

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, February 9, 2007

**Proclamation 8105—National
Consumer Protection Week, 2007**

February 2, 2007

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

During National Consumer Protection Week, citizens are urged to learn more about the risks of fraud and identity theft and take precautions to protect themselves from these crimes.

Americans can help prevent fraud and identity theft by becoming informed consumers. The Federal Trade Commission suggests that individuals safeguard personal information such as Social Security and account numbers, closely monitor their financial accounts, and report any problems or suspicious activity. When doing business through the Internet, it is especially important to protect personal data with appropriate software and commonsense security practices. Consumers and businesses can find resources on how to avoid identity theft and fraud by visiting the Federal Government's consumer protection website, www.consumer.gov.

My Administration is committed to protecting consumers from fraud, deception, and unfair business practices. In May 2006, I signed an Executive Order creating the Nation's first Identity Theft Task Force, comprised of the heads of executive departments and agencies. This Task Force is implementing a comprehensive strategy to prevent identity theft, prosecute those who commit fraud, and help victims. Through these and other efforts, we are helping to ensure that consumers have the tools they need to secure their personal information, monitor their financial accounts, maintain their privacy, and make responsible decisions to guard against fraud.

Consumer fraud takes advantage of the trust and integrity that characterizes our country's marketplace. By remaining vigilant and defending against fraud, Americans can protect their financial security and help our Nation's economy remain strong.

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, do hereby proclaim February 4 through February 10, 2007, as National Consumer Protection Week. I call upon Government officials, industry leaders, and consumer advocates to provide citizens with information about how they can prevent fraud and identity theft, and I encourage all citizens to be responsible consumers and take an active role in protecting their personal information.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, 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, 8:45 a.m., February 7, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on February 8. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

February 3, 2007

Good morning. This week was filled with more good news about America's economy. We learned that our economy grew at an annual rate of 3.5 percent in the fourth quarter of last year. Overall, our economy grew 3.4 percent in 2006—up from 3.1 percent in 2005. The Dow Jones reached an alltime high this week for the 27th time in the past

4 months. And we learned that America created 111,000 new jobs in January, which means we have added over 7.4 million jobs in the past 3½ years.

This good news is a result of the hard work of the American people and progrowth economic policies like tax relief. By cutting taxes, we put more money into the hands of American families and small businesses. You have used this money to produce strong and lasting economic growth. And now Congress needs to make this tax relief permanent, so we can keep America's economy growing.

Progrowth economic policies also play a vital role in our plan to balance the Federal budget. Our growing economy has produced record levels of tax revenue. This increase in tax revenue has helped us cut the deficit in half 3 years ahead of schedule. And on Monday, we will take the next step when I submit to Congress a budget that will eliminate the deficit by 2012.

To meet this goal, we must set priorities for Government spending. My top priority will continue to be keeping America safe and winning the war against extremists who want to destroy our way of life. The budget I will submit to Congress includes the cost of funding the global war on terror, including in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our troops deserve our full support, and this budget gives them the resources they need.

Cutting the deficit during a time of war requires us to restrain spending in other areas. One good way to help eliminate wasteful spending is to pass earmark reform. Earmarks are special interest items that are often slipped into bills at the last hour. Even worse, more than 90 percent of earmarks never make it to the floor of the House and Senate for a vote. They are dropped into committee reports that are not even part of the bill that arrives on my desk, yet they are treated as if they have the force of law. The time has come to end this practice. So I will work with Democrats and Republicans in Congress to continue reforming the budget process, expose every earmark to the light of day and a vote in Congress, and cut the number and cost of earmarks at least in half.

Another important tool for eliminating wasteful spending is the line-item veto. Today, when lawmakers tack porkbarrel spending onto large bills, the President is left with an all-or-nothing choice: either sign the bill with the wasteful spending or veto the whole bill and deny funding for vital programs. With the line-item veto, the President can sign the funding for necessary programs into law and send the unnecessary provisions back to Congress for a prompt up-or-down vote on whether to uphold the spending. Forty-three Governors have a line-item veto. I urge Congress to pass the line-item veto, so we can work together to control Federal spending.

Controlling spending also requires us to address the unsustainable growth of entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Spending for these programs is growing faster than inflation, faster than our economy, and faster than our ability to pay for it. Unless we act, we will saddle our children and grandchildren with tens of trillions of dollars of unfunded obligations. They will face three bad options: huge tax increases; huge budget deficits; or huge and immediate cuts in benefits. Republicans and Democrats need to come together to confront the challenge of entitlement spending and ensure that these vital programs are there when our children and grandchildren need them.

I look forward to working with Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle to address these challenges. Together we can pass a budget that keeps our economy strong, keeps America safe, and makes deficit spending a thing of the past.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:35 a.m. on February 2 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 3. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 2 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Remarks to the House Democratic
Caucus Issues Conference in
Williamsburg, Virginia
February 3, 2007**

Thank you all. It's nice to be here. Thank you very much. The last time I looked at some of your faces, I was at the State of the Union, and I saw kind of a strange expression when I referred to something as the "Democrat Party." Now, look, my diction isn't all that good. [*Laughter*] I have been accused of occasionally mangling the English language. [*Laughter*] And so I appreciate you inviting the head of the Republic Party.

Thanks for having me, Madam Speaker. I'm proud to be here. I'm proud to have met your grandchild. I know the mother well. [*Laughter*] If the child has as much spunk as the mother, she's [he's]* going to have a fantastic life. And so thank you for having me.

I want to thank the members for allowing me to come. I'm looking forward to visiting with you. I particularly want to thank your families. I know how hard it is on a family to support a loved one in public life. It takes a lot of sacrifice to encourage your spouse to serve the country. Politics can be ugly. Sometimes they say not nice things about you in the local newspaper. You're traveling a lot. Campaigns are rough on a family. And so I really want to thank—I thank the members for serving, but I know full well that you couldn't serve without the love and support of your family members. So I really appreciate your contribution to the country.

Madam Speaker, I thank you very much for your leadership. I was genuinely touched when I thought about how your dad would be reacting to seeing you sitting up there in the House Chamber. It was an historic moment, and I know you're proud of the accomplishments, and I appreciate you all supporting this fine woman into a really important leadership role.

On the way in, we spent a little time talking about Florida, and I talked to the Governor yesterday. The Speaker was concerned, as am I, to make sure that the folks get the help they need down there. And, Madam

Speaker, you and I, and every member here, shares concerns for those whose lives were turned upside down by that storm. And as I told you earlier, and told the Governor, whatever Federal response is needed, we will make it quick and sure. And so thank you for your concerns.

I'm glad to be here with Steny Hoyer. Good to see you. Thank you, Steny. He is a down-to-earth, no-nonsense guy. I'm looking forward to working with you. James Clyburn and Rahm Emanuel and John Larson and all the leadership, I'm looking forward to working with you. I know you've probably heard that, and you doubt whether it's true—it's true. We can do some big things together. In order to do big things, we're going to have to do it together.

So I'd like to share some of the thoughts about the big things I'd like to see us try to accomplish. First, balancing the budget—that's a big thing. Rob Portman is going to submit a budget tomorrow. Some of it you'll like; some of it you won't like; but it achieves the goal that we have said, which is to balance the budget. And we will show you how to do so in 5 years. You will have your own ideas, and we can work together, hopefully, to achieve that big goal.

Inherent in the budget issue is whether or not—is unfunded liabilities as a part of entitlement programs. This is a difficult issue for members of both parties. I fully understand it's hard to come to the table to address Social Security or Medicare, the unfunded liabilities inherent in those programs. I've asked members of my party to come to the table with ideas. I will bring ideas. I ask members of the Democratic Party to come to the table as well.

I believe we have an obligation to work to solve the problem. Is it going to be hard work? You bet it's hard work. A lot of times people say, "Well, why don't we just wait for the crisis to come upon us?" Well, I think the crisis is here. That's why I've included reforms of entitlement in every State of the Union Address. And I'm going to keep talking—well, I've got one more left; I'll keep talking about it for the next time as well. Hopefully I won't have to, if we're able to sit and come together. But I'm under no illusions of how hard it's going to be. The only

* White House correction.

thing I want to share with you is, is my desire to see if we can't work together to get it done.

