AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

Weekly Compilation of

Presidential Documents

Monday, October 24, 2005
Volume 41—Number 42
Pages 1545–1569

Contents

Addresses and Remarks

See also Bill Signings; Meetings With Foreign Leaders
Education Secretary Spellings, meeting—1559
Former Texas Supreme Court Justices, meeting—1551
Iftaar dinner—1552
Iraqi Constitution, vote approving—1549
Radio address—1547

Bill Signings

Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2006
Remarks—1554
Statement—1558

Communications to Congress

Colombia, message on continuation of the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers—1560
Oman, message giving notice of intent to enter into a free trade agreement—1552

Communications to Federal Agencies

Provision of U.S. Drug Interdiction Assistance to the Government of Brazil, memorandum—1549

Interviews With the News Media

Exchange with reporters in the Oval Office—1549
News conference with President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority, October 20—1560

Meetings With Foreign Leaders

Bulgaria, President Purvanov—1549
European Union, European Commission President Durao Barroso—1554
Palestinian Authority, President Abbas—1560

Notices

Intention To Enter Into a Free Trade Agreement With Oman—1552
National Emergency With Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia—1559

Proclamations

National Character Counts Week—1545
National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week—1545
National Forest Products Week—1546
United Nations Day—1566
White Cane Safety Day—1547

Statements by the President

See also Bill Signings
House of Representatives passage of the proposed "Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act"—1566

Supplementary Materials

Acts approved by the President—1569
Checklist of White House press releases—1569
Digest of other White House announcements—1567
Nominations submitted to the Senate—1568

Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on October 21, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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

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

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for $80.00 per year ($137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for $93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is $3.00 ($3.75 for foreign mailing).

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is also available on the Internet on the *GPO Access* service at http://www.gpoaccess.gov/wcomp/index.html.

There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents.*

US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS
Washington DC 20402

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for private use, $300

PRESORTED STANDARD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
GPO
PERMIT NO. G-26

Proclamation 7946—National Character Counts Week, 2005

October 14, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During National Character Counts Week, we focus on ways to reach out to our fellow Americans, especially children. Parents are the first and best example of character in a child's life. By volunteering and performing other acts of service in their communities, parents can teach children about the good that comes from helping others. By extending a hand to those who suffer, parents can demonstrate kindness and compassion and help children learn the importance of serving a cause greater than themselves.

Our schools also play a vital part in providing children with the principles they need to grow and succeed. The Department of Education supports character education through its Partnerships in Character Education Program. During my Administration, over 60 State and local education agencies have received funding from the Department of Education to provide programs that teach important values to our youth.

Many citizens around the country are helping in the effort to teach character to children. One of the most important ways to contribute is to become a mentor. By showing love, support, and compassion, one person can make a difference in the life of a child.

During National Character Counts Week and throughout the year, I encourage children and all Americans to make good choices in life, set high standards, and serve as leaders. By working together, we can all contribute to a culture of good citizenship and responsibility that strengthens our Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 16 through October 22, 2005, as National Character Counts Week. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, parents, students, and all Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of October, 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., October 18, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 19. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7947—National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, 2005

October 14, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In times of crisis, our Nation depends on the courage and determination of the members of our National Guard and Reserve. Across our country, these dedicated citizen-soldiers are answering the call to serve. During National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, we honor the vital contributions of members of our Guard and Reserve, and we express our gratitude for the support shown to them by their employers.

In every generation, America has turned to the National Guard and Reserve to help respond to natural disasters, secure our

homeland, and defend our liberty. Today, National Guard and Reserve personnel are serving on the front lines of freedom in the war on terror, and they have provided vital relief to our citizens affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Balancing the demands of their families, civilian careers, and military assignments, members of our Guard and Reserve demonstrate personal courage, love of country, and a commitment to duty that inspires all Americans.

Employers play a critical role in helping the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve carry out their mission. In offices, schools, hospitals, and other workplaces, employers provide time off, pay, health-care benefits, and job security to their Guard and Reserve employees. These patriotic efforts allow our men and women in uniform to focus on their military assignments and help strengthen our country. Americans are grateful to these employers for putting the needs of our citizens and our country's safety and security first.

As we continue to fight terrorism and advance peace around the world, Americans stand strongly and proudly behind the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve, and we express our appreciation for the commitment of their employers.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 16 through October 22, 2005, as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week. I encourage all Americans to join me in expressing our thanks to members of our National Guard and Reserve and their civilian employers for their patriotism and sacrifices on behalf of our Nation. I also call upon State and local officials, private organizations, businesses, and all military commanders to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of October, 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., October 18, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 19. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7948—National Forest Products Week, 2005

October 14, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's forests are a source of pride, and they provide crucial products and materials for our citizens and communities. As we celebrate National Forest Products Week, we recognize the importance of our forests to our economy and way of life, and we reaffirm our commitment to protecting them through wise stewardship and sensible land management.

Across our Nation, people and businesses use forest products to meet their daily needs. Forests provide paper for books and newspapers, lumber for homes and buildings, and materials for countless other items. As good citizens, we have a shared responsibility to cultivate and sustain our forests and minimize the risk of catastrophic fires that harm people, property, and the environment.

My Administration has made good forest stewardship a priority. Through the Healthy Forests Initiative, we are reducing the frequency and severity of wildfires by thinning out and removing forest undergrowth before disaster strikes. The commonsense management practices we are implementing are helping to strengthen our economy, keep communities safe, save the lives of firefighters, and protect threatened and endangered habitats and wildlife.

Sound conservation policies and responsible maintenance provide improved protection for our forests and greater economic prosperity for our citizens. During National Forest Products Week, we renew our commitment to sustain America's forests.

Recognizing the importance of our forests, the Congress, by Public Law 86–753 (36

U.S.C. 123), as amended, has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday in October of each year as "National Forest Products Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 16 through October 22, 2005, as National Forest Products Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of October, 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., October 18, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 19. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7949—White Cane Safety Day, 2005

October 14, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Americans who are blind or visually impaired are valuable and contributing members of our society, and many use a white cane to help them succeed at school, home, or work. White canes give these individuals greater mobility and enable them to participate in more aspects of community life. On White Cane Safety Day, we celebrate the progress that has been made for those who are blind or visually impaired, and we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that these citizens can live and work with greater freedom and independence.

One of our Nation's defining values is compassion, and we must make certain that all our citizens are able to harness their talents, engage in productive work, and participate fully in society. My Administration is working to fulfill this goal for individuals with disabilities through the New Freedom Initiative. This comprehensive program helps increase the development and use of assistive and universally designed technologies, expand educational and employment opportunities, and improve access into daily community life. By working to reduce barriers and change old ways of thinking, we can help ensure that our Nation's opportunities are more accessible to all.

The Congress, by joint resolution (Public Law 88–628) approved on October 6, 1964, as amended, has designated October 15 of each year as "White Cane Safety Day."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2005, as White Cane Safety Day. I call upon public officials, business leaders, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of October, 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., October 18, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 19. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

October 15, 2004

Good morning. This weekend is a momentous time in the history of the Middle East. After choosing their leaders in free elections in January, the Iraqi people have gone to the polls to vote on a democratic constitution. This constitution is the result of months of debate and compromise by representatives of Iraq's diverse ethnic and religious communities. These leaders came together to produce a document that protects fundamental freedoms and lays the foundation for

a lasting democracy. Earlier this week, the Iraqi people embraced changes to the text that have led to its endorsement by some Sunni leaders as well as Kurdish and Shi'a leaders. Now the people of Iraq will have the final say.

By casting their ballots, the Iraqi people deal a severe blow to the terrorists and send a clear message to the world: Iraqis will decide the future of their country through peaceful elections, not violent insurgency. And by their courageous example, they're charting a new course for the entire Middle East.

This weekend's election is a critical step forward in Iraq's march toward democracy, and with each step the Iraqi people take, Al Qaida's vision for the region becomes more remote. As Iraqis prepared for this election, the world learned of a letter written by a leading terrorist explaining why Iraq is the central front in their war on civilization. Al Qaida's number two leader, a man named Zawahiri, wrote to his chief deputy in Iraq, the terrorist Zarqawi. We intercepted this letter, and we have released it to the public. In it, Zawahiri lays out why Al Qaida views Iraq as "the place for the greatest battle" of our day.

