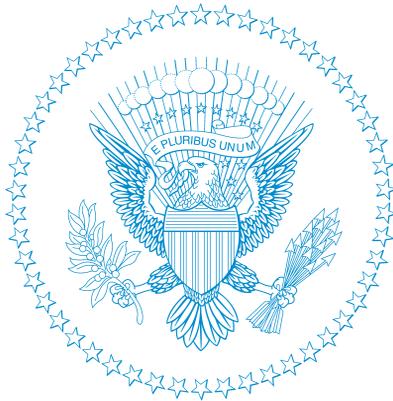


PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS
OF THE
UNITED STATES

PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS
OF THE
UNITED STATES

George W. Bush



2003

(IN TWO BOOKS)

BOOK I—JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 2003



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Foreword

This volume collects my speeches, major statements, and papers from the first 6 months of 2003.

The year began with Saddam Hussein still defying the world. For more than a decade, the United States and other nations had sought through patient diplomacy to disarm the Iraqi regime of its weapons programs and to have international inspectors verify this disarmament. These efforts had not been successful. In November 2002, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1441, which declared Hussein's regime in material breach of its longstanding obligations—and vowed serious consequences if Iraq continued its violations of U.N. resolutions. Saddam Hussein offered no proof that he had abandoned his weapons programs, and he continued to deceive weapons inspectors.

We knew that Saddam Hussein had a long history of aggression, that he had developed and used weapons of mass destruction in the past, and that he had cultivated ties to terrorist groups and had harbored known terrorists. And we knew that in a post-September 11th world, America must confront gathering threats before it is too late. We gave Saddam Hussein another chance, a final chance, to meet his responsibilities to the civilized world—and again, he refused. By mid-March, we had exhausted all diplomatic options. Faced with continued defiance from Baghdad, America and its allies were obligated to enforce the just demands of the world.

On my orders, on March 19 our Armed Forces began striking selected military targets to undermine Saddam Hussein's ability to wage war. In one of the swiftest advances of heavy arms in history, our Marines and soldiers charged to Baghdad across 350 miles of hostile ground, alongside troops from other coalition countries. By April, the world was watching Iraqis pull down a statue of their former dictator.

As the Iraqi people celebrated the end of Saddam Hussein's dictatorship, we mourned the loss of the brave men and women in the coalition forces who gave their lives in battle. We also recognized that many difficult challenges remained to secure peace and freedom in Iraq and that the transition would take time. Many of the old regime's leaders were still at large, parts of Iraq remained dangerous, and basic services needed to be reestablished. The highest priority was to replace Saddam Hussein's tyranny with a government of, by, and for the Iraqi people.

The liberation of Iraq was part of a broader American effort to combat terrorism, promote peace, and bring hope to the suffering. In my January 2003 State of the Union address, I proposed a historic \$15 billion initiative to address the worldwide HIV/AIDS pandemic. I also announced Project Bioshield, a new initiative to develop vaccines and other countermeasures against biological weapons and other dangerous agents, as well as the creation of a new office to merge and analyze all threat infor-

mation in a single location. To enhance protection of the homeland, the new Department of Homeland Security began operations in March. That same month, our actions to disrupt the al-Qaida terrorist network continued to progress when American and Pakistani authorities captured Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, a mastermind of the September 11th attacks on our country.

At home, my Administration worked with Congress to address a number of priorities, including a broad reform of Medicare that would add a prescription drug benefit and give seniors more choices and control over their health care. In April, I signed into law the PROTECT Act, which gave law enforcement additional tools to prevent, investigate, and prosecute violent crimes against children. And to speed our economic recovery and help create jobs, in May I signed into law the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act, which delivered substantial tax relief to tens of millions of Americans. It reduced taxes for everyone who pays income taxes, increased the child tax credit, cut taxes on dividends and capital gains, and gave small business owners incentives to invest for the future.

As we pursued our goals at home and abroad, our Nation was saddened by the tragic loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia in February. From the bravery of our astronauts, to the valor of our soldiers charging through sandstorms to liberate millions, the daring and decent character of our country was evident during the first 6 months of 2003.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. W. Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Preface

This book contains the papers and speeches of the 43d President of the United States that were issued by the Office of the Press Secretary during the period January 1–June 30, 2003. The material has been compiled and published by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration.

The material is presented in chronological order, and the dates shown in the headings are the dates of the documents or events. In instances when the release date differs from the date of the document itself, that fact is shown in the textnote. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy: Remarks are checked against a tape recording, and signed documents are checked against the original. Textnotes and cross references have been provided by the editors for purposes of identification or clarity. Speeches were delivered in Washington, DC, unless indicated. The times noted are local times. All materials that are printed full-text in the book have been indexed in the subject and name indexes, and listed in the document categories list.

The Public Papers of the Presidents series was begun in 1957 in response to a recommendation of the National Historical Publications Commission. An extensive compilation of messages and papers of the Presidents covering the period 1789 to 1897 was assembled by James D. Richardson and published under congressional authority between 1896 and 1899. Since then, various private compilations have been issued, but there was no uniform publication comparable to the Congressional Record or the United States Supreme Court Reports. Many Presidential papers could be found only in the form of mimeographed White House releases or as reported in the press. The Commission therefore recommended the establishment of an official series in which Presidential writings, addresses, and remarks of a public nature could be made available.

The Commission's recommendation was incorporated in regulations of the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, issued under section 6 of the Federal Register Act (44 U.S.C. 1506), which may be found in title 1, part 10, of the Code of Federal Regulations.

A companion publication to the Public Papers series, the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, was begun in 1965 to provide a broader range of Presidential materials on a more timely basis to meet the needs of the contemporary reader. Beginning with the administration of Jimmy Carter, the Public Papers series expanded its coverage to include additional material as printed in the Weekly Compilation. That coverage provides a listing of the President's daily schedule and meetings, when announced, and other items of general interest issued by the Office of

the Press Secretary. Also included are lists of the President's nominations submitted to the Senate, materials released by the Office of the Press Secretary that are not printed full-text in the book, and proclamations, Executive orders, and other Presidential documents released by the Office of the Press Secretary and published in the *Federal Register*. This information appears in the appendixes at the end of the book.

Volumes covering the administrations of Presidents Herbert Hoover, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Bush, and William J. Clinton are also included in the Public Papers series.

The Public Papers of the Presidents publication program is under the direction of Frances D. McDonald, Managing Editor, Office of the Federal Register. The series is produced by the Presidential and Legislative Publications Unit, Gwendolyn J. Henderson, Chief. The Chief Editor of this book was Stacey A. Mulligan, assisted by Karen Howard Ashlin, William K. Banks, Loretta F. Cochran, Kathleen M. Fargey, Stephen J. Frattini, Alison M. Gavin, Christopher Gushman, Alfred Jones, and Michael J. Sullivan.

The frontispiece and photographs used in the portfolio were supplied by the White House Photo Office. The typography and design of the book were developed by the Government Printing Office under the direction of Bruce R. James, Public Printer.

Raymond A. Mosley
Director of the Federal Register

Allen Weinstein
Archivist of the United States

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and Budget Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.

Director of National Drug Control
Policy John P. Walters

Administration of George W. Bush

2003