

want to say thanks for the hundreds of thousands of Americans who pray for the victims and their families.

Secretary Rumsfeld told me, when I talked to him, that he felt the blast shake the Pentagon; even though he was on the other side of the building, the building rocked. And now I know why.

Coming here makes me sad, on the one hand; it also makes me angry. Our country will, however, not be cowed by terrorists, by people who don't share the same values we share, by people who are willing to destroy people's lives because we embrace freedom. The Nation mourns, but our Government will go on; the country will function. We are on high alert for possible activity.

But coming here confirms what the Secretary and I both know, that this is a great Nation. People here working hard prove it; people out here working their hearts out to answer families' questions, to remove the rubble and debris from this office. I want to thank everybody not only on this site but all across America for responding so generously, so kindly, in their prayers, in their contributions of love and their willingness to help in any way they can.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:53 p.m. at the site of the attack.

**Memorandum on Excused Absence
and Assistance to Federal Employees
Affected by the Attacks at the World
Trade Center and the Pentagon**
September 12, 2001

*Memorandum for the Heads of Executive
Departments and Agencies*

Subject: Excused Absence and Assistance to
Federal Employees Affected by the Attacks
at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon

I am deeply saddened and outraged by the loss of life and suffering caused by the attacks at the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. I convey my deepest sympathy and heartfelt sorrow to our fellow Americans and their families who have been affected by these senseless acts of violence. Many parts of the

Federal Government have been mobilized to respond to this tragedy.

As part of this effort, I ask the heads of executive departments and agencies having Federal civilian employees in the affected areas to excuse from duty, without charge to leave or loss of pay, any such employee who is prevented from reporting to work or faced with a personal emergency because of the terrorist attacks and who can be spared from his or her usual responsibilities. This policy should also be applied to any employee who is needed for emergency law enforcement, relief, or recovery efforts authorized by Federal, State, or local officials having jurisdiction.

I have directed the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Department of Labor to establish teams of specialists to assist with Federal benefits and workers' compensation claims of those employees who were injured or killed in the attacks.

Finally, I have directed OPM to establish an emergency leave transfer program to assist employees affected by this major disaster. The emergency leave transfer program will permit employees in an executive agency to donate unused annual leave for transfer to employees of the same or other agencies who have been adversely affected by the attacks and who need additional time off from work without having to use their own paid leave.

George W. Bush

**Memorandum on Continuation of
the Exercise of Certain Authorities
Under the Trading With the Enemy
Act**

September 12, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001-26

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the
Secretary of the Treasury*

Subject: Continuation of the Exercise of
Certain Authorities Under the Trading With
the Enemy Act

Under section 101(b) of Public Law 95-223 (91 Stat. 1625; 50 U.S.C. App. 5(b) note), and a previous determination on September 12, 2000 (65 *Fed. Reg.* 55883), the exercise