. Well, I just don't think it's right. And I want to thank you, Mom, for saying what you said.

Something is going to happen. One thing that's not going to happen is me dropping the subject. I believe my job—and this is what the people want in the President. I think—I'm pretty confident—they want a President to confront problems, not pass them on to other Presidents or other Congresses.

Mark McClellan. Mark McClellan is with us. He is Dr. Mark McClellan, by the way, Texan, father of twins, twin daughters. Is that right?

Dr. Mark B. McClellan. That's right.

The President. Yes. His brother, Scott McClellan, is the face of the administration. His job is to handle the press corps. I think he does a fine—do you not—yes, he does a fine job. Thank you. I'm trying to get a little buy-in from our brothers and sisters in the press corps. So I've got two McClellan

boys with me. And Mark's job is to handle the Medicare rollout. What is your job description? [*Laughter*]

Dr. McClellan. Well, it covers Medicare and Medicaid, and this is a very important time for Medicare, as you said, Mr. President. Medicare is about to turn 40, and it's, for a long time, provided help with doctor bills and hospital bills when you get sick. But as you said, medicine is now about helping you stay well. So we want to make Medicare into a new kind of program that's a partnership with seniors or people with disability—people who care about our beneficiaries, so that they can stay well and take advantage of what modern medicine has to offer. And that's what the prescription drug benefit and all the other new benefits in Medicare, the voluntary new benefits, are all about.

The President. Yes. And so here's the question we're faced with: Congress has already made the decision, as did I. They passed the law; I signed it. In other words, this is law. We're not talking about something that might happen. This is something that has already happened, and Congress, in its wisdom, gave us, I think, 2 years, if I'm not mistaken, to prepare our country, the 42 million seniors, for new options. And so I told Mark, "Your job is to make sure that the 42 million seniors get the word."

So what are you doing?

Dr. McClellan. We are on schedule to bring those benefits to seniors on January 1, 2006, as you said. And the big challenge right now is to make sure everybody with Medicare and everybody and their families and friends who care about them gets the facts so that they can make an informed decision. This is a voluntary new benefit, as you said, so people need to make a decision about it to sign up.

The President. Right, and there's the timetable I talked about; there's the phone number I talked about—1–800–Medicare; medicare.gov.

Now, here's what we're—here's part of our strategy. First, we're appealing to the sons and daughters of—to talk to their mom or dad about this program. And it's very important—if you want to be a good son or daughter, be responsible. Learn what we're talking about here, study it, and sit down with your mom and dad and talk about whether or not they want to choose one of the plans.

Dr. McClellan. And we can give you some information right now. No matter how you get your Medicare today—a lot of people have retiree coverage, the new Medicare benefit can help them strengthen that coverage. A lot of people are getting coverage here in Georgia through a Medicare advantage plan, the Medicare health plan; you can get extra drug benefits through those plans. And a lot of people are struggling, Mr. President, with no help at all paying for their prescription drugs, especially people with limited means who are having to choose between medicine and other basic necessities like food and rent.

The President. Talk about the program—I've said it—come back behind me here, on the low-income seniors.

Dr. McClellan. That's right. You said it's a simple application. I'll tell you one thing, it's really simple. It's four pages. It's 16 questions.

The President. And that four—first of all, the four-page thing didn't sound——

Dr. McClellan. Big type.

The President. ——simple to some people. All right.

Dr. McClellan. That's right. There are a total of 16 questions. And a lot of times——

The President. Four questions a page. [*Laughter*]

Dr. McClellan. That's right. And let me do a little bit more math.

The President. Okay, yes. [*Laughter*]

Dr. McClellan. The drug benefit for lower-income people, for people with limited means—about a third of all our beneficiaries are eligible—it's worth close to $4,000. It's very comprehensive. It's just a few dollars for each prescription. So if you do that math, that works out to about $1,000 a page. [*Laughter*]

The President. A page, very good. This is a good deal. You know, as I told a group a while ago, they said—they hear a politician say, "It's a good deal," they're thinking, "Yes, check is in the mail." [*Laughter*] I really want you to take this seriously. And I expect, again, sons and daughters and grassroots activists and people involved with seniors to take a

look at this. If you don't, you're doing a disservice to seniors. At the very minimum, you ought to take a look at what we're talking about. If you're a low-income senior, you need to get the form and fill it out. It will help you a lot. It will help you a lot. It's a—this is a compassionate piece of legislation.

