

May 10 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001

This is a great place to honor champs. It's also a great place to play sports. We've got a basketball court here. There's a bowling alley. There is a swimming pool. Recently, there was a baseball yard for a tee-ball game. I asked them why there's no hockey rink, and the truth of the matter is, Coach, there's no place to park the Zamboni. *[Laughter]*

But I do want to congratulate you all for a great victory and a great championship. I know your win over North Dakota was a tough win. But I want to quote what one of your players said, Mark McLennan. Where are you, Mark? He said this about the team: "There were no egos on this team. We had great individual players, but nothing was bigger than the team." And that's why you're the champs. I want to congratulate you all for being champs.

I want to remind you that life is more than just being champs on the ice. It's important to be a champ off the ice, as well. I'm sure there's some little kid up there in the Boston area wondering how a champ behaves off the ice, and you have the responsibility as a champion to set the right example.

Coach, welcome to the White House. Congratulations for being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:10 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. William P. Leahy, S.J., president, Jeremiah F. York, hockey coach, and Eugene B. DeFilippo, athletic director, Boston College; and Dorothy Bush Koch, the President's sister.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting an Outline of the 2001 Legislative Agenda for International Trade

May 10, 2001

Dear _____:

I am pleased to provide you with an outline of my 2001 legislative agenda for international trade. I look forward to working closely with you to enact it this year.

The trade agenda reflects my strong commitment to open markets around the world for the benefit of American workers, farmers, and businesses. I also am committed to open markets to provide lower prices and greater choices for U.S. consumers and industries. Open trade fuels the engine of economic growth that creates new jobs and new income in the United States and around the world.

We have no time to waste in reasserting America's leadership on trade. The President has not had trade negotiating authority since it expired in 1994. We can no longer afford to sit still while our trading partners move ahead without us.

For that reason, I have placed the enactment of U.S. Trade Promotion Authority at the top of my trade legislative agenda. U.S. Trade Promotion Authority tells the world that the President and the Congress are united at the negotiating table in seeking to strike the best possible deals for our country. I am committed to working with the Congress, on a bipartisan basis, to rebuild the consensus needed to allow America to reassert its leadership in the trade arena. I hope the enclosed framework for U.S. Trade Promotion Authority will help us redouble our efforts to secure the benefits of expanded trade for the American people.

I hope you also will join me in moving the other important components of my trade legislative agenda to enactment this session as well.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Richard A. Gephardt, House minority leader; Trent Lott, Senate majority leader; Thomas A. Daschle, Senate minority leader; Richard G. Lugar, chairman, and Tom Harkin, ranking member, Senate Committee on Agriculture; Charles E. Grassley,

chairman, and Max Baucus, ranking member, Senate Committee on Finance; Orrin G. Hatch, chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Larry Combest, chairman, and Charles W. Stenholm, ranking member, House Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Philip M. Crane, chairman, and Sander M. Levin, ranking member, House Subcommittee on Trade; and William M. Thomas, chairman, and Charles B. Rangel, ranking member, House Committee on Ways and Means.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan
May 11, 2001

Global AIDS and Health Fund

President Bush. It is my honor to welcome our friend the President of Nigeria to the Rose Garden. Mr. President, welcome to Washington, the Rose Garden. And of course, Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Secretary-General, thank you for coming.

As well, we are joined by two members of my Cabinet, Secretary of State Powell, Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson. I want to thank them both for being here. Scott Evertz, who is the Director of the National AIDS Policy Office, is with us—Scott, thank you for being here; and of course, Condoleezza Rice, the National Security Adviser.

I am looking forward to meeting with the President on a range of issues that are important to our nations. This morning we've spoken about another matter that involves countless lives. Together we've been discussing a strategy to halt the spread of AIDS and other infectious diseases across the African Continent and across the world.

The devastation across the globe left by AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, the sheer number of those infected and dying is almost beyond comprehension. Suffering on the

African Continent has been especially great. AIDS alone has left at least 11 million orphans in sub-Saharan Africa. In several African countries, as many as half of today's 15-year-olds could die of AIDS. In a part of the world where so many have suffered from war and want and famine, these latest tribulations are the cruelest of fates.

We have the power to help. The United States is committed to working with other nations to reduce suffering and to spare lives, and working together is the key. Only through sustained and focused international cooperation can we address problems so grave and suffering so great.

My guests today have been doing their part and more, and I thank them for their leadership. President Obasanjo last month led the nations of Africa in drafting the Abuja declaration which lays out crucial guidelines for the international effort we all envision. Secretary-General Annan, too, has made this issue an urgent priority. He has been an eloquent voice in rallying the resources and conviction needed in this cause. When he visited the White House in March, we talked about the AIDS pandemic. We agreed on the goal of creating a global fund to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria,