

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