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assistance program to such entities or individuals.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Carl Levin, chairman, and John McCain, ranking member, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Richard G. Lugar, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Christopher J. Dodd, chairman, and Richard C. Shelby, ranking member, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Ike Skelton, chairman, and Duncan Hunter, ranking member, House Committee on Armed Services; and Howard L. Berman, chairman, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, ranking member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Proclamation 8310—United Nations Day, 2008

October 23, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On October 24, 1945, in the wake of the devastation left by World War II, the United Nations was formally established. Today, we recognize the many contributions of the United Nations and renew our commitment to its founding principles.

Sixty-three years ago, representatives from around the world completed the founding charter of the United Nations and pledged to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and to unite their strength to maintain international peace and security. It is vital that this noble pledge continue to guide the United Nations throughout the 21st century. By taking an unequivocal stand against terrorists, those who traffic in persons, and all who exploit the poor, the needy, and the marginalized, the United Nations can live up to the noble ideals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The United Nations is an organization with extraordinary potential for good works. On United Nation's Day, we recommit ourselves to reforming the U.N., ensuring the highest standards are upheld throughout the organization, and renewing the principals of its charter for the 21st century.

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 October 24, 2008, as United Nations Day. I urge the Governors of the 50 States, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the officials of other areas under the flag of the United States to observe United Nations Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., October 27, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 24, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 28.

Remarks Following a Briefing at the National Security Agency at Fort Meade, Maryland

October 24, 2008

I want to thank General Alexander for his hospitality to me and the Vice President and Director McConnell. We have been here at NSA, which is on the frontline of protecting the American people. Every time I come out here, I'm impressed by the caliber of people who work here, the amount of energy that goes into their jobs, and their deep desire to find an enemy and bring them to justice before they hurt us again.

Ever since 9/11, the people in this building have done what the country expects them to do, and that is to work as hard as necessary to help protect the United States of America. The work here at the NSA is absolutely vital, and I wish all our citizens could meet the folks that work here and realize how smart they are, how capable they are, and how enthusiastic they are in doing their duty.

So, General, thank you for your hospitality. We've enjoyed coming out here, and appreciate the efforts you're putting into protecting the homeland.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:50 p.m. in the Operations Building. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gen. Keith B. Alexander, USA, Director, National Security Agency.

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.

October 18

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

October 19

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

October 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Alexandria, LA, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Marion Harrison.

In the afternoon, the President met with families of military personnel killed in the war on terror. He then returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Fernando Armindo Lugo Mendez of Paraguay to the White House on October 27.

The President announced that he has named Jon C. Brause as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Relief, Stabilization, and Development at the National Security Council.

The President announced that he has named Barrett Karr as Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs in the White House Office of Legislative Affairs.

The President announced that he has named Luis A. Reyes as Deputy Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel.

October 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, at the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum, the President attended a National Republican Senatorial Committee reception.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Mirek Topolanek of the Czech Republic to the White House on October 29.

October 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a photo opportunity with recipients of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor.

The President declared a major disaster in Arkansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Tropical Storm Ike from September 13–23.

October 23

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in Room 350 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, he met and participated in a photo opportunity with participants of the U.S. Middle East Partnership Initiative.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert A. DeHaan to be Assistant Secretary (Transportation Policy) at the Department of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute: Steven C. Hollon; Joseph E. Lambert; Gayle A. Nachtigal; Arthur G. Scotland; and Gerald W. VandeWalle.

The President announced his intention to appoint Abram Claude, Jr., as a member of the Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

The President announced his intention to appoint Marc Gordon as a member of the