

May 19 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2003

Madam President, it will be my pleasure to visit the Philippines later this year, with you as my host. And Laura and I and the American people are honored to have you and your husband as our guests here tonight. Would you please join me in a toast to the enduring friendship between the Philippines and the United States.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:33 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Jose Miguel Arroyo, husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Trade and Investment Policy for Sub-Saharan Africa and Implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act

May 19, 2003

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration entitled “2003 Comprehensive Report on U.S. Trade and Investment Policy for Sub-Saha-

ran Africa and Implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.”

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
May 19, 2003.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 20.

Remarks on the Healthy Forests Initiative

May 20, 2003

Thanks for coming, and good morning. I welcome you all to the White House, and I'm pleased all of you could be here to support the preservation of a great American treasure, our forests.

Nine months ago, I stood at the scene of Squires Peak fire in Oregon. On one side of a dirt road, where small trees and underbrush had been removed before the fire rolled through, the forest was green and alive. On the other side of the road, where a similar thinning project had been stalled by lawsuits, the landscape was charred, and the trees looked like matchsticks. The contrast between these two

sides of the forest was startling, and it was tragic.

Active forest management could have saved both areas. It could have saved millions more acres across America from the devastation of severe forest fires and insect damage. Yet, for too many years, bureaucratic tangles and bad forest policy have prevented foresters from keeping our woodlands healthy and safe. The cost to America has been high, in the loss of lives and property and in the destruction of woodlands and wildlife.

No region in America is immune to this problem. Wildfires, diseases, and insect infestations threaten the habitat of animals