

is, do we have the capacity to continue moving forward with the relationship? And the answer is, absolutely.

And I want to thank the leaders for coming. People of our respective countries will see how vital these relationships are. And I look forward to our ministers reporting back with concrete action. They will be held to account, you're right, Mr. Prime Minister—and look forward to saying to our respective peoples that—and making clear that the relationship between America, Canada, and Mexico is vital to our mutual prosperity, mutual health, and the benefit of our folks.

Thank you all for coming. Good to see you all.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:22 a.m. in the Bill Daniels Activity Center at Baylor University. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; former President Jiang Zemin and President Hu Jintao of China; and Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea. Prime Minister Martin made a portion of his remarks in French and President Fox spoke in Spanish, and their remarks were translated by interpreters.

### **Joint Statement by President Bush, President Fox, and Prime Minister Martin: Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America**

*March 23, 2005*

We, the elected leaders of Canada, Mexico, and the United States, gather in Texas to announce the establishment of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America.

Over the past decade, our three nations have taken important steps to expand economic opportunity for our people and to create the most vibrant and dynamic trade relationship in the world. Since September 11, 2001, we have also taken significant new steps to address the threat of terrorism and to enhance the security of our people.

But more needs to be done. In a rapidly changing world, we must develop new avenues of cooperation that will make our open societies safer and more secure, our businesses more competitive, and our economies more resilient.

Our Partnership will accomplish these objectives through a trilateral effort to increase the security, prosperity, and quality of life of our citizens. This work will be based on the principle that our security and prosperity are mutually dependent and complementary, and will reflect our shared belief in freedom, economic opportunity, and strong democratic values and institutions. Also, it will help consolidate our action into a North American framework to confront security and economic challenges, and promote the full potential of our people, addressing disparities and increasing opportunities for all.

Our Partnership is committed to reach the highest results to advance the security and well-being of our people. The Partnership is trilateral in concept; while allowing any two countries to move forward on an issue, it will create a path for the third to join later.

#### ***Advancing our Common Security***

We will establish a common approach to security to protect North America from external threats, prevent and respond to threats within North America, and further streamline the secure and efficient movement of legitimate, low-risk traffic across our shared borders. As part of our efforts, we will:

- Implement common border security and bioprotection strategies;
- Enhance critical infrastructure protection, and implement a common approach to emergency response;
- Implement improvements in aviation and maritime security, combat transnational threats, and enhance intelligence partnerships; and
- Implement a border facilitation strategy to build capacity and improve the legitimate flow of people and cargo at our shared borders.

#### ***Advancing our Common Prosperity***

We will work to enhance North American competitiveness and improve the quality of life of our people. Among other things, we will:

- Improve productivity through regulatory cooperation to generate growth, while maintaining high standards for health and safety;

- Promote sectoral collaboration in energy, transportation, financial services, technology, and other areas to facilitate business; and invest in our people;
- Reduce the costs of trade through the efficient movement of goods and people; and
- Enhance the stewardship of our environment, create a safer and more reliable food supply while facilitating agricultural trade, and protect our people from disease.

### **Next Steps**

We will establish Ministerial-led working groups that will consult with stakeholders in our respective countries. These working groups will respond to the priorities of our people and our businesses, and will set specific, measurable, and achievable goals. They will identify concrete steps that our governments can take to meet these goals, and set implementation dates that will permit a rolling harvest of accomplishments.

Within 90 days, Ministers will report back to us with their initial report. Following this, the groups will report on a semi-annual basis. Because the Partnership will be an ongoing process of cooperation, new items will be added to the work agenda by mutual agreement as circumstances warrant.

Through this Partnership, we will ensure that North America remains the most economically dynamic region of the world and a secure home for our people in this and future generations.

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

### **Message on the Observance of Easter 2005**

*March 24, 2005*

*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

**John 3:16**

I send greetings to all those celebrating Easter, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through His sacrifice and triumph over

death, Christ lifted the sights of humanity forever. In His teachings, the poor have heard hope, the proud have been challenged, and the weak and dying have found assurance. Today, the words of Jesus continue to comfort and strengthen Christians around the world.

During this holy season, we thank God for His blessings and ask for His wisdom and guidance. We also keep in our thoughts and prayers the men and women of our Armed Forces—especially those far from home, separated from family and friends by the call of duty. May the joy of Easter fill our hearts with gratitude for our freedom, love for our neighbors, and hope for peace.

Laura and I wish you a Happy Easter.

**George W. Bush**

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

### **Proclamation 7876—Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy, 2005**

*March 24, 2005*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Well before modern Greece gained her independence, the ancient Athenians adopted democratic principles that guided their society. These principles inspired our Founding Fathers to proclaim the imperative of self-government as they worked to build our great Nation. America's love for liberty has deep roots in the spirit of Greece. On Greek Independence Day, we celebrate our special ties of friendship, history, and shared values with Greece.

Our country has welcomed generations of Greek immigrants, and we are grateful for their talents, wisdom, and creativity. We honor the Greek spirit that values family and education, public service and faith. Greek Americans have made a mark in every field—enhancing our culture, enriching our commerce, and defending our freedom. Their strong record of public service has also