

a recession? You said, “It looks to me like we’ve got all three.”

The President. No, I said—well, I said—let me put it this way, tough economic times. There’s no question it’s tough times. And Ron, I don’t have all the numbers, but let me just say this: I can pick up all the statistics, but make no mistake about it, this has affected our economy in a big way. Now, I’ve still got faith that we’ll recover. The strength of the American economy has always been our entrepreneurial spirit and our workers, and that’s still prevalent. But you’ve seen the statistics on the airlines—they’re beginning to lay off people. Big airline manufacturing companies are responding. And this Government will respond.

Now, I don’t have—don’t get me wrong—I don’t have all the numbers at my disposal because they have to start counting them up, but this has shocked our economy. And we’re going to respond. And that’s exactly what this leadership and I have been talking about.

Pakistan’s Response

Q. Mr. President, do you feel like you’ve got the full support of President Musharraf? And how hard is it going to be for him to live up to his pledges, given his domestic situation?

The President. Well, there’s no question that President Musharraf has taken a bold position, which is to say he will work to the extent he can with America and our

allies as we deal with the prime suspect in the case. And we appreciate so very much his statement of support. I said we’ll give the President a chance to perform, and I believe he has done—done so. We will work and consult closely with Pakistan and India to make sure that that part of the world is as stable as can possibly be stable.

Let me say that, in terms of foreign policy and in terms of the world, this horrible tragedy will provide us with an interesting opportunity. One of the opportunities is in the Middle East. I’m pleased with the fact that Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Sharon have taken positive steps toward bringing peace to the region. I think we have an opportunity to refashion the thinking between Pakistan and India. I think there’s some interesting opportunities to shake terrorism loose from sponsor states.

And this Government, working with Congress, are going to seize the moment. Out of our tears I said I see opportunity, and we will seek opportunity, positive developments from this horrible tragedy that has befallen our Nation.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:39 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National
Emergency With Respect to Iran
September 19, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C.

1703(c), and section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with

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respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995. The White House,

GEORGE W. BUSH September 19, 2001.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Telecommunications Payments to Cuba
September 19, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), I transmit herewith a semiannual report detailing payments made to Cuba by United States

persons as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of Treasury specific licenses.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
September 19, 2001.

Remarks With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and an Exchange With Reporters
September 20, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome my friend, and a friend to America, Prime Minister Tony Blair to the White House. I appreciate him coming to America in our time of need. One of the first phone calls I got after that terrible day was from the Prime Minister. He was reassuring to me. He was—he showed to be a true friend, and I appreciate that. I'm so honored you're here.

And I look forward to giving a speech tonight. The Prime Minister has kindly agreed to come and listen to it. So I'm not going to answer any questions tonight. I'm going to let my speech be exactly what I want to say.

In the meantime, the Prime Minister has agreed to say a few comments and then take a couple of questions from you.

Prime Minister Blair. Thank you, Mr. President. It's my honor to be here and also to pay tribute to your leadership at

this immensely difficult time. I was in New York earlier today, and it's perhaps only when you are actually there that the full enormity and horror of what happened comes home to you.

And I said then—I would like to repeat—that my father's generation went through the experience of the Second World War, when Britain was under attack during the days of the Blitz. And there was one nation and one people that, above all, stood side by side with us at that time. And that nation was America, and those people were the American people. And I say to you, we stand side by side with you now, without hesitation.

This is a struggle that concerns us all, the whole of the democratic and civilized and free world. And we have to do two things, very clearly: We have to bring to account those responsible, and then we have to set about at every single level, in