

and decency and compassion that define the soul and character of our country on a daily basis.

No, when the enemy struck us, little did they realize that out of the terrible evil would come such good. Our job is not only to win the war overseas; our job is not only to protect the homeland, to make sure we can live peacefully; our job is to fight evil on a daily basis by loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. And that's what's happening all across the

country. And for those of you who do that, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. And I want to thank you for giving me a chance to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. in the Hutchinson Union Building. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Statement on Disaster Assistance for Victims of the Eruption of Mount Nyiragongo

*January 25, 2002*

On January 17, the people of Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo suffered from an enormous natural disaster. Many homes, shops, roads, and schools were buried, and many lives were lost or disrupted by the flow of molten lava from Mount Nyiragongo. The Congolese people have shown enormous spirit and resilience, already returning to the land where their homes once stood to recover and rebuild.

I commend President Kabila of Congo and President Kagame of Rwanda for working together to address the humanitarian needs of the people of Goma who have been hurt by this volcanic eruption. The United States will help the victims of this

disaster, and we have already allocated up to \$3 million for relief efforts. I have sent a team of experts from the U.S. Agency for International Development to the region to assess how this aid can be directed most effectively. At the same time, I have ordered the immediate dispatch of two relief flights carrying blankets, shelter material, and water storage equipment to support the most urgent needs of the Congolese people. The United States will continue to work closely with the international community to help those affected by this disaster to rebuild their town and their lives.

## The President's Radio Address

*January 26, 2002*

Good morning. A few days from now I will go before Congress to report on the state of the Union and lay out my priorities for the coming year and beyond. These priorities reflect a single, overarching commit-

ment to enhance the security of America and its people.

Government's responsibilities begin with the defense of our Nation. Our fight against terrorism began in Afghanistan, but it will not end there. America must not rest until

every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped, and defeated. In this work, our military must have every resource, every weapon needed to achieve full and final victory.

My budget calls for the largest increase in defense spending in the last 20 years, investing in more precision weapons, missile defenses, unmanned vehicles, and high-tech equipment for our soldiers on the ground. I will also seek another pay increase for the men and women who wear our country's uniform. We will spend what it takes to win the war against terrorism.

A related priority is homeland security. We will pursue a sustained strategy to protect our people from the threat of terrorism. The Federal Government has already acted to increase airport security, investigate terrorist activity, and improve our response capability. In the next budget, we will do even more. I'll be calling on Congress to nearly double funding for homeland defense to \$38 billion. We will complete the hiring of tens of thousands of new Federal airport security workers. We will strengthen the Border Patrol, hire another 300 FBI agents to help fight the war on terror. We'll provide more money so that State and local firefighters, police officers, and EMTs have the equipment they need. The American people are on watch

against future attacks, and their Government will be as well.

The third key of my budget is to fight the recession and build economic security for the American people. Government doesn't create jobs, but it can encourage an environment in which jobs are created. I'm glad the Senate is finally moving forward, and I urge it to pass a strong stimulus bill like one that passed the House last year.

Every budget reflects fundamental choices, and my administration has made choices to fit the times. We'll work to create jobs and renew the strength of our economy. We'll protect our people in every way necessary, and we will carry on the campaign against global terror until we achieve our goal, the peace that comes from victory.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:21 a.m. on January 25 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 26. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 25 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## Remarks Honoring the 2001 National Basketball Association Champion Los Angeles Lakers

*January 28, 2002*

Please be seated. Mr. Commissioner, good to see you, sir. Thank you for coming. I appreciate the Buss family members for being here. Thank you. Welcome to the East Coast. I'm so honored that Phil Jackson has come with players from the mighty LA Lakers championship team. I want to welcome you all the to White House. We're thrilled you're here. This is

one way for us to congratulate you for being champs.

I want to thank the members of the California congressional delegation. I think we've got six Members here. Thank you all for coming. I know you're as proud of the team as the people of California are.

I also want to thank the Boys and Girls Clubs of Atlantic City in New Jersey and