

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:24 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs William J. Burns; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and Israel

October 16, 2002

As part of the effort to further Palestinian reform, the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Israel agreed that the Government of Israel would consider favorably the gradual return and scheduled transfer of all PA tax funds collected by Israel on the unequivocal condition that there would be full U.S.-led monitoring to ensure that these funds will only be used for the economic and civil activities of the Palestinian community and to prevent the use of these funds for terrorist activity of any kind.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on Congressional Action on Election Reform Legislation

October 16, 2002

The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy. I commend the House and Senate for passing legislation to improve our election process. The legislation is consistent with the principles outlined by the bipartisan Ford-Carter Commission that respect the primacy of State and local governments and envision a limited but responsible role for the Federal Government. I look forward to signing these important election reforms into law.

Statement on Congressional Action on Defense Appropriations Legislation

October 16, 2002

I commend the House and Senate for responding to my call to pass the defense appropriations bill. This defense budget will provide our troops with the best pay, the best

equipment, and the best possible training. It also sends an important signal that we are committed to defending freedom and defeating terror. The Congress acted responsibly in passing the defense appropriations bill first, and I look forward to signing it.

Memorandum on FY 2003 Refugee Admissions Numbers and Authorizations of In-Country Refugee Status

October 16, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2003-02

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination on FY 2003 Refugee Admissions Numbers and Authorizations of In-Country Refugee Status

In accordance with section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the "Act") (8 U.S.C. 1157), as amended, and after appropriate consultations with the Congress, I hereby make the following determinations and authorize the following actions:

The admission of up to 70,000 refugees to the United States during FY 2003 is justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest; provided, however, that this number shall be understood as including persons admitted to the United States during FY 2003 with Federal refugee resettlement assistance under the Amerasian immigrant admissions program, as provided below.

The 70,000 admissions numbers shall be allocated among refugees of special humanitarian concern to the United States in accordance with the following regional allocations; provided, however, that the number allocated to the East Asia region shall include persons admitted to the United States during FY 2003 with Federal refugee resettlement assistance under section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 1988, as contained in section 101(e) of Public Law 100-202 (Amerasian immigrants and their family members); provided further that the number allocated to the former Soviet Union shall include persons admitted who were nationals