He says that establishing Al Qaida's dominion over Iraq is the first step towards their larger goal of imposing Islamic radicalism across the broader Middle East. Zawahiri writes, and I quote, "The jihad in Iraq requires several incremental goals. The first stage: Expel the Americans from Iraq. The second stage: Establish an Islamic authority over as much territory as you can, to spread its power in Iraq. The third stage: Extend the jihad wave to the secular countries neighboring Iraq." End quote.

This letter shows that Al Qaida intends to make Iraq a terrorist haven and a staging ground for attacks against other nations, including the United States. The letter makes equally clear that the terrorists have a problem: Their campaign of murder and mayhem is turning the people against them. The letter warns Zarqawi that, quote, "many of your Muslim admirers amongst the common folk are wondering about your attacks on the Shi'a." End quote. Even Al Qaida recognizes that with every random bombing and every funeral of a child, the Muslim world sees the terrorists for what they really are, murderers at war with the Iraqi people.

These terrorists are driven by an ideology that exploits Islam to serve a violent political vision: the establishment of a totalitarian empire that denies political and religious freedom. This is why the terrorists have fought to prevent and disrupt this weekend's elections. They understand that the act of voting is a rejection of them and their distorted vision of Islam. Simply by coming out to vote, the Iraqi people have shown that they want to live in freedom, and they will not accept a return to tyranny and terror.

The terrorists know their only chance for success is to break our will and force us to retreat. The Al Qaida letter points to Vietnam as a model. Zawahiri says, quote, "The aftermath of the collapse of American power in Vietnam and how they ran and left their agents is noteworthy." End quote. Al Qaida believes that America can be made to run again. They are gravely mistaken. America will not run, and we will not forget our responsibilities.

In Iraq, we have brought down a murderous regime. We have stood by the Iraqi people through two elections, and we will stand by them until they have established a free nation that can govern itself, sustain itself, and defend itself. When we do, Iraq will be an ally in the war on terror and a partner for peace and moderation in the Muslim world. And because America stood firm in this important fight, our children and grandchildren will be safer and more secure.Q02

Thank you for listening.Q02

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on October 14 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 15. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 14 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his address, the President referred to Ayman Al-Zawahiri, founder of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad and senior Al Qaida associate; and senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on the Vote Approving the Iraqi Constitution

October 16, 2005

On behalf of the American people, I'd like to congratulate the people of Iraq for the successful completion of a vote on their draft constitution. By all indications, the turnout was greater than the turnout from the last January election, which is good news. By all indications, the Sunnis participated in greater numbers in this election than last time. And that's good news. After all, the purpose of a democracy is to make sure everybody is—participates in the process.

I'm also pleased, from the initial indications, that the level of violence was considerably less than the last election. That's a tribute to the Iraqis—forces who we've trained as well as coalition forces that worked hard to make sure that democracy could move forward in Iraq.

This is a very positive day for the Iraqis and as well for world peace. Democracies are peaceful countries. The vote today in Iraq stands in stark contrast to the attitudes and philosophy and strategy of Al Qaida and its terrorist friends and killers. We believe and the Iraqis believe the best way forward is through the democratic process. Al Qaida wants to use their violent ways to stop the march of democracy because democracy is the exact opposite of what they believe is right.

We're making progress toward peace. We're making progress toward an ally that will join us in the war on terror, that will prevent Al Qaida from establishing safe haven in Iraq, and a country that will serve as an example for others who aspire to live in freedom.

So, again, I congratulate the Iraqi people. I thank you for meeting this milestone. Thank you for doing what is right, to set the foundation for peace for future generations to come.

Appreciate it. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:47 p.m. on the South Grounds at the White House.

Memorandum on Provision of United States Drug Interdiction Assistance to the Government of Brazil

October 16, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2006–02

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Provision of U.S. Drug Interdiction Assistance to the Government of Brazil

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 1012 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995, as amended (22 U.S.C. § 2291–4), I hereby certify, with respect to Brazil, that (1) interdiction of aircraft reasonably suspected to be primarily engaged in illicit drug trafficking in that country's airspace is necessary because of the extraordinary threat posed by illicit drug trafficking to the national security of that country; and (2) that country has appropriate procedures in place to protect against innocent loss of life in the air and on the ground in connection with such interdiction, which shall at a minimum include effective means to identify and warn an aircraft before the use of force is directed against the aircraft.

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

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 17.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Georgi Purvanov of Bulgaria and an Exchange With Reporters

October 17, 2005

President Bush. We'll have opening statements, two questions a side. Welcome, Mr. President.

Mr. President, your country is a strategic ally. It's been my honor to welcome you to the Oval Office, and thank you for a wide-

ranging discussion on a lot of important topics.

Bulgaria has been a valued partner in NATO. Your country has been a strong example for democracy. You understand, like I understand, that the march of democracy will lead to world peace. I want to thank you for being a part of a vast coalition that helped liberate 50 million people. We discussed important bilateral issues.

And I want to thank you again for coming. Thank you for your leadership, and thank you for your friendship.

President Purvanov. Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to say how pleased I am with the discussions we just had with Mr. President. I am delighted that we had a chance to reaffirm our specific partnership and to discuss—to go through the agenda of some specific issues related.

I do appreciate the support we have been receiving from the United States in becoming a reliable NATO member state and also in joining the European Union in time—that is, as of January '07. I value the high appreciation of Bulgaria's role as a stabilizing factor in the Balkans that we receive.

I had the chance to reaffirm Bulgaria's commitment to remain an ally in the—of the antiterrorist coalition. Of course, the specifics of that are going to be discussed on an expert level. I appreciate the opportunity to raise some concrete, specific issues and put on the table Bulgaria's ambitions to get its military modernized and to be involved in some energy products in the Balkans.

And I'm sure that after these meetings and talks, our institutions and the people concerned, the experts will have a lot of work to do in order to guarantee an influx of investment. I'm particularly pleased with this very frank—open and frank discussions we had.

President Bush. Thank you. Answer a couple of questions—hold a second, please. We'll go with the American side first. Deb [Deb Riechmann, Associated Press].

CIA Employee's Identity Disclosure Investigation

Q. Mr. President, would you expect a member of your administration to resign or take leave if they were indicted?

President Bush. Mr. President, there's an investigation going on. I've made it very clear to the press that I'm not going to discuss the investigation. And so, therefore—and so my position hasn't changed since the last time I've been asked this question. There's a serious investigation. We're not going to—I'm not going to prejudge the outcome of the investigation.

Your question. Yes.

Bulgarian Nurses in Libya

Q. Mr. President, first, we remember 9/11, and we thank you for your leadership, sir. The question is, in Bulgarian public opinion knows quite well that the most important thing for us is to get our nurses back from the jail in Libya, because they're facing a firing squad, sir, after few weeks if the verdict is confirmed. So, we are partners. You're the leader of the most powerful nation on Earth. Why don't you help us, sir?

President Bush. Do you want to interpret that?

[*At this point, the interpreter translated the question into Bulgarian, and President Bush continued.*]

We discussed this issue at length. Like the President, my heart breaks when young children get sick. The position of the United States Government is the nurses ought to be freed. We have made our position known to the Libyan Government. There's no confusion—there should be no confusion in the Libyan Government's mind. But those nurses ought to be not only spared their life but out of prison. And we will continue to make that message perfectly clear.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Vote on Iraqi Constitution

Q. Sir, the vote on Saturday, does the Sunni vote against the Iraqi constitution damage the political process? Will it increase the likelihood of violence and American sacrifice?

President Bush. My first reaction to the vote was that an increase in turnout was an

indication that the Iraqi people are strongly in favor of settling disputes in a peaceful way, that they understand that working to find common ground on a constitution is much better for their future than relying upon killers and people who will kill innocent children and women for the sake of creating havoc.

Secondly, I was pleased to see that the Sunnis participated in the process. The idea of deciding to go into a ballot box is a positive development. The idea that people are willing to try to work out their political differences through a process, a peaceful process, is—stands in stark contrast to the Al Qaida types and the terrorists and the killers that are trying to drive the process through violence.

The way forward is clear. The political process will continue with a constitution, if finally ratified, and then an election, coupled with a security plan that continues to train Iraqis so they do the fight. The violence in this election was down from the previous election. And one of the reasons why is because the Iraqi forces took the fight to the enemy and provided security, which is really heartening to coalition forces and friends and allies.

So yesterday was a very hopeful day for peace. It's an exciting day for a country that only a few short years ago was ruled by a brutal tyrant. So I'm pleased with the progress being made.

Bulgaria's Role in the Balkans

Q. Mr. President, Bulgarian Telegraph Agency. What do you think of Bulgaria's role—of your ally, Bulgaria, as a regional leader in the Balkans?

President Bush. I think the—I watched your election—recent parliamentary elections very closely. The people voted, and then coalitions were formed for the good of the country. That's an example that many can learn from. There's nothing more wholesome than a young democracy, not only setting an example for others but taking a lead in explaining to citizens that the best way to resolve differences is through a political process that is peaceful.

And so the President and I talked about Bulgaria's important role in taking the lead in helping young democracies grow in strength. We're laying the foundation for peace. Democracies are peaceful. They're at peace with their neighbors, and the Balkans needs peace. The Middle East needs peace. And working with friends like Bulgaria, we are laying that foundation for peace.

And I'm proud to have your friendship. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:53 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. President Purvanov and one reporter spoke in Bulgarian, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Former Texas Supreme Court Justices

October 17, 2005

The President. I want to welcome some of my fellow Texans here in the Oval Office. We've got Republicans and Democrats, people who have been on the court, attorney generals. They're here to send a message here in Washington that the person I picked to take Sandra Day O'Connor's place is not only a person of high character and of integrity but a person who can get the job done.

Harriet Miers is a uniquely qualified person to serve on the bench. She is a smart—she is capable. She is a pioneer. She's been consistently ranked as one of the top 50 women lawyers in the United States. She has been a leader in the legal profession. She's impressed these folks. They know her well. They know that she'll bring excellence to the bench.

So I want to thank you all for coming. Thank you for being part of a group of people who understand that Harriet Miers will be a superb Supreme Court judge.

Welcome. I'm glad you're here.

Justice Hill. Thank you. Mr. President, we just all want to thank you for this nomination. We're excited about it, and we're here to try to let the people of America know what we all know, that she is an absolutely fantastic person and a great lawyer and will make a great judge.

The President. Well, thank you, sir. Appreciate you coming. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:27 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Former Chief Justice John L. Hill, Jr., former Associate Justice Greg Abbott, former Associate Justice James A. Baker, former Associate Justice Eugene A. Cook, former Associate Justice Craig T. Enoch, and former Associate Justice Raul A. Gonzalez, Texas Supreme Court, participated in the meeting.

Notice—Intention To Enter Into a Free Trade Agreement With Oman

October 17, 2005

Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act of 2002, I have notified the Congress of my intention to enter into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Sultanate of Oman.

Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(A) of that Act, this notice shall be published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 17, 2005.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:34 a.m., October 18, 2005]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on October 19.

Message to the Congress Giving Notice of Intent To Enter Into a Free Trade Agreement With Oman

October 17, 2005

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act of 2002, (Public Law 107–210)(the "Trade Act"), I am pleased to notify the Congress of my intention to enter into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Sultanate of Oman.

The Agreement will generate export opportunities for U.S. companies, farmers, and ranchers, help create jobs in the United States, and help American consumers save money while offering them more choices. Entering into an FTA with Oman will build on the FTAs that we already have with Israel, Jordan, and Morocco, as well as the FTA that we have concluded with Bahrain, and will be an important step on the path to fulfilling my vision of developing economic growth and democracy in the Middle East and creating a U.S.-Middle East Free Trade Area (MEFTA) by 2013.

Consistent with the Trade Act, I am sending this notification at least 90 days in advance of signing the FTA. My Administration looks forward to working with the Congress in developing appropriate legislation to approve and implement this Agreement.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 17, 2005.

Remarks at the Iftaar Dinner

October 17, 2005

Please be seated. Thank you. Welcome to the White House. This is the fifth year in a row that it's been my honor to host an Iftaar in the State Dining Room.

Our distinguished guests represent the millions of Muslims that we're proud to call Americans, and many Islamic nations are represented here that America is proud to call friend. We welcome the representatives from many countries with large Muslim populations. I want to thank you all for coming to celebrate an honored tradition of the Muslim faith and wish you a *Ramadan Mubarak*.

I want to thank those in my administration who have joined us. I want to thank the Imam for joining us today, and thank you for leading us in prayer after these short remarks. I want to thank all the ambassadors from the Organization of the Islamic Conference. I welcome other members of the diplomatic corps. And I want to thank the Muslim—American Muslim leaders who are with us today. Thanks for taking time out to celebrate this important dinner.

Ramadan is the holiest time of the Muslim year. According to Islamic teaching, this month commemorates the revelation of God's word to the prophet Mohammed in the form of the Koran. For more than a billion Muslims, Ramadan is a time of heartfelt prayer and togetherness. It is a time of fasting and personal sacrifice. It's a time to give thanks for God's blessings through works of charity.

One Muslim leader said, "It's a national and Islamic obligation to assist one's neighbors when they are in need." The American people saw that spirit as we recovered from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The world sees that spirit, that compassion of Islam, through the countless acts of kindness following the recent earthquake in southeast—in South Asia.

America is fortunate to count such good-hearted men and women among our fellow citizens. We have great respect for the commitment that all Muslims make to faith, family, and education. And Americans of many backgrounds seek to learn more about the rich tradition of Islam. To promote greater understanding between our cultures, I have encouraged American families to travel abroad, to visit with Muslim families. And I have encouraged American families to host exchange students from the Muslim world. I have asked young Americans to study the language and customs of the broader Middle East. And for the first time in our Nation's history, we have added a Koran to the White House Library.

All of us gathered tonight share a conviction that America must remain a welcoming and tolerant land in which our people are free to practice any faith they choose. We reject every form of ethnic and religious discrimination. As I said in my second Inaugural Address, we cannot carry the message of freedom and the baggage of bigotry at the same time.

We also share a common hope for the future, that our children and grandchildren will grow up in a safer and more peaceful world. Delivering on that promise to future generations requires action from our generation. We must stand confidently in the cause of freedom, including the freedom of people everywhere to practice their faith in peace. We must also firmly oppose all who commit evil in God's name. I am grateful to the Muslim nations that have joined our coalition in the war on terror, including many nations that have been victims of terror themselves.

As we work together to defeat the terrorists, we must be very clear about the enemies we face. The killers who take the lives of innocent men, women, and children are followers of a violent ideology very different from the religion of Islam. These extremists distort the idea of jihad into a call for terrorist murder against anyone who does not share their radical vision, including Muslims from other traditions, who they regard as heretics.

Their strategy will fail. Many Muslim scholars have already publicly condemned terrorism, often citing Chapter 5, Verse 32 of the Koran, which states that killing an innocent human being is like killing all of humanity and saving the life of one person is like saving all of humanity. I appreciate those of you here who have joined these scholars in rejecting violent extremists. And I believe the time has come for all responsible Islamic leaders to denounce an ideology that exploits Islam for political ends and defiles your noble faith.

I have great confidence in the future of this Nation and in the future of the Muslim world. I have been inspired by the courage of people in Afghanistan and Iraq, where Muslims are celebrating Ramadan in two of the world's newest democracies. I believe that people of every religious and ethnic background have the right and the desire to be free. And I believe that the spread of freedom and justice and tolerance in the broader Middle East will lead to the peace that we all seek.

As we celebrate this special Iftaar, we renew the ties of friendship that bind all those who trace their faith back to God's call on Abraham. We recognize the many hopeful works we have achieved together. We look forward to learning more from each other in the years ahead.

I'm so grateful that you've joined us today. I wish you a blessed Ramadan, and may God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:01 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Imam Talal Eid, Islamic Institute of Boston.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Jose Manuel Durao Barroso of the European Commission

October 18, 2005

President Bush. It's my pleasure to welcome back to the Oval Office my friend Jose Barroso. Welcome.

