

Statement on Congressional Action on Legislation To Strengthen
AmeriCorps
June 19, 2003

I commend Congress, particularly Senators Bond and Mikulski and Representatives Boehner and Hoekstra, for working with my administration and taking swift action to pass the “Strengthen AmeriCorps Program Act.” The bill establishes accounting guidelines for the Corporation for National and Community Service that will help put AmeriCorps on a sound financial footing. It is also the essential first step toward maximizing enrollment this year to

benefit the nonprofit organizations that count on AmeriCorps members to offer help and hope to people in communities across the country.

I hope Congress will continue to show strong support for my effort to help every American answer the call to volunteer service and act quickly to strengthen and expand national service by passing the “Citizen Service Act.”

Message on the Observance of Juneteenth, 2003
June 19, 2003

I send greetings to those celebrating Juneteenth.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring “that all persons held as slaves” within the rebellious states “are, and henceforward shall be, free.” This news reached slaves slowly as word was passed by Union soldiers and individual plantation owners. Almost two years later, on June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to declare the end of the Civil War and the freedom of the slaves.

Juneteenth commemorates General Granger’s announcement and provides an opportunity for people across America to

celebrate the end of slavery and the joy of freedom. On this day, I encourage all citizens to learn more about the rich heritage of African Americans and their many contributions to our Nation. With knowledge and understanding, we will continue our efforts to ensure that our society provides the opportunity for every person, of every race, to realize the promise of America.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a memorable celebration.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of
Brazil
June 20, 2003

President Bush. It’s my honor to welcome the President of our friend Brazil

to the Oval Office. This is the third meeting I will have had with the President. It

shows how important our relationship is. Brazil is an incredibly important part of a peaceful and prosperous North and South America. I can say that from the perspective of the United States, this relationship is a vital and important and growing relationship.

On a personal perspective, I'm very impressed by the vision of the President of Brazil. He's a man who clearly has deep concerns for all the people of Brazil. He not only has a tremendous heart, but he's got the abilities to work closely with his Government and the people of Brazil to encourage prosperity and to end hunger. And today the people of both our countries will see a series of initiatives on a variety of fronts, which indicate that this relationship is a mature relationship and an important relationship.

And Mr. President, I'm honored you're here with us today. Welcome. Thank you, sir.

President Lula da Silva. I think that it's very important in our third meeting that we should make it clear to the public opinion—to Brazilian and American public opinion—about the relationship between Brazil and the United States. It is a very strong relationship; it has been in existence for a long period. I always believe that it is possible to even improve more these relationships. Since the last time I was here, on December the 10th of last year, still as President-elect, I went back to Brazil with a certainty that Brazil and the United States do have the possibility—can have the

most profitable relationship with the United States. And this relationship between Brazil and the United States should be on the basis of sincerity between people, on the reliability that the leadership must have, and not just build up a spectacle for the press and for the public.

I learned during my past life to—I learned how to deal with people on the basis of trust. And I believe that Brazil is and can continue to be a good partner of the United States. We have many things in common. And certainly, this meeting that we are accomplishing today, this is a novelty. It's not a summit meeting with two Presidents, but it's a meeting that has Cabinet members of both Governments, so that from this meeting onwards, our ministers can continue to work together independently of the two Presidents. And without any question, I believe that we can surprise the world in terms of the relationship of Brazil and the United States.

And I hope that soon we will have a meeting in Brazil so that President Bush can personally see the dimensions and size of our country, that Brazil is not just Carnival and it's not only soccer. We have other marvelous things in the country.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Thank you all for coming. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. President Lula da Silva spoke in Portuguese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and the Federative Republic of Brazil

June 20, 2003

The United States and Brazil resolve to create a closer and qualitatively stronger relationship between our two countries. It is time to chart a newly purposeful direc-

tion in our relationship, guided by a shared vision of freedom, democracy, peace, prosperity, and well-being for our peoples, in