Secondly, there's a great goal and—to make sure every child has got the foundation necessary to be able to enjoy the great opportunities our country affords. As you know, I am a big believer in the No Child Left Behind Act. I think it has worked. I fully recognize that some have got concerns about it, and I'm willing to work with both Republicans and Democrats to address those concerns. My only admonition is, let us don't water down the accountability inherent in this good law that enables us to detect problems early so we can solve the problems, before it's too late.

Secondly, I know we can work together on passing the American Competitiveness Initiative, aimed at making sure that math and science is more prevalent amongst our youngsters and doubling the amount of basic research at the Federal level, which will enable our country to remain the most innovative country in the world.

Thirdly, we've got to make sure people have got health insurance. I mentioned this in the State of the Union. I believe the role of the Federal Government is to help the poor, the disabled, and the elderly, and we will work with you to make sure that's happened. But I also think it's very important to figure out why health insurance is less affordable and less available for more of our citizens.

I believe part of the reason is because the Tax Code discourages private individuals from being able to purchase health care. I ask you to carefully consider the idea that we have put out. I've already heard from some members who thought it was a lousy idea; I understand that. But please look at it in depth as a way to address an issue that concerns us all, and that is, not enough people having health insurance.

Secondly, I strongly believe the States are the proper laboratories for change. And I think it makes sense to encourage innovation at the State level, in terms of helping people on Medicaid get health insurance, helping the poor get health insurance, making sure that we develop risk pools to enable those who cannot afford insurance because of health reasons have coverage. Anyway, it's a

comprehensive approach that addresses a common goal of ours.

Thirdly, I set a goal to reduce our gasoline use by 20 percent over the next 10 years. And I thank you very much for receiving the idea that the country has advanced enough technologically to be able to have a mandatory fuel standard that encourages the use of renewables and alternatives, up to 37 billion gallons by 2017. We have spent a lot of money on developing new technologies. I look forward to working with you to continue to do so.

There's some concern, I know, amongst some of the farm State Congressmen that when you use a lot of corn for ethanol, it's going to rise—it's going to cause the feed for hogs and cattle to rise. I've heard loud and clear those complaints. And to a certain extent, they're right. As a matter of fact, that is why we need to spend money on cellulosic ethanol, to make sure that we have got substitutes—[*applause*]*—*substitute raw material—in other words, we are able to replace corn as the main raw material for the ethanol in order to achieve a great goal. And I'm looking forward to working with you on it.

It's an area where we can show the American people that the Republican Party and the Democratic Party has got the capability of enabling us to be able to say to the people, "By being less dependent on oil, we've enhanced our national security, we've helped our economic security, and we've done something positive on the environment."

I believe a great goal is a comprehensive energy—immigration bill. This too is a difficult issue. And in order to get it done, it's going to require Members in the House and the Senate—Republican Members, Democratic Members—finding common ground. And the White House wants to help. I believe strongly in this issue. I know that in order to enforce our border, which all of us wants to—all of us here want to do, that we must have a comprehensive plan to be able to do so.

I believe it is in the Nation's interests to have a temporary-worker program. It's in the interests of small-business owners and farmers to be able to have folks that are willing to do work Americans are not doing, on a

temporary basis. I know that in order to enforce this border, we better have a plan that doesn't cause people to sneak in. We want our Border Patrol agents guarding the border from criminals and drug dealers and terrorists, not from folks that are coming to do jobs that Americans aren't doing.

And so this is an important issue. And I repeat to you: I want to work with you on it. I went to the Oval Office to address it, because I believe strongly that we can achieve an objective. I'm under no illusions as to how hard it's going to be, but it will be a lot easier when Republicans and Democrats work together to achieve this important objective.

We share a common goal, and that is to keep America safe. You know, I welcome debate in a time of war, and I hope you know that. Nor do I consider anybody's—nor do I consider a belief that if you don't happen to agree with me, you don't share the same sense of patriotism I do. You can get that thought out of your mind, if that's what some believe.

These are tough times, and yet there's no doubt in my mind that you want to secure this homeland just as much as I do. You remember the lessons of September the 11th just like I do, and you understand a fundamental obligation of Government is to do everything in our power to protect people here. And I'm looking forward to working with you on that, to make sure our intelligence agencies have what they need to be able to detect problems before they come, to continue to secure the homeland. I believe we can work together in Afghanistan to make sure that former safe haven is able to grow as a democracy.

I put out a plan that has caused a lot of debate on Iraq. I took a lot of time thinking about how best to achieve an objective of a country governing and sustaining and defending itself, a country that will be an ally in this war on terror. I listened to many members here. I listened to members of my own party. I listened to the military and came up with a plan that I genuinely believe has the best chance of succeeding.

I do know we agree on some things, and that is that the Maliki Government is going to have to show strong leadership. I appreciate

the fact that the Speaker and many of—the distinguished chairman came and briefed me on their trip. She said loud and clear, “Mr. President, you've got to make it clear to the Iraqi people that their Government has got to perform.” And I understand, and I agree, Madam Speaker.

There's got to be success not only on the military front—in other words, the Iraqis have got to be taking the lead in Baghdad to secure its capital—but there's also got to be success on the political front. They've got to pass an oil law. They've got to amend their Constitution so that all segments of that society feel that the Government is for them. They've got to spend our money on reconstruction projects that help unite the country. They've got to have local elections so people feel involved in the Provincial governments. In other words, there's benchmarks that they have got to achieve. And I have made it clear to the Iraqi Government, just like I made it clear to the American people, our commitment is not open-ended.

We've got other equities in foreign policy that I know we can work together on. I cannot thank you enough for supporting the HIV/AIDS initiative on the continent of Africa. It's a pleasure to be able to stand up in front of the American people and say, “Your tax dollars have made a significant difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.” And this plan would not have been funded without the able leadership and support of many people here in this building, and I appreciate that.

We've set another great goal, and that's to reduce malaria in countries on the continent of Africa. And I'm convinced we can work together with a—[*applause*]*—strategy that will work. I promised people in my State of the Union that we will continue to pursue freedom in places like Cuba or Belarus or Burma, and that we'll continue to rally the world to stay focused on Darfur.*

And so this is a bold agenda for all of us. And I agree, Madam Speaker, there's a chance to show people that we can get beyond the politics of Washington, DC; that we're able to treat each other with civility, and at the same time, accomplish big goals. And so I've come, at your kind invitation, to assure the members that I look forward

to working with you in doing the best we possibly can do for the good of all American citizens.

Thank you for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:22 a.m. in Ballroom A at the Kingsmill Resort & Spa. In his remarks, he referred to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and her grandson, Paul M. Vos, and daughter, Alexandra Pelosi; and Gov. Charlie Crist of Florida.

Remarks Following a Meeting at the House Democratic Caucus Issues Conference in Williamsburg

February 3, 2007

The President. Speaker, thank you. First of all, thanks for the invitation, Madam Speaker and Rahm; thank you very much. I enjoyed sharing ideas with Members of Congress.

One of the things I wanted to tell the members very clearly was, one, I appreciate their service to the country. Oftentimes, their service and the service that their families provide is taken for granted, and I want them to know how much I appreciate a willingness to be in politics. Politics is hard. It's hard because of the campaign; it's hard, in many cases, because of the travel. These are hard times because of the big issues we face. And so thank you for giving me a chance to come and share in a recognition that a lot of folks appreciate them, including the President.

Secondly, I enjoyed sharing some priorities. My message really was that these are big goals that Democrats care about and Republicans care about, and we've got to work hard to find ways to achieve big goals. And I also was pleased to take questions, and I thought the questions were very good and gave me a chance to share philosophy as well as how I think we can advance some very important issues.

I've met with the Speaker and Congressman Hoyer—Steny—quite a few times since I have been the President. We're going to—hopefully we will—not hopefully—we will continue to meet. In my meetings I—look, we don't always agree, and that's why we're in different parties. *[Laughter]* But we do

agree about our country, and we do agree about the desire to work together.

And so I really appreciate you letting me come by. I really do. I felt welcomed. I felt like people understood that I've got pressures on me, like I understand they have pressures on them. And I really hope that the members out there get a sense that I bear no ill will, I bring no animosity about the fact that we may not agree on every position, and that I am appreciative of the contributions they make.

And so thanks a lot for letting me come. I answered five or six questions. I was able to shake hands with a lot of members. I got to hug a few babies. *[Laughter]* I kind of remembered—help me remember the good old days. *[Laughter]*

Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi. Still has the touch.

The President. Well, I don't know. *[Laughter]* One of the babies I got to hug was the Speaker's grandchild. But it was a—I would define the moment for me as relaxed, informative, and enjoyable.

