

The United States and its coalition partners respect the people of Iraq. We are taking unprecedented measures to spare the lives of innocent Iraqi citizens. We are beginning to deliver food and water and medicine to those in need. Our only enemy is Saddam and his brutal regime, and that regime is your enemy as well.

In the new era that is coming to Iraq, your country will no longer be held captive to the will of a cruel dictator. You will be free—free to build a better life instead of building more palaces for Saddam and his sons, free to pursue economic prosperity without the hardship of economic sanctions, free to travel and free to speak your mind, free to join in the political affairs of Iraq. And all the people who make up your country—Kurds, Shi'a, Turkomans, Sunnis, and others—will be free of the ter-

rible persecution that so many have endured.

The nightmare that Saddam Hussein has brought to your nation will soon be over. You are a good and gifted people, the heirs of a great civilization that contributes to all humanity. You deserve better than tyranny and corruption and torture chambers. You deserve to live as free people. And I assure every citizen of Iraq: Your nation will soon be free.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at 11:30 a.m. on April 8 in the small dining room at Hillsborough Castle in Northern Ireland for later broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary released the remarks on April 10 and also released an Arabic language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Congressional Action on Amber Alert System Legislation *April 10, 2003*

I applaud the House and Senate for passing bipartisan legislation that provides us with additional tools to prevent, investigate, and prosecute violent crimes against our children. This legislation builds upon the steps my administration took last year to expand, enhance, and coordinate the successful Amber Alert system across the Nation. The bill also strengthens child pornography laws.

The safety and well-being of our children is a shared priority for all Americans and Federal, State, and local authorities. We must use every available resource to find and safely return missing children to their families and their homes, and we must use every available tool to vigorously prosecute and severely punish those who would do our children harm. I look forward to signing this important legislation into law as soon as possible.

Message to Participants in National Youth Service Day *April 10, 2003*

I send greetings to those participating in National Youth Service Day.

Since our Nation's founding, volunteer service has been a vital part of the Amer-

ican experience. Service to others is an expression of responsible citizenship, and now more than ever is a time for our Nation's