

armies of compassion, how you can put your good heart to work to make America a hopeful and strong and decent country for all of us.

We've made progress. There's no question the doors of opportunity that were shut and sealed have now been opened. Ask some of the folks on the stage here. They had that door slammed in their face, and now it's open, and there's a brighter day ahead.

Yet, there is no acceptable level of despair and hopelessness in America. We will not leave people in need to their own struggle, and we will not leave them to their own fate.

The success of the past few years should not make us complacent as a nation. They prove what is possible when we press for-

ward, and I am determined to press forward to build a single nation of justice and opportunity.

May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:53 p.m. in the gymnasium at St. Luke's Catholic Church. In his remarks, he referred to Robert L. Woodson, Sr., founder and president, National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise; Curtis Watkins, executive director, East Capitol Center for Change; Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin; Gov. Bill Owens of Colorado; and Gov. Don Sundquist of Tennessee. He also referred to Public Law No. 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

Statement on Proposed Pension Security Legislation *February 26, 2002*

I applaud Senators Tim Hutchinson, Trent Lott, and Judd Gregg for introducing legislation today to strengthen the retirement security of American workers. This legislation would protect workers by giving them freedom to manage their own retirement savings, fair notice of any blackout period, better access to sound investment advice, and is consistent with the retirement security principles I previously out-

lined. This bill also assures that corporate officers would be held to the same restrictions as those imposed on workers.

I look forward to working with the Congress in a bipartisan fashion to enact these important protections into law.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 1969, the "Pension Security Act of 2002."

Statement Following a Meeting With Southern African Leaders *February 26, 2002*

Today I met with three Presidents who can help bring peace and prosperity to southern Africa. Presidents dos Santos of Angola, Chissano of Mozambique, and Mogae of Botswana and I discussed our common interests in working with each other and through the Southern African

Development Community to bring greater peace, prosperity, and stability to the region.

I reiterated that expanding trade is the surest path to sustainable development. I commended the three Presidents' leadership in developing a regional strategy to

combat HIV/AIDS and promote economic integration. As part of that effort, I asked the Presidents to join my call for the World Bank to begin providing 50 percent of its assistance to the world's poorest nations in the form of grants rather than loans.

The three Presidents also discussed the tragic wars in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We agreed that peace is within reach of both countries. I urged President dos Santos to move quickly toward achieving a cease-fire in Angola. And we agreed that all parties have an obligation to seize this moment to end the war and develop Angola's vast wealth to the benefit of the Angolan people. Presi-

dent dos Santos has it within his power to end 26 years of fighting by reaching out to all Angolans willing to lay down their arms. Angolans deserve no less.

Finally, I commend the work of former President Masire, President Mbeki, and other SADC leaders—including Presidents dos Santos, Chissano, and Mogae—on the Inter-Congolese Dialogue in South Africa. I remain committed to working with the leaders of southern Africa to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region.

NOTE: The statement referred to former President Quett K.J. Masire of Botswana and President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Cuba February 26, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, which states that the emergency declared with respect to the Government of Cuba's

destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2002.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
February 26, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 27. The notice of February 26 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks Following a Roundtable Discussion on Welfare Reform and an Exchange With Reporters in Charlotte, North Carolina February 27, 2002

The President. We are honored—I am honored to be here. We just had a great discussion with folks here in Charlotte,

Mecklenburg County. I am very impressed by the welfare-to-work program that has been instituted. There's obviously a sense