

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:30 a.m. on February 27 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 28. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 27 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to Lisa Brady, principal, Hunterdon Central Regional High School, Flemington, NJ. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on the Resignation of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti

February 29, 2004

President Aristide resigned. He has left his country. The Constitution of Haiti is working. There is an interim President, as per the Constitution, in place.

I have ordered the deployment of marines, as the leading element of an interim international force, to help bring order and stability to Haiti. I have done so in working with the international community.

This Government believes it essential that Haiti have a hopeful future. This is the beginning of a new chapter in the country's history. I would urge the people of Haiti to reject violence, to give this break from the past a chance to work. And the United States is prepared to help.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:05 p.m. on the South Grounds at the White House.

Statement Calling for Congressional Action on Foreign Sales Corporations/Extraterritorial Income Legislation

March 1, 2004

I urge Congress to take up and pass FSC/ETI legislation that reforms the Tax Code, removes the underlying reason for the tariffs that have been imposed today on American exports, and further advances the competitiveness of American manufacturers and job creators. Over the past 3 years, my administration has worked with Congress to further increase the ability of American companies

to succeed in the worldwide economy, laying the foundation for increased growth and job creation. If we don't act to replace the current FSC/ETI provisions in the Tax Code, the tariffs that have been imposed today will, over the next year, impose an increasing burden on American exporters, their workers, and the overall economy. To support the continued strengthening of our economy and to create more jobs, the Congress should act now to end the threat of these tariffs and promote the competitiveness of American manufacturers and other job-creating sectors of the U.S. economy.

Proclamation 7758—To Modify Duty-Free Treatment Under the Generalized System of Preferences

March 1, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Pursuant to sections 501 and 502(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Act") (19 U.S.C. 2461, 2462(a)(1)), the President is authorized to designate countries as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

2. Section 502(b)(1)(C) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(b)(1)(C)) specifies that European Union member states may not be designated as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP.

3. Section 502(e) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(e)) provides that the President shall terminate the designation of a country as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP if the President determines that such country has become a "high income" country as defined by the official statistics of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Termination is effective on January 1 of the second year following the year in which such determination is made.

4. Pursuant to sections 501 and 502(a)(1) of the Act, and having due regard for the factors set forth in section 501 of the Act and taking into account the factors set forth

in section 502(c) (19 U.S.C. 2462(c)), I have decided to designate Algeria as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

5. Consistent with section 502(b)(1)(C) of the Act, I have decided to terminate the designation of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia as beneficiary developing countries, with such termination to become effective for each of these countries when it becomes a European Union member state.

6. Pursuant to section 502(e) of the Act, I have determined that Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, and Barbados have become “high income” countries, and I am terminating the designation of those countries as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP, effective January 1, 2006.

7. Section 604 of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2483), authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including title V and section 604 of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2461–67, 2483), do proclaim that:

(1) Algeria is designated as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP, effective 15 days after the date of this proclamation.

(2) In order to reflect this designation in the HTS, general note 4(a) to the HTS is modified by adding “Algeria” to the list entitled “Independent Countries,” effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the fifteenth day after the date of this proclamation.

(3) The designation of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP is terminated for each country on the date when it becomes a European Union member state. The United States Trade Representative shall an-

nounce each such date in a notice published in the *Federal Register*.

(4) In order to reflect these terminations in the HTS, general note 4(a) to the HTS is modified by deleting “Czech Republic,” “Estonia,” “Hungary,” “Latvia,” “Lithuania,” “Poland,” and “Slovakia” from the list of independent countries, effective for each of these countries with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the day on which that country becomes a European Union member state.

(5) The designation of Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, and Barbados as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP is terminated, effective on January 1, 2006.

(6) In order to reflect this termination in the HTS, and to make other changes to update the list of Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) member countries, effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after January 1, 2006, general note 4(a) to the HTS is modified by:

(a) deleting “Antigua and Barbuda,” “Bahrain,” and “Barbados” from the list of independent countries,

(b) deleting “Antigua and Barbuda” and “Barbados” from the list of the “*Member Countries of the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM), except The Bahamas*” under the provision “*Associations of Countries (treated as one country)*,” and

(c) deleting “*Member Countries of the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM), except The Bahamas*” and inserting “*Member Countries of the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM)*” in lieu thereof, and deleting “Consisting of:” before the list of countries and inserting “Currently qualifying:” in lieu thereof.

(7) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the

Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 3, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 4.

**Message to the Congress on
Extending Generalized System of
Preferences Benefits to Algeria and
Terminating Benefits of Certain
Other Countries**

March 1, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 502(f) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “Act”), I am writing to inform you of my intent to designate Algeria as a beneficiary developing country and to terminate the designation of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahrain, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

I have considered the criteria set forth in sections 501 and 502 of the Act. In light of these criteria, I have determined that it is appropriate to extend GSP benefits to Algeria. I have also determined that Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and Bahrain have become “high income” countries, and I therefore terminate their designation as beneficiary developing countries effective January 1, 2006. Furthermore, consistent with the Act’s prohibition on designation of European Union member states as beneficiary developing countries, I am terminating such designation for the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia when they become European Union member states.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 1, 2004.

**Memorandum on Delegation of
Certain Reporting Authority**

March 1, 2004

Memorandum for the United States Trade Representative

Subject: Delegation of Certain Reporting Authority

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby delegate to you the functions conferred upon the President by section 163 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2213), to provide the specified report to the Congress.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 3, 2004]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on March 4.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on
International Agreements**

March 1, 2004

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

Consistent with subsection (b) of the Case-Zablocki Act, (1 U.S.C. 112b), I hereby transmit a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard G. Lugar, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting the National Drug
Control Strategy**

March 1, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

I am transmitting the 2004 National Drug Control Strategy, consistent with the Office