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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on November 28, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Message on the Fifth Anniversary of the Rose Revolution

November 21, 2008

I send greetings to those celebrating the fifth anniversary of the Rose Revolution.

One of the most inspiring chapters in the history of freedom was written by the Georgian people during the Rose Revolution. Thirsting for liberty and armed only with roses in hand, citizens throughout Georgia peacefully staked claim to their God-given right of liberty. These demonstrations proved once again, that when given a choice, people choose to live in freedom.

On this anniversary, Americans honor the brave Georgian citizens who defended freedom, and we renew our commitment to supporting Georgia's democracy, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. We also look forward to the day when the light of liberty shines on all people throughout the world.

Laura and I send our best wishes. May the God who gave us liberty bless those who are advancing freedom's cause.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 22. An original was not available for the verification of the content of this message.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada in Lima, Peru

November 22, 2008

President Bush. I'm pleased to be with a good friend and a strong leader, Prime Minister Stephen Harper. It's been a joy to work with him, and we've accomplished a lot together. Relations between the United States and Canada are strong, sometimes complicated, but nevertheless based on common values. I appreciate your candor, your strength of character, and your consistent philosophy. So I'm looking forward to good discussions. I'm looking forward to this APEC; I think it's very important for us to continue to work together during this time of economic turmoil.

I want to thank you for coming to Washington last weekend and thank you for your solid contributions—[*inaudible*].

Prime Minister Harper. Well, I appreciate that, Mr. President, and I've appreciated the candor of our relationship; I've appreciated your openness. We've had many things we've agreed on and a few we haven't, but you've always been willing to listen. And Laureen and I certainly wish Laura and you all the best if I don't see you again before the 20th of January.

President Bush. Before forced retirement. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:17 a.m. at the JW Marriott Hotel Lima. Prime Minister Harper referred to his wife, Laureen Harper.

Remarks at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Summit in Lima

November 22, 2008

Gracias, senor. [*Laughter*] What he forgot to say, Secretary Rice, is that he went to Notre Dame. She is a great supporter of Notre Dame. And thank you for having me. Laura and I are delighted to be back in your country.

This is my second trip as President. I have been looking forward to it. And I appreciate the opportunity to come and discuss the state of the financial situation with such an august group. Thank you for making the Asia-Pacific region a vibrant part of the world.

I believe it is important for the world to recognize, and for our country to recognize, that the United States is a Pacific nation. And

over the past 8 years, I have made it a priority—I made APEC a priority. I've been to every single APEC summit. I want to send a clear signal that it's in our Nation's interest that we engage actively and consistently with the nations of APEC.

My first international trip after September the 11th, 2001, was to an APEC summit in Shanghai. My first trip overseas after my reelection in 2004 was to the APEC summit in Chile. And now that I'm headed to retirement—[*laughter*]—my last trip as President is to APEC here in Lima.

This summit comes at a serious time during economic turmoil. And I'm looking forward to our discussions. It is—also comes at a time of unprecedented cooperation. A week ago in Washington, you might have heard that I had the honor of hosting a summit in what will be the series of international summits to address the financial crisis. I didn't believe we could solve all problems in one meeting, but I did believe it was important for us to host the initial summit to get it started, to lay the foundation for successful—for meetings.

I also didn't believe that the meeting ought to be with kind of a handful of countries. Some suggested, keep the meeting small. I didn't agree with that. And that's why we invited 20 leaders, including 8 members of APEC, because I believe developed nations and developing nations needed to be sitting at the same table to have an honest, fruitful dialog. After all, nations in Asia and Latin America now contribute more to the world economy than ever before. Nations are feeling the painful effects of the financial crisis; I understand that. And so all of us need to be involved in the solution. And we'll discuss this during our APEC meetings here, starting today.

At the summit, leaders from around the world sent a powerful message of unity and determination. We agreed on principles and actions to modernize the financial structures of the 21st century. There's a recognition that while our economies have changed, the financial structures that we are dealing with were primarily written in the 20th century. We believe in transparency and integrity in the markets that will make sure that firms and financial products are subject to proper regulation and oversight.

We agreed that the world's financial authorities must improve cooperation, that governments must keep their promises to the developing world. One point I'll make this morning at the APEC summit is to say that the United States is committing—committed to improving social justice, and we will not let this economic turmoil prevent us from helping nations educate their people, provide good health care, feed the hungry, and deal with diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria.

We agreed that we must reform the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to better reflect the important role of developing nations. And we agreed to keep our markets open and firmly reject protectionism. All these steps are essential to rebuilding confidence in our financial systems. Yet the only way to regain strength in the long term is sustained economic growth. And among the most powerful engines of that growth are the businesses and workers and entrepreneurs of the Asia-Pacific region.

A few decades ago, a statement like this would have seemed unimaginable. Many Asia-Pacific economies were mired in poverty; their governments pursued backward economic policies. Then leaders started to make bold decisions by opening up their markets, by welcoming investment and trade, and by tapping the potential of the private sector. The results have astonished the world.

In the midst of all this turmoil, it's important to remember what has taken place as we chart our future. The APEC region's share of the global economy has grown nearly 55 percent. Isn't that interesting? When we meet today in Lima, Peru, about 55 percent of the total economy—world's economy will be at that table. In a single generation, the percentage of East Asians living in poverty has plummeted from nearly 80 percent to 18 percent. We're witnessing a dramatic shift of history, as the center of the world economic stage moves from west to east, from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Some view the rise of Asia-Pacific with suspicion and fear; America doesn't. The United States welcomes the success of emerging economies throughout the region. We welcome the new hope that comes when people

escape poverty and join a confident middle class. We welcome new buyers for our products and new investors for American enterprise. We welcome new competition that leads our own workers and businesses to be more efficient. In an interconnected global economy, the gains of any advance the interests of all. So over the past 8 years, America has engaged this vital region more closely than ever before.

Continuing that engagement is especially important during the times of economic strain. The policies of free enterprise that lifted up so many in this region can help chart a path to recovery for the whole world. That's what's important for people to know. That which enabled us to be successful in the past must be used to help us chart a more hopeful future for tomorrow. With confidence in our ideals, we can turn the challenge we face today to an opportunity and lead the way toward a new era of prosperity for the Asia-Pacific and beyond.