Now, part of our strategy is to rely upon folks other than Government employees, and we've got two folks involved with making sure people understand what we're talking about. And one of them, we're going to start with Hugh Chancy.

Hugh, where do you live?

Hugh Chancy. Mr. President, it's a pleasure and honor to be here. I'm Hugh Chancy. I'm from Hahira, Georgia.

The President. Hahira. How many people in Hahira?

Mr. Chancy. We have a population of about 1,800.

The President. That's good, yes. Three times bigger than Crawford. [*Laughter*] And your business?

Mr. Chancy. I have a family business. My father was a pharmacist and started a pharmacy in 1966, and my brother and I inherited it. And I went off to the University of Georgia and married my sweetheart, Tina Chancy. Tina and my son, Patrick and Austin, are here with me today, the better part of my family.

The President. Let's don't segue to SEC football, if you don't mind. [*Laughter*] Keep it on the subject. So you got yourself a pharmacy——

Mr. Chancy. Right, have two pharmacies.

The President. Two pharmacies.

Mr. Chancy. I have another pharmacy in a small town above Hahira—Adel, Georgia.

The President. You bet, right around the corner. [*Laughter*] The reason why we've asked you to come is because pharmacists all across the State of Georgia understand they have a fantastic opportunity now to provide a good service to their customers.

[*At this point, Mr. Chancy, pharmacist and owner, Chancy Drugs, and president, Georgia Pharmacy Association, Hahira, GA, made further remarks.*]

The President. Isn't that fantastic? I thank you for doing that. If you're a Georgia pharmacist, call your president—this president. [*Laughter*] You can call me. I don't know if you'll get the phone call returned or not, but become involved. I mean, this is—it's in your interest, by the way, that people understand the new drug benefit.

And I want to thank you for—and your organization for providing a kindly service to help people. You said something interesting. There's—a lot of seniors are concerned about change—in other words, they hear change, and they're not sure if it's good or bad. Again, if it's voluntary, it ought to, first of all, help ease people's concerns. In other words, if you're happy with where you are, don't worry; nothing changes. But at least be wise enough to take a look and see what's available.

And so what we're—I think you're going to get the drift here, that we're going to rally the grassroots all across the country to make sure people are aware of what is available.

Speaking about rally—good job, by the way. You handled it well. Looking forward to seeing the sweetheart.

Dorothy. Dorothy Leone-Glasser.

Dorothy Leone-Glasser. Yes, sir.

The President. Is that accurate?

Ms. Leone-Glasser. Close enough.

The President. You're employed. Close enough, well—George Z. Bush. [*Laughter*] Close enough, but it's not my name. [*Laughter*] Anyway——

Ms. Leone-Glasser. No, it's Glasser.

The President. Glasser—just what I was saying, Glasser. [*Laughter*] Where do you work?

Ms. Leone-Glasser. I own a Wisdom of Wellness Project company, but I'm a nurse practitioner and a wellness counselor.

The President. Fabulous. Right here in Atlanta?

Ms. Leone-Glasser. Yes, for 25 years.

The President. Good. And how are you going to be involved in the Medicare program rollout?

Ms. Leone-Glasser. I have been involved for at least the last 3 years. I was involved initially in signing up people for their prescription drug card——

The President. Really. Good.

Ms. Leone-Glasser. ——and helping enroll them in that. And I want people to know how important it is with the new Part D of

Medicare that's going to be coming January 1st in 2006, that they realize that it's not just a prescription drug card, but there are some other wonderful benefits that are coming for Medicare recipients. And remember, this is also sometimes children and people who are seriously ill on disability. And they're going to be getting a physical exam, like you said, to be able to not only screen for other diseases, but it's part of what everyone will receive on Medicare. And also, they're going to get other screenings that are going to be so important to them.

The President. What she's saying is, we've modernized the program. Can you imagine a program that didn't provide preventive care? It wasn't a very modern program. And so we've modernized it. This is also a program that now provides a very good prescription drug benefit. You know why? Because medicine had changed, and it seemed to make sense to bring Medicare into the modern world. If you're going to have a program that says we're going to give health care to our seniors, shouldn't it be modern? Shouldn't it provide modern medicine? And that's precisely what we're doing for our seniors, right?

[*Ms. Leone-Glasser made further remarks.*]

The President. Well, thanks for saying that. Dorothy is a part of a grassroots movement. Mark, she said we've got to make sure that docs understand. What are you doing to make sure docs understand?

