

Statement on Pope John Paul II

February 24, 2005

On behalf of all Americans, Laura and I send our heartfelt best wishes to Pope John Paul II. The Holy Father is in our thoughts and prayers, and we wish him a speedy recovery and return to the service of his church and all humanity.

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.

February 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

February 20

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Brussels, Belgium, arriving in the evening.

February 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Sheraton Brussels Hotel and Towers, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a greeting with U.S. Embassy and Missions personnel. Then, at the Royal Palace, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a courtesy call with King Albert II and Queen Paola of Belgium.

Later in the morning, in the Prime Minister's Office at Lambermont House, the President met with Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt of Belgium. Then, at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence, the President met with Secretary General Jakob Gijsbert "Jaap" de Hoop Scheffer of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

In the evening, at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence, the President met with President Jacques Chirac of France. They then had a working dinner.

February 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence, he had a working breakfast with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

Later in the morning, at NATO Headquarters, the President had a meeting with President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine. He then participated in a meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission. Later, he met with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy. He then participated in a plenary session of the North Atlantic Council followed by an official photo with NATO leaders.

In the afternoon, at NATO Headquarters, the President had lunch with NATO leaders. Later, at the Justus Lipsius Building, he participated in a meeting followed by an official photo with European Union leaders.

In the evening, in the Berlaymont Building, the President met with European Commission President Jose Manuel Durao Barroso followed by a photo opportunity with European Union Commissioners. He then had a working dinner with European Commission President Durao Barroso, European Council President Jean-Claude Juncker, and European Council Secretary General Javier Solana.

The President announced his intention to nominate John C. Dugan to be Comptroller of the Currency at the Department of the Treasury.

February 23

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Mainz, Germany, where, at the Electoral Palace, they participated in an arrival ceremony with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany and greeted American and German soldiers who had served in Afghanistan.

Later in the morning, at the Electoral Palace, the President met with Chancellor Schroeder.

In the afternoon, at the Electoral Palace, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with Chancellor Schroeder, his wife, Doris Schroeder-Koepf, and local leaders and businesspeople. He then met with Angela