So I want to talk today about how to do that, and I want to focus—and I think we ought to focus our efforts on three great forces for economic growth: free markets, free trade, and free people.

First, our nations must maintain confidence in the power of free markets. Now, I know in the wake of the financial crisis, free markets have been under very harsh criticism from the left and from the right. It's true the free market system is not perfect. It can be subject to excesses and abuse. As we've seen in recent months, there are times when government intervention is essential to restart frozen markets and to protect overall economic health. Yet it is also essential that nations resist the temptation to overcorrect by imposing regulations that would stifle innovation and choke off growth. The verdict of history is unmistakable: The greater threat to prosperity is not too little government involvement in the market, it is too much.

Over the decades, the free market system has proved the most efficient way and the just way of structuring an economy. Free markets offer people the freedom to choose where they work and what they want; offers people the opportunity to buy or sell products as they see fit; gives people the dignity that comes with profiting from their talent and their hard work. Free markets provide the incentives to lead to prosperity: the incentive to work, to innovate, to save and invest wisely, and to create jobs for others. And as millions of people pursue these incentives together, whole societies benefit.

No region of the world demonstrates the power of free markets more vividly than the Asia-Pacific. Free markets helped Japan grow into the world's second largest economy. Free markets helped South Korea make itself one of the most technologically advanced nations on Earth. Free markets helped Chile triple its economy and cut its poverty rate by more than two-thirds over the past two decades. And last year, free market policies helped make Peru's economy the second fastest growing in APEC.

Secondly, our nations must keep our commitment to free trade. When nations open their markets to trade and investment, businesses and farmers and workers find new buyers for their products. Consumers benefit because they have more choices and better prices. Entrepreneurs get their ideas off the ground with funding from anywhere in the world.

Trade is seen as controversial in some places, but here in the Asia-Pacific region its benefits are beyond doubt. Trade transformed the economies of the "Asian Tigers"—Singapore, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Taiwan—into global powerhouses. Trade fueled the rise of a new generation of "Tigers"—nations like Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam. And in the most dramatic case of all, trade helped lift China out of isolation and poverty and into three decades of rapid economic growth and closer engagement with the world.

Expanding trade and investment has been one of the highest priorities of my administration. When I took office, America had free trade agreements in force with only three nations. Today, we have agreements in force with 14, including China [Chile],* Singapore, and Australia. We have agreements that will soon take effect with three more countries, including Peru. We've concluded agreements with Colombia, Panama, and

* White House correction.

South Korea. And it is extremely disappointing that the United States Congress adjourned without passing these three agreements. And I urge all those who support free trade to continuing pressing the case for the Congress to pass free trade agreements with Colombia and Panama and South Korea.

I just had a chance to have a cup of coffee with President Uribe. He is a strong leader. He's a good friend. And our Congress and our Government must never turn our back on such a friend as Uribe.

In addition to negotiating these free trade agreements, my administration supported the accession of China, Taiwan, and Vietnam into the World Trade Organization. We're negotiating bilateral investment treaties with China and Vietnam. We're discussing similar agreements with Taiwan, Indonesia, and Russia.

These steps have brought benefits to America, and they brought benefits to our trading partners. Since I took office, America's trade with the world has grown from $2.5 trillion to $4 trillion, an increase of nearly 60 percent. Trade with Chile and the United States has more than doubled. Trade between Peru and the United States has more than doubled. And trade between China and the United States has more than tripled. Overall, America's trade with APEC nations now accounts for nearly two-thirds of our trade in the world.

Greater economic integration in the Asia-Pacific advances the interests of all. So earlier this year, America began discussions on a new regional free trade agreement with Brunei and Chile, New Zealand and Singapore. This agreement has the potential to open up new opportunities across the region. And we welcome other APEC members to join, and we appreciate Australia and Peru's recent announcements that they will join. Eventually, this agreement could be the foundation of something even more promising, a free trade area of the Asia-Pacific, where goods and services and capital flow across borders without barriers.

The nations in this region must also continuing to work down—must continue to work down—continue working to break down trade barriers at the global level. We have an immediate opportunity to do so through the Doha round at the WTO. One of the enduring lessons of the Great Depression is that global protectionism is a path to global economic ruin.

At our summit in Washington last weekend, leaders from around the world expressed strong support for completing Doha. Isn't that interesting? Over 20 nations at the table, from all different kinds of backgrounds, expressed solidarity with the idea of completing Doha. And now we've got to put those words into action. I recognize I'm leaving office in 2 months, but nevertheless, this administration will push hard to put the modalities in place so that Doha can be completed, and so we can send the message: We refuse to accept protectionism in the 21st century.

The third great force for economic growth in this region is the limitless potential of free people. As the business leaders in this room understand, the greatest resource any country has is the creativity of its citizens. That's what economists call human capital. And the best way to unleash that resource is, is to build healthy, educated, and democratic societies.

One requirement of any free and prosperous society is an accountable and effective government. The United States launched the Millennium Challenge Account to invest in nations that fight corruption, pursue wise economic policies, and invest in the health and education of their citizens. Today, Millennium Challenge programs support some of the world's most promising developing nations, from Indonesia to the Philippines to Peru. This initiative demonstrates a larger truth: Whether it leans left or right, any government that is honest with its people, that exists to serve the people, that advances social justice and desires peace, will have a partner in the United States of America.

America is helping build—helping governments lift the daily burdens that hold their people back, such as hunger and ignorance and disease. We're cooperating with APEC nations to adopt better farming practices and build up local agriculture markets. We're partnering with leaders to defeat the AIDS epidemic in places like Papua New Guinea and Vietnam. We're supporting countries like Indonesia that invest in basic education.

We're committed to these efforts. And as I said earlier, we'll be committed to these efforts regardless of the ebb and flow of the markets, and our partners can be confident that the compassion agenda of the United States of America will continue.

Ultimately, the only way for a nation to realize its full potential is for its people to live in freedom; it includes both economic and political freedom. When people are free to profit from their abilities, they prosper. When people prosper, they demand more liberty in other areas of their lives. And we have seen this story unfold throughout this region. To continue freedom's momentum, the United States and other free nations are taking practical steps to support young democracies through the Asia Pacific Democracy Partnership. We recognize that democracies develop at their own speeds, consistent with their own cultures. But when people experience the dignity and the opportunity that freedom brings, they never turn back. I've told people a lot, since my Presidency, this truth: I believe there is an Almighty. And I believe a gift of that Almighty to every man, woman, and child on the face of the Earth is freedom.

