

how did they get there in the first place?" Well, the mother, in her wrap-up of the letter, said that it was a good thing the Lord knew what the boy was praying for, because he sure didn't. [Laughter] But, you know, the hostages came out of Iraq. [Laughter]

So, I believe the Lord does hear our prayers. Joe put it very beautifully here. I know our country is praying for peace. And across this nation the churches, the synagogues, the mosques are packed—record attendance at services. In fact, the night the war began, Dr. Graham was at the White House. And he spoke to us then of the importance of turning to God as a people of faith, turning to Him in hope. And then the next morning, Dr. Graham went over to Fort Myer where we had a lovely service leading our nation in a beautiful prayer service there, with special emphasis on the troops overseas.

So, I expect when Barbara and I were there at that prayer service, we were only doing what everyone in America was doing—praying for peace.

You know, America is a nation founded under God. And from our very beginnings we have relied upon His strength and guidance in war and in peace. And this is something we must never forget. Just yesterday—you're going to think I do nothing but read the mail—[laughter]—but just yesterday I got a letter from a man who pointed out to me that during the State of the Union Message that I had neglected to make any mention of God. And I was somewhat defensive about that, so I quickly went back and I did see at the very end "may God

bless America." But then I got realizing that this man was correct. I have learned what I suppose every President has learned, and that is that one cannot be President of our country without faith in God and without knowing with certainty that we are one nation under God. So, I think I should have made that clear—more clear that God is our rock and salvation, and we must trust Him and keep faith in Him.

And so, we ask His blessings upon us and upon every member not just of our Armed Forces but of our coalition armed forces, with respect for the religious diversity that is represented as these 28 countries stand up against aggression.

Today I'm asking and designating that Sunday, February 3d, be a national day of prayer. And I encourage all people of faith to say a special prayer on that day—a prayer for peace, a prayer for the safety of our troops, a prayer for their families, a prayer for the innocents caught up in this war, and a prayer that God will continue to bless the United States of America.

Note: The President spoke at 9:50 a.m. in the International Ballroom at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his opening remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Geoffrey Henry of the Cook Islands; Prime Minister Ratu Mara of Fiji; President Arpad Goncz of Hungary; Douglas Coe, event coordinator for the National Prayer Breakfast; Joe Gibbs, coach of the Washington Redskins football team; Gov. Buddy Roemer of Louisiana; and evangelist Dr. Billy Graham. Mrs. Bush had fractured her left leg while sledding at Camp David, MD.

Remarks at a White House Briefing on the 1991 National Drug Control Strategy

January 31, 1991

Thank you all very much. Please be seated. I wanted to come over here first to thank many people in this room, so many of you having in one way or another—directly, some indirectly—helping us formulate and now put into effect the National

Drug Control Strategy. I know that many of you have been instrumental in the development and the implementation of it. And I really am very, very grateful to each and every one of you.

As all of you know, our first Drug Strate-

gy, released nearly a year and a half ago, recognized the need for a comprehensive approach. Indeed, I think it's the first time the Government has formulated a comprehensive approach: effective law enforcement, drug prevention programs for our schools and communities, more and increasingly effective drug treatment, coordinated border interdiction, and a greater role for international diplomacy.

Our strategy is comprehensive. Our strategy is sound. Our strategy works. And the thrust of our strategy remains the same: cutting down the supply and then suppressing the demand.

We've called on every part of the administration to work closely together. And that's why I was particularly pleased to be joined by those who are up here with me and then Judge Sessions—Bill Sessions—and Reg and Bill Moss and others here; Dick Thornburgh, Attorney General; and then Lou Sullivan on the health side, as we do put more emphasis on prevention and on treatment; and then John Walters, of course, who's doing a superb job.

I am very pleased to report that, thanks to your efforts and the dedicated efforts of so many—and I was briefed yesterday on the volunteer aspect of this, the communities all across the country that are helping—I would say so many individuals and community leaders across the country—the signs of progress are unmistakable. The clear message of available data is that drug use is on the way down. Since I've come into office, we've seen an important and an encouraging shift in drug use trends.

