

terror. The attacks of September the 11th took place in the United States, but their target was freedom, itself. All of Europe and freedom-loving nations everywhere are threatened by these forces of chaos and hatred.

NATO has risen to the challenge, declaring that an attack on one of its members is an attack on all. And NATO nations have made valuable contributions to the war on terror in Afghanistan and elsewhere. NATO must prepare itself to fight and defeat terror and the other threats to freedom that we face together. And new members will help improve NATO's capabilities.

The Prague Summit will mark the beginning of a new era in Europe and in trans-Atlantic relations, defined by greater security and greater prosperity and greater freedom. We will see the great alliance of liberty grow and prepare to fulfill its old mission in a new era. And I am determined to succeed and determined that our chil-

dren will record this year as a momentous turning point in their history.

I wish you success at your meeting. I have met most of you, and I look forward to seeing my good friend Aleksander in a few weeks here in Washington. We have a great opportunity ahead of us. The hopes and prayers of the American people are with you.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 3 p.m. on June 28 in the Blue Room at the White House, for later transmission to the meeting in Riga, Latvia. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 5. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Andris Berzins and President Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia; and President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## Statement on the Death of Ted Williams

July 5, 2002

With the passing of Ted Williams, America lost a baseball legend. Whether serving the country in the Armed Forces or excelling on the baseball diamond, Ted Williams demonstrated unique talent and love of country. He inspired young ballplayers

across the Nation for decades, and we will always remember his persistence on the field and his courage off the field. Ted gave baseball some of its best seasons—and he gave his own best seasons to his country. He will be greatly missed.

## Exchange With Reporters in Kennebunkport, Maine

July 6, 2002

### *President's Birthday Golf Outing*

*The President.* Good morning, everybody.

Q. Happy birthday.

*The President.* That's the way we like it, up and early.

Q. We do too. [Laughter]

*The President.* Up and at 'em. Feeling a little older, if you know what I mean.

David [David Gregory, NBC News], how are you, lad?