As we look to the future, the tasks facing our nations are no doubt demanding. Recovering from the financial crisis is going to take time. But we'll recover, and in so doing, begin a new era of prosperity.

The nations of APEC have faced tests before. We have risen to meet them together, and we will do so again. Over the past 8 years, we've taken measures to protect our people from terror and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We've responded to natural disasters. We've worked to prevent the spread of potential pandemic diseases like avian flu and SARS. We've worked to confront climate change and usher in a new age of clean energy. We're standing for a Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons and with a Burma free of repression.

Above all, we can be confident in the future of this region because we know the spirit of its people. And I've seen it firsthand. When I attended my first APEC summit in Shanghai, just a few weeks after September the 11th, 2001, I said that America would always remember the signs of support from our friends in the region. I remember the American flag flying from every firetruck in Montreal, Canada. I remember children kneeling in silent prayer outside our Embassy in Seoul. I remember baseball players in Japan observing moments of silence. I remember a sign handwritten in English at a candlelight vigil in Beijing that read, "Freedom and justice will not be stopped."

The bonds of unity we felt then remain today, and they will always remain. Long after this crisis has passed, the United States of America will stay engaged in this region. We will continue working with our partners to build an Asia-Pacific where people can work and worship and trade in freedom, where children grow up with hope and pursue their dreams, and where thriving, prosperous nations continue to inspire the world.

Thanks for letting me come by. *Que Dios le bendiga*. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:48 a.m. at the Ministry of Defense Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Ricardo Rizo Patron de la Piedra, vice president, Cementos Lima, who introduced the President; and President Alvaro Uribe Velez of Colombia.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With President Dmitry A. Medvedev of Russia in Lima

November 22, 2008

President Bush. It's an interesting moment because I've had a lot of meetings with Dmitry and Vladimir Putin. This will be my last meeting as the sitting President with the leader of Russia. We've had our agreements; we've had our disagreements. I've tried to work hard to make it a cordial relationship, though, so that when we need to work together we can, and when we disagree we're able to do so in a way that is respectful to our two nations.

I thank you for coming by today and appreciate your time.

President Medvedev. Thank you very much, George. And in general, though we do have points of agreement and those points of real differences, positions, we are prepared for the continuous work. And I view that, in general, our work was successful.

President Bush. Thank—[*laughter*].

[*At this point, an interpreter gave a Russian translation of President Bush's remarks.*]

President Bush. Thank you. *Spasibo.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:34 p.m. at the JW Marriott Hotel Lima. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Vladimir Putin of Russia. President Medvedev spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on the Situation in Zimbabwe

November 22, 2008

Nearly 8 months have passed since the Zimbabwean people voted for a new President, yet they still are governed by an illegitimate regime that continues to suppress democratic voices and basic human rights. In addition to its disastrous economic policies which have forced half the population to rely on food assistance, the Mugabe regime is now assaulting doctors and nurses, denying citizens access to basic medical services, and stealing donor funds intended for HIV/AIDS patients.

In October alone, independent organizations documented some 1,300 incidents of politically motivated violence and harassment by the regime. We call for an end to the Mugabe regime's brutal repression of basic freedoms and for the formation of a legitimate government that represents the will of the people as expressed in the March 2008 elections.

In spite of the regime's aggressive actions against its own people, the United States will continue to honor its commitment to provide emergency humanitarian assistance, already totaling $186 million in 2008, and stands ready to provide other forms of assistance pending the formation of a legitimate government that represents the will of the Zimbabwean people.

NOTE: The statement referred to President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson, Jr.

November 24, 2008

Mr. Secretary, thank you very much for inviting me in for a cup of coffee. The Secretary and I share the concerns of our citizens, the concerns about jobs, the concerns about their savings accounts. This is a tough situation for America, but we'll recover from it. And the first step to recovery is to safeguard our financial system.

Now, last night on Air Force One coming back from Peru, I talked at length to the Secretary about his recommendation on the decisions made to safeguard Citicorp [Citigroup].* We have made these kind of decisions in the past; made one last night. And if need be, we're going to make these kind of decisions to safeguard our financial system in the future.

I talked to President-elect Obama about the decision we made. I told the American people, and I told the President-elect when I first met him, that any time we were to make a big decision during this transition, he will be informed, as will his team.

Secretary Paulson is working closely with the President-elect's transition team. It's important for the American people to know that there is close cooperation. It's important for the American people to know that we will safeguard the financial system as the first step necessary for financial—for economic recovery. And so, Mr. Secretary, thanks for your hard work. Appreciate it. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. at the Treasury Department.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel

November 24, 2008

President Bush. I am pleased to welcome my friend Prime Minister Ehud Olmert back

* White House correction.

to the Oval Office. And I thank you for bringing your wife to have dinner tonight with Laura and me. I'm looking forward to it.

We've been through a lot together during our time in office. We strongly believe that Israel will benefit by having a Palestinian state, a democracy on her border that works for peace. And, Prime Minister, that vision is alive because of you. And I thank you for your steadfast support for peace.

And it's not easy. It's not easy to try to change the paradigm, and I understand that. But one thing is for certain: You've kept your word. And in international politics, that's important. And I want to thank you for the friendship, and thank you for your vision. And I just want you to know that I believe that vision is alive and needs to be worked on.

And again, I welcome you. Appreciate you coming.

Prime Minister Olmert. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I'm delighted to have this opportunity to express again the deep gratitude that we all have to you, personally, as a human being, as a friend, as a courageous leader who has helped Israel so much over the period since you were President of the United States of America.

We will never forget that you have removed one of the most threatening strategic dangers from Israel on the east side, in Iraq. And this is a great achievement that makes life much better for many people in our part of the world, particularly for us and for our neighbors as well.

You have set forth in motion the Annapolis process, which I was very proud to take part in.

President Bush. Yes, sir.

Prime Minister Olmert. It continues with your guidance and support and inspiration. And this is very important, because as you say, a two-state solution is the only possible way to resolve the conflict in the Middle East.