President Durao Barroso. Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you for taking time out of your schedule to come and visit and talk about U.S.-EU relations. I told Jose that it's very important for the people in Europe to know that America values our relationship, wants the EU to succeed, wants to work in collaboration to achieve some big objectives. One is to lay the foundation for peace by spreading democracy and freedom. And I appreciate your understanding, and thank you for working closely on that.

Secondly is to help enhance the prosperity of our respective countries as well as the world, through promoting free and fair trade. We talked about what it requires to get the Doha round moving forward. We had a good, frank discussion on that, and there's no question we share the same objective.

We talked about what we can do to work together to move forward on a lot of issues. The main thing I came away from, again, is, one, I value Jose's leadership, his advice but also how important the relationship between the EU and the United States is and that we can achieve a lot of important things when we work together.

So welcome back. Thank you for hosting me last winter. I'm proud to have you here.

President Durao Barroso. Thank you very much. It's a great pleasure for me to be, once again, here in White House with President Bush. I thank him and the First Lady for their kind and friendly hospitality.

As President Bush said, this relation is very important, most of all because we share exactly the same values of freedom, democracy, and human rights, and we complement each other in pushing forward this agenda, but also in economic terms. We have now a trade relation of more than $1 billion a day. So together, we are 40 percent of world trade. So we have a common interest in opening up markets. We very much in the European Union are looking forward for a success of those talks. We want it to have ambitious and balanced result on agriculture but not only in agriculture. I want to underline this point, services for instance, is very important, so that our citizens can really see the benefits of globalization. And we want to work together, the United States also, engaging others, emerging markets, but also thinking about less developed countries, engaging them constructively for this—the success of these talks.

These were the main issues that I had the pleasure, once again, to discuss with President Bush in his very frank and friendly manner. I really believe we have a lot to do together, the European Union and United States.

President Bush. Thanks, Jose. Appreciate you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks on Signing the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2006

October 18, 2005

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thanks for coming. Welcome to the White House.

The most solemn duty of the President and the Congress is to protect the American people. To help meet this responsibility, we created the Department of Homeland Security. This Department united 22 Federal agencies under a single command with a clear mission, to protect the American homeland.

To protect our homeland, we tore down legal and bureaucratic walls that separated our intelligence agents from our law enforcement officers. We've disrupted terrorist planning and financing as a result of the reforms. We've used the PATRIOT Act to break up terror cells and prosecute terrorist operatives and supporters. At the same time, the Department of Homeland Security, by working with the United States Congress, has increased the number of people guarding our borders, hardened security at our airports and seaports and bridges and tunnels and water treatment facilities and nuclear plants.

We've helped give those most likely to encounter terrorists, our partners in local and State government, the tools they need to do their job.

The bill I sign today supports our ongoing efforts to protect our homeland with $30.8 billion in discretionary funding for fiscal year 2006, an increase of $1.8 billion over the 2005 levels. This bill will help us identify terrorists seeking to enter our country, safeguard our cities against weapons of mass destruction, and better prepare the Federal Government to respond to catastrophic attack.

The bill also includes $7.5 billion in vital funding to address the serious problem of illegal immigration. We're going to get control of our borders. We're going to make this country safer for all our citizens.

I want to thank Secretary Mike Chertoff for the job he's doing. I want to welcome Josh Bolten, Director of OMB. He's the money man. [*Laughter*] I appreciate Ambassador John Negroponte for joining us, the Director of National Intelligence; Director Porter Goss of the CIA; Vice Admiral Scott Redd, Director of the National Counterterrorism Center.

I want to thank the Members of Congress who are up here with me: Thad Cochran of Mississippi, chairman of the Appropriations Committee; Senator Judd Gregg, chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security; Senator Jon Kyl, chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee.

I want to thank the Members of the House who've joined me up here: Congressman Hal Rogers, chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security; Congressman Pete King; Congressman John Shadegg; Congressman Chet Edwards, who happens to be my Congressman; Congressman Sanford Bishop; Congressman Sheila Jackson-Lee. Thank you all for joining us. I appreciate so many Members of the House and Senate who have joined us here today. Thank you for working hard on this good bill.

I appreciate Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Rebekah Salazar, who's joined us on stage—thank you—Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Elizabeth Briones as well as Patrol Agent in Charge Felix Chavez. They all work for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Thanks for representing the good folks who—[*applause*]. I appreciate those first-responders who've joined us today. Thanks for bringing honor to the—[*applause*].

To defend this country, we've got to enforce our borders. When our borders are not secure, terrorists and drug dealers and criminals find it easier to come to America. This administration is going to work with Congress to make sure we do our job, and that starts with having a clear strategy. And here's how the strategy has got to be: We've got to strengthen security along our borders to stop people from entering illegally. In other words, we've got to stop people from coming here in the first place. Secondly, we must improve our ability to find and apprehend illegal immigrants who have made it across the border. If somebody is here illegally, we've got to do everything we can to find them. And thirdly, we've got to work to ensure that those who are caught are returned to their home countries as soon as possible. The bill I sign today will provide critical resources for all these efforts.

For the past 4 years, we've worked with Congress to implement the strategy. To stop illegal immigrants from coming into the country, we've increased manpower; we've upgraded technology; and we've improved the physical barriers along our border. In other words, we've worked together to implement the strategy.

Since I've been to office, we've increased funding for border security by 60 percent, and we've hired more than 1,900 new Border Patrol agents. We've deployed new technology to help our agents do their job, from unmanned aircraft to ground censors to infrared cameras. We've made better use of physical structure to help our agents do their job. We've taken steps to complete a 14-mile fence running along the San Diego border with Mexico.

Stopping people from crossing our borders illegally is only part of the strategy. The other part of our strategy is enforcing our immigration laws. Since 2001, we've increased funding for immigration enforcement by 35 percent. We've added nearly 1,000 new agents and criminal investigators to help us find and

return illegal immigrants. We've targeted violent criminal gangs, whose members are here illegally.

Under a new program launched in February, our Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents have arrested nearly 1,400 illegal immigrant gang members. And this country owes them a debt of gratitude for working so hard to protect our citizens. We're going after criminal organizations and "coyotes" that traffic in human beings. These people are the worst of the worst. They prey on innocent life. They take advantage of people who want to embetter their own lives.

And we're working hard. In Arizona, we prosecuted more than 2,300 people for smuggling drugs, guns, and illegal immigrants across our borders. And I want to thank the Federal officers as well as the folks from Arizona, both local and State, who have made this kind of work possible.

As part of our enforcement efforts, we're working to send the illegal immigrants we catch back to their home countries as soon as possible. It's one thing to catch them; it's the next thing to get them back home. To make progress—to make our progress more effective, we're going to work with—we'll continue to work with foreign governments to have their counsel officers review cases and issue travel documents more quickly—in other words, to expedite the return.

These efforts are getting results. Since 2001, we've removed several million illegal immigrants from the United States, including nearly 300,000 with criminal records. Our Border Patrol and Immigration Enforcement officers are really doing good work. Yet today we capture many more illegal immigrants than we can send home, especially non-Mexicans. And one of the biggest reasons for that is we don't have enough bed space in our detention facilities. When there's no bed space available, non-Mexicans who are caught entering our country illegally are given a slip that tells them to come back for a court appearance. And guess what? They don't come back.

And so this bill—and by the way, as a result of that—this process, the lack of beds, the lack of detention facility, we return home only 30,000 of the 160,000 non-Mexican illegal immigrants we caught coming through our Southwest border. And the system is not fair to those who are working the border. You got agents working hard to do their job, the job Americans expect; 160,000 non-Mexican illegal immigrants were caught, yet only 30,000 of them went home.

And so the bill I sign today—and I appreciate Congress' work on this matter—will help us expand our reach and effectiveness in two important ways. First, the bill provides more than $2.3 billion for the Border Patrol, so we can keep more illegal immigrants from getting into this country. In other words, we're expanding the number of agents in a rational, planned way. This bill gives $139 million to improve our technology and intelligence capabilities, including portable imaging machines and cameras and sensors and automated targeting systems that focus on high-risk travelers and goods. In other words, we've increased the number of people, but we've given them new technology so they can better do their job.

