

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:05 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. The Black Music Month proclamation of June 22

is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Message to the Congress Reporting on Iceland's Lethal Research Whaling Program

June 22, 2004

*To the Congress of the United States:*

On June 16, 2004, Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans certified under section 8 of the Fisherman's Protective Act of 1967, as amended (the "Pelly Amendment") (22 U.S.C. 1978), that Iceland has conducted whaling activities that diminish the effectiveness of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) conservation program. This message constitutes my report to the Congress consistent with subsection (b) of the Pelly Amendment.

The certification of the Secretary of Commerce is the first against Iceland for its lethal research whaling program. In 2003, Iceland announced that it would begin a lethal research whaling program and planned to take 250 minke, fin, and sei whales for research purposes. The United States expressed strong opposition to Iceland's decision, in keeping with our longstanding policy against lethal research whaling. Iceland's proposal was criticized at the June 2003 IWC Annual Meeting by a majority of members of the IWC Scientific Committee, and the IWC passed a resolution that urged Iceland not to commence this program. In addition, the United States, along with 22 other nations, issued a joint protest asking Iceland to halt the program immediately. The United States believes the Icelandic research whaling program is of questionable scientific validity. Scientific data relevant to the management of whale stocks can be collected by non-lethal techniques. Since Iceland's 2003 announcement, Iceland reduced its proposed take to 38 minke whales and in

implementing its lethal research program, killed 36 whales last year. For this year, Iceland has proposed taking 25 minke whales. The United States welcomes this decision to reduce the take and to limit it to minke whales, and we appreciate Iceland's constructive work with the United States at the IWC on a variety of whaling issues. These adjustments, however, do not change our assessment that Iceland's lethal research whaling program is of questionable scientific validity and diminishes the effectiveness of the IWC's conservation program.

In his letter of June 16, 2004, Secretary Evans expressed his concern for these actions, and I share these concerns. I also concur in his recommendation that the use of trade sanctions is not the course of action needed to resolve our current differences with Iceland over research whaling activities. Accordingly, I am not directing the Secretary of the Treasury to impose trade sanctions on Icelandic products for the whaling activities that led to certification by the Secretary of Commerce. However, to ensure that this issue continues to receive the highest level of attention, I am directing U.S. delegations attending future bilateral meetings with Iceland regarding whaling issues to raise our concerns and seek ways to halt these whaling actions. I am also directing the Secretaries of State and Commerce to keep this situation under close review and to continue to work with Iceland to encourage it to cease its lethal scientific research whaling activities. I believe these diplomatic efforts

hold the most promise of effecting change in Iceland's research whaling program, and

do not believe that imposing import prohibitions would further our objectives.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,  
June 22, 2004.

Remarks in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
*June 23, 2004*

Thank you all. Thanks for coming. Please be seated. Thanks for coming. The person who introduces me in the White House better look out for his job. *[Laughter]* Your mother said, "Get out of the middle of the road when a truck is coming." My mother said, "Keep your speeches short." *[Laughter]*

Thanks for having me. It's great to be back in this compassionate city. I think it's called the City of Brotherly Love, and that's what we're here to talk about today, is brotherly love.

First I want to thank my friend Herb Lusk for inviting me back to the Greater Exodus Baptist Church. I've been here before, the Fourth of July, and I don't remember this building being here. At the time I said, "Herb is a social entrepreneur who can make things happen." We're in this beautiful building because he made things happen. He believes, as I do, in the power of faith to touch every heart and to change every life.

That's kind of the motto or the philosophy of the programs that emanate from this church. He is a—he takes his admonition to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself seriously, and so do the people who attend this church.

I want to remind you that not only is there great spirituality here, but this is a church that trains people coming off welfare rolls to find work. Isn't that a wonderful—*[applause]*. This is a church which helps feed the hungry and finds shelter for the homeless, a church that helps families

to stay together. This is a church that is giving generously of time and money. Herb Lusk is a general in the army of compassion.

This is a—and the other thing this church is doing is sending donations to fight AIDS around the world. I'm here to thank the church for doing that. I want to thank all the churches in the greater Philadelphia area for the Stand for Africa Campaign. This is a great example of how people of faith can become involved in saving lives. It's a fine example for every American, faith or no faith.

HIV/AIDS, you see, is a challenge. It's a direct challenge to the compassion of our country and to the welfare of not only our Nation but nations all across the globe. It's really one of the great challenges of our time. This disease leaves suffering and orphans and fear wherever it reaches.

Every man and woman and child who suffers from this addiction, from the streets of Philly to the villages of Africa, is a child of God who deserves our love and our help. And that's what I'm here to talk about today. We're provided—we're determined to provide that help. We're committed to help those at home and help those abroad. To whom much has been given, much is demanded.

I want to thank Tommy Thompson for being here. He's one of the ones I demand that he do his job to make sure that we do the best we can in America to help those who hurt. And Tommy is the—he's the head of the Department of Health and