

condemnation if they continue with a nuclear weapons program. And I will tell you, the response was very positive. People understand the danger of the Iranians have a nuclear weapons program. But you bet; I'll talk to President Putin about it this weekend.

Saddam Hussein/Lessons of 9/11

Q. Sir, in February of 2001, your Secretary of State said that the sanctions against Iraq had prevented Saddam from developing any significant capability with respect to weapons of mass destruction. A year-and-a-half later, before the U.N., you called Saddam a grave and gathering danger. And I'm wondering, what changed in that time? Was it the nature of the threat? Did you get new intelligence? Or did 9/11 put a new—set a new playing field for those—

The President. Yes, the Secretary of State said the same thing as well, that Saddam was a threat. Nine-eleven changed my calculation. It made it really clear we have to deal with threats before they come on our shore. You know, for a long period

of time we thought oceans could protect us from danger, and we learned a tough lesson on September the 11th. It's really important for this Nation to continue to chase down and deal with threats before they materialize, and we learned that on September the 11th.

OPEC Production Cuts/National Economy

Q. Mr. President?

The President. Yes.

Q. OPEC yesterday announced an agreement to cut oil production by 3.5 percent.

The President. Yes.

Q. What is your reaction to that? What do you think of it? And what are the consequences for the U.S. economy?

The President. My reaction is, is that I would hope our friends in OPEC don't do things that would hurt our economy.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:19 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the National Do-Not-Call Registry
September 25, 2003

Unwanted telemarketing calls are intrusive, annoying, and all too common. When Americans are sitting down to dinner or parents are reading to their children, the last thing they want is a call from a stranger with a sales pitch.

For that reason, I have strongly supported the actions of the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Communications Commission to establish a National

Do-Not-Call Registry and protect consumers.

The millions of people who have signed up for the list have the right to reduce unwanted telephone solicitations. I commend Congress for its rapid action to support the Registry, and I look forward to signing this legislation.