

Statement on Signing the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001
December 21, 2001

Today I have signed into law S. 494, the “Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001.” This Act symbolizes the clear bipartisan resolve in the United States to promoting human rights, good governance, and economic development in Africa. My Administration shares fully the Congress’ deep concerns about the political and economic hardships visited upon Zimbabwe by that country’s leadership. I hope the provisions of this important legislation will support the people of Zimbabwe in their struggle to effect peaceful democratic change, achieve economic growth, and restore the rule of law.

Section 4(c) of the Act purports to direct the executive branch to oppose and vote against the extension of loans or the can-

cellation of debt in international financial institutions unless and until I make a certification or national interest determination. I am concerned that this provision burdens my constitutional authority in the area of foreign affairs to conduct negotiations and cast votes in international organizations. I will construe the provision as being subject to my exclusive authority to negotiate or vote in international financial institutions.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
December 21, 2001.

NOTE: S. 494, approved December 21, was assigned Public Law No. 107–99.

Remarks at the 2002 Olympic Torch Relay Ceremony
December 22, 2001

The President. Please be seated. Good morning.

Audience members. Good morning.

The President. It’s the kind of morning we expect when we’re honoring the winter Olympics. This flame stands for the skill and dedication of friendly competition. I’m honored to take part in the 2002 Olympic torch relay, and I’m really proud to welcome the Olympic spirit to America this winter.

I want to thank Mitt Romney for coming. Mitt, it’s great to see you again. I know Utah is well represented by the chairman, Congressman Jim Hansen. Thank you both for being here.

I want to welcome all the members of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee and members of the United States Olympic

Committee for being here, as well. These men and women have worked tirelessly and long, long, long hours to make sure that our country is well represented when the world starts focusing on us yet again in February of this year. I’m really proud of the work you’ve done. You’ve brought a lot of honor to America, and for that, Americans are grateful.

The 2002 Olympic games will officially begin when this torch reaches its destination in Salt Lake City. Its 13,500-mile journey will bring it through 46 States, carried by some 11,500 torchbearers. Each torchbearer’s story is a lesson in citizenship and courage and compassion.

Two torchrunners with us today were deeply affected by the attacks of September the 11th. Liz Howell lost her husband,

Brady, in the attack on the Pentagon. Brady was fulfilling a lifelong dream by serving his country at the Pentagon. Liz left her native Utah to help Brady live that dream. Her participation in the torch relay represents the strength shown by so many families after September the 11th. And Liz, our Nation prays with you during this holiday season. We pray for peace and comfort for you and your family.

Our other participant is a student, Eric Jones, who goes to George Washington University just a few blocks from the White House and the Pentagon. On September the 11th, Eric left the campus and headed to the Pentagon. He spent 4 days helping with the rescue efforts, and then he traveled to New York to do the same.

Before he left the Pentagon, Eric helped carry out a symbol of American pride, the Marine Corps flag. Last week that flag flew

high above the Earth on the space shuttle *Endeavor*. On behalf of all Americans, I thank these two torchbearers for their courage and for their compassion, for representing the best of our great country.

I thank everyone who has worked so hard to make the Salt Lake City and the games a memorable site. I wish all our athletes Godspeed. I continue to pray the Lord's blessings for safety and security on our great land during the holiday season.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:27 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mitt Romney, president and chief executive officer, Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 winter Olympic games.

The President's Radio Address *December 22, 2001*

Good morning. This week before Christmas was a busy one in Washington, DC. Members of Congress have returned home with many achievements to show for their work. Congress passed, and I will soon sign, the most important education reforms in a generation. We have taken strong action to support our military, protect our homeland, and make our airways more secure. The year 2001 also saw the largest tax relief in two decades.

These achievements bring credit to the Congress, and I'm grateful for their work. I'm disappointed, however, that the Senate was not able to pass legislation to get our economy growing again and to help workers who have lost their jobs. I'm hopeful that the positive spirit of bipartisan accomplishment that guided much of this year's success will prevail when Congress returns early next year.

Our thoughts in these coming days, however, do not center on public policy. Millions of Americans will be celebrating Christmas, marking an ancient birth of an eternal promise of peace on Earth and good will to men. This Christmas comes just months after a great national loss. We find ourselves appreciating more than ever the things that matter most: our families, our friends, and our faith. We count our blessings, and we remember all those who feel loss, separation, and need.

For the families that lost a loved one on September the 11th or in the fighting in Afghanistan, this will be the first Christmas without a husband or a wife or a father or a mother or son or daughter. Our Nation shares their grief.

Many thousands of our fighting men and women will spend Christmas far from home, accepting hardship and danger to