So, Mr. President, on behalf of the people of Israel, I want to thank you. The importance of your leadership is greatly appreciated in our country. And I'm sure that when the history books will be written, the contributions that you made to the safety and security of many people will be greatly appreciated.

Personally, I want to thank you for your friendship on behalf of my wife Aliza and myself. And I'm so happy and proud that I have an opportunity to bid farewell to you before you leave this great place and before I leave my office. And I'm sure that we will continue our friendship for many years to come.

Thank you very much.

The President. Sure. Thank you, sir. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:40 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Aliza Olmert, wife of Prime Minister Olmert.

Remarks to the Community at Fort Campbell, Kentucky

November 25, 2008

The President. Thank you. Please be seated; unless, of course, you don't have a seat. [*Laughter*] I am honored to be here at Fort Campbell. I'm honored to be with the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne; the Night Stalkers of the 160th; the Green Berets of the 5th Special Forces Group; all members of the Fort Campbell community. You are part of the finest military in the world. I have one word for you: Hooah!

I also bring greetings from another man named Bush, America's only skydiving President. [*Laughter*] He said, "Pass on these two words: Air assault!"

In recent weeks, this post has been the scene of heartwarming family reunions. Many of you recently finished deployments to Iraq. You performed with courage and distinction on the frontlines of the war on terror. You have returned on success. On behalf of a grateful nation, I'm proud to welcome home the Bastogne Brigade, the Strike Brigade, the Rakkasan Brigade—[*applause*]. Job well done.

I want to thank General Townsend for his service. I'm proud to be with his wife, Melissa. I thank General Schloesser's wife, Patty. I appreciate Maria McConville. I want to thank Theresa Vail. These women represent the military families who have sacrificed just

like our military has. On behalf of an incredibly grateful nation, I extend our heartfelt thanks and our respect to the military families here on Fort Campbell.

I thank Governor Beshear, who is with us, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I want to thank the two Congress folks that represent this important base: Congressman Ed Whitfield from Kentucky, Congressman Marsha Blackburn from Tennessee. I also want to thank Congressman Zach Wamp from Tennessee, as well, for joining us.

I appreciate all the local and State officials who are here today. I particularly want to point out one person, Staff Sergeant John [Joshua] * Forbess. I had the honor of meeting John [Joshua] * at the base of Air Force One. He was severely wounded in a helicopter crash in Iraq in 2003. Yet, despite his wounds, he volunteers in the Fisher House.

I'm proud of those of you who not only serve our Nation by wearing a fabulous uniform, but serve our Nation by feeding the hungry and providing home—houses for the homeless, for loving your neighbor just like you like to be yourself, just like Sergeant Forbess has done.

I want to thank very much those who made this event work—happen. I mean, it's not easy to host the President. [*Laughter*] Thanks for coming out.

You know, we're getting ready to celebrate Thanksgiving. I'm looking forward to it. The day before my first Thanksgiving as your President, guess where I was?

Audience member. Right here!

The President. Right here at Fort Campbell. For those of you who weren't here, I can only say that watching a bunch of Screaming Eagles tear into turkey is quite a sight. [*Laughter*]

That Thanksgiving came shortly after the worst terrorist attack in our Nation's history. The war in Afghanistan had just begun; the Rakkasans were the first conventional brigade to join the battle. That November day, I said, "Once again, you have a 'Rendezvous with Destiny.' " And today, there is no doubt that you have upheld this motto; you have done your duty, and you have defended the United States of America.

Over the past 7 years, folks from this base have done exactly what they were trained to do. The Screaming Eagles, the Night Stalkers, the 5th Special Forces Group have gone on the offense in the war against these killers and thugs. You have taken the battle of the terrorists overseas so we do not have to face them here in the United States. You have helped counter the hateful ideology of tyranny and terror with a more hopeful vision of justice and liberty. You're part of the great ideological struggle of our time. With the soldiers of Fort Campbell out front, the forces of freedom and liberty will prevail.

The war on terror, the war against people who would do us harm again, is being waged on two main fronts: Afghanistan and Iraq. In Afghanistan, we removed an oppressive regime that harbored the terrorists who planned the attacks that killed 3,000 folks on September the 11th, 2001. Because of our men and women in uniform, more than 25 million Afghans are free. Afghanistan is a democracy, an ally in the war on terror. And as a result of your courage, the American people are safer.

In the recent weeks, the members of the Thunder Brigade have begun deploying to Afghanistan for a new mission. You will replace the Wings of Destiny Brigade and join a powerful coalition of forces, including the Currahees, members of the LifeLiners. You'll join Major General Schloesser and his Division Headquarters. Together, you will help the people of Afghanistan defend their young democracy. Together, you will ensure that a noble goal is achieved, that Afghanistan never again becomes a safe haven for those who want to plot and kill American citizens.

The other main front in the war on terror is Iraq. In that country, we removed a dictator who murdered his own people, paid the family of suicide bombers who threatened America's security. As the regime crumbled, the dictator's sons tried to run and hide. They could not hide from the United States military. They met their fate in Mosul at the hands of the Screaming Eagles.

Because we acted, the dictator, his sons, and their regime are no more. More than 25 million Iraqis are free. And a young democracy has taken root where a tyrant once

* White House correction.

ruled. Removing Saddam Hussein was the right decision then, and it is the right decision today.

With Saddam gone from power, our mission turned to helping the Iraqi people defend their freedom against violent extremists, including Al Qaida. In 2006, our efforts were faltering, so I reviewed our strategy and changed course. Instead of retreating, I ordered more troops into Iraq. And to lead the surge, I chose a former commanding general of the 101st Airborne, the man formerly known as Eagle Six, General David Petraeus.

Our troops conducted this surge with resolve and with valor, and nobody knows the impact better than the Screaming Eagles. When the Bastogne Brigade deployed to Salah ad Din last year, the Province was still struggling to recover from the bombing of the famous Golden Mosque. But you partnered with the Iraqis to restore security. Schools and businesses are now open. The Golden Mosque is being rebuilt. Throughout the Province, hope is returning; the terrorists are being driven out. The Iraqi people have the Screaming Eagles to thank.

Across Iraq, the surge has produced similar results. Since the surge began, violence and sectarian killings have fallen dramatically. Iraqi security forces have taken responsibility for 13 out of Iraq's 18 Provinces. Slowly but steadily, economic and political progress is taking place. Iraqis are working together for a more hopeful future.

