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The President. I'm not involved with the investigation in any way, shape, or form. I've told the members of the White House to totally cooperate. I think you'll find that there has been total cooperation. And the Justice Department and the investigative team—which, by the way, is a team comprised of professionals who have done this in the past—will proceed at a pace necessary to find out the truth. And the sooner they find out the truth, the better, as far as I'm concerned.

Last question, and then we've got to go back to Crawford.

Mad Cow Disease

Q. Your administration has announced some measures with regard to mad cow.

The President. Did we do what?

Q. With regard to mad cow, do you think there is more that needs to be done, and——

The President. Well, I've talked to Secretary Veneman about this issue. I told her that I want her to take the steps necessary to make sure that the food supply is safe and that the American consumer can be confident. And she is looking at different ways to do that. As a matter of fact, she announced some measures the other day.

Q. How much time do you think Americans can feel safe eating beef?

The President. I think they should be. As a matter of fact, I ate beef today and will continue to eat beef.

Thank you all very much.

President's New Year's Resolution

Q. What are you going to do for your New Year's resolution?

The President. Oh, my New Year's resolution this year is to work—stay physically fit to the point where I can run—in other words, rehab my knee. I miss running. The elliptical machine is good, but it just doesn't have that same sense of—that running gave me. So that's one of my resolutions, which may require eating less desserts, kind of getting a little trimmer, to take the pressure off the knee.

I wish everybody a happy New Year, and 2004 is going to be a great year for this country. It's going to be a year in which the world will become more peaceful and more people will be able to find work, and that's important.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:32 p.m. at the Brooks County Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; and President Hu Jintao of China. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 27

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

December 28

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman concerning the recent incidence of bovine spongiform encephalitis (also known as mad cow disease) in Washington State.

December 29

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

December 30

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President participated in an interview with author Ken Walsh.

December 31

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

January 1

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

Also in the morning, the President traveled to Falfurrias, TX, where he had lunch with

his personal envoy on the issue of Iraqi debt, James A. Baker III, to discuss Presidential Envoy Baker's recent trips to Europe and Asia.

In the afternoon, the President returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX. Later, he participated in briefings with Presidential Envoy Baker and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice.

January 2

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 27

Statement by the Press Secretary on the U.S. Government's deployment of humanitarian assistance to the people of Iran following the earthquake in Bam

Released December 29

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Trent Duffy

Released December 30

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Trent Duffy

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary announcing that the President approved the designation of 37 sub-Saharan African countries as eligible for tariff preferences under the African Growth and Opportunity Act

Released December 31

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary announcing that the President directed the Secretary of State and Secretary of the Treasury to take significant steps to expedite disaster relief and humanitarian aid operations in response to the earthquake in Bam, Iran

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.