

Statement on House of Representatives Passage of the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement

July 20, 2006

I am pleased the House has approved our free trade agreement with Oman. This agreement will advance America's national security by strengthening our bilateral relations with a strategic friend and ally in the Middle East region. The agreement will also level the playing field for U.S. workers

and businesses and will support Oman's leaders as they seek to create long-term opportunities for the Omani people. I look forward to signing this legislation and to continuing our efforts to build a Middle East free trade area.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Military Personnel and an Exchange With Reporters in Aurora, Colorado

July 21, 2006

[*The President's remarks are joined in progress.*]

The President. —and this country supports you and admires you and appreciates your dedication. You're doing some hard work. It's hard work to defeat terrorists, killers that wanted to achieve their objective. But we'll succeed; we'll prevail.

I want our troops to understand that not only does the country support them, but we'll win. It's in our national interests that we win. And we will. We've got some powerful, powerful weapons on our side. We've got the men and women who wear the uniform, people who bring such dignity and honor and bring compassion to people who have been suffering under tyranny and are now wondering whether or not the future is bright for them. And we've got freedom on our side too, and freedom is a powerful weapon. People want to be free.

And again, I want to thank you all for your service. I want to thank your families. I wish they were here so I could thank

them in person. But your sacrifice has meant a lot. Congratulations for stepping up and volunteering and being a part of history. Thanks for giving me a chance to visit and have a little lunch with you. God bless you all.

Secretary Rice's Upcoming Visit to the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, what do you hope Secretary Rice accomplishes on her trip to the Middle East, sir?

The President. I'm going to talk to her tomorrow when I—Sunday, when I get back to the White House. We're going to have a good visit.

Q. What do you hope she accomplishes, sir?

The President. I said I would talk to her tomorrow.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:35 a.m. at Tamale Fiesta Kitchen. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.