

As we increase trade, we are also reforming the way we deliver aid. For too many years, our assistance to Africa was sent without regard to results. Under my Administration, U.S. development aid to African nations has increased, but we are not just giving more aid; we are being wiser about how it is spent.

The idea is based on common sense: Aid works best in countries that are proving their commitment to govern justly, respect the rule of law, invest in their citizens, and open up their economies. When nations do these things and expand freedom and opportunities to all their citizens, entire societies can be lifted out of poverty and despair. In 2002, we launched the Millennium Challenge Account to provide aid to poorer nations based on these principles. In April, Madagascar became the first country to

sign a Compact with the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and I am confident that other African nations will follow.

At a time when freedom is on the march around the world, it is vital that the continent of Africa be a place of democracy and prosperity and hope, where people grow up healthy and have the opportunity to realize their dreams. Africa is a continent of promise, and the United States wants to help the people of Africa realize the brighter future they deserve.

NOTE: The President's remarks were taped at 11:05 a.m. in the Map Room at the White House for broadcast on Voice of America's radio and television stations beginning June 8. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 10.

## Remarks on the PATRIOT Act in McLean, Virginia *June 10, 2005*

Thanks for the warm welcome. It is really exciting to come and spend time in this fine facility and to meet the men and women who work at the National Counterterrorism Center. I just met with some who spend long hours preparing threat assessments, and it was my honor to tell them how much I appreciate their hard work and appreciate the daily briefing I get every single morning.

I want to thank you all for taking on such demanding assignments and important assignments. My message to the folks here is, thanks for being on the frontline and protecting America during the war on terror. You know, it's a different kind of war. It's a war that seems like there's maybe no action taking place, that maybe the enemy is not active. You know, I was concerned after September the 11th that the tendency would be to forget the nature of the people with whom you deal on a daily

basis. But I understand that there is an enemy that still lurks, and you know it as well.

And so on behalf of a grateful nation, I want to thank you for working hard to protect America. I want to thank you for your dedication. I want to thank you for your service and sacrifice.

The NCTC plays a key part in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. It's a crucial part of making sure that we can say to the American people, we're collecting intelligence and information, and we're sharing intelligence and information across jurisdictional lines to better protect the people and do our most solemn duty, which is to protect America.

And I want to thank Ambassador and Director John Negroponte's leadership on this issue. I want to thank him for his willingness to step forward to serve. And I

appreciate his understanding of how important the NCTC is.

I also want to thank John Brennan, who has been the Acting Director of the NCTC. I can remember first meeting John—it probably seems like a decade ago for him—[*laughter*]*—*I think it was actually a couple of years ago, when he first described what this facility would be like. He laid out the vision for what would take place here, and I want to thank John for his leadership, his dedication to the effort. It must bring John great comfort, as well as those who have worked with John, to see how this facility has evolved over time. This is a magnificent blend of technology and human talent, all working together to break down walls and barriers that had existed prior to September the 11th, to better protect the people.

And today I'm pleased to announce the fact that upon John Negroponte's recommendation, that we will nominate Vice Admiral John Redd to be the Director of the NCTC. He's a man of enormous experience. He has served our country with distinction. He'll be a good boss. He'll be a person that will be able to carry on the tradition of John Brennan.

I appreciate the Attorney General traveling with me today. We're not only talking about intelligence sharing; we're telling about—we're talking about how to act upon that intelligence today. Attorney General Al Gonzales is doing a fine job, as is the Director of the FBI, Bob Mueller.

I also appreciate Porter Goss, who is running the CIA, for joining us today. I went out to the CIA the other day, and I reminded the good folks who work there that CIA stands for Central Intelligence Agency. The CIA is a vital part of making sure that this country is safe and sound and a vital part of making sure that my administration and myself get the type of information necessary to make the decisions that we need to make to make the world a more peaceful place.

I appreciate Fran Townsend, who is my Homeland Security Adviser. Fran is constantly briefing me on interagency issues and keeping me up to speed about the work you're doing.

Today we're also joined by Federal prosecutors and law enforcement officials who have helped bring terrorists to justice with the help of the PATRIOT Act. I'll talk about them in a minute. Thank you all for coming.

The purpose of the NCTC is to make sure our Government has the information we need. It's an information-gathering organization. It is all aimed—all the work here is aimed at keeping America safe. A lot of Americans have never heard of the NCTC. One of the reasons I came by was, hopefully it will help draw attention to the good work you do here, so that the people of this country can be comforted in knowing that 24 hours a day there's some really fine people spending a lot of time doing whatever they can to protect our fellow citizens.

September the 11th showed that protecting America requires that we remove walls between agencies. Here at the NCTC, men and women from different agencies, of different backgrounds, work side by side to share information, to analyze information, to integrate information. See, prior to the attack, it was—we kind of all went about our own merry way. There was some interagency dialog but not a lot. And we learned a lesson about having walls between our agencies, and we're tearing those walls down. And here's a classic example of Government working—functioning better because of people talking to each other.

I appreciate the fact that here you pool your expertise and your computer systems, all aimed at shining the spotlight on enemies who think they can hide in the shadows of the world. I appreciate the clear picture that you present. See, by working together, you're able to bring information to a central spot, and then present a clear picture to decisionmakers.