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Sudan that it's in his interest, and in the world's interest, that he allow enhanced African Union peacekeepers in to provide peace and security for people who are suffering.

I want to thank you very much, as well, for our discussions about Iran and North Korea. I wish you all the best in this important job. I admired the way you handled your previous job, and I'm confident you'll do a fine job now.

Secretary-General Ban. Thank you very much, Mr. President. It's a great honor and privilege for me to visit the White House and meet with you, Mr. President, in my new capacity as Secretary-General of the United Nations. I feel it a great honor for me to serve this organization, our global body, United Nations. At the same time, I'm very much humbled by all the challenges which I have to deal with and we are facing in the 21st century.

I would need strong participation and support of the United States in all activities of the United Nations. In fact, I believe that the United Nations and United States have shared objectives: peace and security; freedom; democracy. All these important goals and ideas are what the United States is also trying to achieve.

I hope to work very closely with the U.S. Government, including Mr. President, in realizing and achieving this shared goal. As I start my new administration as Secretary-General, I get to have strong commitment and support from U.S. Government, and I'm committed to devote all my time and energy to the address—to address all these important issues—Middle East and Darfur, Lebanon and Somalia, North Korea, Millennium Development Goals, and the climate changes. All are global issues which require global, collective wisdom and effort.

Thank you very much for this opportunity.

President Bush. You're welcome, sir. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Umar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir of Sudan.

Remarks Honoring the 2006 World Series Champion St. Louis Cardinals

January 16, 2007

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated. Thanks for coming. It's great to welcome the 2006 World Series champs, the mighty St. Louis Cardinals, to the White House.

I appreciate the fact that Members of the United States Congress have joined us. I see Members from Missouri—[*laughter*]—Senators, Members of the Congress and House. I see a Senator from Kentucky, Hall of Famer, Big Jim Bunning, glad you're here. Appreciate you all coming, thanks and welcome. I'm glad to see the former Attorney General, John Ashcroft. Thanks for joining us, John; appreciate you coming. Mr. Secretary, I thought you were a Texan.

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Alphonso R. Jackson. I am a Texan, but I lived in St. Louis.

The President. Oh, you lived in St. Louis. [*Laughter*] Alphonso Jackson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, is with us. Thanks for coming, A.J. I appreciate very much that the Lieutenant Governor, Peter Kinder, has joined us today. Thanks for coming, Governor; appreciate you coming. Rob Portman, I thought he was a Cincinnati Reds fan. It's amazing what victory does to the—[*laughter*]. Everybody likes a winner. [*Laughter*] I appreciate you coming.

Last time that the Tigers and Cardinals—the first time they met in a World Series was in 1934. Franklin Roosevelt was the President; Dizzy Dean was the star. [*Laughter*] And now the Cardinals are back after an unbelievable season. You know, I featured myself as a baseball guy at one time. The Cardinals now have won 10 World Series. That's 10 more than the Texas Rangers have ever won. [*Laughter*] Fortunately, it doesn't depend on ownership; well, I take that back. [*Laughter*]

They say in baseball, in order to become the World Series champ, you can't have losing streaks of over two or three games. [*Laughter*] This club had losing streaks of one eight-game losing streak, another eight-game losing streak, and a seven-game losing streak, which really speaks to the character

of the baseball team, doesn't it? I mean, it's a team that—[*applause*]. And I think it speaks to the character of the manager, Tony LaRussa, and his staff.

When you're on one of those losing streaks, it's easy to get down and to forget the goal. So, like, I'm sure the sports pages were a little rough on you for a while there, you know? How can they possibly endure yet another eight-game losing streak? Well, you endure it as the result of character and leadership.

I had the honor of welcoming Tony and Dave Duncan and DeWitt and some of the other ones to the White House in August. And I was kind of looking at them, and they were looking at me, and I was trying to figure out whether I was looking at the winning team. And after they left—I haven't had a chance to share this with Tony LaRussa—I was convinced the Cardinals were going to go all the way. You know why? Because he was. Because he believed it. And I appreciate good leadership. And I appreciate the fact that not only is LaRussa a fine manager and a fine man, I appreciate what he does for the community in St. Louis as well.

Character in the dugout is one thing; character in a community is another. I don't know if you still do this program, but somebody told me the other day that there is a program where they match a—you know, dogs that need an owner with somebody that needs help, from having a pet around. It turns out, a pet can help somebody deal with a mental illness. And Tony LaRussa has combined his love of animals with his deep concern about people who suffer, for the embetterment of the community.

And so this is a team of character, and it's got a team of really good owners too. How do I know? Some of them were my business partners at the Texas Rangers. If you ever need a good, honest business partner, pick Bill DeWitt. He knows something about baseball. He is raised in baseball. But he is one of the sharpest baseball minds in the United States of America, and I'm really proud for him and his family to be here today to receive the accolades.

