

More than eight decades later, Abraham Lincoln returned to the words and meaning of the Declaration of Independence. Lincoln knew that in the distant future people would look upon it and “take courage to renew the battle which their fathers began—so that truth, and justice, and mercy . . . might not be extinguished from the land.” A century after Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., called the Declaration of Independence a “promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.”

The Declaration of Independence has become a standard by which other nations and peoples measure their progress in the effort to advance human freedom. Even nations that are not yet free pay homage to freedom, and it is seen as a universal human good.

Our Nation is vastly different than it was during the days of our founding—yet our commitment to America’s founding truths remains strong and steady. Our duty is to continue to fulfill the promise of Thomas Jefferson’s words and vision of a better life for all people. Meeting that responsibility is the best way we can honor the memory of the man who was an architect of the freest Nation on Earth.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim April 13, 2006, as Thomas Jefferson Day. I encourage all Americans to join in celebrating Thomas Jefferson’s achievements, reflecting on his words, and learning more about this extraordinary man’s influence on American history and ideals.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 18, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 19.

Memorandum on Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Office

April 13, 2006

Presidential Determination No. 2006–12

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Office

Pursuant to the authority and conditions contained in section 534(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2006, Public Law 109–102, I hereby determine and certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provisions of section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987, Public Law 100–204.

This waiver shall be effective for a period of 6 months from the date hereof. You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Statement Supporting Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld

April 14, 2006

Earlier today I spoke with Don Rumsfeld about ongoing military operations in the global war on terror. I reiterated my strong support for his leadership during this historic and challenging time for our Nation.

The Department of Defense has been tasked with many difficult missions. Upon assuming office, I asked Don to transform the largest department in our Government. That kind of change is hard, but our Nation must have a military that is fully prepared to confront the dangerous threats of the 21st century. Don and our military commanders have also been tasked to take the fight to the enemy abroad on multiple fronts.

I have seen firsthand how Don relies upon our military commanders in the field and at the Pentagon to make decisions about how best to complete these missions.

Secretary Rumsfeld's energetic and steady leadership is exactly what is needed at this critical period. He has my full support and deepest appreciation.

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.

April 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

April 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Fuad Siniora of Lebanon to the White House on April 18.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan to the White House on April 28.

April 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Columbia, MO, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Doris Hickman. He then traveled to Jefferson City, MO, where he visited Lutheran Senior Services at Heisinger Bluffs retirement community during a Medicare prescription drug plan enrollment session for senior citizens.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Des Moines, IA, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Anjana Chandran. He then visited Wesley Acres retirement community during a Medicare prescription drug plan enrollment session for senior citizens.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

April 12

In the morning, the President met with Vice Premier Wu Yi of China to discuss the results of the recent Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade session. Later, he had an intelligence briefing. He then met with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

In the afternoon, in the Yellow Oval Room, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a social lunch for President John Agyekum Kufuor of Ghana and his wife, Theresa.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Annandale, VA. Later, he then returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a retirement dinner for former U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and her husband, John.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany to the White House on May 3.

The President declared a major disaster in Arkansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on April 1–3.

April 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with President Alejandro Toledo of Peru to congratulate him on the signing of a U.S.-Peru trade agreement.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President declared a major disaster in Kansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and straight-line winds on March 12–13.

The President declared a major disaster in Oklahoma and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on March 12.

The President announced his intention to nominate Anita K. Blair to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.