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I hereby determine that the continuation for 1 year of the exercise of those authorities with respect to Cuba is in the national interest of the United States.

Therefore, consistent with the authority vested in me by section 101(b) of Public Law 95–223, I continue for 1 year, until September 14, 2009, the exercise of those authorities with respect to Cuba as implemented by the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 515.

The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 16, 2008]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 18.

Remarks on the National Economy

September 18, 2008

The American people are concerned about the situation in our financial markets and our economy, and I share their concerns.

I've canceled my travel today to stay in Washington, where I will continue to closely monitor the situation in our financial markets and consult with my economic advisers. I spoke to Secretary Paulson this morning, and I will meet with him later on today.

In recent weeks, the Federal Government has taken extraordinary measures to address the challenges confronting our financial markets. We've taken control of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—the home finance agencies—to help promote market stability and to ensure they can continue to play a role in helping our housing market recover. This week the Federal Reserve acted to prevent the disorderly failure of the insurance company AIG, a development that could have caused a severe disruption in our financial markets and threatened other sectors of the economy. Yesterday the Security and Exchange Commission took action to strengthen investor protections and step up its enforcement actions against illegal market manipulation. Last night the Federal Reserve, in coordination with central banks around the world, took a substantial step to provide additional liquidity to the U.S. financial system.

These actions are necessary, and they're important, and the markets are adjusting to them. Our financial markets continue to deal with serious challenges. As our recent actions demonstrate, my administration is focused on meeting these challenges. The American people can be sure we will continue to act to strengthen and stabilize our financial markets and improve investor confidence.

Thank you.

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

Statement on the Death of Carlos Marin

September 18, 2008

I am deeply saddened by the tragic death of Carlos Marin, a dedicated public servant who died while fulfilling his responsibilities as United States Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico. Carlos Marin was an accomplished engineer and capable leader who achieved the American dream while serving at the Commission for over two decades. He quickly rose through the ranks as he worked hard to effectively apply the boundary and water treaties between our country and Mexico. I appreciate his efforts to protect our Nation's interests, raise agency morale, and establish solid and transparent relationships with his Mexican counterparts. I am honored that he served in my administration.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Rosa Alva, and the entire Marin family.

Mexican Commissioner Arturo Herrera, Jake Brisbin, Jr., and Matthew Peter Juneau were also killed in this tragic plane crash. Their families are also in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

NOTE: The statement referred to Jake Brisbin, Jr., executive director, Rio Grande Council of Governments; and pilot Matthew Peter Juneau.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Council on Environmental Quality to Act as Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality

September 18, 2008

Memorandum for the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Council on Environmental Quality to Act as Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq*., it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. *Order of Succession.* Subject to the provisions of section 2 of this memorandum, the following officials of the Council on Environmental Quality in the order listed, shall act as and perform the functions and duties of the office of the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality (Chairman), during any period in which the Chairman has died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Chairman until such time as the Chairman is able to perform the functions and duties of that office:

(a) Chief of Staff;

(b) General Counsel; and

(c) Associate Directors in the order that they shall have been appointed as such.

Sec. 2. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as the Chairman pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) No individual listed in section 1 shall act as Chairman unless that individual is otherwise eligible to so serve under the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by law, to depart from this order in designating an acting Chairman.

Sec. 3. *Judicial Review.* This memorandum is intended to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

Sec. 4. You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Persons Who Commit, Threaten To Commit, or Support Terrorism

September 18, 2008

On September 23, 2001, by Executive Order 13224, I declared a national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706). I took this action to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks in New York, in Pennsylvania, and against the Pentagon committed on September 11, 2001, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks against United States nationals or the United States. Because the actions of these persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the United States, the national emergency declared on September 23, 2001, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond September 23, 2008. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism.