

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:40 p.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain; and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. The

President also referred to the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001, and the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet.

Statement on the Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother of the United Kingdom *March 30, 2002*

Laura and I were deeply saddened at the news of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. On behalf of the American people, we send our heartfelt condolences to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and to the people of

the United Kingdom for this tremendous loss. She was a pillar of strength and inspiration to many people all over the world.

Laura and I and her many admirers throughout this Nation will miss her.

Remarks at the White House Easter Egg Roll *April 1, 2002*

Welcome to the White House. Laura and I are so glad that you came this year, especially given what happened last year: It rained. But today we have beautiful weather, and we hope you have a great time here at the traditional Easter egg roll.

I want to thank all the members of my Cabinet and their family members who are here. I want to thank the children's book authors who are here. And we hope you listen to those who read books to you. We want to encourage you to read a lot. As a matter of fact, we think it's important that you read more than you watch TV.

I want to thank the entertainers who are here. Of course, I want to thank the Easter Bunny. *[Laughter]* We want to thank all the Embassies that are highlighting their spring traditions. I want to thank the volun-

teers who have worked so hard to make this a successful Easter egg roll.

You know, one of the things that children say to me all the time—they say, "I want to come see your home, Mr. President." I said, "This isn't our home. This is your home, and you're welcome to the yard of your home." We're so glad you're here.

Do you know that since 1878, Presidents have hosted this event. And it is our honor to continue this tradition. The first President who did so was a guy named Rutherford B. Hayes. He decided to have the Easter egg roll here at the White House because the Members of the United States Congress said you couldn't be—they wouldn't want to host the Easter egg roll anymore on the congressional grounds.

Just to show you we don't hold a grudge, we've invited Members of the U.S. Congress here. And you're welcome, and thank you all for coming. [Laughter]

I also am really looking forward to starting the Easter egg roll. I want everybody to have a great time here. It is our honor

to host you all. And I'd like to end by this simple—this simple statement: May God bless your families, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Governor George E. Pataki and Mayor Michael Bloomberg and an Exchange With Reporters *April 1, 2002*

Governor's Island Transfer

The President. I have just informed the Governor and the mayor, the Governor of New York and the mayor of New York City, that the Federal Government will transfer Governor's Island to the people of New York. I'll never forget choppering over Governor's Island with George and Rudy Giuliani, Mike Bloomberg's predecessor, and the two leaders talking about what good use Governor's Island could be put to.

Since that time, I've studied the statements of Mayor Bloomberg, who extensively talked about Governor's Island and how to improve Governor's Island and how to make it a center of educational excellence, something dear to George Pataki's heart. I looked at the law, looked at the circumstances, and decided this morning that this was the right thing for the U.S. Government, and it's the right thing for the people of New York.

I appreciate so very much the vision of these two leaders, and I appreciate their heartfelt concern for the citizens of New York City and the region. And so I want to welcome to the Oval Office with this piece of news.

George, why don't you say a few words?
[At this point, Governor Pataki and Mayor Bloomberg made brief remarks.]

The President. I know you will. Thanks.

I'll be glad to answer a few questions.

Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Mr. President, what specifically would you like for Chairman Arafat to do, what specific action you'd like him to take in the Middle East? And in light of the current situation in Israel, does the Bush doctrine on terrorism not apply in this case?

The President. Well, first of all, there will never be peace so long as there's terror. And all of us must fight off—fight terror. And you asked about Chairman Arafat. I'd like to see Chairman Arafat denounce the terrorist activities that are taking place, the constant attacks.

We've got a plan that will lead to peace, the security plan called Tenet; there's a political plan called Mitchell. Both sides have agreed to this plan, and we urge the parties to accept the Tenet plan so that we can bring some—a peaceful resolution to an issue that's affecting the lives of Palestinians and Israelis alike. There's a lot of innocent people who hurt in the region because of the senseless violence and senseless murder.

Q. Mr. President, I'd like to follow up on Sonya's [Sonya Ross, Associated Press] question. Under your doctrine, a terrorist or someone who aids a terrorist is the equivalent of a terrorist. So what's keeping