

June 1 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001

Statement on the Terrorist Bombing in Tel Aviv, Israel *June 1, 2001*

I condemn in the strongest terms the heinous terrorist attack in Tel Aviv this Sabbath evening. There is no justification for senseless attacks against innocent civilians. This illustrates the urgent need for an immediate, unconditional cessation of violence. I call upon Chairman Arafat to con-

demn this act and to call for an immediate cease fire. My deepest condolences and those of the American people go out to the victims and their families.

NOTE: The statement referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority.

The President's Radio Address *June 2, 2001*

Good morning. Over the last few months I have often used this radio time to advocate major tax relief. Today I'm pleased to report success. Soon Congress will send me a bill reducing Federal income taxes by \$1.35 trillion over the next 11 years, and I will proudly sign it.

Under the new law, more than 98 million Americans who pay income taxes will be owed a refund. This year most single taxpayers will receive checks for \$300; single-parent taxpayers will receive up to \$500; and married couples will receive a check for up to \$600. Over the next 10 years, the per-child tax credit will double from \$500 to \$1,000; the marriage penalty will be reduced; and the death tax will be completely abolished.

Some other provisions of the tax bill haven't received quite as much attention, but they will make a great difference in the lives of many Americans. For low-income families, the child tax credit will now be partially refundable. Right now, many poor families don't qualify for the credit because they don't pay income taxes at all. Soon, they will receive a tax credit to help meet the cost of raising their children.

The new tax law also encourages higher contributions to retirement plans. In years to come, you'll have the chance to put

more money into your IRA or 401k. You can better prepare for your later years, sending less of your money to Washington and more into your own savings.

I'm especially pleased by what these reforms will do for families that adopt children. Adoptive parents have a special calling, giving a loving home to children who otherwise would have none. The new law will double the maximum adoption tax credit to \$10,000 and make the credit permanent. And regardless of their expenses, parents who adopt children with special needs will be able to claim this tax credit in the year the adoption is completed.

Tax relief is an important bipartisan achievement, and now we must build on that momentum to improve our public schools. We are within reach of historic education reform. So far, the signs are very good. Both parties have been working together, and I hope both parties will vote together as well.

The plan I have sent to Congress stresses local control of schools, instead of trying to run the schools from Washington. The plan calls for accountability, requiring that every school set high standards and measure results. My plan gives flexibility to schools in meeting these standards and

more freedom to parents in making their own choices.

Skeptics may claim that these education reforms are too much to hope for, but that's what used to be said about tax relief. The truth is that real reform is possible, if we lay our partisan differences aside and work together in the interests of the American people.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:45 a.m. on May 31 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 2. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 1 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Death of King Birenda of Nepal

June 2, 2001

I am deeply saddened and shocked at King Birenda's untimely death. I also mourn the loss of Queen Aiswarya and other family members and extend my deepest sympathies to the King's extended fam-

ily. I send my condolences to the Nepalese people during this difficult period. Our prayers are with the Government and people of Nepal.

Remarks at Everglades National Park, Florida

June 4, 2001

Thank you all very much. Thank you. Thank you, Brother. [*Laughter*] I love my brother. People in Florida are lucky to have this good man as Governor.

I'm honored to be here with two fine United States Senators; thank you both for being here. Senator Graham, thanks for flying down with us, and Senator Nelson, it was good to see you at the airport today. Peter Deutsch—this is his district—Congressman, thanks so much for coming. We're honored to have you here. Congressman—I just call her Ileana—[*laughter*]—thanks so very much for being here, Ileana, and same to you, Lincoln. I'm honored that you're here. The two chairmen, Chairman Shaw and Chairman Young, I'm honored that you all are here as well. I don't see Congressperson Meek—I think she was going to be here—she's not.

But Jerry, I appreciate you. I appreciate your staff. I appreciate so very much Maureen Finnerty for giving us the briefing, and I appreciate Larry Belli as well for taking time to chopper over this beautiful slice of heaven. Thank you both. And thank all your staff for making this experience such a meaningful experience for all of us. It's an honor to be here, especially in these surroundings.

Visitors from around the world come to this beautiful State to see the coasts and the Keys and the sandy beaches. Today we're standing in just as wondrous a scene in Florida and just as an important part of this State. It commands our care and attention. This area needs our protection, and I am here to join with your Governor in the cause of preserving and protecting the Florida Everglades.