As conditions on the ground continue to improve, we will further reduce American combat forces in Iraq; it's a strategy I call return on success. So far, we've brought home a Marine expeditionary unit, two Marine battalions, six Army brigades without replacement, including the Rakkasans. And by the end of January, we'll have brought home more than 4,000 additional troops.

As conditions on the ground continue to improve, we're also making progress toward completing a strategic framework agreement and a security agreement with the Iraqi Government. These landmark agreements will pave the way for a future of economic and diplomatic and military cooperation between our two countries. Iraqi lawmakers in Baghdad are now debating these agreements through the democratic process. It's a good sign that Iraq has become a strong and vigorous democracy, and it's a testament to the success of our men and women in uniform. The war in Iraq is not over, but we're drawing closer to the day when our troops can come home. And when they come home, they will come home in victory.

The work you have done and are going to do is historical work. See, the consequences of success in Iraq will resonate far beyond that country's borders, and will resonate when your children and grandchildren begin to study the history of peace. Success will frustrate Iran's ambitions to dominate the region. Success will show millions across the Middle East that a future of liberty and democracy is possible. Success will deny Al Qaida a safe haven for launching new attacks. Success in Iraq will mean that the American people are more secure at home.

In Iraq, Afghanistan, and beyond, our men and women in uniform have done everything we have asked of them and more. You've earned the thanks of every American.

You know, this is going to be my last Thanksgiving as President. Sometimes I am asked what I will miss most about the job. Well, above all, I'm going to miss spending time with men and women who have volunteered to serve the United States of America, the fine men and women who wear the uniform. We are blessed to have defenders of such character and courage. I'm grateful to the families who serve by your side. And I will always be thankful for the honor of having served as the Commander in Chief.

So Laura and I wish you and your families a safe and happy Thanksgiving. We join you in praying for our troops spending the holiday far from home. We pray for those who've been wounded in battle and for all who love and care for them. We hold in our thoughts and prayers the brave men and women who have given their lives and the families who mourn for them. We ask the Almighty to watch over everyone who puts on the uniform, and has volunteered to serve this great land.

It's an honor to be with you today. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:13 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Brig. Gen. Stephen Townsend, USA, deputy commanding general (rear), 101st Airborne Division, and his wife, Melissa; Patty Schloesser, wife of Maj. Gen. Jeffrey J. Schloesser, USA, commanding general, 101st Airborne Division; Maria McConville, wife of Brig. Gen. James C. McConville, USA, deputy commanding general (support), 101st Airborne Division; Theresa Vail, wife of Col. Thomas Vail, chief of staff, 101st Airborne Division; S. Sgt. Joshua Forbess, USA, President's Volunteer Service Award recipient, November 25; and Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commander, U.S. Central Command. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation 8323—To Provide for Duty-Free Treatment Under the Earned Import Allowance Program, and for Other Purposes

November 25, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Section 404 of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (the "CAFTA-DR Act"), as added by section 2 of Public Law 110–436, 122 Stat. 4976, provides for preferential tariff treatment of eligible apparel articles wholly assembled in an eligible country and imported directly from an eligible country, if such articles are accompanied by an earned import allowance certificate issued under a program established by the Secretary of Commerce.

2. Section 404(e)(1) of the CAFTA-DR Act, as amended, provides that the program providing this preferential treatment shall be in effect for the 10-year period beginning on the date on which the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that sections A, B, C, and D of the Annex to Presidential Proclamation 8213 of December 20, 2007, have taken effect.

3. On August 7, 2008, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) published a notice in the *Federal Register* (73 *FR* 46057) announcing that August 15, 2008, would be the effective date for sections A, B, C, and D of the Annex to Presidential Proclamation 8213.

4. I have determined, and hereby certify, that the provisions of Proclamation 8213 referenced in section 404(e)(1) of the CAFTA-DR Act, as amended, have taken effect.

5. Section 6002 of the Africa Investment Incentive Act of 2006 (division D, title VI of Public Law 109–432) (the "2006 Act") amended section 112(c) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) (19 U.S.C. 3721(c)) to modify the preferential tariff treatment accorded to designated lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries.

6. Pursuant to section 6002 of the 2006 Act, in Proclamation 8114 of March 19, 2007, I proclaimed modifications to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) to provide the tariff treatment authorized by the 2006 Act. The HTS provisions proclaimed in Proclamation 8114 were modified by Proclamation 8157 of June 28, 2007, and Proclamation 8240 of April 17, 2008, to provide the tariff treatment authorized by the 2006 Act.

7. Section 3 of Public Law 110–436 amends section 112(c) of the AGOA to modify the tariff treatment applicable to lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, and to provide that Mauritius is to be treated as a lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country for purposes of the AGOA.

8. Accordingly, in order to reflect the amendments to section 112(c) of the AGOA, I have determined that it is appropriate to modify the HTS to reflect the tariff treatment provided to lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries and to provide that Mauritius is to be treated as a lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country for purposes of the AGOA.

9. Section 203(e)(1)(A)(i) of the Andean Trade Preference Act, as amended (ATPA) (19 U.S.C. 3202(e)(1)(A)(i)), authorizes the President to withdraw or suspend the designation of any country as a beneficiary country for purposes of the ATPA if, after such designation, the President determines that as a result of changed circumstances such country should be barred from designation as a beneficiary country.

10. Section 3103 of the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (Title XXXI of the Trade Act of 2002, Public Law 107–210) (ATPDEA) amended section 203(e)(1) of the ATPA (19 U.S.C. 3202(e)(1)) by adding a new subparagraph (B)(i) authorizing the President to withdraw or suspend the designation of any country as a beneficiary country for purposes of the ATPDEA if, after such designation, the President determines that, as a result of changed circumstances, the performance of such country is not satisfactory under the eligibility criteria set forth in section 204(b)(6)(B) of the ATPA, as amended (19 U.S.C. 3203(b)(6)(B)).

11. Section 203(e)(2)(A) of the ATPA, as amended (19 U.S.C. 3202(e)(2)(A)) requires the President to publish notice of the action he proposes to take at least 30 days before taking action under section 203(e)(1) (19 U.S.C. 3202(e)(1)).