Last December, we came out with new data that showed that drug use is declining. Not only is all casual drug use down but hospitals are reporting fewer cocaine-related emergencies and fewer cocaine-related deaths. And just last week, Dr. Sullivan's HHS announced the results of an annual survey that showed that cocaine use among high school seniors is at its lowest point in years. These numbers can only bode well for the future. And if fewer high school seniors are using drugs today, I think we're going to have a lot fewer drug problems tomorrow.

While this is welcome news, you might ask: Can we lessen our commitment to stop-

ping the scourge of drugs? Can we afford to look elsewhere, lose interest? Can we declare victory? And, of course, the answer is an emphatic no.

The strategy that we're releasing today is intended to make sure that the favorable trends that we've been following keep right on going in that same direction—down. And that's why we're putting more agents on the streets, hiring more prosecutors in the courtrooms, and building more prisons. And as we encourage more people to stop using drugs, we intend to provide them with more help. And I'm again requesting a substantial increase in Federal drug treatment spending.

I'm particularly proud of a new \$100-million proposal designed to expand our drug treatment capacity. And that means as many as 200,000 more people will receive help to get off and hopefully stay off drugs during fiscal 1992.

This strategy will also provide more funding for drug prevention and more resources for cooperative efforts with our Latin American allies who are helping to stop the drug trade at the source.

In total, we're proposing a drug budget of \$11.7 billion, an 11-percent increase over the last fiscal year and an 82-percent increase just since the beginning of our administration. This additional funding will help keep the pressure on. And I believe it persuasively demonstrates that our administration is committed to defeating the menace of drugs and that that commitment is unswerving. In fact, it is growing stronger, and I want to do my part in helping all of you and have the American people understand that.

In our first strategy we proposed a set of ambitious 2-year objectives. And I'm pleased to report that we have achieved those goals; in some cases we've surpassed them. In this strategy we've set new and more ambitious goals because, as everyone knows, a drug problem persists, creating misery wherever it flourishes. Let me just assure everyone that we will go after these new goals as vigorously as we pursued the last ones.

I know we're looking forward to bringing Governor Bob Martinez on board, taking

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Bill Bennett's place. He has the necessary experience on the front lines, if you will, the necessary commitment to fully implement this strategy.

In closing, again I want to thank you, the individuals who are helping make this strategy work, putting in the long hours and making everyone proud, very proud indeed, of our Federal effort.

Thank you very much. And now I understand that John Walters will conduct a briefing to flesh out some of what I've said here. But I think the bottom line is this nation simply must succeed in this fight. And, you know, I expect some wonder whether I am totally preoccupied with events halfway around the world. And I really wanted to take this opportunity to come over here to you who have done so much in this fight to let you know you're not alone. And I

will do my level best to support you every inch of the way.

Thank you all very, very much.

Note: The President spoke at 1:55 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to William S. Sessions, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; William P. Moss, Chairman of the President's Drug Advisory Council; Attorney General Dick Thornburgh; Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis W. Sullivan; and the following officials of the Office of National Drug Control Policy: Reggie B. Walton, Associate Director for State and Local Affairs; John P. Walters, Chief of Staff and Acting Director; Bob Martinez, Director-designate; and William J. Bennett, former Director.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the 1991 National Drug Control Strategy

January 31, 1991

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit today for the consideration of the Congress and the American people the 1991 National Drug Control Strategy, in accordance with section 1005 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-690; 21 U.S.C. 1504).

This is the third National Drug Control Strategy, and it should be viewed as a companion to the previous two submitted in September 1989 and January 1990. This Strategy lays out a comprehensive plan for Federal drug control activities for fiscal year 1992. The principal goal remains unchanged: to reduce the level of illegal drug use in America. This goal cannot be achieved by the Federal Government acting alone, and so this Strategy calls upon all segments of our society to continue to do

their part. In crafting this Strategy, we have sought the counsel not only of Federal officials and Members of the Congress, but also State and local officials; experts in the fields of drug prevention, treatment, and enforcement; and public-spirited citizens.

I am pleased to be able to report that there are indications that we are embarked on the right path: although much remains to be done and serious problems still confront us, numerous indicators show that we are beginning to see significant declines in drug use throughout the Nation. Continued congressional support is essential to ensure progress.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
January 31, 1991.