

worthy of all the acts of heroism and generosity that have come before.

Once again, we are applying the power of our country to ensure our security and to serve the cause of justice. And we will prevail.

Our armed services have performed brilliantly in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Moving a massive force over 200 miles of enemy territory in a matter of days is a superb achievement. Yet there is work ahead for our coalition, for the American Armed Forces, and for the United States Marines. Having traveled hundreds of miles, we will now go the last 200 yards. The course is set. We're on the advance. Our destination

is Baghdad, and we will accept nothing less than complete and final victory.

May God bless our country and all who defend her. *Semper fi.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:40 a.m. at W.P.T. Hill Field. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. David Mize, USMC, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune; Maj. Gen. John Castellaw, USMC, commanding general, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing; Mayor Elsie P. Smith of Jacksonville, NC; country music group Lonestar; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Reallocation of Emergency Response Funds

*April 3, 2003*

*Dear Mr. Speaker:*

In order to continue the investigation into the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, I am notifying the Congress of my intent to reallocate funds previously transferred from the Emergency Response Fund (ERF).

At this time, \$9 million of ERF funds will be transferred to the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States to ensure that it has the necessary resources to investigate fully the terrible tragedy of September 11, 2001. My Administration is strongly committed to the pur-

pose and mission of the Commission and will continue to cooperate with the Commission in accordance with applicable law to help ensure that it succeeds. I expect that the Commission's final report will contain important recommendations.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

## Statement on Congressional Action on Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Legislation

*April 4, 2003*

I commend the Congress for responding with bipartisan cooperation and speed to my request for supplemental war funding.

The House and Senate took strong and decisive action to provide our troops with the resources necessary to fight and win the

war in Iraq, to respond to increased homeland security needs, and to strengthen the capabilities of our allies. As the bills go to conference, we will seek to combine the best elements of the House and Senate bills

to help ensure that the final legislation includes both the funding and flexibility necessary to respond quickly and effectively to any changing needs at home and abroad.

## The President's Radio Address *April 5, 2003*

Good morning. American and coalition forces are steadily advancing against the regime of Saddam Hussein. With each new village they liberate, our forces are learning more about the atrocities of that regime and the deep fear the dictator has instilled in the Iraqi people. Yet no crime of this dying regime will divert us from our mission. We will not stop until Iraq is free.

This week, coalition forces have been clearing southern cities and towns of Saddam's death squads and enforcers. Our special forces and Army paratroopers, working with Kurdish militia, have opened a northern front against the enemy. In the town of An Najaf, members of our 101st Airborne Division have been welcomed as liberators. At An Nasiriyah, marines continue to eliminate the enemy while other Army and Marine units have closed in on Baghdad. From the skies above, coalition aircraft and cruise missiles are removing hundreds of military targets from the map.

As the vise tightens on the Iraqi regime, some of our enemies have chosen to fill their final days with acts of cowardice and murder. In combat, Saddam's thugs shield themselves with women and children. They have killed Iraqi citizens who welcome coalition troops, and they have forced other Iraqis into battle by threatening to torture or kill their families. They have executed prisoners of war, waged attacks under the white flag of truce, and concealed combat forces in civilian neighborhoods, schools, hospitals, and mosques. In this war, the Iraqi regime is terrorizing its own citizens,

doing everything possible to maximize Iraqi civilian casualties and then to exploit the deaths they have caused for propaganda. These are war criminals, and they'll be treated as war criminals.

In stark contrast, the citizens of Iraq are coming to know what kind of people we have sent to liberate them. American forces and our allies are treating innocent civilians with kindness and showing proper respect to the soldiers who surrender. The people of the United States are proud of the honorable conduct of our military. And I am proud to lead such brave and decent Americans.

In recent days, we have also brought food and water and medicine to the Iraqi people. We're delivering emergency rations to the hungry. Right now, cargo ships are bound for Iraq, carrying wheat from Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas—enough to feed 4.5 million Iraqis for 1 month. Additional food, supplied by the World Food Program, is moving by truck convoy across the Turkish border into northern Iraq.

We are bringing aid to the long-suffering people of Iraq, and we are bringing something more. We are bringing hope. One Iraqi, when the coalition troops arrived, described the emotions of his village. "They were waiting for you," he said, "and all the people believe that America and Britain have come to liberate them, not to conquer."

Village by village, city by city, liberation is coming. The people of Iraq have my pledge: Our fighting forces will press on