

Oct. 4 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001

And we'll be tough and resolute as we unite, to make sure freedom stands, to rout out evil, to say to our children and grandchildren, "We were bold enough to act, without tiring, so that you can live in a great land and in a peaceful world."

And there's no doubt in my mind—not one doubt in my mind—that we will fail; failure is not a part of our vocabulary. This great Nation will lead the world, and we will be successful.

Thank you for working for the Government. Thank you for caring about our fel-

low Americans. May God bless you all and your families, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the Great Hall at the Frances Perkins Department of Labor Building. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson; and Labor Department employees Eloise Clark and Paul Hyland, both of whom lost relatives in the September 11th attacks.

Statement on the Sibir Airlines Crash *October 4, 2001*

I was deeply saddened to learn today of the crash of a Sibir Airlines passenger aircraft, flying from Tel Aviv to Novosibirsk. My heartfelt sympathies and those of the

American people are with the people of Israel and Russia and the families of the many victims of this tragedy.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the Economic Policy Team *October 5, 2001*

Good afternoon. I just concluded a meeting with my economic policy team. Secretary O'Neill has been up on the Hill talking to Members of Congress and brought back some encouraging news. And that is, the United States Congress is interested in working as quickly as possible to pass an economic stimulus package.

I want to remind the American people that the Congress has been working with us to provide relief. We passed monies for disaster relief, monies to help the people in New York. We passed appropriations to help beef up our security. We passed appropriations to help airlines. Yesterday I proposed additional expenditures to help workers who have been laid off as a result of the September 11th tragedy. That spending totals about \$60 billion.

And in order to stimulate the economy, Congress doesn't need to spend any more money. What they need to do is to cut taxes. So I propose this: I propose that the United States Congress, as quickly as possible, pass tax relief equal to or a little bit greater than the monies that we have already appropriated.

Tax relief should come in this kind of form: One, that we ought to stimulate demand by cutting—accelerating the marginal tax cuts that we've passed and I've signed; as well as, there ought to be a provision in the tax relief package to make sure that low- and moderate-income workers get tax relief as well.

And on the business side, we need to stimulate investment by allowing for enhanced expensing of capital expenditures,

and we believe they ought to eliminate alternative minimum tax on corporate America.

This is a package which will dovetail nicely with the marginal cuts and the increased child credit that will kick in next year as well. The American people expect us to act, and here is a way for us to act. We've spent money, and that will have a stimulative effect of some kind.

But to make sure that the economy gets the boost it needs, Congress ought to come together quickly and accept the ideas that I've just laid out. We believe that will be

the best way to make sure that America recovers from the terrorist attack of September the 11th.

The terrorists attacked us, but they did not diminish our spirit, nor did they undermine the fundamentals of our economy. And we believe if we act expeditiously, that those fundamentals will kick back in, and people will be able to find work again.

I hope you all have a fine weekend. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:36 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Statement on Signing Legislation Authorizing United States Payments to the United Nations

October 5, 2001

Today I am pleased to sign into law S. 248, which authorizes U.S. payments to the United Nations. This payment constitutes the second of three payments of arrears. When I met with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan in March, I told him that the United States was committed to paying the arrears it owes to the United Nations. Today, I am glad to take this important step towards fulfilling that commitment.

As the world's preeminent multilateral institution, the United Nations plays a critical role in defusing international crises, resolving longstanding conflicts, and alleviating suffering, poverty, and disease. The United Nations also has a vital role in cracking down on violators of international law and eliminating sources of funding for terrorist operations.

This release of funds will enhance the close bond between the United States and the United Nations, and will help to facilitate the work the United States carries out in concert with other U.N. members.

In making these funds available, Republicans and Democrats in the Congress have again demonstrated their willingness to work together in a constructive manner to address our Nation's challenges at this important time in our history. I would like to pay a special tribute to Senators Helms and Biden, whose leadership has served as a catalyst for U.N. reform, and provided a means for the United States to fulfill its international obligations. I also wish to thank Representatives Hyde and Lantos, who have worked in a bipartisan manner toward making this payment to the United Nations a reality.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
October 5, 2001.

NOTE: S. 248, approved October 5, was assigned Public Law No. 107-46.