

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.