12. On October 1, 2008, the USTR, at my direction, published a notice in the *Federal Register* (73 *FR* 57158) announcing that I proposed to suspend the designation of Bolivia as a beneficiary country for purposes of the ATPA and the ATPDEA based on Bolivia's failure to satisfy the eligibility criteria set forth in section 203(d)(11) and section 204(b)(6)(B)(v) of the ATPA, as amended (19 U.S.C. 3202(d)(11), 3203(b)(6)(B)(v)).

13. I have determined that Bolivia no longer satisfies the eligibility criterion in section 203(d)(11) of the ATPA, as amended. Therefore, pursuant to section 203(e)(1)(A)(i) of the ATPA, I have determined that, as a result of this changed circumstance, Bolivia's designation as an ATPA beneficiary country should be suspended.

14. I have determined that Bolivia is no longer performing satisfactorily under the eligibility criterion in section 204(b)(6)(B)(v) of the ATPA, as amended. Therefore, pursuant to section 203(e)(1)(B)(i) of the ATPA, I have determined that, as a result of this changed circumstance, Bolivia's designation as an ATPDEA beneficiary country should be suspended.

15. Presidential Proclamation 6641 of December 15, 1993, implemented the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with respect to the United States and, pursuant to the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 103–182) (the "NAFTA Implementation Act"), incorporated in the HTS the tariff modifications and rules of origin necessary or appropriate to carry out the NAFTA.

16. Section 202 of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3332) provides rules for determining whether goods imported into the United States originate in the territory of a NAFTA country and thus are eligible for the tariff and other treatment contemplated under the NAFTA. Section 202(q) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3332(q)) authorizes the President to proclaim, as a part of the HTS, the rules of origin set out in the NAFTA, and to proclaim modifications to such previously proclaimed rules of origin, subject to the consultation and layover requirements of section 103(a) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3313(a)).

17. The United States and Canada have agreed to modify certain NAFTA rules of origin and to apply the modified rules to their bilateral trade. It is therefore necessary to modify the NAFTA rules of origin set out in Proclamation 6641.

18. Section 1230 of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–432) temporarily modified the rate of duty on triphenyl phosphine. Modifications to the HTS are necessary to provide the intended tariff treatment.

19. Presidential Proclamation 7011 of June 30, 1997, implemented the World Trade Organization Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products for the United States. Annex 1 to that proclamation failed to include certain products. Technical corrections and conforming changes to the HTS are necessary to provide the intended tariff treatment for those products.

20. Section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2483) (the "1974 Act"), authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of relevant provisions of that Act, or other acts affecting import treatment, and of actions taken thereunder.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 404 of

the CAFTA-DR Act, as amended, section 104 of the AGOA, section 202 of the NAFTA Implementation Act, section 203 of the ATPA, as amended, section 604 of the 1974 Act, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to provide the tariff treatment for eligible articles provided for in section 404 of the CAFTA-DR Act, as added by Public Law 110–436, the HTS is modified as set forth in Annex A to this proclamation.

(2) In order to reflect changes to the tariff treatment for certain apparel products under the AGOA, U.S. note 5 to subchapter XIX of chapter 98 of the HTS, subheadings 9819.15.10 through 9819.15.42, inclusive, and the superior text thereto are deleted from the HTS, effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after October 31, 2008.

(3) For purposes of section 112(c) of the AGOA, as amended, Mauritius is included as a lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after October 31, 2008.

(4) The designation of Bolivia as a beneficiary country for purposes of the ATPA and ATPDEA is suspended effective on December 15, 2008. Accordingly, effective on that date, general note 11(a) to the HTS is modified by deleting "Bolivia" from the list of ATPA beneficiary countries. Further, general note 11(d) to the HTS is modified by deleting "Bolivia" from the list of ATPDEA beneficiary countries. In addition, U.S. note 1 to subchapter XXII of chapter 98 of the HTS is modified by removing "Bolivia" from the list of ATPDEA beneficiary countries.

(5) In order to modify the rules of origin under the NAFTA, general note 12 to the HTS is modified as set forth in Annex B to this proclamation.

(6) (a) The modifications to the HTS set forth in Annex A to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the date set forth in Annex A.

(b) The modifications to the HTS set forth in Annex B to this proclamation shall enter into effect on the date that the USTR announces in a notice published in the *Federal Register* that Canada has completed its applicable domestic procedures to give effect to corresponding modifications to be applied to goods of the United States and shall be effective with respect to goods of Canada entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the date indicated in the notice.

(7) In order to provide the intended tariff treatment to triphenyl phosphine and to correct the error identified in paragraph 19, the HTS is modified as provided in Annex C to this proclamation.

(8) The modifications to the HTS made in Annex C to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the date set out in that Annex.

(9) The USTR shall notify the Congress of this proclamation and my certification as provided in section 404(e) of the CAFTA-DR Act, as amended.

(10) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of November, 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., November 26, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation and its annexes were released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 26, and they were published in the *Federal Register* on November 28.

Memorandum on Provision of Marine War Risk Insurance Coverage

November 25, 2008

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Subject: Provision of Marine War Risk Insurance Coverage

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including 3 U.S.C. 301 and 46 U.S.C. chapter 539, I hereby approve the provision by the Secretary of Transportation of insurance or reinsurance of vessels (including cargo and crew) against loss or damage from war risks in the manner and to the extent provided in chapter 539 of title 46, United States Code, for trade in the Black Sea, whenever, after consultation with the Secretary of State, it appears to the Secretary of Transportation that such insurance adequate for the needs of the water-borne commerce of the United States cannot be obtained on reasonable terms and conditions from companies authorized to do insurance business in a State of the United States. To the extent individual policies involve an exposure in excess of the amounts available in the War Risk Revolving Fund, such policies may be issued only after consultation with the Office of Management and Budget. This approval to provide insurance or reinsurance is effective for 90 days, except that existing policies shall remain in force pursuant to the terms of these policies. I hereby delegate to the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority vested in me by 46 U.S.C. 53902 and 53905.The Secretary of Transportation is directed to bring the approval to the immediate attention of all U.S.-flag vessel operators and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., November 26, 2008]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 26, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 28.

Remarks at the Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation Ceremony

November 26, 2008

Thank you all. Please be seated. Welcome to the Rose Garden for the pardoning of the National Thanksgiving Turkey.

This is a tradition that dates back to the Presidency of Harry Truman. Just to be safe, I will be pardoning a second bird—[*laughter*]—in the unlikely event the main act chickens out. [*Laughter*] Turkeys are not only the ones on edge this morning; you see, it turns out the Rose Garden is Barney's turf. [*Laughter*] So the press corps is a little nervous as well. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate the representatives of the National Turkey Federation who have joined us: President Joel Brandenberger; Chairman Paul Hill; Paul's wife, Mary June. Today's birds were hatched on the Hill family farm in Ellsworth, Iowa. Paul's son, Nathan, and daughter-in-law, Betsy, along with grandsons Collin and Connor, did a fabulous job of raising the guests of honor.

I also welcome the children here from Cloverly Elementary School. And after I make my brief remarks, you will be welcome to come up and pet our feathered friends.

This is an election year, so it is fitting that the names of these two birds were chosen through the democratic process. After a long, drawn-out election season, when the people finally spoke, the name of the ticket sent here to the White House was Pumpkin and Pecan. [*Laughter*] Pumpkin is right there. [*Laughter*] Pecan is in an undisclosed location. [*Laughter*]

Pumpkin and Pecan have an exciting trip ahead of them. Later today they will fly to Disneyland aboard "Turkey One." [*Laughter*] Pumpkin will be the honorary grand marshal of Disneyland's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Together, these birds will gobble the rest of their days in "the happiest place on Earth." I just hope they stay humble there. [*Laughter*]

This is my final Thanksgiving as the President. Over the past 8 years, I have been given

many reasons to be thankful. I'm thankful to our men and women in uniform, and I am incredibly proud to have been their Commander in Chief. I am thankful for the armies of compassion, volunteers who feed the hungry and shelter the poor. I am thankful for the teachers and nurses and pastors and police officers and firefighters, and others who serve their neighbors and better their communities.

I'm thankful for the wonderful and supporting family that I have been blessed with. I'm grateful to Laura for her love. I'm grateful for two Thanksgiving miracles who were blessed—who we were blessed with 27 years ago: Barbara and Jenna. I'm thankful for the fact that my mother is doing well. And this year, we're looking forward to having another place at our Thanksgiving table with a son-in-law, and I'm thankful for Henry.

Most of all, I thank the American people for the tremendous privilege of serving as the President. In recent weeks, I've talked a lot about sprinting to the finish. Yet I've assured these turkeys they will not be trotting to their finish. [*Laughter*] That's because in keeping with a longstanding tradition, Pumpkin and Pecan are hereby granted a full and unconditional Presidential pardon.

I wish all Americans a happy Thanksgiving, and may God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:20 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Henry Hager, husband of Jenna Bush.

Proclamation 8324—National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, 2008

November 26, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, we underscore our commitment to raising awareness about the tragedies that often result from driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Nearly 13,000 Americans died last year as a result of drunk driving. During the holidays, people are more likely to drive in an impaired state, and in order to better protect our citizens this holiday season, we must educate all Americans about the seriousness of this offense and its devastating consequences. Individuals across America can help prevent drunk and drugged driving by making responsible choices, identifying sober designated drivers, and educating young people about ways to avoid drunk and drugged driving. All Americans can work together to make our roads safer and help save lives by preventing others from driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

My Administration is committed to keeping our citizens safe from drunk and drugged drivers this holiday season. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is raising public awareness through advertising, urging the increased use of ignition interlocks, and encouraging greater law enforcement presence. The NHTSA has extended their "Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest." campaign through the holiday season, and we must continue to be vigilant in stopping impaired driving throughout the year. In addition, the Office of National Drug Control Policy is working hard to ensure that our law enforcement officers have the tools they need to detect when drivers are under the influence of drugs.

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 December 2008 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. I encourage all Americans to help keep our Nation's roads safe by making responsible choices and taking appropriate measures to prevent drunk and drugged driving.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of November, 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, 8:45 a.m., December 1, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 2.

Proclamation 8325—World AIDS Day, 2008

November 26, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As Americans, we believe in the inherent dignity and value of every man, woman, and child. On World AIDS Day, we recommit ourselves to the global challenge of combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and to showing our compassion for those affected here at home and around the world.

The fight against HIV/AIDS is a noble and necessary battle. As part of this fight, in 2003 my Administration launched the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Through this program, the United States has partnered with other countries, local communities, and faith-based organizations around the world to support HIV/AIDS treatment, care, and prevention activities. In July 2008, we worked with the Congress to reauthorize this important program for another 5 years.

PEPFAR is the largest international commitment in history by any nation to combat a single disease, and so far the results are promising. PEPFAR has supported care for millions of people around the world. We have also made great strides in the fight against HIV/AIDS through PEPFAR's commitment to evidence-based prevention interventions, including the ABC approach: abstinence, be faithful, and correct and consistent condom use. PEPFAR is spreading hope around the world by saving lives and showing the good heart of our Nation.

To advance our domestic battle against HIV/AIDS, we must continue to research and develop new methods of treatment and prevention. In 2006, the Congress reauthorized the Ryan White CARE Act. This legislation also focuses on life-saving and life-extending services, increased accountability for funding, and supports HIV testing to prevent the further spread of this disease.

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 December 1, 2008, as World AIDS Day. On this day and throughout the year, the red ribbon is a symbol that helps raise awareness of the importance of fighting against HIV/AIDS. Again this year, the White House will display the red ribbon from the North Portico to represent America's commitment to this struggle. I urge the Governors of the States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of the other territories subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in appropriate activities to remember those who have lost their lives to AIDS and provide support and comfort to those living with this disease.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of November, 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, 8:45 a.m., December 1, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 2. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this proclamation.

The President's Radio Address

November 26, 2008

Good morning. This week, Americans gather with loved ones to celebrate Thanksgiving. This holiday season is a time of fellowship and peace. And it is a time to give thanks for our many blessings.

During this holiday season, we give thanks for generations of Americans who overcame hardships to create and sustain a free nation. When the Pilgrims celebrated their first Thanksgiving nearly four centuries ago, they had already suffered through a harsh and bitter winter. But they were willing to endure that adversity to live in a land where they could worship the Almighty without persecution. When President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863, the United States was in the midst of a terrible civil war. But in that hour of trial

he gave thanks, because he believed America would weather the storm and emerge into a new era of liberty.

