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The Secretary of State is 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 May 26. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Michael V. Hayden To Be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency

May 26, 2006

I commend the Senate for confirming Michael Hayden as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency by a bipartisan majority. Winning the war on terror requires that America have the best intelligence possible, and his strong leadership will ensure that we do. General Hayden is a patriot and a dedicated public servant whose broad experience, dedication, and expertise make him the right person to lead the CIA at this critical time. I look forward to working with Ambassador Negroponte, General Hayden, and the other leaders of our intelligence community as we continue to address the challenges and threats we face in the 21st century. I congratulate General Hayden and his family on his confirmation and thank him for his continued service to our Nation.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Brett M. Kavanaugh To Be a United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia

May 26, 2006

I applaud the Senate's vote to confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Brett Kavanaugh is superbly qualified for the Court of Appeals and will be a brilliant, thoughtful, and fair-minded judge. I appreciate his distinguished service in the executive branch for the last 5 years, as Associate Counsel and then Senior Associate Counsel to the President, and since July 2003 in the vital role of Staff Secretary. I congratulate Brett and his family on today's confirmation and thank him for his continued service to the law and our Nation.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Dirk Kempthorne To Be the Secretary of the Interior

May 26, 2006

I applaud the Senate for confirming Dirk Kempthorne as Secretary of the Interior. Dirk has an abiding love of nature and the outdoors and is dedicated to conserving our natural resources. He will continue my administration's efforts to effectively manage our national parks, support historic and cultural sites through our Preserve America Initiative, and pursue environmentally responsible energy development on Federal lands and waters. He will also work to maintain good relations with Native American tribes and will play a leadership role in my cooperative conservation approach to environmental stewardship. I congratulate Dirk and his family on today's confirmation and thank him for his continued service to our Nation.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom

May 26, 2006

The United States has no closer ally than the United Kingdom. U.S. and U.K. forces are fighting terror in Afghanistan, Iraq, and around the globe. The Prime Minister and the President discussed ways to strengthen defense cooperation.

The two leaders are pleased to announce that the United States and United Kingdom recently signed an agreement that allows appropriately cleared British and U.S. personnel to use the same computer network to access military and intelligence information and other planning tools to support joint military operations in the defense of freedom.

Additionally, the leaders recognize that as American and British soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines are right now standing together in harm's way, we must plan for the

future capabilities that will enhance our ability to cooperate. Both governments agree that the UK will have the ability to successfully operate, upgrade, employ, and maintain the Joint Strike Fighter such that the UK retains operational sovereignty over the aircraft. Further, both governments agree to protect sensitive technologies found within the Joint Strike Fighter program. Together, we are working out the details, while remaining committed to these principles.

Finally, the President and Prime Minister have a shared view that we need to continue to strengthen and deepen the relationship between our defense establishments to achieve fully interoperable forces and to leverage the respective strengths of U.S. and U.K. industries. The Prime Minister and President look forward to new ways we can achieve that goal.

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

Memorandum on Assignment of Certain Functions Related to the Use of Cooperative Threat Reduction Funds for States Outside the Former Soviet Union

May 26, 2006

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, and the Director of National Intelligence

Subject: Assignment of Certain Functions Related to the Use of Cooperative Threat Reduction Funds for States Outside the Former Soviet Union

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby assign to the Secretary of State the functions of the President under:

(1) subsection 1203(d) of the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 (22 U.S.C. 5952(d)), as it relates to section 1308(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (22 U.S.C. 5963);

(2) subsections 1306(a) and (b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–314), as amended (22 U.S.C. 5952 note), as they relate to section 1308(e); and

(3) section 1304 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163).

The Secretary of State shall consult the Secretary of Defense prior to making a determination specified in section 1308(a)(2).

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

George W. Bush

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

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.

May 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

May 21

In the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans to congratulate him on his election victory.

May 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Chicago, IL, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteers Barry and Tanya Jeong.

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

May 23

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, the President had a working dinner with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel.