

As we all did that day, these men and women searching through the rubble took it personally. I took it personally. I have a responsibility that goes on. I will never relent in bringing justice to our enemies. I will defend our country, whatever it takes. [Applause] Thank you all.

In these times, I have also been witness to the character of this Nation. I've seen the unselfish courage of our troops. I've seen the heroism of Americans in the face of danger. I've seen the spirit of service and compassion renewed in this country. And we've all seen our Nation unite in common purpose when it mattered most. We will need all these qualities for the work ahead. We have a war to win, and

the world is counting on us to lead the cause of freedom and peace.

We have a duty to work to spread opportunity to every corner of our country. This is the work that history has set before us. We welcome it. And we know that for our blessed Nation, the best days lie ahead.

Thanks for coming. Proud you're here. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:08 p.m. at the Raleigh County Armory Civic Center. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and A.Q. Khan, former head of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Funding for the
Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States
Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction
July 16, 2004

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In order to ensure the most effective counter-proliferation capabilities of the United States and respond effectively to the ongoing threat of terrorist activity, I am notifying the Congress of my intent to transfer \$10 million from funds provided in Public Law 107-38, the 2001 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Acts on the United States, to the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (the "Commission").

These funds are necessary to support the essential activities of the Commission in assessing the capabilities and challenges of the intelligence community regarding the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

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

July 16 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2004

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Review of Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996

July 16, 2004

Dear _____:

Consistent with section 306(c)(2) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-114), (the “Act”), I hereby determine and report to the Congress that suspension for 6 months beginning August 1, 2004, of the right to bring an action under title III of the Act is necessary to the national interests of the United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Richard G. Lugar, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Ted Stevens, chairman, and Robert C. Byrd, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations.

Message to the Senate Transmitting a Protocol Amending the Netherlands-United States Convention on Taxation

July 16, 2004

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the Protocol Amending the Convention Between the United States of America and the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed at Washington, D.C., on March 8, 2004. Transmitted for the Senate’s information is an exchange of notes with an attached Understanding, which provides clarification with respect to the application of the Convention, as amended, in specific cases. Also transmitted for the information of the Senate is the report of the Department of State with respect to the Protocol.

The Protocol would bring the existing Convention into closer conformity with current U.S. tax treaty policy. As modified by the Protocol, the Convention would be similar to tax treaties between the United

States and other developed nations. The Protocol was concluded in recognition of the importance of the United States’ economic relations with the Netherlands.

The Protocol would modify the treatment of certain cross-border dividend payments and would modernize the Convention’s anti-treaty-shopping provisions. The Protocol also would liberalize provisions in the existing Convention regarding the mutual recognition of each country’s pension plans. Other provisions in the Protocol update the Convention to take account of changes in law in the two countries over the last 10 years. The exchange of notes with an attached Understanding provides guidance to taxpayers and each government regarding the intended interpretation of certain provisions of the existing Convention, as amended.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Protocol,