

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:02 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Remarks Announcing the Nomination of John D. Negroponte To Be  
Ambassador to Iraq  
*April 19, 2004*

*The President.* Today I'm announcing my intention to nominate Ambassador John Negroponte as the Ambassador to Iraq. Ambassador Negroponte now serves our Nation at the United Nations as the Ambassador there. He has done a really good job of speaking for the United States to the world about our intentions to spread freedom and peace. John Negroponte is a man of enormous experience and skill. Therefore, I'm comfortable in asking him to serve in this very difficult assignment. No doubt in my mind he can handle it. No doubt in my mind he'll do a very good

job. And there's no doubt in my mind that Iraq will be free and democratic and peaceful.

So, John, thank you for agreeing to serve your country yet once again. I'm proud of your service. Good luck to you. Thank you.

*Ambassador Negroponte.* Thank you very much, Mr. President. Thank you.

*The President.* You bet.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:51 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks in Hershey, Pennsylvania  
*April 19, 2004*

Thank you all very much. Thanks for letting me come. [*Laughter*] It's good to be here in Hershey, Pennsylvania. For a fellow who likes chocolate—[*laughter*—this is a special place. I know that Milton Hershey, who was one of the country's great entrepreneurs, would be incredibly proud of the way this community has prospered and grown. I bet he'd be especially proud of the hospital that we saw coming in. The Senators with whom I was traveling pointed out the fantastic hospital facilities. I'm told that this is a community where people really care deeply about their neighbors and the quality of life in the community in which they live. And so I want to thank the citizens from Hershey for being so gra-

cious and warm and setting such a good example.

I want to thank the community leaders who are here from around the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I appreciate your service to our country. It's a tough job to serve at the local level. [*Laughter*] When things go wrong, your name is right there in the phonebook. [*Laughter*] But we share a common calling, and that's public service, serving our Nation. I want to thank you for doing what you're doing. It's such an honor, isn't it, to serve the people of our respective communities and our Nation.

And you and I know what our first responsibility is. The first responsibility,