The bill also includes $82 million to improve and expand Border Patrol stations and $70 million to install and improve fencing, lighting, vehicle barriers, and roads. What I'm saying is Congress did good work in helping us build a smarter system, so we can say to the American people, "We're doing our job of securing our border."

Secondly, the bill provides $3.7 billion for immigration and customs enforcement, so we can find and return the illegal immigrants who are here. This bill will fund the hiring of 100 new immigration enforcement agents and 250 criminal investigators.

As a result of the bill I'm about to sign, we're going to add nearly 2,000 new beds to our detention facilities. That will bring the number of beds up to nearly 20,000. This will allow us to hold more non-Mexican illegal immigrants while we process them through a program we call "expedited removal." Putting more of these non-Mexican illegal immigrants through expedited removal is crucial to ending the problem of catch-and-release. As Secretary Chertoff told the Senate earlier this morning, our goal is clear, to return every single illegal entrant, with no exceptions. And this bill gets us on the way to do that.

For Mexicans who cross into America illegally, we have a different strategy. Now most of the 900,000 illegal immigrants from Mexico who are caught each year are immediately escorted back across the border. The problem is, these illegal immigrants are able to find another "coyote" or human smuggler, and they come right back in. One part of the solution is a program called "interior repatriation," where we fly or bus Mexican illegal immigrants all the way back to their hometowns. See, many of these folks are coming from the interior of Mexico. And so the farther away from the border we send them, the more difficult it will be for them to turn around and cross right back into America. By returning Mexicans to their homes, far away from desert crossings, we're helping to save lives. These efforts are going to help us enforce our borders, and I want to thank you for your good work.

As we improve and expand our efforts to secure our borders, we must also recognize that enforcement work—that enforcement cannot work unless it is part of a larger comprehensive immigration reform program. If an employer has a job that no American is willing to take, we need to find a way to fill that demand by matching willing employers with willing workers from foreign countries on a temporary and legal basis. The best way to do that is through a temporary-worker program that gives those workers we need a legal, honest way to come into our country and to return home. I'm going to work with Members of Congress to create a program that can provide for our economy's labor needs without harming American workers, without providing amnesty, and that will improve our ability to control our borders.

You see, we got people sneaking into our country to work. They want to provide for their families. Family values do not stop at the Rio Grande River. People are coming to put food on the table. But because there is no legal way for them to do so, through a temporary-worker program, they're putting pressure on our border. It makes sense to have a rational plan that says, "You can come and work on a temporary basis, if an employer can't find an American to do the job." It makes sense for the employer. It makes sense for the worker, and it makes sense for those good people trying to enforce our border. The fewer people trying to sneak in to work means it's more likely we're going to catch smugglers—drug smugglers and terrorists and gun runners.

A critical part of any temporary-worker program is work site enforcement. To deal with employers who violate our immigration law, this bill strengthens our enforcement capabilities by adding new agents and doubling their resources. We've got to crack down on employers who flout our laws. And we will give honest employers the tools they need to spot fake documents and ensure that their workers are respecting our laws. America is a country of laws, and we're going to uphold our laws for the good of the citizens of this country.

The bill I'm about to sign funds a lot of important programs. It helps people do the job they've been called on to do, which is to protect the American people. A key component of this bill is to make sure we enforce the borders of the United States of America. And I want to thank the authors of the bill, those who have worked hard to get this bill to my desk, for putting forth a rational plan, a way to do our job.

We've got a lot of work to do in this country. There are enemies still out there who want to hurt us. But this bill is a step toward all of us, Republicans and Democrats, being able to say to the American people, "We're coming together to do the best job we can possibly do to protect this country."

Again, I want to thank the Members for being here. Thanks for your good work. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:33 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. H.R. 2360, approved October 18, was assigned Public Law No. 109–90. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2006

October 18, 2005

Today, I have signed into law H.R. 2360, the "Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2006." The Act provides funds to protect the United States against terrorism, assist those adversely affected by natural disasters such as hurricanes, and carry out other departmental functions such as securing our Nation's borders and enforcing our immigration laws.

The executive branch shall construe as calling solely for notification the provisions of the Act that purport to require congressional committee approval for the execution of a law. Any other construction would be inconsistent with the principles enunciated by the Supreme Court of the United States in *INS v. Chadha*. These provisions include: "United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology;" "Automation Modernization, Customs and Border Protection;" "Air and Marine Interdiction, Operations, Maintenance, and Procurement, Customs and Border Protection;" "Automation Modernization, Immigration and Customs Enforcement;" "Salaries and Expenses, United States Secret Service;" "Research, Development, Acquisition, and Operations, Science and Technology for the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office;" and sections 504, 505, 509, 511, 526, and 538.

Under the heading "Customs and Border Protection," the Act purports to require the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to relocate its tactical checkpoints in the Tucson, Arizona, sector at least once every 7 days. Decisions on deployment and redeployment of law enforcement officers in the execution of the laws are a part of the executive power vested in the President by Article II of the Constitution. Accordingly, the executive branch shall construe the relocation provision as advisory rather than mandatory.

Section 516 of the Act purports to direct the conduct of security and suitability investigations. To the extent that section 516 relates to access to classified national security information, the executive branch shall construe this provision in a manner consistent with the President's exclusive constitutional authority, as head of the unitary executive branch and as Commander in Chief, to classify and control access to national security information and to determine whether an individual is suitable to occupy a position in the executive branch with access to such information.

To the extent that section 518 of the Act purports to allow an agent of the legislative branch to prevent implementation of the law unless the legislative agent reports to the Congress that the executive branch has met certain conditions, the executive branch shall construe such section as advisory, in accordance with the constitutional principles enumerated in the *Chadha* decision.

As is consistent with the text of the Act, the executive branch shall construe section 521 as relating to the integrity and supervision of the United States Secret Service only within the Department of Homeland Security. The executive branch therefore shall construe section 521 to neither affect the functions and supervision of personnel of the Secret Service assigned or detailed to duty outside the Department of Homeland Security, nor limit participation by the Secret Service in cooperative command and other arrangements with other governmental entities for the conduct of particular operations.

Section 527 refers to joint explanatory statements of managers accompanying conference reports on specified acts. Such statements do not satisfy the constitutional requirements of bicameral approval and presentment to the President needed to give them the force of law.

The executive branch shall construe section 529 of the Act, relating to privacy officer reports, in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 18, 2005.

NOTE: H.R. 2360, approved October 18, was assigned Public Law No. 109–90.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings

October 19, 2005

The President. Laura and I are proud to welcome our Secretary of Education here to the Oval Office. Secretary Spellings has just delivered what's called the Nation's Report Card, which is a sample of over 300,000 students from—in every State, as to whether or not they've got the capacity to read and write and add and subtract in the fourth and eighth grade.

This is an encouraging report. Thank you for coming, Madam Secretary, because it shows there's an achievement gap in America that is closing, that minority students, particularly in fourth grade math and fourth grade reading, are beginning to catch up with their Anglo counterparts. And that's positive, and that's important. It shows that a system that measures and focuses on every child is a system that can help us and achieve a goal that we really want in America, and that is every child learning to read and no child—and add and subtract and no child being left behind.

This is an important yardstick. It's an important measuring tool. It will allow States to compare how they're doing with their neighboring States, for example. It also points up where we've got more work to do. We've got work to do in eighth grade reading. And that's why we've discussed the program, Striving Readers Program. We hope Congress funds that program to make sure that there's intense focus in the middle schools in reading and math, just like there's intense focus in the early grades in reading and math.

And so, Madam Secretary, thanks for coming. Appreciate you delivering the report. No Child Left Behind is working.

Secretary Spellings. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:16 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia

October 19, 2005

On October 21, 1995, by Executive Order 12978, the President declared a national emergency pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia, and the extreme level of violence, corruption, and harm such actions cause in the United States and abroad.

