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American leadership in advancing the cause of freedom and democracy around the globe. She defended the cause of freedom at a pivotal time in world history, and her courageous service as our United Nations Ambassador inspired her fellow Americans and lovers of liberty around the world. Jeane's powerful intellect helped America win the cold war. Her insights and teachings will continue to illuminate the path ahead for the United States in the world. We send our condolences to Jeane's family and friends, and on behalf of all Americans, we give thanks for her extraordinary life.

Statement on the National Economy

December 8, 2006

Today we received a new report that confirms the continued strength of the American economy. The November jobs report showed that 132,000 more Americans found work last month and that job creation in previous months was stronger than first estimated, adding 42,000 jobs to the numbers released last month. The unemployment rate remained low at 4.5 percent. This is good news for American workers, and they are also seeing good news in their paychecks. As we look forward, our goal is to maintain the progrowth policies that have strengthened our economy and will stimulate the creation of good jobs and higher wages.

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.

December 2

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

December 3

In the afternoon, in the East Room, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a reception for Kennedy Center honorees.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush went to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts where they attended the Kennedy Center Honors ceremony. Later, they returned to the White House.

December 4

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in an interview with Brit Hume of FOX News.

The White House announced that the President will host Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom at the White House on December 7.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of the Presidential delegation to attend the inauguration of Joseph Kabila as President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on December 6: Elaine L. Chao (head of delegation); Roger Meece; Thelma J. Askey; Jendayi E. Frazier; Edward Brehm; Michael E. Hess; and John Fenn.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gregory B. Cade to be Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration at the Department of Homeland Security.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sam Fox to be Ambassador to Belgium.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stanley Davis "Dave" Phillips to be Ambassador to Estonia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jill E. Sommers to be Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Maria Cino as a member of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission.

The President announced his intention to designate Robert M. Couch as Acting General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.