

Jan. 15 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2009

In light of the importance of our fisheries relationship with the Russian Federation, I urge that the Congress give favorable con-

sideration to this Agreement at an early date.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
January 15, 2009.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Malta-United States Taxation Convention

January 15, 2009

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Malta for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion With Respect to Taxes on Income, signed on August 8, 2008, at Valletta (the “proposed Convention”). I also transmit for the information of the Senate the report of the Department of State, which includes an Overview of the proposed Convention.

The proposed Convention provides for reduced withholding rates on cross-border payments of dividends, interest, royalties, and other income. The proposed Conven-

tion contains a restrictive provision designed to prevent “treaty shopping,” which is the inappropriate use of a tax treaty by third-country residents. The proposed Convention also provides for the exchange of information between the competent authorities to facilitate the administration of each country’s tax laws.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the proposed Convention and give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
January 15, 2009.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Review of Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996

January 15, 2009

Dear _____:

Consistent with section 306(c)(2) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–114) (the “Act”), I hereby determine and report to the Congress that suspension for 6 months beyond February 1, 2009, of the right to bring an action under title III of the Act is necessary to the national inter-

ests of the United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to David R. Obey, chairman, and C. Jerry Lewis, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations; Daniel K. Inouye, chairman, and W. Thad Cochran, ranking member, Senate