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Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Use of Emergency Supplemental Appropriations

December 14, 2005

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am notifying the Congress of my intent to use funds provided in Public Law 107–38, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States, FY 2001, for improvements to the White House Situation Room to enhance the capabilities of the White House in the war on terrorism.

At this time, $3.3 million will be transferred from the Emergency Response Fund to the Department of Defense. As provided in Public Law 107–38, these funds will be made available to the Department of Defense immediately.

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

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Remarks at "Christmas in Washington"

December 11, 2005

Thank you all. Thank you very much. Laura and I have really enjoyed the program tonight. We want to thank all the entertainers for their wonderful performances. I thank Dr. Phil and Robin for being such fine emcees for this event. I want to thank Carrie Underwood, CeCe Winans, Ciara, Jane Monheit, Rascal Flatts, The Click Five, and all the performers and choirs that were here.

We particularly want to thank George Stevens, the executive producer of "Christmas in Washington," and his wife, Liz, as well as Michael Stevens, who's the producer and director of "Christmas in Washington," and his wife, Ali, who is the talent producer for "Christmas in Washington." I thank Dick Parsons, who is the chairman and the CEO of Time Warner, and his wife, Linda.

In this season of giving, we count our blessings, and we remember that we are called on to do good works for those in need. On a special day in Bethlehem, the birth of a child brought hope to the world. And at this time of year, we are especially grateful to those whose work brings hope and health to children.

"Christmas in Washington" supports the Children's National Medical Center. All year long, the doctors and nurses and staff of this hospital are providing care, restoring health, and putting the light back into the eyes of children. I thank tonight's sponsors and contributors for their support of this important work.

As we celebrate the holidays, we also remember the men and women who serve and defend America. Our military men and women and their families have the support and the gratitude of our entire Nation.

To all Americans, Laura and I wish you a joyful and peaceful holiday season. God bless you all, and Merry Christmas.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 7:00 p.m. in the National Building Museum. In his remarks, he referred to television host Phillip "Dr. Phil" McGraw, and his wife, Robin; and Laura, wife of Richard D. Parsons. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 15.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Iraqi Out-of-Country Voters

December 15, 2005

I've just had the really enjoyable experience of visiting with some Iraqi citizens who voted in the elections today. And you might notice, they've got their—got the little ink-stained fingers there.

And, first of all, I was struck by how joyous they were to be able to vote for a Government, a permanent Government under a new Constitution. We take it for granted in America because we tend to—we vote quite often in this country. These good folks got to vote for the first time for a permanent Government.

And there's a lot of joy, as far as I'm concerned, in seeing the Iraqi people accomplish this major milestone in the march to democracy. Millions of people voted. And I haven't seen all the tabulations of the vote, but we're