So thank you very much for having me. I appreciate it. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:47 a.m. in the Burwell Ballroom at the Kingsmill Resort & Spa. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Rahm Emanuel, chairman, House Democratic Caucus.

Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

February 5, 2007

The President. I appreciate my Cabinet joining me today as we discussed our budget. Today we submit a budget to the United States Congress that shows we can balance the budget in 5 years without raising taxes.

Our economy is strong because of good policy and because the entrepreneurial spirit is strong. By keeping taxes down, we actually generate strong revenues to the Treasury.

And I appreciate Director Portman helping us devise a plan that sets priorities and, at the same time, emphasizes fiscal restraint. Our priority is to protect the American people. And our priority is to make sure our

troops have what it takes to do their jobs. We also have got priorities in national parks and education and health care. But we have proven—and I strongly believe Congress needs to listen to a budget which has no tax increase and a budget, because of fiscal discipline, that can be balanced in 5 years.

Secondly, I strongly believe that Congress needs to do something on earmarks. In order to make sure that we're fiscally responsible with the people's money, Congress needs to make sure that when they spend the people's money, there's transparency and an up-or-down vote for each item. As well, I believe the President needs to have the line-item veto. It's one thing to get the size of the budget pie right; it's another thing to make sure that the slices in that pie meet national priorities.

And so the budget that Director Portman is going to be talking about is realistic, it's achievable, and it's got good reforms in it. So thank you very much. Looking forward to working with the Congress to get this budget passed.

I'll answer a couple of questions. Ben [Ben Feller, Associated Press].

Federal Budget

Q. Mr. President, thank you. You've opposed setting timelines for troop withdrawal in Iraq, yet your new budget plan assumes that war spending will be down to 50 billion by 2009 and none beyond that. Are you, in effect, sir, setting a timeline for the end of the war?

The President. Ben, we've had years of projections in the past. In other words, we've said to the Congress, "Here's what our anticipated expenditure is in the short term." And we've been able to manage our budgets with 5 years of war behind us, and we'll manage the budgets in the out years. There will be no timetable set. And the reason why is, is because we don't want to send mixed signals to an enemy or to a struggling democracy or to our troops.

Toby [Tabassum Zakaria, Reuters].

Progress in Iraq

Q. Mr. President, how do you respond to some criticism from the Iraqis that the reason for the recent escalation of violence in Iraq

is because the United States has been too slow to implement its new strategy?

The President. Well, General Petraeus is heading to Iraq this week, early this—tomorrow. And my message is, is that both of us, the Iraqis and the U.S. and coalition forces, have got to get this plan in place as quickly as possible. Of course, we want the plan to work, and we want to make sure that the strategy we've implemented—or the strategy we've outlined is implemented properly.

I appreciate the fact that the Iraqi Government is anxious to get security inside the capital of the country. That's a good sign. It's a good sign that there's a sense of concern and anxiety. It means that the Government understands they have a responsibility to protect their people. And we want to help them. What we're trying to do with this reinforcement of our troops is to provide enough space so that the Iraqi Government can meet certain benchmarks or certain requirements for a unity government to survive and for the country to be strong.

I had to make a decision as to whether or not we were going to allow the status quo to continue. And the status quo wasn't acceptable. I listened to a lot of people in Congress as to whether or not we ought to slowly withdraw and redeploy troops. My worry about that was that the capital would get worse, and out of that chaos would come grave danger to the United States. And so I listened to a lot of other folks, including our military, and said, "Look, we got to take care and help these Iraqis take care of the violence inside of Baghdad."

And that's why I made the decision I made, and we're in the process of implementing that plan. We'd like to do it as quickly as possible. The success of that plan is going to depend upon the capacity and willingness of the Iraqis to do hard work, and we want to help them do that work. And the fact that Government officials are now saying that it's time to start implementing the plan is a good sign. It shows that they understand that now is the time to do the things necessary to protect their people.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:48 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. David H. Petraeus,

USA, incoming commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq.

cludes matters relating to the interdiction of aircraft engaged in illicit drug trafficking.

Memorandum on Assignment of Functions Under Section 556 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 5, 2007.

February 5, 2007

Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Assignment of Functions under Section 556 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby assign to you the functions of the President under section 556 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364).

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:11 a.m., February 12, 2007]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on February 13.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report Relating to the Interdiction of Aircraft Engaged in Illicit Drug Trafficking

February 5, 2007

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with the authorities relating to official immunity in the interdiction of aircraft engaged in illicit drug trafficking (Public Law 107-108, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2291-4), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration. This report in-

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency Blocking Property of Certain Persons Contributing to the Conflict in Cote d'Ivoire

February 5, 2007

On February 7, 2006, by Executive Order 13396, I declared a national emergency and ordered related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in Cote d'Ivoire, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706). I took this action to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the situation in or in relation to Cote d'Ivoire, which has been addressed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1572 of November 15, 2004, and subsequent resolutions, and has resulted in the massacre of large numbers of civilians, widespread human rights abuses, significant political violence and unrest, and attacks against international peacekeeping forces leading to fatalities.

Because the situation in or in relation to Cote d'Ivoire continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on February 7, 2006, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond February 7, 2007. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13396.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 5, 2007.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
12:44 p.m., February 5, 2007]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 6, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on February 6.

**Message to the Congress on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to
Cote d'Ivoire**

February 5, 2007

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in Cote d'Ivoire are to continue in effect beyond February 7, 2007.

The situation in or in relation to Cote d'Ivoire, which has been addressed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1572 of November 15, 2004, and subsequent resolutions, has resulted in the massacre of large numbers of civilians, widespread human rights abuses, significant political violence and unrest, and attacks against international peacekeeping forces leading to fatalities. This situation poses a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and related measures

blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in Cote d'Ivoire.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 5, 2007.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 6.

**Remarks at Micron Technology, Inc.,
in Manassas, Virginia
*February 6, 2007***

The President. Thank you all. Thank you for your warm welcome. It's good to be here at Micron Technologies. I'm going to spend a little time with you talking about the state of our economy and the budget I submitted to the United States Congress. It should interest you. After all, it's your money. [*Laughter*]

One thing about Micron is that it is clear that the role of government is to encourage investment and enhance educational opportunities. I mean, when you walk through the halls of this innovative company, it's pretty clear to me that you need to know what you're doing in order to make this—[*laughter*—company survive and thrive like it is.

The other day I was in New York, and I talked about what we need to do to keep the economy growing. In other words, things are fine right now; what do you do to make it even better in the future? And coming to a company like this reminds me about some of the basic things we need to do. One, we need to make sure that we educate kids so that they can become employees in companies like this—basic, fundamental education—and encourage additional education for folks so they gain skills to fill the jobs of the 21st century.

Secondly, trade—like, if you're confident in what you make, you ought to be for trade, because people are going to want to buy what you make. Ninety-five percent of the customers in the world live outside the United States. I mean, we're 5 percent of the population; 95 percent is elsewhere. This company relies upon trade. So you've got the smart people back there making the products that people want, and you want to be in a position

to sell it if you want your company to continue to grow.

I appreciate very much the fact that companies like Micron actually have a budget. It's a concept that the government needs to get used to, too. *[Laughter]* And I'm going to spend a little time talking about the budget. I submitted a budget yesterday that says, we can balance the budget by 2012 without raising your taxes. I'm going to explain how it works.

It's probably counterintuitive to some, particularly those who tend to trust government, but see, I believe it is not only possible, we have proven it through a document, that by keeping taxes low and being wise about how we spend your money, we actually achieve balance in the budget. That's not to say we won't have other challenges, but this budget can work if Congress resists the temptation to raise your taxes.

Now, I do want to thank Steve and the good folks from Idaho for joining us. Virginia is a good part of the world, or obviously you wouldn't be here. But you understand that there's some really fine folks that live here and work here. I appreciate Pat, the site director who gave me a tour. He tried to explain all the big machines that were there to a history major. *[Laughter]* I played like I understood. *[Laughter]* It's a really interesting place you work in.

I appreciate Mike Simpson. He's the congressman from Idaho. This innovative company is headquartered in his district, and so he wanted to come by and see this part of Micron's operations. I appreciate the mayor. Mayor, are you here somewhere?

Mayor Douglas S. Waldron. Yes, sir.