The order blocks all property and interests in property of foreign persons listed in an annex to the order that are in the United States or within the possession or control of U.S. persons, as well as of foreign persons determined to play a significant role in international narcotics trafficking centered in Colombia. The order similarly blocks all property and interests in property of foreign persons determined to materially assist in, or provide financial or technological support for or goods or services in support of, the narcotics trafficking activities of persons designated in or pursuant to the order, or persons determined to be owned or controlled by, or to act for or on behalf of, persons designated in or pursuant to the order. The order also prohibits any transaction or dealing by United States persons or within the United States in such property or interests in property.

Because the actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause an extreme level of violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad, the national emergency declared on October 21, 1995, and the measures adopted pursuant thereto to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond October 21, 2005. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect

to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 19, 2005.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 1:08 p.m., October 19, 2005]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on October 20.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia

October 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 this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the emergency declared with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia is to continue in effect beyond October 21, 2005. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on October 20, 2004 (69 *Fed. Reg.* 61733).

The circumstances that led to the declaration on October 21, 1995, of a national emergency have not been resolved. The actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause unparalleled violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain economic pressure on significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia by blocking their property and interests in property that are in the United States or within the possession or control of United States persons and by depriving them of access to the U.S. market and financial system.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 19, 2005.

The President's News Conference With President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority

October 20, 2005

President Bush. Thank you all. Thanks. It's my honor to welcome the democratically elected leader of the Palestinian Authority to the White House for the second time this year. We just had some good talks. Mr. President, thanks—a good, open, exchange of ideas.

President Abbas is a man devoted to peace and to his people's aspirations for a state of their own. And today the Palestinian people are closer to realizing those aspirations. It's a really interesting period of history, I think. I was just commenting to the President when we were in the Oval Office, how much things have changed in the Holy Land. After all, he got elected in January; there were successful Palestinian municipal elections; and then we witnessed the completion of Israel's disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank. It's been an eventful year.

And I say it's an eventful year because the ultimate objective is there—for there to be two states, living side by side in peace, two democracies living side by side in peace. And I believe that's where we're headed. Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and parts of West Bank was a bold decision with historic significance. President Abbas and the Palestinian Authority contributed to the success of the withdrawal in significant ways. Mr. President, thank you.

Through the active coordination and ground-level cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian security forces, the disengagement has been completed successfully and

calmly. Israeli withdrawal creates new opportunities, creates responsibilities for the Palestinian people.

The way forward must begin by confronting the threat that armed gangs pose to a genuinely democratic Palestine. And those armed gangs must confront the threat that armed gangs pose to lasting peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Now, Mr. President, you ran on a platform of peace. That's why the people voted for you. I strongly support your rejection of terror and your commitment to what you have called, one authority, one law, and one gun. The United States, in cooperation with the international community, has helped you achieve this through the efforts of our senior U.S. security coordinator, General Kip Ward. I appreciate your service, General Ward. Thank you for being here, and thank you for all your hard work to help the Palestinian security forces at a critical time. Job well done.

In the coming days, I'll be naming our new coordinator to build on the progress General Ward has made. This person will take on an enhanced mission to help President Abbas and the Palestinian Authority carry out their responsibility to end terror attacks, dismantle terrorist infrastructure, maintain law and order, and one day, provide security for their own state.

The way forward must include rebuilding the Palestinian economy. This goal has the support of the Quartet, the United States, the United Nations, the European Union, and Russia. Quartet Special Envoy Jim Wolfensohn is coordinating a broad effort to generate economic and financial support from the international community for the Palestinian Authority, and he's doing a good job. I'm going to continue to consult with our Quartet partners to ask Jim to extend his mission until next spring.

It's important that we make quick progress on the issues that Jim has identified as most critical for the Palestinian economy, including opening the Rafah crossing, connecting the West Bank and Gaza, improving the ability of Palestinians to travel in the West Bank, and beginning work on the Gaza seaport. These are all practical steps that will help the Palestinian economy grow and flourish. I believe that Arab States have a particular responsibility to help the Palestinians build a strong and prosperous economy, and I urge them to create an environment in the region that strengthens the possibility of peace.

The way forward must continue to include democratic elections. The upcoming elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council offer an opportunity to open the door to the next generation of Palestinian leaders. They'll be responsible for building a peaceful and hopeful future for their country.

In the short term, the Palestinian Authority must earn the confidence of its people by holding elections and having a functioning government that delivers economic opportunity. The Palestinian Authority must also earn the confidence of its neighbors by rejecting and fighting terrorism.

As I have stated in the past, achieving peace demands action from all parties. Israel must continue to work with Palestinian leaders to help improve the daily lives of Palestinians. At the same time, Israel should not undertake any activity that contravenes its roadmap obligations or prejudices the final status negotiations with regard to Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. This means that Israel must remove unauthorized posts and stop settlement expansion. It also means that the barrier now being built to protect Israelis from terrorist attacks must be a security barrier, rather than a political barrier. Israeli leaders must take into account the impact this security barrier has on Palestinians not engaged in terrorist activities.

This is a time of great possibility in the Middle East. And the people of the region are counting on their leaders to seize the opportunities for peace and progress. This work isn't going to be easy, but the path forward is clear. I want to thank President Abbas for his hard work. I appreciate your service, Mr. President. I assured him that the United States will use our influence to help realize a shared vision of two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

Welcome.

President Abbas. Thank you. Mr. President, I would like to thank you for your warm

welcome, and I would like to express my satisfaction with the talks that I conducted with you and your senior aides.

You have emphasized, Mr. President, from this place, about 5 months ago, the basic counters for the U.S. position regarding the various aspects of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. This position, which you have reiterated today, contributes fundamentally to advance the chances of reviving and resuming the peace process in the region.

In the last few months, the dismantling of settlements and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip was concluded. The Palestinian Authority have worked very hard with all its energy in order to make sure that this will happen without any incident, in order to have this as a window of an opportunity that will help us to move faster toward achieving additional steps on the way toward realizing just peace based on your vision and on international resolutions.

This window, Mr. President, must remain open. And this opportunity must be strengthened through resolving all the outstanding issues—as you have mentioned, the Gaza crossing point and the establishment of a permanent link between Gaza and West Bank. At the same time, we must immediately start implementing what the roadmap and the Sharm el-Sheikh agreements regarding the cessation of settlement activities and construction of the wall in the West Bank, particularly in Jerusalem, in addition to withdrawal of the Israeli forces to positions prior to September 28, 2000.

With the removal of the roadblocks, which, unfortunately, turned the lives of Palestinians into hardship, suffering, humiliation, and also in a very important sensitive issue, which is the release of prisoners of freedom from Israeli jails. The implementation of these requirements, Mr. President, represents urging the talks on permanent status issues regarding Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, borders, in order to reach, at the end, peace, which would allow for the establishment of an independent, democratic Palestinian state, on all the territories occupied in 1967. That state that would live in a good, neighborly relationship, in peace with the state of Israel.

Mr. President, there is approximately 100 days between us and the elections for our legislative council, where the Palestinian people would go to the ballot box to elect for the first time since their—for the first time in 10 years—their representatives. This for us represents a very important landmark. On one hand, it crowns a whole year since I assumed office, and also, these elections would represent a renewal process, and a rebuilding process of our political process.

Also, these elections will consolidate and reinforce the slogan I ran on during my Presidential election, which emphasized clearly the one authority, the one law, the one legal, legitimate law, and political pluralism. The new legislative council would be mandated by the people to legislate and issue these slogans and make them a reality.

Once again, we repeat our pride of our democratic experience that's been undertaken by the Palestinian people, and we repeat and we say that the democracy can lose a lot of its momentum in the absence of freedom and with the continuation of occupation.

Mr. President, our discussions today have allowed us to inform you of what the Palestinian National Authority is doing and what we are doing in terms of various policies in various spheres. We have worked and we will continue to work to continue to ensure the calm and maintain it. We are also intensifying our work in the field of security. We have taken active steps in imposing the rule of law and public order and ban armed demonstrations.

Our measures are continuing to reinforce the judiciary branch, as well as the administrative reform. We have said, and we did during the last week start launching a series of economic projects in the infrastructure and in health and education and agriculture in both Gaza and the West Bank.

And here I would like to salute the United States for its contribution and also the help that came from a variety of Arab countries and countries around the world. And we hope that all these projects will be activated by the donors' countries in order to increase the number of projects that our people are in need of.

