

May God bless you all. May God bless our family—your families—and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:58 a.m. at the Echo Foxtrot Pier. In his remarks, he

referred to Adm. Robert J. Natter, USN, commander, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Welfare Reform Legislation *February 13, 2003*

I commend the House for acting quickly on bipartisan welfare reform legislation that builds upon our successful efforts that have moved millions of Americans from welfare to work. This compassionate approach will help many more Americans realize a better life of independence, hope, and dignity that comes with having a job. It will also promote strong families and healthy marriages,

while freeing States to seek innovative ways to improve services to those who are transitioning from the welfare rolls to the workforce.

I now urge the Senate to act without delay to strengthen our efforts to help our fellow Americans on welfare achieve independence through work.

Statement on Congressional Action on 2003 Appropriations Legislation *February 13, 2003*

I commend the Congress for finishing work on the 2003 appropriations bills. This budget will provide valuable resources for priorities such as homeland security, military operations, and education, while adher-

ing to the spending restraint set forth in my budget. I look forward to signing this legislation and to continuing a course of fiscal discipline.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of William Donaldson as Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission *February 13, 2003*

I applaud the Senate for acting quickly to confirm William Donaldson to be the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission. In this new role, he will continue to crack down on corporate wrong-

doing, work to protect investors, and restore confidence in our capital markets. I also thank Chairman Shelby, Senator Sarbanes, and the Senate leadership and commend them for their efforts.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Iraq
February 13, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243) and as part of my effort to keep the Congress fully informed, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on matters relevant to that resolution including on matters relating to planning for post-liberation Iraq under section 7 of the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-338). The report also discusses recent developments in the areas previously reported pursuant to sec-

tion 3 of the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102-1) on our efforts to obtain compliance by Iraq with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Remarks on Improving Counterterrorism Intelligence
February 14, 2003

Thanks for the warm welcome. It's nice to be back to the FBI again. The last time I was here was 14 months ago, and our country had just realized we were at war. We had just learned that America was a battlefield. Since the morning this country was attacked on September the 11th, folks in law enforcement all around the country have been working under urgent and difficult circumstances. And the first thing I want to tell you all is that this Nation is grateful for your hard work.

Across the world we are tracking and confronting and defeating international terror. Within our own country, we're taking unprecedented measures to protect the American people against a serious and continuing danger. There is no such thing as perfect security against a hidden network of coldblooded killers. Yet, abroad and at home, we're not going to wait until the worst dangers are upon us. We continue to be in a state of war, but we're making progress. And today I want to talk about the Terrorist Threat Integration Center,

which will help us meet the challenges of war, will help us do everything we can to say clearly to the American people, "We're working overtime to protect you. We're doing everything in our power to make sure the homeland is secure."

The officials who are present here represent thousands of patriotic Americans who know that we've been called into action, that this is a new era. One of the reasons I express such confidence in the country is because I understand the character of the people who have been called into action. And there's no doubt in my mind we will prevail.

I want to thank Attorney General John Ashcroft for doing such a fabulous job at the Department of Justice. He's assembled a fantastic team which is representing our country with distinction. I want to thank Tom Ridge for becoming the first Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. I want to thank Wolfowitz and Armitage, who are up here with us—two