The President. Oh, Mayor, good to see you. Thank you for serving. Appreciate it. Just fill the potholes—that's all I can tell you. *[Laughter]* And I'm sure you are. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to visit with you. First thing is for sure, this economy is strong. I hope you feel it. I mean, after all, the company is investing billions of dollars to make sure that your product is competitive in a world economy, and one reason why the company feels confident about investing billions of dollars is because the nature of this economy is strong, and the statistics bear it out.

Last quarter, we grew at 3.5 percent growth. Now in a big economy, that is a substantial growth. Last year, we grew by 3.4 percent for the year. That's up from 3.1 percent. That's positive news if you're working in America. It's positive news if you're looking for a job. In other words, it's hard to find good work unless this economy is growing. And the economy is strong. The Dow Jones Industrial Average reached an alltime high for the 27th time in the past 4 months. In other words, people are confident. People feel good about the future.

Real wages are up. That's positive if you rely upon a wage. It's up by 1.7 percent. Real wages is that beyond the cost of living. The average family of four making \$1,000 more this year than they were last year, and that helps a lot.

Three months ago, we've added—over the last 3 months, we added a million jobs. It's all due to the entrepreneurial spirit. See, government doesn't create wealth. Government creates an environment that encourages capital flows and investment. I really believe the most important aspect of government is to react to problems and encourage the entrepreneurial spirit. I really want it to be said, America is entrepreneurial heaven. It's a great place to take risk and to realize your dreams, and I believe it is. And the question is, how do we keep it that way?

I want you to remember a little bit of the economic history of the recent years. It will help justify why I submitted the budget I submitted. You might remember that we were in a recession in 2001. I don't know if you were working here then, but that recession was being felt all throughout our economy. And then the enemy attacked us, and it hurt a lot. You know, a huge attack like that not only shakes the psychology of the country, it hurt the economy.

And so I decided to do something about it and cut taxes—worked with Congress to cut taxes. I believe that if you have more money in your pocket to save or spend or invest, that is what was required to create a condition where people would feel more comfortable about making investments. In other words, the entrepreneurial spirit is enhanced when you have more money, when

consumers have more money to spend or businesses have more money to invest.

And so we cut taxes. We cut taxes on everybody who pays income taxes. I believe the best, fairest policy in Washington is not to play favorite in the Tax Code, but say, "If you pay income taxes, you ought to get a tax cut." And that's what we did.

We also doubled the child tax credit. We reduced the marriage penalty. We cut taxes on dividends and capital gains in 2003. And the reason why is, we want to encourage investment. You cannot spend billions of dollars inside this plant unless somebody is willing to make that investment. And by cutting capital gains taxes and taxes on dividends, it encourages capital flow; it makes it easier for Micron to attract capital to buy new equipment to expand your business and to remain competitive.

Our economy expanded—so there's a big debate. There's always—do tax cuts work? They work. I understand the politics of cutting taxes. Some like it; some don't. I just asked the American people to look at the facts. Since we cut taxes a second time in 2003, we've added 7.4 million new jobs. Tax cuts equaled new jobs. Our economy expanded by 13 percent since we cut taxes in 2003. In other words, we dealt with the recession; we dealt with the attacks; we laid the conditions for economic vitality; and the American people took hold and made it work.

Government didn't grow the economy; the hard-working people of our country grew the economy. And so coming into this budget session, I felt like we're in a good opportunity to balance this budget because of the economic vitality. In other words, if you got a weak economy, it's really hard to stand up with credibility and say to Congress, "Join me in balancing the budget without raising taxes." We got a strong economy.

One of the things that happens when you have a strong economy, when you have vitality in the private sector, is it turns out you get more tax revenues than you anticipate. See, cutting taxes created the incentives for people to save, invest, and consume, which caused the economy to grow. And as the economy grows, the pie gets bigger, the tax

revenues to the Treasury increase, and that's what happened.

In 2004, I said, "We can cut the deficit in half in 5 years." There was a lot of skepticism. Washington occasionally has skepticism. [*Laughter*] They said, "You can't do that unless you raise taxes." Well, sure enough, we did do it by not raising taxes. As a matter of fact, we did so 3 years ahead of schedule.

See, low taxes means economic vitality, which means more tax revenues. And so the fundamental question is, what do you need to do to keep the economy growing, in order to make sure the tax revenues keep coming in to the Treasury? Step one is to keep the taxes low. A lot of people saying, "You've got to raise it." I don't believe so. I think raising taxes hurts the economy. I think raising taxes makes it harder to sustain economic growth. I think if we raise taxes, it makes it harder for this company to invest billions of dollars in new equipment. And if this company decides not to invest billions of dollars in new equipment, it makes it harder for your wages to go up; it means somebody is not making that equipment, which will have an effect on the economy.

And so step one for a good budget, step one to balancing the budget is to keep taxes low. As a matter of fact, not only do I think we ought not to raise them, I think we ought to make every tax cut we passed permanent.

Now, it also means we're going to have to set priorities with your money. See, the temptation in Washington is to spend your money on everything that sounds good. That's not how you run your family budget; that's not how this company runs its company budget; and that's certainly how the Government ought not to run its budget, which means you have to do the hard work and set priorities.

And so the budget I submitted to Congress sets clear priorities. The number one priority, as far as I'm concerned, for the Federal Government, is to protect the American people. The number one priority is to spend monies necessary to defeat an enemy that wants to cause us harm. One of the lessons of September the 11th is that chaos and safe haven overseas could cause an enemy to come and

harm us, and I'm never going to forget the lesson.

Secondly, a priority is when we ask an American to wear the uniform, volunteers to wear the uniform, to go into harm's way, that person deserves the full support of the United States Government. And so the priority in this budget is to make sure that those who are on the frontlines of protecting you, in a war which I wish wasn't waging, in a war that came home to us on September the 11th, is to make sure they have the tools necessary to do the job. If Government's job is to protect the American people from harm, then we better make sure those we've charged with protecting you have what it takes to do so.

There's something called discretionary spending in the budget. I don't want to get to be too much of a budget expert for you, but we've got what's called mandatory spending—in other words, it's going to happen based upon formula—and discretionary spending, where the Government gets to decide on an annual basis how much is spent.

And so therefore, if you're trying to balance the budget after you've set your priority and funded it, then the Congress has to be wise about other aspects of discretionary spending. And so the budget I've submitted says that we can meet our obligations but don't have to spend up to the rate of inflation. In other words, you have to have some fiscal discipline if you want to balance the Federal budget, and that's what I'm asking Congress to do.

One of the things I presume you expect us to do is analyze programs. In other words, if they say, "This is going to do this," and the results aren't there, I think the American people expect us to eliminate those programs or cut the programs back or not fund them, and that's exactly what we do. It's a little hard sometimes to say to a person, a Member of Congress, "By the way, the program that you think is a good program is not working." But we spend a lot of time doing that in Washington, DC, and we got a pretty good record about eliminating programs that don't work. And we'll continue to work with Congress to hold people to account. That's what happens here at Micron. If your product line is not meeting expectations, you don't keep

funding something that's not working. That's what Government ought to do as well.

I want to talk about an interesting topic that tends to dominate Washington and one that is necessary to make sure that we spend your money wisely and balance the budget, and that's the issue of earmarks. I'm sure you've heard about them. Earmarks are special interest items that get slipped into spending bills a lot of times at the last minute. In other words, they're moving a piece of appropriations out, and then somebody shows up and says, "Well, I need this for my district," or, "I need this for my district."

In 2005, we had more than 13,000 earmarks. More than 90 percent of the earmarks never make it to the floor of the House or the Senate. Isn't that interesting? In other words, they're never voted on. They're just dropped into a committee report, and these committee reports are not even a part of the bill that arrives on my desk. And here's what they look like.

These things didn't get voted on, and yet they have the force of law. And they provide taxpayers' dollars from a lot of things—researching wool, swimming pools, in here. They didn't vote them into law. In other words, Congress didn't vote these things into law; I didn't sign them into law; yet they have the force of law.

And therefore, it's important for Congress to continue—to reform the process, and we want to work with them. In other words, as a taxpayer, I presume you expect that every single appropriation has been looked at and analyzed and debated. In other words, let that sun shine in. It's called transparency. And if the Members of Congress think it's a good idea, then they ought to vote it up or down and then send it to my desk so I know full well that there's been full scrutiny in Congress. We can do a better job with your money, and one way to do so is to reform the earmark process.