Our discussion of the overall situation in the region has afforded us the opportunity

to point out what we reaffirmed repeatedly through the past few weeks, on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organization: We are determined not to interfere in domestic Lebanese affairs. We reiterate that the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are subject to the authority and the laws of Lebanon as temporary guests awaiting the resolution of the refugee problem in the accordance with the international resolutions.

Mr. President, we reaffirm again here today our commitment to peace and negotiated settlement. We expect that our people's quest in this direction will be supported. The time has come to put an end to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The time has come that the Palestinian people will attain their freedom and independence. The time has come to move quickly towards the resumption of permanent status negotiations.

Peace requires a departure from the policies of occupation and the adoption of the principle of freedom. Peace requires departure from the policies of settlements construction, the collective punishment, unilateral acts that undermine your vision toward two states and replace that with progress towards negotiations. Peace and security cannot be guaranteed by the construction of walls, by the erection of checkpoints, and the confiscation of land but rather by the recognition of rights.

Peace cannot be attained by the enforcement of discriminatory road policies and by the policies of imposition and creation of facts on the ground but rather through belief in the principles of partnership, parity, and mutual respect.

We are presenting, based on wide public support, our positions that call upon the Israeli side to join us in a real partnership for making peace. We are calling for a Palestinian-Israeli partnership for the sake of creating a better future and for the entire region that can end decades from wars, occupation, and open the doors wide open. We were promised peace, independence, and freedom, and we hope that all of this will be achieved.

Mr. President, once again, I thank you, and reaffirm to you, as we did in our last visit, we are leaving Washington more sure and—more confidence of the possibility of reviving and resuming the peace process and more determined to forge ahead along with the path of peace, democracy, and freedom. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Bush. We'll take two questions a side. Terry [Terence Hunt, Associated Press].

President's Agenda

Q. Thank you. Mr. President, there are a lot of distractions for your White House, the CIA leak investigation, a conservative uproar and congressional criticism over the Harriet Miers nomination, and even investigations of top Republican leaders in Congress. How preoccupied is the White House by these problems, and how are you dealing with them?

President Bush. Well, I've just finished a very constructive dialog with the President of the Palestinian Authority, talking about how to achieve peace.

And I've got a job to do. Part of my job is to work with others to fashion a world that will be peaceful for future generations. And I've got a job to do to make sure this economy continues to grow. I've got a job to make sure that there is a plausible reconstruction plan for cities affected by Katrina. I've got a job to make sure this hurricane headed toward Florida is—the Federal response is prepared for it.

So, to answer your question, there's some background noise here, a lot of chatter, a lot of speculation and opining. But the American people expect me to do my job, and I'm going to.

Want to call on somebody, Mr. President. Oops. We've better go one at a time here.

Q. President Bush——

President Bush. Who do you work for?

Building Trust in the Middle East

Q. AFP [Agence France Presse]. The roadmap that your administration backs calls for the creation of a Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

President Bush. Yes.

Q. Yet, the Israelis' settlement activities, despite your repeated calls, included today, still continue in the West Bank. What is your administration planning to do to get Israel to put an end to those activities?

And then, President Abbas——

[*At this point, the reporter continued his question in Arabic, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter as follows.*]

——what are the practical steps that they want Bush—President Bush to take in order to establish the Palestinian state before the end of his term?

President Bush. As I said in my comments, and—that we expect all parties to adhere to the roadmap. And we are holding people to account on the pledges that both the Palestinians and the Israelis have made on the roadmap. And we do so publicly, and we do so privately.

It's—a lot of these issues that have been, you know, very difficult for a long period of time become easier to resolve as there's more trust between the parties. And trust becomes a permanent part of the political process as action on the ground takes place. The Gaza withdrawal is a magnificent opportunity to help develop trust. It's an opportunity to develop trust between the Palestinians and the Israelis. And after all, the world watched strong cooperation between two willing governments to help the disengagement of Gaza, which is a, you know—right now, I guess, we take it all for granted.

You look back—I think prior to the disengagement, there was a lot of consternation, a lot of concern. I suspect some of you might have even reported that, you know, "Better watch out. This disengagement could end up being a very difficult period." And yet thanks to the President's leadership and Prime Minister Sharon's leadership, the disengagement worked, which established trust.

The President has got an—a job, and that's to establish trust with the Palestinian people. He is a man who said, "I'm running on a peace platform," and therefore, he has talked to us about using security forces to make sure that armed gangs don't disrupt the democratic process. And our job is to help him do that. And so to answer your question, yes, we hold people to account for their promises made on the roadmap. And many of those promises will be easier to keep for all parties as there's progress on the ground. And we have seen remarkable progress during the past year.

And there's—and the progress isn't over this year. There will be elections. This is a very hopeful period. I'm very upbeat about being able to achieve this vision. I understand it's hard. Things don't happen overnight. Old feuds aren't settled immediately, and it takes awhile.

The key thing, as far as I'm concerned, is that there are partners in peace. Prime Minister Sharon wants there to be peace. President Abbas wants there to be peace. And both men are showing strong leadership toward achieving that objective, and that's why I'm confident. I'm a heck of a lot more confident today than when—I was when I first came into office. I know it's nearly 5 years ago, and that's an eternity for some, but there has been remarkable progress in this part of the world. And we'll continue to work with the parties to achieve this important objective, two democratic states living side by side in peace.

President Abbas. Thank you. The truth is, our answer to that question, we have to change the question: What are we supposed to do—as Palestinians and Israelis—to do.

First of all, we have to work. We have to do our part. We have to think as partners. So many years passed by, more than 4 years we did not have any dialog. We did not have any talks. And now we have confidence. We need to rebuild and build on that confidence and on the relationship.

And on our side, we are extending our hand to be a true partners in the peace process, and we hope that the Israeli side also will do the same, so we can do our parts. And what we ask President Bush to do is what he mentioned during his remarks, the roadmap and the achievement and the realization of his vision. The roadmap talks about settlements, about the barrier, all these issues that will facilitate the road to achieving true peace, and will facilitate building the confidence between the two peoples, the Israelis and the Palestinians.

President Bush. Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Associate Justice-Designate Harriet Miers

Q. Thanks very much, sir. Senator Specter called the rollout of the Miers nomination

chaotic. Is that a fair criticism? Are you satisfied with the way the nomination has been handled? Would you be willing to release any more documents about her if it would help?

President Bush. First of all, it's an unusual nomination because she's never been a judge. And so, generally, people are used to looking at different court opinions and how one ruled on this case or how one ruled on that case. That's not the case with Harriet.

I picked Harriet for a lot of reasons. One reason was because she had never been a judge. I thought it made a lot of sense to bring a fresh outlook of somebody who has actually been a very successful attorney and not only a successful attorney but been a pioneer for women lawyers in Texas. I remind you that she was one of the top 50 women lawyers in the United States; she's consistently ranked that way. And so this is a little different process than the norm. I understand that.

Secondly, the questionnaire that she filled out is an important questionnaire, and obviously they will address the questions that the Senators have in the questionnaire—or as a result of the answers to the questions in the questionnaire. But one thing the questionnaire does show, if people look at it carefully, is Harriet's judicial philosophy. And it's the main reason I picked her to serve on the bench, if confirmed, and that is that she is not going to legislate from the bench. She will strictly interpret the Constitution.

I said that when I ran for President—I said, "If you elect me, I will name people that will have that judicial philosophy." I've now had two chances, one, John Roberts, and now Harriet Miers. And they share the same judicial philosophy. That's what the questionnaire says.

And so Harriet will answer all the questions asked, and—but out of this will come a clear picture of a competent, strong, capable woman who shares the same judicial philosophy that I share.

Do you want to call on somebody, Mr. President?

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Thank you, President Abbas. As President Bush referred and said, that the only way to achieve progress and the peace road is combating armed gangs. And you are facing difficulties in doing this. Are you going to seek help and support from American President George Bush, to help you in disarming the resistance movements?

And President, you say you wanted to see the Palestinian state made before the end of your Presidency. Are you still hoping to see something like that? This is number one. Number two, don't you think the time has come for—to talk about timetables to get the two parties to the issues of final status negotiations?

