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Letter to the President of the Senate Reporting a Certification Regarding NATO Invitee Albania

November 21, 2008

Dear Mr. President:

Consistent with the condition set forth in the Senate resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of Albania of September 25, 2008, and based on the recommendation of the Department of State, I hereby certify to the Senate that:

(i) the inclusion of the Republic of Albania in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will not have the effect of increasing the overall percentage share of the United States in the common budgets of NATO; and

(ii) the inclusion of the Republic of Albania in NATO does not detract from the ability of the United States to meet or to fund its military requirements outside the North Atlantic area.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Letter to the President of the Senate Reporting a Certification Regarding NATO Invitee Croatia

November 21, 2008

Dear Mr. President:

Consistent with the condition set forth in the Senate resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of Croatia of September 25, 2008, and based on the recommendation of the Department of State, I hereby certify to the Senate that:

(i) the inclusion of the Republic of Croatia in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will not have the effect of increasing the overall percentage share of the United States in the common budgets of NATO; and

(ii) the inclusion of the Republic of Croatia in NATO does not detract from the ability of the United States to meet or to fund its military requirements outside the North Atlantic area.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

The President's Radio Address

November 21, 2008

Good morning. This weekend I am in Lima, Peru, meeting with leaders from nations in the Asia Pacific region at our annual summit.

This summit comes at a time of serious turmoil in the global economy. It also comes at a time of unprecedented cooperation. A week ago in Washington, I hosted the first in what will be a series of international meetings to address the financial crisis. We reviewed the actions we have taken to manage the crisis, and we agreed on principles and specific actions to modernize our financial structures for the 21st century and help prevent another crisis.

As we work to rebuild confidence in our financial systems in the short term, we must also work to promote long-term economic growth. Together, our nations must focus our efforts on three great forces that drive this growth: free markets, free trade, and free people.

No region of the world demonstrates the power of these forces more vividly than the Asia Pacific. Free markets have helped millions lift themselves out of poverty. Free trade has helped small nations turn themselves into global economic powers. And as more people in the Asia Pacific are free to develop their talents and pursue their ambitions, the whole region has grown in prosperity. We're facing a difficult challenge, and there will be tough days ahead. But by relying on these principles, we can be confident in the future of our Nation and the world.

Back at home, one of the most serious economic challenges we face is the situation in our auto industry. America's auto manufacturers are facing severe and urgent financial shortfalls. Earlier this fall, I signed a bill that authorized up to $25 billion in loans to help these automakers make more fuel-efficient

vehicles. Under the law, this money is not available to help auto companies with their immediate funding challenges. So this past week, Senators Bond, Levin, and Voinovich came forward with a new proposal that would allow auto companies to access the loans they need, as long as they're willing to restructure to become financially viable.

This proposal earned support from both sides of the aisle on Capitol Hill. Unfortunately, the leadership in Congress adjourned without even allowing this measure to come up for a vote.

My position is clear: If the automakers are willing to make the hard decisions needed to become viable, they should be able to receive the funds Congress already allotted to them for other purposes. This is a critical issue for our economy and our country. The American people expect their elected leaders to do what it takes to solve it.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:05 p.m. on November 20 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 22. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 21. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

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.

November 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the National Building Museum, he participated in a photo opportunity with leaders participating in the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy. He then participated in plenary sessions of the summit.

In the afternoon, the President hosted a lunch for summit leaders. Later, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

November 16

In the afternoon, the President met with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

November 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, in the Blue Room, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a photo opportunity with recipients of the National Medal of Arts and the Presidential Citizens Medal. Then, also in the Blue Room, they participated in a photo opportunity with recipients of the National Humanities Medal. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a photo opportunity with the 2008 U.S. Ryder Cup team.

November 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Department of Transportation, he met with Transportation Department employees and toured the Crisis Management Center.

The President declared a major disaster in California and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by wildfires beginning on November 13 and continuing.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation: Rodney G. Bent; Gary C. Bryner; Thomas Joseph Dodd; and Roger W. Wallace.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alesia Ranney-Marinelli and Mark S. Shelton to be Directors of the Board of Directors of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation.

November 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the National American History Museum, he and Mrs. Bush viewed a naturalization ceremony.

November 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.