Another way to do a better job with your money is to give me the line-item veto so I can work with Congress. In other words, what happens is, is that we have—we debate the size of the pie. In other words, in order to balance the budget, we need this much top-line spending. But a lot of times, we don't—it makes it different to deal with the

slices of the pie. And I believe there needs to be a process where the President has got the capacity to work with Congress to say, "Well, maybe this slice of the pie doesn't meet a national priority;" where I'm able to red line projects, for example, and send them back to Congress for an up-or-down vote.

In other words, if Congress is genuinely concerned about spending your money wisely, and I believe most Members are, then, one, they got to do something about earmarks; and secondly, they need to work with the executive branch in order to have a tool necessary to let spending be given the full light of day. You know most States have line-item vetoes? I believe it to be a necessary reform for the Federal Government to have the same opportunity to work together.

I want to talk a little bit about entitlement programs. I told you there's discretionary spending. There's also mandatory spending, nondiscretionary spending. And the biggest programs, of course, are Social Security and Medicare. I submitted in my budget some reform for Medicare by slowing down the rate of growth from 7.4 percent per year to 6.7 percent per year, and that saves billions of dollars in doing that.

In other words, instead of spending—instead of saying these mandatory programs will grow at the rate of nearly 7½ percent, why don't we just be reasonable and see if we can slow it down a little bit. You'll hear people say, "Well, he's cutting spending." No. That may be Washington, DC, definition of "cut," but slowing the rate of spending saves you a lot of money.

Now, mandatory spending requires more than that as far I'm concerned. We have a fundamental problem when it comes to, say, a program like Social Security. Why? Baby boomers like me are getting ready to retire. Like my retirement date and my Social Security date happen to be the same, 2008. It's convenient. *[Laughter]* Sixty-two years old in 2008. And by the way, if you're not 60, it's not as old as it sounds. *[Laughter]* And yet there are fewer people paying into the system necessary to support the promises that have been made to me and other baby boomers. Our benefits are growing quite dramatically.

In other words, previous Congresses have said, "Vote for me; I promise you to raise

the benefits inherent in Social Security," without considering the fact that the number of workers paying into the system relative to the number of beneficiaries is shrinking. And the mathematics isn't going to work. And if we don't do something quite rapidly, in my judgment, we're going to saddle a younger generation of Americans, a younger generation of workers, with unbelievably difficult choices—raising taxes significantly to pay for the promises, slashing benefits, or slashing other programs.

Now is the time for Members of the Congress in both political parties to bring their best ideas to the table as to how to solve the problems involved with entitlement programs. And yet it's really hard to do in Washington—I must confess. There's a lot of politics in the Nation's Capital, too much, as far as I'm concerned.

And one of my jobs, and I believe the jobs of the leadership of the Congress, is to say, "Let us look at this problem in a sober light; let us come and address the significant deficiencies inherent in two really important programs—Medicare and Social Security—and let us do it for the sake of a future generation of workers." Every year we wait, the problem becomes more acute.

And so I'm hopeful, generally hopeful, that I can get Democrats and Republicans in Congress to come to the table. I'll lay out, like I have done over the past years, how I think we all can solve the problem. By the way, I've got an idea how to do so without raising your taxes. And I expect—would hope other Members would come and say, "Well here's how we think we can solve it," and hopefully we can find some common ground to do our duty.

See, I like to remind people that the job for those of us in Washington is to confront problems now and not pass them on to other people, is to do the hard work necessary to say to America, "Look, we know your problems, and we're going to do our best to solve them," whether it be on the domestic front or on foreign policy.

I really am upbeat about the future of the country. I feel great about it. All you've got to do is come to Micron and feel good about life. I didn't see a lot of smiles on people's faces because they had those masks on—

[laughter]—but I detected a bounce in people's step. I detected the fact that I'm here in an exciting place for people to work. I appreciated when the plant manager and the CEO tells me that there—spends a lot of time educating people, adding added value so that people will be able to find those jobs that are necessary in the 21st century.

I'll tell you this, that if government and private sector doesn't continue to work together to make sure people have a skill set, the jobs will go somewhere else. And therefore, now is the time to educate our people. We live in a global economy, and therefore, lawsuits matter. If you get sued all the time in America, it's going to make it harder for you to compete with people elsewhere. The amount of taxes you pay matters if you're going to be a competitive company and provide good jobs for people.

And the budget I've submitted to the United States Congress reflects all this. It says, we can balance the budget without raising your taxes. We're just going to have to be smart about how we spend your money. It also recognizes that the decisions made in the budget will affect how this company does business.

So you've got two things to pay attention to. One, will Micron remain competitive as a result of government policy, and two, will you have more money so you get to make the decisions? And my fundamental question to the American people is, who do you want making the decisions with your money? Do you want to make it yourself or do you want the government making those decisions? The budget I've submitted says we can meet our priorities and let you make the decisions with the hard money—with the money you've earned through your hard work.

So I'm honored to be here. I appreciate you giving me a chance to come and express my views on an important subject. And I ask for God's blessings on you all. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:23 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Steven R. Appleton, chairman of the board and chief executive officer and president, Patrick T. Otte, site director, and Stephen Silberstein, plant manager, Micron Technology, Inc.; and Mayor Douglas S. Waldron of Manassas, VA.

Statement on the Creation of the Department of Defense Unified Combatant Command for Africa

February 6, 2007

Today I am pleased to announce my decision to create a Department of Defense Unified Combatant Command for Africa. I have directed the Secretary of Defense to stand up U.S. Africa Command by the end of fiscal year 2008.

This new command will strengthen our security cooperation with Africa and create new opportunities to bolster the capabilities of our partners in Africa. Africa Command will enhance our efforts to bring peace and security to the people of Africa and promote our common goals of development, health, education, democracy, and economic growth in Africa.

We will be consulting with African leaders to seek their thoughts on how Africa Command can respond to security challenges and opportunities in Africa. We will also work closely with our African partners to determine an appropriate location for the new command in Africa.

NOTE: In his statement, the President referred to Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates.

Directive on Medical Countermeasures Against Weapons of Mass Destruction

January 31, 2007

Homeland Security Presidential Directive/
HSPD-18

Subject: Medical Countermeasures against Weapons of Mass Destruction

BACKGROUND

(1) Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)—chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear agents (CBRN)—in the possession of hostile states or terrorists represent one of the greatest security challenges facing the United States. An attack utilizing WMD

potentially could cause mass casualties, compromise critical infrastructure, adversely affect our economy, and inflict social and psychological damage that could negatively affect the American way of life.

(2) Our *National Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction* (December 2002) and *Biodefense for the 21st Century* (April 2004) identify response and recovery as key components of our Nation's ability to manage the consequences of a WMD attack. Our primary goal is to prevent such an attack, but we must be fully prepared to respond to and recover from an attack if one occurs. Accordingly, we have made significant investments in our WMD consequence management capabilities in order to mitigate impacts to the public's health, the economy, and our critical infrastructure. The development and acquisition of effective medical countermeasures to mitigate illness, suffering, and death resulting from CBRN agents is central to our consequence management efforts.

(3) It is not presently feasible to develop and stockpile medical countermeasures against every possible threat. The development of vaccines and drugs to prevent or mitigate adverse health effects caused by exposure to biological agents, chemicals, or radiation is a time-consuming and costly process. This directive builds upon the vision and objectives articulated in our *National Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction* and *Biodefense for the 21st Century* to ensure that our Nation's medical countermeasure research, development, and acquisition efforts:

(a) Target threats that have potential for catastrophic impact on our public health and are subject to medical mitigation;

(b) Yield a rapidly deployable and flexible capability to address both existing and evolving threats;

(c) Are part of an integrated WMD consequence management approach informed by current risk assessments of threats, vulnerabilities, and capabilities; and

(d) Include the development of effective, feasible, and pragmatic concepts of operation for responding to and recovering from an attack.

(4) In order to address the challenges presented by the diverse CBRN threat spec-

trum, optimize the investments necessary for medical countermeasures development, and ensure that our activities significantly enhance our domestic and international response and recovery capabilities, our decisions as to the research, development, and acquisition of medical countermeasures will be guided by three overarching principles:

(a) Our preparations will focus on countering current and anticipated threat agents that have the greatest potential for use by state and non-state actors to cause catastrophic public health consequences to the American people.

(b) We will invest in medical countermeasures and public health interventions that have the greatest potential to prevent, treat, and mitigate the consequences of WMD threats.

