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Week Ending Friday, December 23, 2005

Memorandum on Assignment of Functions Under Section 1306 of Public Law 107–314

December 15, 2005

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Assignment of Functions Under Section 1306 of Public Law 107–314

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby assign to you the functions of the President under section 1306 of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–314)(22 U.S.C. 5952 note), as continued in effect by subsequent law, including section 116 of the Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–77), as amended.

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

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 16. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on the Senate Filibuster of the Reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act

December 16, 2005

The PATRIOT Act has protected American liberty and saved American lives since the law's passage after the attacks of September 11, 2001. Today, a minority of Senators filibustered to block the Senate from voting to re-authorize key provisions of the Act. These Senators need to understand that the PATRIOT Act expires in 15 days, but the terrorist threat to America will not expire on that schedule. The terrorists want to attack America again and kill the innocent and inflict even greater damage than they did on September 11th, and the Congress has a responsibility not to take away this vital tool that law enforcement and intelligence officials have used to protect the American people. The Senators who are filibustering the PATRIOT Act must stop their delaying tactics so that we are not without this critical law for even a single moment.

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

Statement on Congressional Passage of Legislation To Help the Gulf Coast Rebuild Following Hurricanes Rita and Katrina

December 16, 2005

I commend the Congress for passing an important part of my comprehensive plan to help the citizens of the gulf coast rebuild their lives and their livelihoods. The private sector is critical in the rebuilding effort, and these tax incentives will help boost investment, get people back to work, and return the region to prosperity. Americans will continue to stand with our fellow citizens in the gulf coast region. I look forward to signing this bill into law.

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

Statement on the House of Representatives Passage of Immigration Reform Legislation

December 16, 2005

I applaud the House for passing a strong immigration reform bill. America is a nation built on the rule of law, and this bill will help us protect our borders and crack down on