

July 19 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2005

Over the next several days, you will discuss further ways to expand and diversify trade so we can sustain economic growth. I am confident that your efforts will lead to greater interest and investment in AGOA nations. You will also be offered practical information about meeting U.S. export requirements and entering U.S. markets. As part of America's long-term commitment to increased trade with Africa, I intend to launch the African Global Competitiveness Initiative, which will give a record number of entrepreneurs access to the information and advice they need to succeed in business and foreign trade.

I appreciate the good work you are doing, and I look forward to our continued partnership on AGOA. Africa is a continent of promise and talent and opportunity, and together we will help the people of Africa realize the bright future they deserve.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped on June 30 at 4:10 p.m. in the Map Room at the White House for later transmission to the forum meeting in Dakar, Senegal. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 19. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the District of Columbia's Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Request Act July 18, 2005

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to my constitutional authority and consistent with section 446 of The District of Columbia Self-Governmental Reorganizational Act as amended in 1989, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Request Act.

The proposed FY 2006 Budget Request Act reflects the major programmatic objectives of the Mayor and the Council of the

District of Columbia. For FY 2006, the District estimates total revenues and expenditures of \$7.35 billion.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
July 18, 2005.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 19.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister John Howard of Australia July 19, 2005

President Bush. Thank you all. Laura and I are honored to welcome Prime Minister John Howard and Janette back to the White House. We're really glad you're here. We're looking forward to having, this time, a true family lunch upstairs. It's a chance to—for two old friends, friends who

happen to be old—[laughter]—to visit and to talk and to strategize and to think aloud about how to work together.

I got to tell you, I admire John Howard a lot. He's a man of conviction. He's got backbone. He's not afraid to make the hard decision. He's not afraid to lead, and we're