

to define a democratic future for their country. I urge the Cuban people to work for democratic change on the island. We will support you in your effort to build a transitional government in Cuba committed to democracy, and we will take note of those in the current Cuban regime who obstruct your desire for a free Cuba.

In the event of a transition in the Cuban Government, we stand ready to provide humanitarian assistance as needed to help the

Cuban people. It has long been the hope of the United States to have a free, independent, and democratic Cuba as a close friend and neighbor. In achieving this, the Cuban people can count on the full and unconditional support of the United States.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency Regarding Export Control Regulations August 3, 2006

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency caused by

the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended, is to continue in effect for 1 year beyond August 17, 2006, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Statement on Pension Reform Legislation August 4, 2006

After a lifetime of work, American workers have earned the opportunity to enjoy a secure retirement. Last year, I asked Congress to strengthen protections for workers' pensions. Congress has now delivered the most comprehensive reforms to America's pension system in over 30 years.

This legislation sets the right target for pension plan soundness: 100 percent funding of all promises. It would allow employers to put more money into their pension

plans during good times, building a cushion that can survive lean times. Congress has also acted to make it harder in the future for employers with underfunded pension plans to promise additional benefits to their workers without funding those new promises.

These measures will provide workers with better information about their pension plans, eliminate loopholes that interfere with strong pension funding, and increase