

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 27, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on February 28.

**Message to the Congress on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to Cuba**

February 26, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

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 to the *Federal Register* for publication, which states that the emergency declared with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2002.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 26, 2002.

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**Remarks Following a Roundtable
Discussion on Welfare Reform and
an Exchange With Reporters in
Charlotte, North Carolina**

February 27, 2002

The President. We are honored—I am honored to be here. We just had a great discussion with folks here in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County. I am very impressed by the welfare-to-work program that has been instituted. There's obviously a sense of corporate responsibility in this community that is powerful, that recognizes that the bottom line is one thing but taking care of their fellow humans is another. The county—leadership in the county is forward-thinking and aggressive

as to providing resources to help people, help each individual succeed. They've got a spirit of innovation here in this county that needs to be heralded because of the successes.

So I'm proud to be here. But I'm most proud of the individuals who have made a conscious decision to improve their lives and, therefore, in many cases, improve the lives of their children: Women who have overcome terrible odds to become successful role models, articulate spokespeople for themselves, their families, a system that cares about their successes.

And so I want to thank you all for sharing with me your stories and your history. Ella, today she works at the Park Hotel. She was down and out. She made a decision to succeed. She received the help necessary. And she read us a poem today that was so moving to all of us that we asked her to share that, if you don't mind.

[At this point, discussion participant Ella Currence recited her poem entitled "The Struggle to Independence."]

Q. Sir——

The President. A couple of quick ones.

Republic of Georgia

Q. Yes, if you don't mind. Do you think there's Al Qaida influence in Georgia?

The President. I do. So long as there's Al Qaida influence anywhere, we will help the host countries rout them out and bring them to justice.

Q. What specifically are we doing to help Georgia?

The President. Mainly, equipment and technical advice. Obviously, in order for us to work closely with governments that have been invaded by Al Qaida cells, they're going to have to request—request help. And we've made it very clear that either you're with us or you're against us, and we've made it very clear that we hope that nations step up and do their jobs.

Obviously, we've got a presence in the Philippines because there's an Al Qaida-affiliated group of people there. And we've had some successes in Yemen, where we're working. We're working around the world.

When this war started, I told the American people that there would be a variety of fronts