President Abbas. Regarding your questions, I am saying that we are truly in need of help from the United States in a variety of issues, economic issues and financial issues and also security support. And the reason is having General Ward among us, a man who has done a magnificent job, and we appreciate him and appreciate his work very much.

Regarding the—our internal issues, we are following a policy. I believe it is a successful policy. When we started and we asked everyone to accept the *hudna* or the calming, all the organizations that are recognized accepted that. Then we moved into another phase, and that is the phase of banning all public demonstrations with firearms. All groups accepted that.

Now, all groups are underway to the electoral process, so all groups will become a part of the political Palestinian fabric. I believe this will create a new phase in the life of Palestinian people. It's a phase of democracy and pluralism in full fledge in order to be a solid base for peace in the region.

President Bush. I believe that two democratic states living side by side in peace is possible. I can't tell you when it's going to happen. It's happening. And the reason I can't is because there will be moments of progress, and there will be moments of setback. The key is to keep moving forward, is to have partners in peace to move forward.

But one thing that will not happen is that we will try—the United States will try to conform and force parties to make decisions based upon the political schedule in America. That doesn't make any sense. What matters is the decisions made by the Palestinians and the Israelis and the confidence earned as we move forward.

And so you said, "I would like to see two states before I get out of office." Not true. I'd like to see two states. And if it happens before I get out of office, I'll be there to witness the ceremony. And if it hadn't—if it doesn't, we will work hard to lay that foundation so that the process becomes irreversible.

Timetables are, you know, interesting—an interesting thing. Everybody wants a timetable, it seems like, on different issues. And these are very complicated matters where years of conflict and years of mistrust are being resolved by some basic truths. And one of the basic truths is free societies are peaceful societies. And so we can look forward to working with a partner in peace, a person who said, "Vote for me. I'm for peace," and a man who declares his understanding that the Palestinian people, the long-suffering Palestinian people, will be well served by a democracy, a truly functioning democracy.

And so, Mr. President, we're glad you're back. I want to thank you for your strong leadership, and we wish you all the very best. Thank you, sir. Appreciate you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 10:57 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gen. William E. "Kip" Ward, USA, Senior U.S. Security Coordinator, Department of State; James D. Wolfensohn, Quartet Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement; and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. President Abbas and some reporters spoke in Arabic, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on House of Representatives Passage of the Proposed "Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act"

October 20, 2005

I commend the House for passing the "Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act." Our laws should punish criminals who use guns to commit crimes, not law-abiding manufacturers of lawful products. This legislation will further our efforts to stem frivolous lawsuits, which cause a logjam in America's courts, harm America's small businesses, and benefit a handful of lawyers at the expense of victims and consumers. I look forward to signing this legislation into law.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 397.

Proclamation 7950—United Nations Day, 2005

October 20, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Sixty years ago, the United Nations was created to spread hope and liberty, fight poverty and disease, and help secure human rights and human dignity for people everywhere. On United Nations Day, we recommit ourselves to the ideals on which this organization was founded.

Throughout history, the human spirit has been tested by the forces of darkness and evil. Since its founding in the aftermath of World War II, the United Nations has worked to solve problems and harness the best instincts of humankind. Today, we must continue efforts to ease suffering, spread freedom, and lay the foundations of lasting peace for our children and grandchildren.

In the aftermath of last year's tsunami in the Indian Ocean region and this month's earthquakes in South Asia, we have witnessed the great capacity of human compassion. The support from the United Nations demonstrated how nations of the world can unite in common purpose to address difficult challenges. This enduring truth inspired those who created the United Nations, and it continues to do so 60 years later. With courage and conscience, we will meet our responsibilities to protect the lives and rights of others. As we do this, we will help fulfill the great promise of the United Nations, ensuring that all people can enjoy the peace, freedom, and dignity our Creator intended.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2005, as United Nations Day. I urge the Governors of the 50 States, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the officials

of other areas under the flag of the United States to honor the observance of United Nations Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of October, 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, 11:28 a.m., October 21, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 24.

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.

October 15

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

October 16

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

October 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The White House announced that the President will host Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy at the White House for a meeting and lunch on October 31.

The White House announced that the President will visit Kyoto, Japan, on November 15. He will meet with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan on November 16. The President will then travel to Pusan, South Korea, to attend the 13th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting on November 18–19. He will meet with President Roh Moo-Hyun of South Korea in Gyeongju, South Korea, on November 17, and hold bilateral meetings with other leaders while at APEC. The President will travel to Beijing, China, on November 19. The President will then travel to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to meet with President Nambaryn Enkhbayar of Mongolia on November 21.

October 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had a briefing on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery efforts and on Tropical Storm Wilma. Later, he met with James D. Wolfensohn, Quartet Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement.

October 19

In the morning, the President had a briefing on Hurricane Wilma. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President met with the National Security Council. He then had a meeting regarding a potential avian influenza outbreak.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with musician and activist Bono, and then they had lunch in his private dining room.

Later in the afternoon, in the Cabinet Room, the President met with Republican Members of Congress to discuss legislative priorities.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida to discuss preparations for Hurricane Wilma. Later, he met with Gov. Bush.

The President announced his intention to nominate Anne W. Patterson to be Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

The President declared an emergency in Massachusetts and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local response efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on October 7 and continuing.

October 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, he traveled to Los Angeles, CA.

In the evening, the President made remarks at a Republican National Committee reception.

October 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Simi Valley, CA.

Later in the morning, at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, the President, Mrs. Bush, and former First Lady Nancy Reagan participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at former President Reagan's memorial.

In the afternoon, also at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, the President made remarks at the opening of the Air Force One Pavilion. He, Mrs. Bush, and former First Lady Reagan then toured the plane that served as Air Force One from 1973 to 2001. Later, they attended a luncheon.

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

The President announced his intention to nominate John F. Clark to be Director of the United States Marshals Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate George W. Foresman to be Under Secretary for Preparedness at the Department of Homeland Security.

The President announced his intention to nominate Paul J. McNulty to be Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Justice and to designate him as Acting Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to appoint Gen. Peter Pace, USMC, as a Governor of the Board of Governors of the American National Red Cross.

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 October 17

Jean B. Elshtain,
of Tennessee, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for the remainder of the term expiring January 26, 2010, vice Thomas Mallon, resigned.

Allen C. Guelzo,
of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for the remainder of the term expiring January 26, 2006, vice Naomi Shihab Nye.

Allen C. Guelzo,
of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2012 (reappointment).

Eugene Hickok,
of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for the remainder of the term expiring January 26, 2008, vice Sidney McPhee.

Mark McKinnon,
of Texas, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2006, vice Fayza Veronique Boulad Rodman.

Mark McKinnon,
of Texas, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2009 (reappointment).

Ronald L. Schlicher,
of Tennessee, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cyprus.

Alejandro Daniel Wolff,
of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

Alejandro Daniel Wolff,
of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Withdrawn October 17

Mark McKinnon,
of Texas, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2008, vice Joaquin F. Blaya, term expired, which was sent to the Senate on September 6, 2005.

Submitted October 19

Anne W. Patterson,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs), vice Robert B. Charles.

Submitted October 21

John F. Clark,
of Texas, to be Director of the U.S. Marshals Service, vice Benigno G. Reyna, resigned.

George W. Foresman,
of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Preparedness, Department of Homeland Security, vice Frank Libutti, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released October 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush To Attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Meeting in the Republic of Korea and Travel to Japan, China, and Mongolia

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy

Released October 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Advance text of remarks by National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City

Fact sheet: President Bush Signs Homeland Security Appropriations Act

Released October 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Death of Penn Kemble

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Massachusetts

Released October 20

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3971

Released October 21

Transcript of a press briefing by Homeland Security Adviser Frances Fragos Townsend on a comprehensive review of the Government's response to Hurricane Katrina

Acts Approved by the President

Approved October 18

H.R. 2360 / Public Law 109–90
Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2006

Approved October 20

H.R. 3971 / Public Law 109–91
QI, TMA, and Abstinence Programs Extension and Hurricane Katrina Unemployment Relief Act of 2005