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Proclamation 7983—Irish-American Heritage Month, 2006

February 24, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The histories of Ireland and the United States are deeply intertwined. For generations, the sons and daughters of Ireland have come to America with a spirit of determination and optimism that has strengthened our Nation's character and enriched our history. During Irish-American Heritage Month, we celebrate Irish Americans and the significant contributions they have made to our Nation.

During the Great Potato Famine of the 19th century, approximately 1 million Irish came to America. And over the last 150 years, millions more have come from Ireland to the United States. In this country, Irish Americans have ably served in their communities, in the government, and in the Armed Forces. They have achieved great success in all walks of life. Actress Grace Kelly entertained us and influenced our culture; industrialist Henry Ford transformed factory production and transportation; and President Ronald Reagan dedicated himself to the spread of peace, liberty, and democracy, helping to change our country and the world.

This month, we recognize the proud history and many accomplishments of Irish Americans. Our Nation is grateful for the role they have played in defending and renewing the ideals that we cherish. Their hard work, firm values, and strong faith have made our Nation a better place.

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 March 2006 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by celebrating the contributions of Irish Americans to our Nation.

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

George W. Bush

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Interview With Doordarshan of India

February 24, 2006

India-U.S. Relations

Q. Well, Mr. President, how is your strategy partnership with India is going to shape up during the forthcoming visit?

The President. Well, first of all, our strategic partnership had a great start, or a great impetus, when your Prime Minister came to visit here in Washington. We had a wonderful visit. And one of the important things about diplomacy is to get to know your counterpart. And I got to know the Prime Minister and admire him as really a decent fellow who is smart and capable.

And this visit will help foster not only the personal relationship, though, but a strategic partnership that is growing all the time. And it's one that is very important for the American people, and I think, the people of India. This relationship between the United States and India can produce good results for our people but also will enable us to achieve some international objectives as well.

Civilian Nuclear Power Program in India

Q. Well, in the context of excellent bilateral relations, which you have just mentioned, I think, what's your take on the civilian nuclear program?

The President. Well, it's a tough issue. It's a tough issue for the Prime Minister; I understand that, and it's a tough issue for me. I knew it was going to be a hard issue, because we have to convince—both of us have to convince our respective people it's in the interest to have a civilian nuclear program supported by the United States and India, as well as a civilian nuclear program