Dr. McClellan. That's right. Well, health professionals are where people turn first for advice about anything related to their health. The new Medicare benefits are part of that. The pharmacists, nurses, physicians are going to be very much involved in seniors getting assistance with understanding the new prescription drug benefit.

So we've got targeted kinds of materials. We've worked with medical professional groups, pharmacist groups, nursing groups, physician groups, to have material that doctors and pharmacists and nurses can use in their practices. They don't want any extra burden. They're very busy taking care of patients now. They want help for their patients, as you just heard, so that their patients can get the up-to-date care, and the materials that we're giving out can help them do that.

The President. Part of making sure our seniors are feeling good about themselves and life is to make sure the retirement system works. You heard me talking about Social Security earlier. I want to talk to two Social Security beneficiaries—you've got to speak in the mike.

Frances Heverly. I forget. I've never done it.

The President. Yes, well, it's an interesting experience, isn't it?

Mrs. Heverly. Can you hear me?

The President. I can hear you loud and clear.

Former First Lady Bush. She's 91.

The President. I know she's 91, Mom. [*Laughter*] She doesn't look a day over 90. [*Laughter*]

Mrs. Heverly. I'm a little over that.

The President. Are you? Frances Heverly—where were you raised?

Mrs. Heverly. In—Pennsylvania.

The President. And how did you work your way down here to this great city?

Mrs. Heverly. Well, my family came down here, and I didn't have anybody left up north, so I came down with them.

The President. Glad you're here. I want to make sure people like Frances hear the message that they're getting a Social Security check, and nothing's going to change. Are you getting a Social Security check?

Mrs. Heverly. I sure am, and I appreciate it. [*Laughter*]

The President. So you're saying it's an important program.

Mrs. Heverly. It sure is.

The President. There's a lot of people around Georgia and around this country who feel just like Frances does, and they understand how important—they say the program is important. And you've got to know, I understand how important it is for people. There's a lot of people who rely only on their Social Security check. And therefore, you can imagine my concern when I hear people say, well—to people like Frances—"You better worry, because when they start talking about modernizing Social Security, they're really talking about taking away your check." And that's not fair.

Are your friends worried about their checks?

Mrs. Heverly. Not really.

The President. Good.

Mrs. Heverly. Not where I live. Everybody is pretty happy there.

The President. That's good. [*Laughter*] Now, let me ask you something. Have you begun to hear the message that the Social Security system is in trouble, not for you but for a generation of people coming up? Is that beginning to get out there?

Mrs. Heverly. Yes, yes.

The President. And do you expect somebody to do something about it?

Mrs. Heverly. Well, I'm expecting you to do something about it. [*Laughter*]

The President. In America, we have three branches of Government. [*Laughter*] I am going to try to do something about it.

Mrs. Heverly. I know you are.

The President. And you ought to keep expecting people, not just me but people from both political parties to do something about it.

Mrs. Heverly. I agree with you.

The President. They really ought to—we're not doing our job unless we do something about it. That's why I was proud to bring it up in the State of the Union. I don't know, I think this may be the—I can't remember—I've done a lot of visits like this around the country on Social Security. I like them; it gets me out of town. [*Laughter*] But I think it's important. Part of my job is to educate people. As you notice, we're talking about educating people on Medicare. So I'm going to keeping talking about Social Security—it's important for people to be educated about the problem that's coming.

If you're a younger worker, you'd better pay attention to this issue. I'm glad to hear Frances say she's comfortable with understanding she's going to get her check, and she is. But if you're a younger person, if you're getting into the workforce right now, I'd pay attention to this issue if I were you, because, as you know, the first thing that happens to you is—after you get your first paycheck—is recovering from the shock of that payroll tax deduction. [*Laughter*] Well, that's going into a system that's going bankrupt, and you need to hold people to account, that have asked for your vote and that are serving for you, in order to get this solved.

Carol, Carol Lowing.

Carol Lowing. Hello, how are you?

The President. I am great. Having the time of my life, by the way. You know why?

Mrs. Lowing. I'm really thrilled that you're here.

The President. Thank you. I'm glad you said, "Gosh, I wish Laura were here and not you," but—[*laughter*]—it happens all the time.

Mrs. Lowing. Oh, I'd never say that.

The President. No, I'm saying, I'm glad you didn't say that, but I'm not surprised if you would. [*Laughter*]

Good, you're on—getting Social Security and Medicare.

Mrs. Lowing. Yes, definitely. I'm here today with my husband, almost 50 years married, and we still talk.

[*Mrs. Lowing, retiree, Dacula, GA, made further remarks.*]

The President. Well, thank you. There is misinformation, and the only way to try to correct the truth—I mean, look, you're going to get your checks if you've retired. And I just got to keep saying it over and over and over again, because the truth of the matter is, you're right; some people aren't interested in these reforms and one way to stop the reforms is to put out misinformation. And people are going to get their checks.

Now, it's really interesting what her grandson says—he said, "You know, go for it." In other words, give me a chance to invest some of my own money. What has changed in America is this 401(k) culture. When I was coming up, my mother and I never sat around and talked about 401(k)s because they didn't exist—or IRAs.

But our society—there's a group of people coming up in our society today who are used to managing their own money. They've seen a 401(k) and they've seen an IRA, and they've seen their assets grow, and they are comfortable with managing a mix of bonds and stocks. And by the way, you can't take your money, under this idea, and put in the lottery. In other words, there's a go-by. These plans are managed plans. They give you a chance to invest in a conservative mix. We're

not interested in setting up a program and having somebody lose it all at the dice table. That's not how it works.

And this has happened—people who are in a 401(k) know what I'm talking about—or in an IRA. And what we're interested in is getting a decent rate of return on your money, because over time, it grows and it compounds. It's called the compounding rate of interest. And it's important that that money be allowed to compound and grow. So your grandson is wise in saying, "I want a chance to watch my money grow over the next 30 or 40 years," money that will be a part of a retirement account.

And so my job is to keep talking, assuring seniors that you're going to get your check. I hope your neighborhood is listening. Because they're going to get their check. And your grandson, obviously, is listening because he understands he isn't going to get one—[*laughter*]—unless the Federal Government stops playing party politics and focuses on the good of the United States of America. That's what we're here to talk about.

I want to thank again—I want to thank the Chamber for giving us a chance to come by and say hello. I am so grateful that we had a chance to explain to the good folks of Atlanta and whoever else is listening that there's a really interesting opportunity for seniors when it comes to good health care through Medicare. And there's an opportunity for those of us who have entered politics to solve problems, to do so when it comes to Social Security. These are important issues for today's seniors, and they're important issues for people who are going to retire.

In other words, this is a generational issue. Social Security is a generational issue. And again, I repeat, I want the youngsters who are paying attention to this to understand the consequences of inactivity. And if you see inactivity, I would strongly urge you to get involved in the system and let people know that you're not happy with what's going on. It's time for us to address this problem head on.

We're in the process of making changes in Medicare. If you want to be involved, please do so. Call 1–800–Medicare. Find out if the program is right for your grandmother or grandfather, your mom or dad. If you're running a community-based program, call 1–800–Medicare and find out how we can get materials to you. If you're interested in your church or your synagogue or your mosque or your religious organization and you want to help the seniors who attend there, find out what we're talking about. Just take a look at the brochures—it won't take long—and then give somebody some good advice. Say, "Here are the options. It's your choice to make." I think you're going to find this to be a really exciting way to help our seniors get a modernized health care system.

Thank you all for letting us come by. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:58 a.m. at the Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center. In his remarks, he referred to Thomas D. Bell, Jr., chairman of the board of directors, and Sam A. Williams, president, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce; Gov. Sonny Perdue of Georgia and his wife, Mary; James W. Wagner, president, Emory University; and Robert C. Pozen, former member, President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments

July 22, 2005

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2006 budget amendments for the Department of Homeland Security. These proposals support the Department's organizational restructuring plan, which Secretary Chertoff transmitted to the Congress on July 13. Overall, the discretionary budget authority proposed in my FY 2006 Budget would not be increased by this reorganization proposal.

The details of these proposals are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

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

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.

July 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

July 17

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush went to St. John's Episcopal Church, where they attended services with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia and his wife, Janette.

July 18

In the morning, the President had a breakfast meeting with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. He then had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India.

Later in the morning, in the Blue Room, the President and Prime Minister Singh participated in a photo opportunity with members of the U.S.-India CEO Forum. Later, in the Diplomatic Reception Room, he and Prime Minister Singh participated in a photo opportunity with administration officials of Indian descent.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a photo opportunity with 2005 Scripps Howard Spelling Bee champion Anurag Kashyap.

The President announced that he has named Liza Wright as Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel.

July 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia.

