

laid the groundwork that transformed many of the world's central banks, helping deliver economic stability and improved living standards in countries around the world.

Milton Friedman, a recipient of the Nobel Prize, will be remembered as one of the most influential economists in history. The Nation is grateful for his profound contributions.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Friedman family.

Remarks at a State Banquet Hosted by President Nguyen Minh Triet of Vietnam in Hanoi

November 17, 2006

Mr. President and Madam Chi, the reason I'm smiling is because I'm really happy to be here, and so is Laura. And we thank you for your warm hospitality. First, I want to congratulate you for your success on hosting APEC. I'm confident our fellow leaders will have the same sense of gratitude and respect that we feel from the Vietnamese people.

Vietnam is a remarkable country. For decades you had been torn apart by war. Today, the Vietnamese people are at peace and seeing the benefits of reform. The Vietnamese own their own businesses, and today, the Vietnamese economy is the fastest growing in Southeast Asia. Vietnamese students have great opportunities here at home and abroad. The Vietnamese people are traveling around the world and sharing this ancient culture with peoples of the world. And the United States, as well as other APEC partners, look forward to strengthening our ties.

The American people welcome the progress of Vietnam. And we want to continue to work together to better our relations. We will work with you to help combat avian flu and HIV/AIDS. We have signed agreements to protect religious freedom. We strongly support Vietnam in the World Trade Organization.

Vietnam is a country that's taking its rightful place as a strong and vibrant nation. Mr. President, your leadership is helping your country succeed. I can see it as I drive on the streets; the people of your country have hope. And I hope they know, as a result of

my visit, they have the friendship of the American people.

And so, Mr. President, I would like to propose a toast to you and Madam Chi and to the fine people of Vietnam.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 7:15 p.m. at the International Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Tran Thi Kim Chi, wife of President Triet. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

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.

November 10

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Alvaro Uribe Velez of Colombia. He then had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Quantico, VA. Later, he met with Dan and Deb Dunham, whose son, Corp. Jason Dunham, USMC, was killed in Iraq and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. He then returned to Washington, DC.

November 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Arlington, VA, where they participated in a Veterans Day wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

During the day, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a reception for members of the 555th Anti-aircraft Artillery Battalion who served during World War II.

November 13

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Pervez

Musharraf of Pakistan. He then had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Roosevelt Room, he met with members of the Iraq Study Group.

In the afternoon, the President had a working lunch with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel. Later, he hosted a reception for newly elected Members of Congress.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark Everett Keenum to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services and to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ellen C. Williams to be a Governor of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service.

November 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Moscow, Russia, arriving the following day.

November 15

In the morning, aboard Air Force One, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, upon arrival at the Vnukovo II International Airport in Moscow, the President and Mrs. Bush met with President Vladimir Putin of Russia and his wife, Lyudmila.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Singapore, arriving the following day.

November 16

In the morning, upon arrival in Singapore, the President and Mrs. Bush went to the Shangri-La Hotel. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush visited the the Asian Civilisations Museum. Then, at the Shangri-La Hotel, they greeted U.S. Embassy personnel and their families.

In the afternoon, the President went to the Istana where he met with Acting President J.Y. Pillay of Singapore. Later, he and Mrs. Bush returned to the Shangri-La Hotel.

In the evening, at the Istana, the President and Mrs. Bush had dinner with Prime Min-

ister Lee Hsien Loong and his wife, Ho Ching. Later, they returned to the Shangri-La Hotel.

November 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He and Mrs. Bush then traveled to Hanoi, Vietnam, where, upon arrival, they went to the Sheraton Hanoi.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia. Later, at the Presidential Palace, he and Mrs. Bush participated in an arrival ceremony and official photograph with President Nguyen Minh Triet of Vietnam and his wife, Mrs. Chi.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush paid a courtesy call on President Triet and Mrs. Chi. The President then had separate meetings with President Triet and Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung of Vietnam. Then, at the Communist Party Headquarters, he met with General Secretary Nong Duc Manh of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Later in the afternoon, the President returned to the Sheraton Hanoi.

In the evening, at the International Convention Center, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a state banquet. They then returned to the Sheraton Hanoi.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted November 13

Katherine Almquist,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Lloyd O. Pierson, resigned.

Andrew G. Biggs,
of New York, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for the remainder of the