(c) We will link acquisition of medical countermeasures to the existence of effective deployment strategies that are supportable by the present and foreseeable operational and logistic capabilities of Federal, State, and local assets following a WMD attack or other event that presents a catastrophic public health impact.

(5) Mitigating illness and preventing death are the principal goals of our medical countermeasure efforts. As a class, biological agents offer the greatest opportunity for such medical mitigation, and this directive prioritizes our countermeasure efforts accordingly. This directive also provides for tailoring our Nation's ongoing research and acquisition efforts to continue to yield new countermeasures against CBRN agents and for incorporating such new discoveries into our domestic and international response and recovery planning efforts.

Biological Threats

(6) The biological threat spectrum can be framed in four distinct categories, each of which presents unique challenges and significant opportunities for developing medical countermeasures:

(a) *Traditional Agents*: Traditional agents are naturally occurring microorganisms or toxin products with the potential to be disseminated to cause mass casualties. Examples of traditional agents include *Bacillus*

anthracis (anthrax) and *Yersinia pestis* (plague).

(b) *Enhanced Agents*: Enhanced agents are traditional agents that have been modified or selected to enhance their ability to harm human populations or circumvent current countermeasures, such as a bacterium that has been modified to resist antibiotic treatment.

(c) *Emerging Agents*: Emerging agents are previously unrecognized pathogens that might be naturally occurring and present a serious risk to human populations, such as the virus responsible for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). Tools to detect and treat these agents might not exist or might not be widely available.

(d) *Advanced Agents*: Advanced agents are novel pathogens or other materials of biological nature that have been artificially engineered in the laboratory to bypass traditional countermeasures or produce a more severe or otherwise enhanced spectrum of disease.

Nuclear and Radiological Threats

(7) Threats posed by fissile and other radiological material will persist. Our Nation must improve its biodosimetry capabilities and continue to develop medical countermeasures as appropriate to mitigate the health effects of radiation exposure from the following threats:

(a) *Improvised Nuclear Devices*: Improvised nuclear devices incorporate radioactive materials designed to result in the formation of a nuclear-yield reaction. Such devices can be wholly fabricated or can be created by modifying a nuclear weapon.

(b) *Radiological Dispersal Devices*: Radiological Dispersal Devices (RDDs) are devices, other than a nuclear explosive device, designed to disseminate radioactive material to cause destruction, damage, or injury.

(c) *Intentional Damage or Destruction of a Nuclear Power Plant*: Deliberate acts that cause damage to a reactor core and destruction of the containment facility of a nuclear reactor could contaminate a wide geographic area with radioactive material.

Chemical Threats

(8) Existing and new types of chemicals present a range of threats. Development of

targeted medical countermeasures might be warranted for materials in the following categories:

(a) *Toxic Industrial Materials and Chemicals*: Toxic Industrial Materials and Chemicals are toxic substances in solid, liquid, or gaseous form that are used or stored for use for military or commercial purposes.

(b) *Traditional Chemical Warfare Agents*: Traditional chemical warfare agents encompass the range of blood, blister, choking, and nerve agents historically developed for warfighter use.

(c) *Non-traditional Agents*: Non-traditional agents (NTAs) are novel chemical threat agents or toxicants requiring adapted countermeasures.

(9) Creating defenses against a finite number of known or anticipated agents is a sound approach for mitigating the most catastrophic CBRN threats; however, we also must simultaneously employ a broad-spectrum “flexible” approach to address other current and future threats. We must be capable of responding to a wide variety of potential challenges, including a novel biological agent that is highly communicable, associated with a high rate of morbidity or mortality, and without known countermeasure at the time of its discovery. Although significant technological, organizational, and procedural challenges will have to be overcome, such a balanced strategic approach would mitigate current and future CBRN threats and benefit public health.

POLICY

(10) It is the policy of the United States to draw upon the considerable potential of the scientific community in the public and private sectors to address our medical countermeasure requirements relating to CBRN threats. Our Nation will use a two-tiered approach for development and acquisition of medical countermeasures, which will balance the immediate need to provide a capability to mitigate the most catastrophic of the current CBRN threats with long-term requirements to develop more flexible, broader spectrum countermeasures to address future threats. Our approach also will support regulatory decisions and will permit us to address

the broadest range of current and future CBRN threats.

Tier I: Focused Development of Agent-Specific Medical Countermeasures

(11) The first tier uses existing, proven approaches for developing medical countermeasures to address challenges posed by select current and anticipated threats, such as traditional CBRN agents. Recognizing that as threats change our countermeasures might become less effective, we will invest in an integrated and multi-layered defense. Department-level strategies and implementation plans will reflect the following three guiding principles and objectives:

(a) Evaluate and clearly define investments in near- and mid-term defenses: We will develop and use risk assessment processes that integrate data and threat assessments from the life science, consequence management, public health, law enforcement, and intelligence communities to guide investment priorities for current and anticipated threats. We will openly identify the high-risk threats that hold potential for catastrophic consequences to civilian populations and warrant development of targeted countermeasures.

(b) Target medical countermeasure strategies to satisfy practical operational requirements: We will model the potential impact of high-risk threats and develop scenario-based concepts of operations for medical consequence management and public health mitigation and treatment of a large-scale attack on our population. These concepts of operations will guide complementary decisions regarding medical countermeasure development and acquisition.

(c) Take advantage of opportunities to buttress U.S. defenses: We will coordinate inter-agency efforts to identify and evaluate vulnerabilities in our current arsenal of countermeasures to protect the U.S. population. Where appropriate, we will target the development of alternate or supplementary medical countermeasures to ensure that a multi-layered defense against the most significant high-impact CBRN threats is established.

Tier II: Development of a Flexible Capability for New Medical Countermeasures

(12) Second tier activities will emphasize the need to capitalize upon the development of emerging and future technologies that will enhance our ability to respond flexibly to anticipated, emerging, and future CBRN threats. Importantly, this end-state will foster innovations in medical technologies that will provide broad public health benefit. Department-level strategic and implementation plans will reflect the following guiding principles and objectives:

(a) Integrate fundamental discovery and medical development to realize novel medical countermeasure capabilities: We will target some investments to support the development of broad spectrum approaches to surveillance, diagnostics, prophylactics, and therapeutics that utilize platform technologies. This will require targeted, balanced, and sustained investments between fundamental research to discover new technologies and applied research for technology development to deliver new medical capabilities and countermeasures. Although by no means all-inclusive, our goals could include identification and use of early markers for exposure, greater understanding of host responses to target therapeutics, and development of integrated technologies for rapid production of new countermeasures.

(b) Establish a favorable environment for evaluating new approaches: We must ensure that our investments lead to products that expand the scientific data base, increase the efficiency with which safety and efficacy can be evaluated, and improve the rate at which products under Investigational New Drug or Investigational Device Exemption status progress through the regulatory or approval process. In addition, we must continue to use new tools to evaluate and utilize promising candidates in a time of crisis. Examples of such tools include the "Animal Rule" for testing the efficacy of medical countermeasures against threat agents when human trials are not ethically feasible and the Emergency Use Authorization. Although by no means all-inclusive, our desired end-state could include the use of novel approaches for improved evaluation tools, streamlined clinical trials

that meet safety and regulatory needs, and the development and use of novel approaches to manufacturing.

(c) Integrate the products of new and traditional approaches: We must address the challenges that will arise from integrating these new approaches with existing processes. We must incorporate the use of non-pharmacological interventions in our response planning. This integration will forge a flexible biodefense capability that aligns our national requirements for medical countermeasures with the concepts of operation that are used in conjunction with other strategies for mitigating the public health impacts of WMD attacks.

(13) In order to achieve our Tier I and II objectives, it will be necessary to facilitate the development of products and technologies that show promise but are not yet eligible for procurement through BioShield or the Strategic National Stockpile. We will support the advanced development of these products through targeted investments across a broad portfolio, with the understanding that some of these products may be deemed unsuitable for further investment as additional data becomes available, but the expectation that others will become candidates for procurement.

POLICY ACTIONS

(14) We will employ an integrated approach to WMD medical countermeasure development that draws upon the expertise of the public health, life science, defense, homeland security, intelligence, first responder, and law enforcement communities, as well as the private sector, to promote a seamless integration throughout the product development life cycle.

