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In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:03 p.m., January 3, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on January 4, 2007.

Proclamation 8098—To Take Certain Actions Under the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the Generalized System of Preferences

December 29, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Section 506A(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act")(19 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(1)), as added by section 111(a) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (title I of Public Law 106–200)(AGOA), authorizes the President to designate a country listed in section 107 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3706) as a "beneficiary sub-Saharan African country" if the President determines that the country meets the eligibility requirements set forth in section 104 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3703), as well as the eligibility criteria set forth in section 502 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462).

2. Section 104 of the AGOA authorizes the President to designate a country listed in section 107 of the AGOA as an "eligible sub-Saharan African country" if the President determines that the country meets certain eligibility requirements.

3. Section 112(b)(3)(B) of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)(3)(B)) provides special rules for certain apparel articles imported from "lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries."

4. Pursuant to section 104 of the AGOA and section 506A(a)(1) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that the Republic of Liberia (Liberia) meets the eligibility requirements set forth or referenced therein, and I have decided to designate Liberia as an eligible sub-Saharan African country and as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country.

5. I further determine that Liberia satisfies the criterion for treatment as a "lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country" under section 112(b)(3)(B) of the AGOA.

6. Pursuant to sections 501 and 502(a) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2461, 2462(a)), the President is authorized to designate countries as beneficiary developing countries and to designate any beneficiary developing country as a least-developed beneficiary developing country, for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program.

7. Section 502(b)(1)(C) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(b)(1)(C)) specifies that European Union Member States may not be designated as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP.

8. Section 507(2) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2467(2)) provides that in the case of an association of countries that is a free trade area or customs union, or that is contributing to a comprehensive regional economic integration among its members through appropriate means, the President may provide that members of such an association other than members that are barred from designation under section 502(b) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(b)) shall be treated as one country for purposes of the GSP.

9. Pursuant to section 502 of the 1974 Act, and taking into account the factors set forth in section 502(c)(19 U.S.C. 2462(c)), I have determined that East Timor should be designated as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP.

10. Pursuant to section 502 of the 1974 Act, and having considered the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c), I have also determined that East Timor should be designated as a least-developed beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

11. In accordance with section 502(b)(1)(C) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that Bulgaria and Romania may no longer be designated as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP, effective for each of these countries when it becomes a European Union Member State.

12. On June 29, 2005, I determined that currently qualifying members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) should be treated as one country for purposes of the GSP. In Proclamation 7912 of that date, I added SAARC and the currently qualifying countries to general note 4(a) to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS). Pursuant to section 507(2) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that Afghanistan should be designated as a member of SAARC for purposes of the GSP on the date that it becomes a SAARC member.

13. Section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2483), as amended, authorizes the President to embody in the HTS of the United States the substance of relevant provisions of that Act, or other acts affecting import treatment, and of actions taken thereunder.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including but not limited to section 104 of the AGOA and title V and section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2461–67, 2483), do proclaim that:

(1) Liberia is designated as an eligible sub-Saharan African country and as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country.

(2) In order to reflect this designation in the HTS, general note 16(a) to the HTS is modified by inserting in alphabetical sequence in the list of beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries "Republic of Liberia," effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after January 1, 2007.

(3) For purposes of section 112(b)(3)(B) of the AGOA, Liberia is a lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country.

(4) East Timor is designated as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

(5) In order to reflect this designation in the HTS, general note 4(a) to the HTS is modified by adding in alphabetical order "East Timor" to the list entitled, "Independent Countries," effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the twentieth day after the date of this proclamation.

(6) East Timor is designated as a least-developed beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

(7) In order to reflect this designation in the HTS, general note 4(b)(i) is modified by adding in alphabetical order "East Timor," effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the sixty-fifth day after the date of this proclamation.

(8) Bulgaria and Romania shall no longer be designated as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP upon the date that each country becomes a European Union Member State. The United States Trade Representative shall announce each such date in a notice published in the *Federal Register*.

(9) In order to reflect these changes in the HTS, general note 4(a) to the HTS is modified by deleting "Bulgaria" and "Romania" from the list entitled, "Independent Countries," effective for each of these countries with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the day on which that country becomes a European Union Member State.

(10) Afghanistan is designated as a member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) for purposes of the GSP on the date that it becomes a SAARC member. The United States Trade Representative shall announce such date in a notice published in the *Federal Register*.

(11) In order to reflect this determination in the HTS, general note 4(a) to the HTS is modified by adding in alphabetical order "Afghanistan" to the list entitled, "Member Countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)," effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the day on which Afghanistan becomes a SAARC member.

(12) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United

States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:03 a.m., January 3, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on January 4, 2007.

Memorandum on Assignment of Function Under Section 721(k) of the Defense Production Act of 1950

December 29, 2006

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury

Subject: Assignment of Function Under Section 721(k) of the Defense Production Act of 1950

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby assign to you the function of the President under section 721(k) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2170(k)), for purposes of submitting such report by February 28, 2007.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:49 a.m., January 4, 2007]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on January 5, 2007.

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.

December 23

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President met with Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates and Gen. Peter Pace, USMC, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, to discuss Iraq policy.

December 24

During the day, the President had several Christmas Eve telephone conversations with members of the U.S. military.

December 25

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

December 26

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, arriving in the afternoon.

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with former First Lady Betty Ford.

December 27

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

December 28

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced that he has named Maggie Grant as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs.

The President announced that he has named Paul R. Eckert as Associate Counsel to the President.

December 29

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany to the White House on January 4, 2007.

The President declared a major disaster in Oregon and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides on November 5–8.

The President declared an emergency in Illinois and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by record snow on November 30 through December 1.