

week. I also urge all Americans to learn more about safe boating practices and always act responsibly while on the water.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:58 a.m., May 19, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 16, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 20.

Proclamation 8257—World Trade Week, 2008

May 15, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Free and fair trade helps secure a future of freedom and promise. During World Trade Week, we recognize the positive effects of opening markets around the world. Open markets play an integral role in America's economic progress, creating better-paying jobs, expanding consumer choices, and providing increased opportunities for American workers and employers. Free and fair trade also increases economic growth among our trading partners.

My Administration is committed to expanding economic freedom worldwide. We will continue to seek an ambitious outcome in the Doha Round that will reduce and eliminate tariffs and other barriers on goods and open new markets for services trade. The Doha Round provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to advance open markets, strengthen economic growth, and help millions rise out of poverty.

We also encourage the Congress to approve our pending trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. Our free trade agreement with Colombia is important, because it will support one of our closest allies in the Western Hemisphere currently under assault from a terrorist network.

Congressional approval of this agreement would make clear America's unshakeable commitment to advancing the benefits of free markets and the interests of free people.

Today, nearly 250,000 U.S. firms export U.S. products. Ninety-seven percent of those exporters are small- or medium-sized businesses. The number of U.S. small business exporters has more than doubled since 1992. Those businesses have surpassed a quarter of a trillion dollars in annual export sales.

Free and fair trade helps reinforce our Nation's commitments to democracy, transparency, and the rule of law. This week and throughout the year, we recognize the importance of trade in promoting prosperity and freedom in the United States and around the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 18 through May 24, 2008, as World Trade Week. I encourage all Americans to observe this week with events, trade shows, and educational programs that celebrate the benefits of trade to our Nation and the global economy.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

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Remarks in a Discussion With Israeli Youth in Jerusalem

May 16, 2008

The President. Please sit down. First of all, Laura and I are honored that you'd join us. Thanks very much for sharing some thoughts with us. As you know, we're parents of young professional women. We're interested to know what's on your mind. And if

you've got any questions of me, I'll be glad to answer them.

What's on my mind is peace. I hope someday that everybody will be able to coexist and respect each other's religions and work together for harmony. And I believe it's possible. And I know it's going to happen when young people put a—get their minds together and say, "Listen, let's make this work."

So I'm interested in your thoughts, and so is Laura. And we're pleased to be joined by Condoleezza.

And perhaps you'd like to say something to begin with?

Participant. Mr. President, Mrs. Bush, thank you so much for choosing to spend this time with us. This is an amazing opportunity, and I'm very honored and glad to be here. Congratulations, *mazel tov* for your daughter's wedding. [*Laughter*]

I think this museum comes to show how unique this land and this region is. It's so rich with history, the cradle of civilization. While on the other hand, we see that Israel is such a new, vibrant country, only 60 years old. And we're still building our country; nothing is for certain here. And we—I, my friends, we want peace; we want to see the world like—live in peace, especially in this region. And I do hope—and I guarantee that myself as, hopefully, a future leader will do the best I can, the best of my abilities in order to make it happen.

I think that it's for now. [*Laughter*]

The President. Thank you. You want to share some thoughts?

[*At this point, another participant made brief remarks.*]

The President. Thanks.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. at the Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

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 10

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

May 11

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the afternoon. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had separate telephone conversations with Gov. Matt Blunt of Missouri and Gov. Sonny Perdue of Georgia to discuss the recent storms and tornadoes in their States.

Later in the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with Gov. Brad Henry of Oklahoma to discuss the recent storms and tornadoes in the State.

May 12

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin of Russia. Then, in the Oval Office, he participated in a roundtable interview with foreign print media.

In the afternoon, in the Roosevelt Room, the President participated in an interview with Mark Knoller and Peter Maer of CBS Radio.

The President announced the designation of a U.S. honorary delegation to attend celebrations in honor of the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel on May 14 and 15 in Jerusalem, Israel.