

efforts will facilitate the development of North American standards and, as appropriate, the removal of differences in standards.

- To enhance clarity and compatibility of energy regulation, Canadian, U.S. and Mexican regulators began regular meetings to exchange information on regulatory standards and energy market developments and to discuss bringing gas from Alaska to the North American market.
- To reduce marine air pollution, Canada and the United States have coordinated data collection, marine inventory development and air quality monitoring. The two countries are preparing to approach the International Maritime Organization to designate special areas for controlling sulfur emissions from marine vessels.
- Canada and the United States are developing Mutual Assistance Arrangements, which will enhance our preparedness for cross-border public health emergencies; Mexico has been invited to participate.

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

Statement on the Earthquakes in Iran

March 31, 2006

On behalf of the American people, Laura and I express our sincere condolences for the loss of life and suffering caused by the series of earthquakes in the Iranian province of Luristan. Our thoughts and prayers are with families and individuals who have lost loved ones. The United States stands ready to assist the people of Iran, and we hereby extend an offer of humanitarian assistance.

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.

March 25

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

March 26

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

March 27

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ronald S. Cooper to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Harry R. Hoglander and Peter W. Tredick to be members of the National Mediation Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Molly A. O'Neill to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Environmental Information.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: John Nau (General Public); D. Franklin Arey III (General Public); Alan Autry; and Matt Blunt.

The President announced his intention to appoint Marilyn Castor Machon Pattillo and Frank Jao as members of the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Education Foundation.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities: Ricardo Barraza, Jr.; Herbert Bartlett; Sharman Word Dennis; Carmela Vargas Gonzales; Harris N. Hollin; Casey Patrick O'Halloran; Thomas J. Reilly;