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## Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on United States Trade and Investment Policy for Sub-Saharan Africa and Implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act

*May 20, 2004*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Consistent with title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration entitled "2004 Comprehensive Report on U.S. Trade and Investment Policy for Sub-Saharan Africa and Implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act."

**George W. Bush**

The White House,
May 20, 2004.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 21.

## Commencement Address at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana

*May 21, 2004*

Thank you all very much. Chancellor Emmert and President Jenkins and Chairman Ogden, Members of the Congress, members of the faculty, trustees, families, distinguished guests, and members of the Class of 2004. I want to thank you for the warm welcome. It's great to be in the—on this wonderful campus. I'm honored to be with you on graduation day as all of you become proud alumni of Louisiana State University.

As you graduate from LSU, your Chancellor is graduating to new challenges as well. We appreciate Chancellor Emmert for his fine, steadfast leadership in making LSU one of America's flagship universities. This day is a tribute as well to the faculty of LSU, and we thank them for your skill and your dedication.

Some in this class are graduating with honors, and I congratulate all of you on an achievement that took a lot of discipline. Others may have spent a little less time in the library—[*laughter*]—a little more time keeping the stools warm down at The Chimes. [*Laughter*] But you earned your degree, and you too can leave today with high hopes. I speak with some authority here—[*laughter*]—I've seen how things can work out pretty well for a C student. [*Laughter*]

All of you have learned a lot here at LSU, and you learned to take your sports seriously. I know you're especially proud of your mighty national champs, the finest athletes to wear the LSU jersey, the Lady Tigers of the women's track team. Plus you've got a pretty good football team too. I know firsthand, when Coach Saban told me right there at the White House how good this team was. And I want to congratulate all the athletes here at LSU.

After 4 years of sitting through lectures, I have a feeling you're not in the mood for another one. You've probably had your fill of political speeches from Free Speech Alley. [*Laughter*] So today, on your last day at LSU, I thought I would share a few important lessons that I've picked up along the way.

Let me begin with a very valuable lesson I've learned, a lesson that has influenced my well-being, and here it is: Listen to your mother. [*Laughter*] I had little choice. My mom has a way of speaking her mind. When I paid attention, I benefited. When I didn't, I paid the price. That's how it still works. [*Laughter*]

In the world's eyes, you are now an independent adult. In your mother's eyes, you probably still have some growing up to do. You may not always agree with her advice, but I think of it this way: The first voice you heard is always worth listening to.

There are many moms and dads here today, and I know how some of you are feeling. It feels really good to write the last tuition check. [*Laughter*] It also feels like the last 20 years or so went by awfully fast. I know you're proud of your sons and daughters, and I know they are grateful. Today we honor the parents of the Class of 2004.

Here is another bit of advice I hope you graduates will consider as you weigh the values and priorities of your life. Sometimes you'll hear people say that moral truth is relative or call religious faith a comforting illusion. And when you hear talk like that, take