In the afternoon, in the Residence, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with Prime Minister Howard and his wife, Janette. Later, the President had a telephone conversation with Judge John G. Roberts, Jr., to offer him the nomination to be an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush had dinner with Judge Roberts and his wife, Jane. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with Senators Bill Frist, Arlen Specter, Harry Reid, and Patrick J. Leahy to discuss his nomination of Judge Roberts.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Robert Timken, Jr., to be Ambassador to Germany.

The President announced his intention to designate Paul M. Golan as Acting Director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management.

July 20

In the morning, in the Residence, the President had coffee with Associate Justice-Designate John G. Roberts, Jr. Later, they had a meeting in the Oval Office. He then had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Baltimore, MD, where, at the Dundalk Marine Terminal, he viewed a U.S. Customs and Border Protection demonstration. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President had a meeting with Republican Members of the House of Representatives to discuss the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). Later, he had a meeting followed by a photo opportunity with Colombian Government representatives and Colombian Americans, in honor of Colombian Independence Day.

Later in the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Ronald E. Neumann.

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India.

July 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a briefing concerning the attempted terrorist bombings in London, England, earlier in the day.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a bill signing ceremony with the parents of Sgt. Bryon W. Norwood, USA, who was killed in Iraq on

November 3, 2004, for H.R. 1001, designating a U.S. Postal Service facility in Pflugerville, TX, as the "Sergeant Byron W. Norwood Post Office Building." He then participated in a photo opportunity and meeting with volunteers from Project HOPE who had participated in tsunami relief efforts in Indonesia.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, in the Oval Office, he had a meeting with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to McLean, VA, where, at a private residence, he attended a dinner for gubernatorial candidate Jerry Kilgore of Virginia.

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

The President announced his intention to nominate William J. Burns to be Ambassador to Russia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donetta Davidson to be a member of the Election Assistance Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Arthur F. Rosenfeld to be Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

July 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing and a briefing concerning the situation in London, England. Later, he traveled to Atlanta, GA, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteers Bill and Nina Hartman.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roel C. Campos to be a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Martin J. Gruenberg to be a member and vice chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Annette L. Nazareth to be a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Christian Israel as Coordinator for International Intellectual Property Enforcement at the Department of Commerce.

The President declared a major disaster in North Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and ground saturation on June 1 through July 7.

The President declared a major disaster in South Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe storm on June 7–8.

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 July 18

Bruce Cole,
of Indiana, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities for a term of 4 years (reappointment).

H. Dale Hall,
of New Mexico, to be Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, vice Steven A. Williams, resigned.

Vincent J. Ventimiglia, Jr.,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice Jennifer Young.

Submitted July 20

William Robert Timken, Jr.,
of Ohio, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Germany.

Submitted July 21

William J. Burns,
of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of career

minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Russian Federation.

Donetta Davidson,
of Colorado, to be a member of the Election Assistance Commission for the remainder of the term expiring December 12, 2007, vice DeForest B. Soaries, Jr., resigned.

Arthur F. Rosenfeld,
of Virginia, to be Federal Mediation and Conciliation Director, vice Peter J. Hurtgen, resigned.

Submitted July 22

Roel C. Campos,
of Texas, to be a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2010 (reappointment).

Martin J. Gruenberg,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for the remainder of the term expiring December 27, 2006, vice John M. Reich.

Martin J. Gruenberg,
of Maryland, to be Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, vice John M. Reich.

Annette L. Nazareth,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2007, vice William H. Donaldson.

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 July 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Transcript of a press briefing by Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs and NSC Senior Director for Asian Affairs on the President's Meeting With Prime Minister Singh of India

Fact sheet: The United States and India, Strong Global Partners

Released July 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan and Communications Director Dan Bartlett on the President's Supreme Court Justice Nominee *

Fact sheet: African Global Competitiveness Initiative

Released July 20

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3332

Statement by the Press Secretary on Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud's service as Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the United States

Fact sheet: Giving Law Enforcement the Tools They Need To Safeguard Our Homeland

Released July 21

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1001

Released July 22

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3377

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to North Dakota

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to South Dakota

* This briefing was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 20.

Acts Approved by the President

Approved July 20

H.R. 3332 / Public Law 109–35
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2005, Part III

Approved July 21

H.R. 1001 / Public Law 109–36
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 South Heatherwilde Boulevard in Pflugerville, Texas, as the "Sergeant Byron W. Norwood Post Office Building"

Approved July 22

H.R. 3377 / Public Law 109–37
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2005, Part IV