

In this spirit, we commit our nations to an ambitious goal, rooted in our shared values and experience: to promote freedom, democracy, human dignity, the rule of law, economic opportunity, and security in the Greater Middle East. Fear and resentment must be replaced with freedom and hope.

We must build a genuine partnership, connecting Europe and America with the wider Middle East, aimed at cooperating with the countries and peoples of that region to achieve these just objectives, and to live side by side in peace. Together with our friends and allies in Europe and the Greater Middle East, we will coordinate our efforts closely to respond to calls for reform in the region, and to develop specific proposals to put before the G8, U.S.-EU, and NATO Summit meetings, which will be held in June 2004.

At the same time, we reaffirm our commitment to the vision of two states—Israel and Palestine—living side by side in peace and security, and renew our commitment to the “Roadmap” as the best means of moving forward toward that goal.

We pledge to enhance the international effort to help the people of Afghanistan restore peace and security in their nation, including by the further expansion of NATO’s International Security Assistance Force. We will also work together to achieve success at the upcoming international conference on Afghanistan, hosted by Germany. We welcome the agreement on a new constitution for Afghanistan, and place particular emphasis on creating the conditions for free, fair and peaceful elections in Afghanistan later this year.

We are united in support of a free Iraq: a secure, unified, democratic, and fully sovereign nation, at peace with itself and its neighbors that will contribute to world peace and stability. We welcome and support the vital and growing role of the United Nations in Iraq, and look forward to the transfer of sovereignty to a new Iraqi government on July 1, 2004.

We are resolved to strengthen our economic relations by increasing opportunities for trade and investment between the European Union and the United States, and by promoting trade liberalization and economic development for all countries through the

Doha Development Agenda negotiations. In the framework of the G8, we will cooperate to help the poorest countries benefit more fully from the global economy. We remain committed to our joint fight against poverty in the world, and we also undertake to tackle the scourge of HIV/AIDS and to cooperate to improve the world environment.

We reaffirm our commitment to NATO as the anchor of our collective defense and an essential forum for transatlantic consultations. We underscore our support for the continuing process of European integration and stress the importance of Europe and America working together as partners in a community of shared values. We welcome the historic enlargement of both NATO and the European Union, which takes place this spring, advancing our goal to erase decades of division in Europe.

With a common agenda of action, the German-American alliance will prove as critical to the advance of freedom, security, and prosperity in the 21st Century as it was in the second half of the 20th Century.

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

Statement on the Death of President Boris Trajkovski of Macedonia

February 27, 2004

Laura and I are saddened by the death of President Boris Trajkovski of Macedonia, a distinguished leader and a great friend of the United States. On behalf of the American people, I extend condolences to President Trajkovski’s family and to the people of Macedonia.

President Trajkovski showed extraordinary courage in leading his country from the brink of civil conflict to peace by signing the Ohrid Framework Agreement. The United States strongly supports President Trajkovski’s vision of a multi-ethnic, democratic Macedonia at peace with itself and its neighbors and on the path to full membership in the transatlantic community.

Executive Order 13331—National and Community Service Programs
February 27, 2004

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to strengthen the ability of programs authorized under the national service laws to build and reinforce a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility throughout our Nation, and to institute reforms to improve accountability and efficiency in the administration of those programs, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Definitions. For purposes of this order:

(a) “National service laws” means the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 *et seq.*) and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4950 *et seq.*);

(b) “National and community service programs” means those programs authorized under the national service laws;

(c) “Policies governing programs authorized under the national service laws” refers to all policies, programs, guidelines, and regulations, including official guidance and internal agency procedures and practices, that are issued by the Corporation for National and Community Service (Corporation) and have significant effects on national and community service programs; and

(d) “Professional corps programs” means those programs described in section 122(a)(8) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12572(a)(8)).

Sec. 2. Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria. In formulating and implementing policies governing programs authorized under the national service laws, the Corporation shall, to the extent permitted by law, adhere to the following fundamental principles:

(a) National and community service programs should support and encourage greater engagement of Americans in volunteering;

(b) National and community service programs should be more responsive to State and local needs;

(c) National and community service programs should make Federal support more accountable and more effective; and

(d) National and community service programs should expand opportunities for involvement of faith-based and other community organizations.

Sec. 3. Agency Implementation. (a) The Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service (Chief Executive Officer) shall, in coordination with the USA Freedom Corps Council, review and evaluate existing policies governing national and community service programs in order to assess the consistency of such policies with the fundamental principles and policymaking criteria described in section 2 of this order.

(b) The Chief Executive Officer shall ensure that all policies governing national and community service programs issued by the Corporation are consistent with the fundamental principles and policymaking criteria described in section 2 of this order. To that end, the Chief Executive Officer shall, to the extent permitted by law,

(i) amend all such existing policies to ensure that they are consistent with the fundamental principles and policymaking criteria articulated in section 2 of this order; and

(ii) where appropriate, implement new policies that are consistent with and necessary to further the fundamental principles and policymaking criteria set forth in section 2 of this order.

(c) In developing implementation steps, the Chief Executive Officer should address, at a minimum, the following objectives:

(i) National and community service programs should leverage Federal resources to maximize support from the private sector and from State and local governments, with an emphasis on reforms that enhance programmatic flexibility, reduce administrative burdens, and calibrate Federal assistance to the respective needs of recipient organizations;

(ii) National and community service programs should leverage Federal resources to enable the recruitment and effective management of a larger number of volunteers than is currently possible;