

European allies. [Laughter] The conversation went like this: “Hey, John, Kim Chong-il here.” [Laughter] “Just wanted to call and let you know, you’re my guy.” [Laughter]

Those weapons of mass destruction have got to be somewhere. [Laughter]

As you can tell from the look on Andy Card’s face, we’ve become a little concerned about the Vice President lately. [Laughter] Whenever you ask him a question, he replies, “Let’s see what my little friend says.” [Laughter]

But we get along well. Here I am saying, “Dick, if the Hunan Palace doesn’t get lunch here in 4 minutes, we’re going out.” [Laughter]

Nope, no weapons over there. [Laughter] Maybe under here. [Laughter]

Oops, this photo wasn’t supposed to be in here. This is the Skull and Bones secret signal. [Laughter]

I’m not paranoid. But it was at this point in my Presidency that I had a strange feeling somebody was following me. [Laughter]

One thing about being President is you get lots of advice. “Yes, Mother.” [Laughter]

“Yes, Mother.” [Laughter]

“Mother, would you just listen to us for once.” [Laughter]

I like this next picture a lot. It’s hard to get Rumsfeld to laugh, but when he does, boy, it is worth it. [Laughter]

This photo was taken down at the ranch, and as you can tell, Barney is not very happy with me. This is the day I told him he’d been neutered. [Laughter]

And this is the day that Barney got his revenge. [Laughter]

Now, on long flights, the staff and I often play cards. The key to playing poker is keeping a straight face and never letting your opponent know what you’re thinking. [Laughter] Actually, this is on the way to the G–8 summit. Once I got these trading cards, it’s easy to remember the names of the foreign leaders. [Laughter]

All Presidents have dreams and aspirations of what their legacy will be. Here they are measuring me for Mt. Rushmore. [Laughter]

But I do have a few serious photos to show you, in closing. It’s photos like these that mean the most to me.

Some of our Special Forces sent me this last picture. The faces are blurred in the slide because they remain in harm’s way. The photo hangs in my private study next to the Oval Office. To honor those who died on September the 11th and to make a statement of their own commitment to this country’s security, these Americans buried a piece of the World Trade Center in a place in Afghanistan where the Al Qaida once ran free. They wrote that they held a ceremony, which was far more emotional than they had expected. The team leader wrote a prayer and a dedication. Let me read you one sentence from that dedication: “We consecrate this spot as an everlasting memorial to the brave Americans who died on September the 11th, so that all who would seek to do her harm will know that America will not stand by and watch terror prevail.”

We will not stand by. The greatest honor of being President is leading such men and women. We have the freedom we enjoy tonight because they protect that freedom. And may God protect them.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:55 p.m. at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to former Democratic Presidential candidate Howard Dean; and Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea.

Notice—Notice of Intention To Enter Into a Free Trade Agreement With the Dominican Republic

March 24, 2004

Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act of 2002, I have notified the Congress of my intention to enter into a free trade agreement with the Government of the Dominican Republic.

In accordance with section 2105(a)(1)(A) of that Act, this notice shall be published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 24, 2004.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:42 a.m., March 25, 2004]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 25, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on March 26.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting Notice of Intention To
Enter Into a Free Trade Agreement
With the Dominican Republic**

March 24, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–210; the “Trade Act”), I am pleased to notify the Congress of my intent to enter into a free trade agreement (FTA) with the Government of the Dominican Republic.

This agreement will create new opportunities for America’s workers, farmers, businesses, and consumers by eliminating barriers to trade with the Dominican Republic, the largest economy in the Caribbean Basin. At the same time, it will help bring to the Dominican Republic expanded economic freedom and opportunity, and it will provide an opportunity for regional stability, democracy, and economic development through closer ties of commerce, investment, and friendship.

Consistent with the Trade Act, I am sending this notification at least 90 days in advance of entering into an agreement with the Dominican Republic. My Administration looks forward to working with the Congress in developing appropriate legislation to approve and implement this free trade agreement.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 24, 2004.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 25. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

**Remarks in a Discussion on Job
Training and the Economy in
Nashua, New Hampshire**

March 25, 2004

Lucille Jordan. Mr. President, on behalf of the faculty, the administration, the students, and the great citizens of the great State of New Hampshire, I’d like to welcome you to our campus. Mr. President, thank you.

The President. Lucille, thanks. Thank you all. Thanks for having me. We’re going to have an interesting dialog today about jobs, job creators, and education, and how they all work together to make sure that this State remains competitive and a good place to find work.

Before we do so, though, I do want to thank you, Lucille, for—and your board and your faculty and your students—for welcoming me here. It’s not easy to have the President come. [Laughter] Seems like there’s a large entourage. But I appreciate it. And it’s going to be—I think you’re going to enjoy this. I know I am.

Participant. I’m planning on it. [Laughter]

The President. Good. I had the privilege today of riding from the airport in Manchester with your great Governor, Craig Benson. Appreciate you coming, Governor. I got to see the New Hampshire Government in action, because also in the car was the speaker, Gene Chandler, and the senate leader, Tom Eaton. I appreciate you all being here.

I know the State attorney general is here. Peter, where are you? Thanks for coming. Good to see you, sir. Got a lot of members of the State house and State senate here. I know that Senator Jane O’Hearn, who happens to be the chair of the senate education committee—Lucille told me to be especially nice to her. [Laughter] Thank you for coming.

I first want to tell you how optimistic I am about the future of the country. You know why? Because we’ve overcome a lot, when you think about it. In the last 3 years, this country has really been challenged. Our spirit has been challenged. Our economy has been challenged, and we’ve overcome them. We’re a great country, full of wonderful people, dedicated, hard-working people.