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NOTE: The President spoke at 10:15 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on France's Decision To Send Troops to Lebanon in Support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701

August 24, 2006

I welcome President Chirac's decision to send a total of 2,000 troops to Lebanon and to continue to exercise leadership on the ground in enforcing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701. This is an important step towards finalizing preparations to deploy the United Nations Interim Force of Lebanon. I applaud the decision of France, as well as the significant pledges from Italy and our other important allies. I encourage other nations to make contributions as well. We are working with the United Nations and our partners to ensure the rapid deployment of this force to help Lebanon's legitimate armed forces restore the sovereignty of its democratic Government throughout the country and stop Hizballah from acting as a state within a state.

NOTE: The statement referred to President Jacques Chirac of France.

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

August 24, 2006

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 with the Republic of Colombia.

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,
August 24, 2006.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 25, 2006]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on August 28.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Notice of Intention To Enter Into a Free Trade Agreement With Colombia

August 24, 2006

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

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 with the Republic of Colombia.

The United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement will generate export opportunities for U.S. farmers, ranchers, and companies, help create jobs in the United States, and help American consumers save money while offering them more choices. The Agreement will also benefit the people of Colombia by providing economic opportunity and by strengthening democracy.

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

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this letter.