

meeting a mother of a child who was abducted by the North Koreans, right here in the Oval Office. It was a heart-wrenching moment to listen to the mother talk about what it was like to lose her daughter. And it is important for the Japanese people to know that the United States will not abandon our strong ally and friend when it comes to helping resolve that issue.

Today is a positive day; it's a positive step forward. There's more work to be

done, and we've got the process in place to get it done in a verifiable way.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:40 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Kim Jong Il of North Korea; and Sakie Yokota, mother of Megumi Yokota, who was abducted by North Korean authorities.

## Message to the Congress on Continuing Certain Restrictions With Respect to North Korea and North Korean Nationals and the Termination of the Exercise of Authorities Under the Trading With the Enemy Act

June 26, 2008

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, as amended (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order continuing certain restrictions on North Korea and North Korean nationals imposed pursuant to the exercise of authorities under the Trading With the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. App. 1 *et seq.*) (TWEA). In the order, I declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the current existence and risk of the proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula. I ordered the continuation of certain restrictions on North Korea and North Korean nationals as we deal with that threat through multilateral diplomacy.

These restrictions were first imposed pursuant to authorities found in section 5(b) of TWEA, following the declaration of a national emergency in 1950 in Proclamation 2914 (15 *FR* 9029), and continued annually, after the enactment of IEEPA in 1977, in accordance with section 101(b) of Public Law 95-223 (91 Stat. 1625; 50

U.S.C. App. 5(b) note). The most recent continuation of such TWEA authorities is found in Presidential Determination 2007-32 of September 13, 2007. In a proclamation, which I signed the same day as the order, I terminated, effective the following day, the exercise of TWEA authorities with respect to North Korea.

The order I have issued continues the blocking of certain property and interests in property of North Korea or a North Korean national that were blocked as of June 16, 2000, and that remained blocked immediately prior to the date of my order. Absent this order, my proclamation terminating the exercise of TWEA authorities with respect to North Korea would have resulted in the unblocking of that property.

The order also continues restrictions relating to North Korea-flagged vessels that would otherwise have been terminated by my proclamation. These restrictions prohibit United States persons from owning, leasing, operating, or insuring any vessel flagged by North Korea and from registering vessels in North Korea or otherwise obtaining authorization for a vessel to fly the North Korean flag. For the reasons set

forth above, I found that it was necessary to continue these restrictions.

I delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of my order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order and proclamation I have issued.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,  
June 26, 2008.

NOTE: The Executive order and proclamation are listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Remarks at the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast June 26, 2008

*The President.* *Gracias. Sientese.* [Laughter] Luis, thank you, sir. So he asked, would I come to the prayer breakfast. My answer was, *por supuesto.* [Laughter] I am honored to join you. I was proud to stand with you in 2002 at the first National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast, and today I am proud to stand with you at the—for the final time as your sitting President.

This happens to be an important event, in my view. It's an important event because it reminds us that no matter what our status in life might be, that we have a duty to respond to a higher power.

*Audience member.* Amen!

*The President.* You know, next year in Crawford, Laura and I are going to have a different kind of prayer breakfast. I'll be cooking the eggs, and she'll be praying I don't burn them. [Laughter]

I do want to welcome the First Lady of Panama, Vivian Fernandez de Torrijos. Thank you for coming. As some of you may or may not know, the—*mi ninita* lived in Panama for a while, and the government and the people there were so kind and hospitable, and I can't—and I'll never be able to repay you for that. So thank you very much. Please give your *esposo* my best regards, *el Presidente de Panama*. *Si*, thank you.

Proud to be here with pastors and community leaders. Thank you for doing what you're doing.

Each of you here this morning is here to celebrate a simple and powerful act, prayer to an Almighty God. You know the comfort that comes from placing our worries in the hands of a higher power. You know the humility that comes from approaching our Maker on bended knee. And you know the strength that comes from lifting our thoughts from worldly cares and focusing on the eternal.

Today I ask all to join together to pray that God continues to bestow His blessings on our wonderful country. We pray that the Almighty will strengthen America's families. A caring family is the foundation of a hopeful society. We pray that every child in America can grow up in a loving and stable home. We pray for the day when every child in America is welcomed in life and protected in law. And we pray that in every community across this great land, the Almighty will strengthen *los valores de la familia y de la fe*.

We pray that America will strengthen those who serve *nuestros hermanos y hermanas* in need. We pray for the continued success of faith-based and community groups like Esperanza, all aiming to transfer