(a) The Secretary of Health and Human Services (Secretary) will lead Federal Government efforts to research, develop, evaluate, and acquire public health emergency medical countermeasures to prevent or mitigate the health effects of CBRN threats facing the U.S. civilian population. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will lead the interagency process and strategic planning and will manage programs supporting medical countermeasures devel-

opment and acquisition for domestic preparedness.

(i) *Stewardship*. Not later than 60 days after the date of this directive, the Secretary shall establish an interagency committee to provide advice in setting medical countermeasure requirements and coordinate HHS research, development, and procurement activities. The committee will include representatives designated by the Secretaries of Defense and Homeland Security and the heads of other appropriate executive departments and agencies. This committee will serve as the primary conduit for communication among entities involved in medical countermeasure development. The chair of the committee shall keep the joint Homeland Security Council/National Security Council Biodefense Policy Coordination Committee apprised of HHS efforts to integrate investment strategies and the Federal Government's progress in the development and acquisition of medical countermeasures.

(ii) *Strategic Planning*. Not later than 60 days after the date of this directive, the Secretary shall establish a dedicated strategic planning activity to integrate risk-based requirements across the threat spectrum and over the full range of research, early-, mid-, and late-stage development, acquisition, deployment, and life-cycle management of medical countermeasures. The Secretary shall align all relevant HHS programs and functions to support this strategic planning.

(iii) *Execution*. The Secretary shall ensure that the efforts of component agencies, centers and institutes are coordinated and targeted to facilitate both development of near-term medical countermeasures and transformation of our capability to address future challenges. The Secretary shall also establish an advanced development portfolio that targets investments in

promising countermeasures and technologies that are beyond early development, but not yet ready for acquisition consideration. In order to realize the full potential for broad partnership with academia and industry, the Secretary shall ensure that HHS coordinates strategies and implementation plans in a manner that conveys integrated priorities, activities, and objectives across the spectrum of relevant Federal participants.

- (iv) *Engaging the Private Sector and Nongovernmental Entities.* The Secretary shall develop and implement a strategy to engage the unique expertise and capabilities of the private sector in developing medical countermeasures to combat WMD, and shall provide clear and timely communication of HHS priorities and objectives. The Secretary shall consider creating an advisory committee composed of leading experts from academia and the biotech and pharmaceutical industries to provide insight on barriers to progress and help identify promising innovations and solutions to problems such as life-cycle management of medical countermeasures. The Secretary shall designate one office within HHS as the principal liaison for nongovernmental entities who wish to bring new technologies, approaches, or potential medical countermeasures to the attention of the Federal Government.

(b) The Secretary of Defense shall retain exclusive responsibility for research, development, acquisition, and deployment of medical countermeasures to prevent or mitigate the health effects of WMD threats and naturally occurring threats to the Armed Forces and shall continue to direct strategic planning for and oversight of programs to support medical countermeasures development and acquisition for our Armed Forces personnel. The Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Defense shall ensure that the efforts of the Department of Defense (DOD) and HHS are coordinated to promote synergy, minimize redundancy, and, to the extent feasible, use common requirements for medical

countermeasure development. The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that DOD continues to draw upon its longstanding investment and experience in WMD medical countermeasure research, development, acquisition, and deployment to ensure protection of the Armed Forces, but also to accelerate and improve the overall national effort, consistent with Departmental authorities and responsibilities, and shall ensure that DOD continues to place a special focus on medical countermeasure development for CBRN threat agents because of the unique facilities, testing capabilities, and trained and experienced personnel within the Department. These efforts will constitute the basis for interagency partnership and combined investment to safeguard the American people.

(c) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall develop a strategic, integrated all-CBRN risk assessment that integrates the findings of the intelligence and law enforcement communities with input from the scientific, medical, and public health communities. Not later than June 1, 2008, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the President through the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, which shall summarize the key findings of this assessment, and shall update those findings when appropriate, but not less frequently than every 2 years. The Department of Homeland Security shall continue to issue Material Threat Determinations for those CBRN agents that pose a material threat to national security.

(d) The Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Defense, and Homeland Security shall ensure the availability of the infrastructure required to test and evaluate medical countermeasures for CBRN threat agents.

- (i) The Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Defense, and Veterans Affairs shall leverage their partnership to identify and accelerate research, development, testing, and evaluation programs for the acquisition of medical countermeasures for CBRN threats.
- (ii) The Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall develop effective and streamlined processes, including

mutually agreed-upon timelines, to assist the respective Secretaries in jointly recommending that the Special Reserve Fund (SRF) be used for the acquisition of specified security countermeasures.

- (iii) The Director of National Intelligence shall facilitate coordination across the intelligence community and, in coordination with the Attorney General, engage the law enforcement community to provide all relevant and appropriate WMD-related intelligence information to DHS for the development of the integrated CBRN risk assessment that is used in prioritizing the development, acquisition, and maintenance of medical countermeasures.

GENERAL

(15) This directive:

(a) shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and the authorities of executive departments and agencies, or heads of such departments and agencies, vested by law, and subject to the availability of appropriations;

(b) shall not be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, and legislative proposals; and

(c) is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This directive was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 7.

Remarks in a Discussion on the National Parks Centennial Initiative in Luray, Virginia

February 7, 2007

Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne. Mr. President and First Lady Laura Bush, on behalf of all of the wonderful peo-

ple of the National Parks Service, it is such an honor to have the First Couple here at this wonderful national park. And, ladies and gentlemen, those of you that are here at the roundtable, we look forward to this opportunity to have some discussions with you.

But we'd be very honored, Mr. President, just to get initial thoughts from you. As I introduce our President, let me just put it in this perspective: Two years ago, my wife, Patricia, and I had the great opportunity to spend 3 days with the President and the First Lady in Idaho, to see this couple, what the outdoors mean to them, how they recreate, how they replenish their energy. I just saw their connection. We went fishing, hiking, biking. I went home tired. *[Laughter]* They went home with renewed energy. *[Laughter]*

The First Lady. Refreshed.

Secretary Kempthorne. And I think that you see that same sort of approach—their love of the outdoors—in this President's Centennial Challenge Initiative.

So, Mr. President, thank you for all you're doing.

The President. One of the reasons I asked Dirk to be the Secretary of the Interior is because I knew that he knew how important parks are to the country. And I want to thank you and Mary for taking on your big jobs. Our national parks are really one of America's great treasures. And the fundamental question is, are we going to be wise enough to treat them as such?

When I first came into office, I was worried about a significant backlog of maintenance projects. And I want to thank Dirk for seeing through the completion or near completion of about 6,600 such projects.

And in our discussions, we talked about how to make sure the 100th anniversary of our parks, coming in 2016, really celebrates the National Park System. And so today we're going to talk about an initiative called the National Parks Centennial Initiative. And I'm looking forward to hearing from our fellow citizens about ways to make sure this initiative fully honors the Park System.

It is one thing to talk; it's another thing to act. And I've just submitted a budget to the United States Congress. In it, we've got a billion dollars new money for operating expenses. And that really helps to honor those

who work hard in our Park System. I really love being with our park rangers. These are dedicated people who have got a pretty cool job, when you think about it. *[Laughter]* I just want to make sure that they got the money able to do their job.

As well, we look forward to having a public-private partnership. The Federal Government will match monies raised in the private sector up to a billion dollars. Our idea is to have \$3 billion new money available for this important initiative. And I know that Dirk is going to work hard to make sure that people have their say as to how this money is spent.

And one person who has got a lot of say about the parks, in our family, is Laura. She is very much involved in our parks. She loves the outdoors. She takes a hike with her old high school buddies once a year to herald the Park System. If my entourage wasn't so big, I'd be with her. *[Laughter]* But it's big—*[laughter]*—so I stay at home.

But I really do appreciate Dirk and Mary and you all joining us. I'm looking forward to our discussion.

[At this point, the First Lady made brief remarks.]

The President. Yes, thanks.

[Secretary Kempthorne made brief remarks, concluding as follows.]

Secretary Kempthorne. With that, I'm going to introduce the other members at the roundtable. Mary Bomar, who is our National Park Service Director. She is the first naturalized citizen in the United States to become Director of the National Park Service. In just a moment, Mary, I'll ask you for some comments.

Vin Cipolla, who is the president of the National Park Foundation. And he's been there for just a couple of years. And his leadership which he has brought to the foundation is just getting such high marks.

Derrick Crandall, who is the—and I look at this—the president and CEO of the American Recreation Coalition. He's been called, interestingly enough, the “recreation guru” by USA Today. He has been able to bring about organization of over 100 different enti-

ties that all believe in the outdoors and his advocacy of the outdoors.