During this holiday season, we give thanks for those who defend our freedom. America's men and women in uniform deserve our highest respect, and so do the families who love and support them. Lately, I have been asked what I will miss about the Presidency. And my answer is that I will miss being the Commander in Chief of these brave warriors. In this special time of year, when many of them are serving in distant lands, they are in the thoughts and prayers of all Americans.

During this holiday season, we give thanks for the kindness of citizens throughout our Nation. It is a testament to the goodness of our people that on Thanksgiving millions of Americans reach out to those who have little. The true spirit of the holidays can be seen in the generous volunteers who bring comfort to the poor and the sick and the elderly. These men and women are selfless members of our Nation's armies of compassion, and they make our country a better place, one heart and one soul at a time.

Finally, I have a special note of thanks to the American people. On this my last Thanksgiving as your President, I am thankful for the good will, kind words, and heartfelt prayers that so many of you have offered me during the past 8 years. I have been blessed to represent such decent, brave, and caring people. For that I will always be grateful, and I will always be honored.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on November 26 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 29. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 26. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Approval of a Strategic Framework Agreement and a Status of Forces Agreement in Iraq

November 27, 2008

Earlier today, in another sign of progress, Iraq's Council of Representatives approved two agreements with the United States, a strategic framework agreement and a security agreement, often called a status of forces agreement or SOFA. The strategic framework agreement sets the foundation for a long-term bilateral relationship between our two countries, and the security agreement addresses our presence, activities, and withdrawal from Iraq. Today's vote affirms the growth of Iraq's democracy and increasing ability to secure itself. We look forward to a swift approval by Iraq's Presidency Council.

Two years ago, this day seemed unlikely, but the success of the surge and the courage of the Iraqi people set the conditions for these two agreements to be negotiated and approved by the Iraqi Parliament. The improved conditions on the ground and the Parliamentary approval of these two agreements serve as a testament to the Iraqi, coalition, and American men and women, both military and civilian, who paved the way for this day.

As the two agreements move to Iraq's Presidency Council for final approval, we congratulate the members of the Council of Representatives for coming together to approve these historic agreements that will serve the shared and enduring interests of both our countries and the region.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

Statement on the Terrorist Attacks in Mumbai, India

November 28, 2008

Laura and I are deeply saddened that at least two Americans were killed and others injured in Wednesday's horrific attack in Mumbai. We also mourn the great loss of life suffered by so many people from several other countries, and we have the wounded in our thoughts and prayers.

My administration has been working with the Indian Government and the international community as Indian authorities work to ensure the safety of those still under threat. We will continue to cooperate against these extremists who offer nothing but violence and hopelessness.

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 22

In the morning, at the JW Marriott Hotel Lima in Lima, Peru, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then traveled to the Ministry of Defense Convention Center. Later, he met with Prime Minister Taro Aso of Japan.

Later in the morning, the President met with President Lee Myung-bak of South Korea. He then had a trilateral meeting with Prime Minister Aso and President Lee.

In the afternoon, the President participated in APEC Leaders Retreat I. Later, he participated in the Leaders Dialogue with the APEC Business Advisory Council. He then returned to the JW Marriott Hotel Lima.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Ministry of Defense Convention Center, where they attended a gala dinner. Later, they returned to the JW Marriott Hotel.

November 23

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush met with U.S. Embassy staff and their families. Later, he traveled to the Ministry of Defense Convention Center, where he met with President Alan Garcia Perez of Peru. He then participated in APEC Leaders Retreat II.

In the afternoon, the President participated in the APEC leaders official photograph. Later, he participated in the APEC Final Declaration Ceremony. He and Mrs. Bush then returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson, Jr., to discuss the Citigroup bailout decision.

November 24

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had a telephone conversation with President-elect Barack Obama. Later, at the Treasury Department, he met with Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson, Jr., and other Cabinet officials.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a photo opportunity with 2008 Nobel Prize recipients Paul Krugman, Martin Chalfie, and Roger Y. Tsien.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Louisiana by authorizing an increase in the level of Federal funding for public assistance projects undertaken as a result of Hurricane Gustav that struck the State from September 1–11.

November 25

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then traveled to Fort Campbell, KY, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer S. Sgt. Joshua Forbess, USA. Later, at Son Cafe, he had lunch with military personnel.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to designate John F. Mizroch as Acting Assistant Secretary (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy) at the Department of Energy.

The President announced his intention to designate Kent D. Talbert as Acting Under Secretary of Education at the Department of Education.

November 26

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in an interview with the President's sister, Dorothy Bush Koch, as part of a StoryCorps project.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD. Later, they participated in an interview with Charles Gibson of "ABC World News with Charles Gibson."

Later in the afternoon, the President received updates on the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India.

The President announced that he has named Judith A. Ansley as Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Texas by authorizing an extension of 100 percent of Federal funding for debris removal, including direct Federal assistance, undertaken as a result of Hurricane Ike that struck the State from September 7 to October 2.

November 27

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India to discuss the terrorist attacks and ongoing situation in Mumbai, India. Later, he had several Thanksgiving holiday telephone conversations with members of the U.S. military.

November 28

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released November 22

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino on the President's meetings at APEC summit

Fact sheet: Creating a New Era of Prosperity in the Asia Pacific Region and Beyond

Released November 23

Transcript of a press gaggle by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Press Secretary Dana Perino, and Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs Daniel M. Price

Fact sheet: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders Meeting

Released November 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Tony Fratto

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Louisiana

Released November 25

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Released November 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Tony Fratto

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed a proclamation that suspends the designation of Bolivia as a beneficiary country under the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) and the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA)

Statement by the Press Secretary on the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Texas

Released November 27

Text of Strategic Framework Agreement for a Relationship of Friendship and Cooperation Between the United States of America and the Republic of Iraq

Text of Agreement Between the United States of America and the Republic of Iraq on the Withdrawal of United States Forces from Iraq and the Organization of Their Activities During Their Temporary Presence in Iraq

Released November 28

Excerpts of the President and First Lady's StoryCorps interview with Dorothy Bush Koch

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.