I want to thank his other owners that have joined us today. Fred Hanser and the Ambassador. Thank you, Ambassador, for being here—Brauer. I appreciate my friend Mercer Reynolds joining us too, as well. I congratulate you all.

DeWitt would be the first to say that the owners support a good front office, and you can win, and that's why Mark Lamping and Walt Jocketty are important to recognize as well. And I appreciate the leadership they've done.

I appreciate the players. Let me say something about the MVP. They said, "He can't hit." [*Laughter*] They said, "He can't throw." Listen, David, I've made a career out of people underestimating me—[*laughter*]—or as I like to sometimes say to keep them on their toes, misunderestimating me. [*Laughter*] But I do congratulate David and the team.

When you overcome the odds this team overcame, you've got to play as a team, and they did. And I appreciate not only what you did on the field, I appreciate the character you also show off the field. I appreciate the charity events that you attend. I thank you very much for supporting the Cardinals organization's efforts to be good community partners in St. Louis and greater St. Louis.

You've got a huge fan following, as you know. Matter of fact, when I was growing up in Texas, the only games we used to get were St. Louis Cardinals games. That was in the fifties—see that was before your time. [*Laughter*] It made me a baseball fan. [*Laughter*] It made me a Stan Musial fan. But it also made me appreciate the value of the St. Louis Cardinals. And the Cardinals have got a fantastic fan base, and you maintain a fan base by being good citizens and winning games, and this club knows how to do both.

Before I bring somebody else up here to the microphone, I had the honor of going to Walter Reed the other day to thank our soldiers. I ran into Lance Corporal Chad Watson of the United States Marine Corps. He was wearing a Cardinals hat; I think you were wearing a Cardinals hat. And I said, first, "Thanks for serving, and thanks for giving of yourself to secure this country." I then said, "Are you a Cardinals fan?"—kind of one of those, no-duh questions. The guy had a—[*laughter*]—kind of running out of something to say. And he said, "Yeah, I am." I said, "Well, I'm going to have the Cardinals to the

White House, and if you're a Cardinals fan, why don't you come and join us." And he kind of looked at me like, "Check is in the mail, isn't it?" [*Laughter*] But I was serious, and so was he, and I'm proud to welcome Chad Watson and his mother, Gina. You never know where you're going to find a St. Louis Cardinal fan. [*Laughter*]

And now it's my honor to bring to the podium, DeWitt—Bill DeWitt. He doesn't like to give speeches. Do you?

William O. DeWitt, Jr. Thank you for having us here, Mr. President.

The President. You do like to give speeches. [*Laughter*]

Mr. DeWitt. You said be quick, so we'll be quick. We have a little memento of the occasion here, a jersey from the world championship team, the World Series logo on it——

The President. Yes, right here.

Mr. DeWitt. ——06, so you'll remember the year we were here, and Bush——

The President. Yes, so I remember who I am. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:33 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Dave Duncan, pitching coach, William O. DeWitt, Jr., chairman of the board, Frederick O. Hanser, vice chairman, Stephen Brauer, co-owner, Mercer Reynolds, co-owner, Mark Lamping, president, Walt Jocketty, general manager, and David M. Eckstein, shortstop, St. Louis Cardinals.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Review of Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996

January 16, 2007

Dear Mr. Chairman: (Dear Representative:) (Dear Senator:)

Consistent with section 306(c)(2) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–114)(the "Act"), I hereby determine and report to the Congress that suspension for 6 months beyond February 1, 2007, of the right to bring an action under title III of the Act is necessary to the national interests of the United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Richard G. Lugar, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Tom Lantos, chairman, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, ranking member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Thad Cochran, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; and David R. Obey, chairman, and Jerry Lewis, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 17.

Remarks in a Discussion on Advances in Cancer Prevention in Bethesda, Maryland

January 17, 2007

The President. Thanks, Michael. I appreciate you joining us. I love coming to the NIH; it is an amazing place. It is an amazing place because it is full of decent, caring, smart people, all aiming to save lives. And I truly believe the NIH is one of America's greatest assets, and it needs to be nourished.

And I'm real pleased to be working with Elias and the good folks who work here to make sure that there's ample resources to fund these incredible projects that are taking place. And we'll talk about some of them today. The purpose of the meeting is to let the American people understand what kind of work takes place here and some of the practical applications of the discoveries that are being made. Obviously, we're all very concerned about cancer—and, John, thank you for joining us.

First, I'm pleased that we're funding cancer research. We're up about 25 or 26 percent since 2001. It's a commitment that I made when I first came to Washington; it's a commitment we're keeping. And the reason why it makes sense to spend taxpayers' money on cancer research is that we can make some good progress and have. Interestingly enough, this is the second consecutive year there was a drop in the number of cancer deaths in the United States, and the drop