

The agreement between the United States and Singapore is also historic, the first between the United States and an Asia-Pacific country. Singapore is already America's 12th-largest trading partner and imports a full range of American products, from machine parts and computers to agricultural products. This agreement will increase access to Singapore's dynamic markets for America's exporters and service providers and investors. The agreement contains state-of-the-art protections for Internet commerce and intellectual property that will help drive growth and innovation in our technology sectors. There are also strong labor and environmental protections in our agreement with Singapore.

I signed this legislation today fully expecting to sign many more free trade agreements. We're now negotiating with Australia and Morocco, five nations in Central America, and the Southern African Customs Union. Soon we will begin negotiations with Bahrain and the Dominican Republic. We're working with 33 other nations in our hemisphere to create the Free Trade Area of the Americas. We're encouraging the free flow of commerce and investment among our partners in APEC and ASEAN and hope to build on the success of our trade agreements with Jordan and Israel by establishing a U.S.-Middle East free trade area within a decade to create new opportunity and new hope in a region that needs both.

The greatest gains from world trade will come from completing the World Trade Organization's global negotiations. We made good progress since the negotiations started nearly 2 years ago, and WTO members can build on this progress next week in Cancun, Mexico. Completing the global negotiations by the 2005 deadline is essential, because opening global markets is a pathway to economic success for rich and poor nations alike. The spread of free trade reflects this Nation's convictions. We believe in the dignity of every human being. We believe in freedom.

Free trade also serves the interests of the United States. It serves in the interest of our workers. We will benefit from more trading partners around the world. We want our partners to grow in wealth. We want them to grow in freedom. Chile and Singapore are

examples of economic liberty and demonstrate the great promise of trade. I'm honored to sign into law these two pieces of legislation implementing our free trade agreements with our friends Chile and Singapore.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chile's Ambassador, Andres Bianchi; and Singapore's Ambassador, Heng Chee Chan. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

### **Joint Statement Between the United States of America and the Kingdom of The Netherlands**

*September 3, 2003*

President Bush and Prime Minister Balkenende today agreed that progress in fighting the global tragedy of HIV/AIDS requires more and better coordination among donor and recipient governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector.

The United States and the Netherlands therefore agree to cooperate on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care in countries in which both the United States and the Netherlands have significant activities, including countries that will receive special focus in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. The plan will start in Rwanda and Ghana and may expand to Zambia, Ethiopia, and possibly Sudan once a peace agreement is signed.

The cooperation agreement will highlight political leadership and public-private partnerships, which are a focus of both the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the Netherlands 2003 AIDS Action Plan.

This cooperation agreement is the first step of a joint initiative in which the United States and the Netherlands will seek to coordinate HIV/AIDS activities, strategies, and programs in African countries.

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

**Remarks in Kansas City, Missouri***September 4, 2003*

Thank you very much. Please be seated. I appreciate the warm welcome. It's nice to be back here in Kansas City. I feel comfortable here. After all, it's a place of good baseball, pretty good football, and really good barbecue.

I have come to this important city, right here in the heart of America, to speak about the future of our Nation's economy. I want to talk about jobs and job creation. Kansas City in many ways symbolizes the incredible energy and ingenuity and flexibility of our economy. It wasn't all that long ago that Kansas City was known for rail lines and stockyards. Now, the economy is a more modern economy because of the spirit of enterprise that exists here and because of the willingness for the people to work hard, because of the optimism of the people in this part of the world. And I share your optimism about the future of this Nation.

America's economy today is showing signs of promise. We're emerging from a period of national challenge and economic uncertainty. The hard work of our people and the good policies of our Government are paying off. Our economy is starting to grow again. Americans are feeling more confident. I am determined to work with the United States Congress to turn these hopeful signs into lasting growth and greater prosperity and more jobs.

I want to thank Terry Dunn for his kind introduction. I like a good short introduction. [*Laughter*] I appreciate Pete Levi, the president of the Greater Chamber.

I flew from Washington here today with two fine Americans: Senator Jim Talent, who's doing a great job for the people of Missouri, and Congressman Sam Graves.

On the plane ride down, Sam told me that his mother was going to be here today. And I said, "I hope you're still listening to your mother." [*Laughter*] I'm still listening to mine—[*laughter*—most of the time. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank Paul Rodriguez and CiCi Rojas from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for—[*applause*]. I also want to thank the board of directors and the members of

the chamber for allowing me to come to discuss with you the future of this country.

Before I do so, though, I had the honor of meeting Tom Holcom. He's a Missouri native who was out there at Air Force One when—at the airport when we landed, to greet me at Air Force One. He started Angel Flight Central. He is a—it's a nonprofit organization that provides free air transportation to those in need due to a crisis.

The reason I bring this up is that I know the great strength of America is the heart and soul of the American people. And everywhere I go, I like to herald those quiet heroes who are making a difference in people's lives by volunteering time. I like to tell people that it's important for this Nation to usher in a period of personal responsibility. And part of a responsibility society is to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

I want to thank Tom for using his time and talent to help somebody in need. I want to thank you all, if you're a member of the army of compassion in this United States of America, for serving your community by helping somebody who hurts, by reaching out a hand to a neighbor in need. No, Government can help. We can pass out money. But Government cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That is done when a kind soul puts their arm around a brother and sister in need and says, "I love you. What can I do to help?"

Events of the last few years have revealed the amazing resilience of our Nation's economy. In our country's history, recessions have typically resulted from single, unexpected shocks such as spikes in energy prices or sudden shifts in markets. Since 2000, our economy has been dealt not just one shock, but three—a set of challenges with few parallels in American history.

First, the stock market began a steady decline in March 2000, as investors realized that the economy was not healthy. Businesses faced overcapacity during that period of time and cut their budgets for new investment in technology or equipment. And by early 2001, this economy was in recession.

And secondly, we were attacked on a fateful day, September the 11th, 2001. An enemy which hates America attacked us and killed a lot of our citizens. It brought our Nation