

Statement on Senate Action on the Resolution Authorizing the Use of Military Force Against Iraq *October 11, 2002*

With tonight's vote in the United States Senate, America speaks with one voice. The Congress has spoken clearly to the international community and the United Nations Security Council. Saddam Hussein and his outlaw regime pose a grave threat to the region, the world, and the United States. Inaction is not an option; disarmament is a must.

I commend Members of the Senate for the strong bipartisan vote authorizing the use of force if necessary. The Senate, like

the House, conducted this important debate and vote in the finest traditions of our democracy.

Our Nation seeks a more just and more peaceful world. Our nation seeks a safer and better world. America will never waver in its commitment to these ideals.

NOTE: The statement referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Senate received H.J. Res. 114 on October 10 and voted at 12:50 a.m. on October 11.

Remarks on Humanitarian Aid to Afghanistan *October 11, 2002*

Welcome. Please be seated. Thanks for coming. Laura and I appreciate you coming today, and it's a chance to talk about our vision for our friends in Afghanistan.

It was a year ago that American forces were just beginning the liberation of Afghanistan. And on this date last year, a year ago today, I asked the children of America to contribute one dollar to provide food and medical help to the children of Afghanistan. In a year's time after making that request, we've really accomplished a lot. We have. We have seen, of course, the tremendous skill and character of a United States military. We have seen the courage of our allies and our Afghan friends. We have seen the spirit of the Afghan people, who long for freedom. We've seen the great generosity of our fellow Americans extended to men, women, and children on the other side of the Earth.

And yet today I want you all to know and our fellow citizens to know there's still a lot left to do. There's still a lot of work to do in Afghanistan to achieve our dreams

and, more importantly, the dreams of the Afghan people. Today America affirms its full commitment to a future of progress and stability for the Afghan people.

I appreciate so very much the Ambassador for being here. Mr. Ambassador, I want to thank you for your service. The Ambassador is a—was an American citizen until recently. He decided he wanted to serve his country, the land of his birth, renounced his citizenship so he could become the official Ambassador from Afghanistan to the United States. And Ambassador Shahryar is a—is a great man who serves a wonderful example of putting your country above yourself.

And so, Mr. Ambassador, we're honored you're here. I want to thank you—where is he? Oh, Ambassador, you'd think they'd have given you a better seat. [*Laughter*] I'm proud of you. I really am.

I'm also proud of Andrew Natsios, who is our Administrator of USAID. I want to thank him. I'll talk about some of Andy's fellow employees here in a minute and