

for all temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and U.S. individual civilians retained as contractors involved in the antinarcotics campaign in Colombia.”

In so doing, I note and appreciate the continued strong bipartisan support given to U.S. programs assisting Colombia in the Act and elsewhere.

This report is classified because of force protection considerations and the high level of terrorist threat in Colombia. However, the aggregate numbers given below are unclassified.

The report indicates that as of November 13, 2002, the end of this reporting period, there were 267 temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and 270 U.S. civil-

ians retained as individual contractors in Colombia involved in supporting Plan Colombia. This report further indicates that during September, October, and November 2002, these figures never exceeded the ceilings established in section 3204(b) of the Act, as amended.

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. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 14.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland and an Exchange With Reporters *January 14, 2003*

President Bush. What we’re going to do here is have a couple of opening statements, two questions from the American press, two questions from the Polish press.

Let me first start by saying how much I’m honored that my friend the President of Poland is back in Washington. We’re thrilled you’re here. My only regret is that you didn’t bring your beautiful wife with you, the First Lady of Poland.

But we’re here to have a substantive talk on a lot of issues, issues ranging from the war on terror to the recent decision by the Polish Government on the purchase of U.S.-made aircraft, how best to implement that decision, to let the Polish people benefit so the decision is not only good for the defense ministry of Poland, but it’s good for the people of Poland.

And the President cares deeply about the people of Poland, and we’ll have a good discussion along those lines. I’ve got no better friend in Europe today than Poland. One of the reasons why is because this

man has made a commitment to work together, as equal partners, in the war on terror, on the desire to lift the—find freedom for people who live in misery.

And so Mr. President, we’re so glad you’re back, and welcome back to the Oval Office.

President Kwasniewski. Thank you.

President Bush. I appreciate you.

President Kwasniewski. Mr. President, dear friends, so after very short time—because I paid official visit to the United States July last year—I am again in Oval Office, in White House in Washington, and I think this is a good sign that our cooperation, our relations are very active and very friendly.

Now we’ll have consultations. We will discuss all the problems concerning war against terror, at the national situation. And I think today is the best time to discuss, because before action, before last decisions, it’s necessary to exchange opinions, of experiences, of some ideas. And that is very

substantial element of my trip to Washington now.

Second, what President Bush mentioned, Poland decided to have your fighter F-16. It was very transparent, very open, and very well prepared tender, and I think we have a chance not only to have good place for Polish army, not only to have a good contribution to our NATO membership, but we have a chance to open new chapter in the economic relations between Poland and United States, and this is the next reason of my visit and of our discussion.

America has unique chance to accelerate economic activities, investment activities in Poland. We are open, we are prepared, we have good practice, we have specialists. And what is my satisfaction, America wants to do it. That's what is good news, good message for all of us here in the United States and Poland as well.

President Bush. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

North Korea

Q. Thank you, sir. Jack Kelly has very publicly promised North Korea energy aid in exchange for Pyongyang giving up its nuclear program. Isn't that rewarding North Korea for bad behavior, something you promised never to do?

President Bush. First of all, there's a big concern here in our country about North Korea, and I'm absolutely convinced this issue will be solved in a peaceful way. I want to remind the American people that prior to North Korea making the decision it made, that I had instructed our Secretary of State to approach North Korea about a bold initiative, an initiative which would talk about energy and food, because we care deeply about the suffering of the North Korean people.

And then the North Koreans made a decision. And the decision they made was to ignore international norm, ignore treaties that they had—agreements that they had reached and start building potential nuclear weapons, enriching uranium. And now they

have expelled—are in the process of kicking out IAEA* people.

I view this as an opportunity to bind together nations in the neighborhood and around the world to make it clear to the North Koreans that we expect this issue to be resolved peacefully, and we expect them to disarm. We expect them not to develop nuclear weapons. And if they so choose to do so—their choice—then I will reconsider whether or not we will start the bold initiative that I talked to Secretary Powell about.

People say, "Well, are you willing to talk to North Korea?" Of course we are. But what this Nation won't do is be blackmailed. And what this Nation will do is use this as an opportunity to bring the Chinese and the Russians and South Koreans and the Japanese to the table to solve this problem peacefully.

President Kwasniewski. I agree. I think in the Korean case absolutely not to compare with Iraq's case. And we have a chance to discuss about North Korea with very serious partners which are thinking the same way; I mean Japan, Russia, China, South Korea. We have a chance to propose something very positive to North Korea, maybe not for regime—because when I read some information about this regime, it's not so easy to propose something—something special. But absolutely, I am sure that we have enough possibilities to propose positive solution for this case, but with all international partners.

President Bush. Would you care to call on somebody from Poland, Polish press?

War on Terror

Q. Can the war of terror be decisively won? This is a question for both Presidents. And what would be Poland's role in the war of terror—on terror?

President Bush. Let me start. You bet the war on terror can be won. And not only can it be won; we're going to win

* White House correction.

it. And the way you win it is you work together. You share intelligence. You complement each other's efforts. If we find somebody thinking about doing something to our friends in Poland, we'll share the information with this Government and vice versa. We will work together to cut off money. And we will hunt the killers down, one at a time. And that's exactly what we are doing and exactly what we are going to do.

We're going to find them. They think they can hide in a cave in the outer reaches of Afghanistan. We will go in the cave and find them. And one by one, we are dismantling this terrorist network. It requires a lot of communication. It requires a lot of cooperation. And it requires a lot of patience. And this Government has got all three.

Polish American Community

Q. Mr. President, there are 10 million of the Polish Americans in the United States. What is your perception about the Polish Americans?

President Bush. I think that one of the greatest contributions to Poland—to our country is Polish Americans, people who are enterprising, hard-working, God-fearing, family-loving people. One of the great strengths of our country is our diversity, and part of our diversity is the fact that a lot of our citizens were born in Poland and/or their fathers and mothers were born in Poland or their grandparents were born in Poland. Truly, one of the great blessings

and gifts from Poland to this country is the Polish heritage.

Scott.

Q. Sir, Mr. President, the U.N. weapons inspectors say they need until—

President Bush. I mean Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters]. Is your name Steve or Scott?

U.N. Weapons Inspectors

Q. The weapons inspectors say they need until March, maybe 6 months, maybe a year. Is this what you had in mind when you went to the U.N. back in September?

President Bush. What I have in mind for Saddam Hussein is to disarm. The United Nations spoke with one voice. We said, "We expect Saddam Hussein, for the sake of peace, to disarm." That's the question: Is Saddam Hussein disarming? He's been given 11 years to disarm. And so the world came together, and we have given him one last chance to disarm. So far, I haven't seen any evidence that he is disarming.

Time is running out on Saddam Hussein. He must disarm. I'm sick and tired of games and deception. And that's my view of timetables.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:28 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Jolanta Kwasniewska, wife of President Kwasniewski; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A reporter referred to Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs James A. Kelly.

Remarks to Welfare-to-Work Graduates *January 14, 2003*

The President. Thank you all for coming. Please be seated. Thanks for coming, and welcome to the White House. I'm especially pleased to welcome the—our fine fel-

low citizens who have lifted themselves out of poverty. I welcome you all here. You're fantastic examples of what is possible in