

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:08 p.m. at the U.S. Secret Service James J. Rowley Training Center. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada;

and ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## The President's Radio Address *April 20, 2002*

Good morning. This week Secretary of State Colin Powell returned from the Middle East and reported on his intensive and productive meetings.

In this region, we are confronting hatred that is centuries old and disputes that have lingered for decades. Yet, America has a vision for peace, and by calling all the leaders of the Middle East to their responsibilities, Secretary Powell made progress toward peace.

To defuse the current crisis, the Palestinian Authority must act on its words of condemnation against terror. Israel must continue its withdrawals. All Arab nations must confront terror in their own region. All parties must stop funding or inciting terror and must state clearly that a murderer is not a martyr; he or she is just a murderer.

All parties must realize that the only long-term solution is for two states, Israel and Palestine, to live side by side in security and peace. This will require hard choices and real leadership by Israelis and Palestinians and their Arab neighbors.

The time is now for all of us to make the choice for peace. America will continue to work toward this vision of peace in the Middle East, and America continues to press forward in our war against global terror. We will use every available tool to tighten the noose around the terrorists and their supporters. And when it comes to the threat of terror, the only path to safety is the path of action.

In the days just after September the 11th, I told the American people our war

against terrorism would be a different war, fought on many fronts. And we are making progress on many fronts. Yesterday the United States and the world's other leading industrialized nations blocked the financial assets of another 10 terrorists and terrorist organizations. This joint action among close allies is an important step in choking off the financial pipeline that pays for terrorist training and attacks.

A total of 161 nations around the world have joined together to block more than \$100 million of suspected terrorist assets. The United States also works with our friends and allies around the world to round up individual terrorists, such as Abu Zubaydah, a top Al Qaida leader captured in Pakistan. From Spain to Singapore, our partners are breaking up terrorist cells and disrupting their plans. Altogether, more than 1,600 terrorists and their supporters have been arrested or detained in 95 foreign nations.

In Afghanistan, the United States and its partners are pressing forward with a military campaign against Al Qaida and the Taliban. More than a dozen of our NATO Allies are contributing forces to this fight. Right now, hundreds of Royal Marines from Great Britain are leading an operation to clear and seal off regions where our enemies are trying to regroup to commit murder and mayhem and to undermine Afghanistan's efforts to build a lasting peace.

And we're working with nations such as Yemen, the Philippines, and Georgia that seek our help in training and equipping

their military forces to fight terror in some of the world's distant corners.

We're making progress. Yet, nothing about this war will be quick or easy. We face dangers and sacrifices ahead. America is ready; the morale of our military is high; the will of our people is strong. We are determined; we are steadfast; and we will continue for as long as it takes, until the mission is done.

Thank you for listening.

## Remarks on Earth Day in Wilmington, New York April 22, 2002

Well, thank you for that warm welcome on a snowy day. [Laughter] We had a great time in the park, and I want to thank you all very much for giving me the opportunity to hammer and stack, place gravel—[laughter]—in a beautiful part of the world. This is quite a sight for a fellow from Texas. [Laughter] It's quite a sight for anybody in America. And George is right, this is some of the most beautiful country in our entire Nation.

I want to thank you all very much for welcoming me here on Earth Day, a day every spring when America can reflect on our natural world and our duties as Americans to do everything we can to promote the spirit of Earth Day. We have a duty in our country to make sure our land is preserved, our air is clean, our water is pure, our parks are accessible and open and well-preserved. And that's why I'm here, to trumpet this duty and to thank those who assume their duty.

I firmly believe that the—32 years after Earth Day, America understands our obligation much more so than in the years past, that we must be careful of our actions. Americans understand that. Good stewardship is a personal responsibility of all of us, and it's a public value. And that's what's important for Americans to understand,

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:10 a.m. on April 19 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 20. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 19 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

that each of us have a responsibility, and it's a part of our value system in our country to assume that responsibility.

Somebody who understands that is the Governor of the State of New York, George Pataki. He's a great Governor; he's a good friend. He wields a pretty mean hammer. [Laughter] I'm proud to call him friend. And I know the people of New York are proud to call him Governor. He's the kind of fellow who does in office that which he says he's going to do. It doesn't matter what your political party is, as far as I'm concerned. What matters is—in this case, what matters is that he does—he kind of defeats cynicism by performing. And therefore, what I was going to say is, it doesn't matter what your party is; you've got to admire that in a man.

I also appreciate Christie Todd Whitman's service to the country. Pataki, me, and Christie Todd were all Governors at one time or another and got to know each other. I knew she was a very good Governor of New Jersey and she'd be a great Administrator of the EPA, and she hasn't let me down.

I want to thank Congressman Sherry Boehlert and John McHugh and John Sweeney for being here as well, the three Congressmen; thank you all for coming.