Gene Sykes, who is the champion of the National Parks Conservation Association. Gene is a managing partner of Goldman Sachs. I know of your love of the outdoors, the backpacking that you do repeatedly, and your particular love of the parks in Alaska.

Fred Andrae, who is a trustee, Shenandoah National Park Trust. Fred is one of these examples that—as you look at the 90 years of the National Park Service, the reason they have been able to achieve greatness is because of the partnership with philanthropic communities, with friends of the parks. And, Fred, you have established that here at Shenandoah Park. We truly appreciate that.

Chas Cartwright, who is the superintendent of this magnificent park. And you just say the name “Shenandoah,” and it's so historic, and it conjures up so many great things. I also noted that in the seventies, you were a river ranger on the Salmon River in Idaho. *[Laughter]*

Chas Cartwright. I remember it fondly. **Secretary Kempthorne.** Yes, I knew that we would bond. *[Laughter]*

With that, let me turn to Mary Bomar for her comments.

[Mary Bomar made brief remarks.]

Secretary Kempthorne. Thank you, Mary.

Mr. President, you mentioned—but I thought this would be of note, because really, it builds upon an initiative you started 5 years ago—and the President referenced the 6,600 projects that were a backlog of deferred maintenance. And here they are. These are the projects. And it just shows you what has already been underway during these last 5 years. I mean, this is significant. Now we can build upon this.

And this initiative which you have launched is not partisan; it is American. This is something that all of America can rally around, and I think this will be the reaffirmation of the parks being one of the greatest gifts to the American family.

Chas Cartwright, would you make a few comments, please, about the new perspective?

[Mr. Cartwright made brief remarks, concluding as follows.]

Mr. Cartwright. So I just wanted to say, it's great having everybody here today. And thanks to the employees of Shenandoah National Park for doing such a great job.

The President. Particularly the guy who cleared the road. [Laughter] Listen, we want to thank you for your contributions here. We'll hear from the other members here in a second. I do want to say something to follow up on this—and Congress needs to hear loud and clear how important this initiative is. And I fully hope the citizens groups who are concerned about the parks beat a hasty trail to the Congress and remind the Congress about what we have done and what we need to do as good stewards of the parks.

Anyway, thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:59 a.m. in the Harry F. Byrd, Sr., Visitor Center at Shenandoah National Park. Secretary Kempthorne referred to Gene Sykes, director and chairman of the board of trustees, National Parks Conservation Association.

Remarks in Shenandoah National Park in Luray

February 7, 2007

Laura and I and the Secretary really appreciate the good folks here at Shenandoah National Park for their hospitality and their hard work in making this beautiful part of our country accessible to citizens.

Today I had the honor of spending time talking to a group of concerned citizens about our National Park System. We've got about 80 million acres in our Park System. There's millions and millions of visits a year by our citizens to take advantage of and participate in the special beauty of our parks—all you got to do is look out here.

We spent time talking about our understanding that these parks are national treasures, that they are fantastic places in which to learn things and to get exercise, that our parks are a way to teach our fellow citizens about the history of the country. After all, Laura and I live in the White House, which is managed by the National Park System. Our

parks are important, and the people who work in the parks are important.

I asked Dirk Kempthorne to join my administration because I know that he is committed to the National Park System. He's a man from the West who has been able to enjoy the beauty of the parks in his own home State of Idaho.

One of the things we talked about is how we can make sure the commitment that we all think is necessary to our Park System is really honored in the appropriations requests that we make to Congress.

Our parks will have its 100th anniversary in 2016. And we felt like a vital goal for this country would be to prepare those parks, to guard the parks, to conserve the parks, to make the parks relevant to the American people in honor of the 100th anniversary. And so Dirk and I and others in this administration have come up with what we call the National Parks Centennial Initiative. It's a bold program that calls upon the Government to do its part, as well as our citizens, to become invested in a campaign to really enhance the parks.

The funding starts with a billion-dollar request over the next 10 years that I've sent up to Congress. It's really to enhance the operating missions of our parks. I'm looking forward to working with both Republicans and Democrats to get this initiative passed. I think if any Member of Congress were to ask a Park Service employee or those who know a lot about the parks, our fellow citizens who give of their time to make sure our parks are vital, they will find out that this request is a really important request.

Secondly, we're issuing what's called the President's Challenge, and that is to—we're asking the private sector to donate up to a billion dollars over the next 10 years to help this Park System be vital and strong, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our Park System. And as they—fellow citizens contribute, whether it be through foundation, corporation, or individually, the Federal Government will match those contributions. In other words, this is a collaboration of the Federal Government and individual programs.

I've asked Dirk, after today, to go around the country and to learn from our fellow citizens and learn from the park rangers and

learn from the foundations that care about our Park System how best to spend this money, how best to honor the centennial that we'll be celebrating in 2016. In other words, we really do want individuals to feel that they own a piece of this strategy. After all, the parks do belong to the people.

We believe that we've got a fantastic chance to enhance habitats in the Park System. Laura, for example, really cares about the bird population of the country, and the Park System has a fantastic—as do I, by the way, not as much as you do. [*Laughter*] But it's a chance to make sure our Park System enhances bird migratory patterns, for example.

We want to spend time making sure that we enhance educational opportunities in our Park System through new technologies. The iPod is hip amongst some of the younger citizens here in the country, people we want to encourage to come to the parks, so we need to make sure that we can combine that technology with educational opportunities, as somebody goes walking through our parks. We want to talk about—and we will continue to talk about expanding park accessibility through a junior ranger program that Laura has been very much involved with.

We're going to hire 3,000 seasonal park rangers, and that's going to make the job of the folks who, for example, run the Shenandoah Park much easier, and more importantly, make the customer service—in other words, the citizen service—richer for somebody who comes and uses our parks.

We want to upgrade our facilities and historic buildings. We're going to add and—ask people in their different Park Systems to become recruiters of volunteers so that more and more people get involved with this fantastic national resource of ours.

So, Mr. Secretary, I want to thank you very much for the hard work you've done leading up to the budget proposal we've made. I want to thank you in advance for the hard work you're going to do, to travel our country to get input from our fellow citizens. And I thank all the people in our country who care about our Park System for your direct involvement and your sincere concerns about making sure the Park System is modern and restored and rehabilitated.

I urge our fellow citizens to use the parks. I urge you to bring your families to the parks. I think you'll find that the people who work in our Park System are genuinely decent, kind people who want you to enjoy the great beauty of the National Park System.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:10 p.m. in the Harry F. Byrd, Sr., Visitor Center.

Remarks Following a Briefing at the Department of Homeland Security

February 8, 2007

Mr. Secretary, thank you very much for the hospitality. I appreciate you inviting me over to hear what has been a substantive briefing by your different operating entities.

First of all, I'm very proud of the hard work of the men and women of the Homeland Security Department. This vital Department is actively engaged in the war on terror. We are still a nation at risk. Part of our strategy, of course, is to stay on the offense against terrorists who would do us harm. In other words, it is important to defeat them overseas so we never have to face them here. Nevertheless, we recognize that we've got to be fully prepared here at the homeland.

Part of that preparation requires a robust budget. And we submitted the budget; you testified on the budget. It's about an 8-percent increase in the budgets of the Homeland Security Department.

This Department works to secure our borders. And I appreciate very much, Ralph, you and your Department's hard work of doing a difficult job, and that is doing what the American people expect, and that is to have secure borders. But we're making good progress. We're modernizing a border that needed to be modernized, whether it be through fencing or the different types of high-tech investments.

I firmly believe that in order for your Border Patrol agents to be able to do their job, we need a guest-worker program, so that people don't have to sneak in our country, and therefore, we can really enable your good folks to be able to focus on terrorism, drug runners, gun runners.

I appreciate so very much the fact that we've got a wise strategy to effect the security of our ports, cargo. We've got a lot of good people working hard overseas. In other words, we're inspecting cargo before it leaves a port—a foreign port—so that the first line of defense is away from our shores or away from our ports. And we've got a lot of good people working hard to achieve that.

I appreciate so very much the effort of TSA. You've got a hard job. It's a job that really was a response to 9/11, and that is, we don't want people getting on our airplanes that will terrorize our fellow citizens again. And I fully recognize that there are thousands of hard-working people that are trying to do their best to, on the one hand, accommodate our fellow citizens as they travel—on the other hand, protect our country from attack.

We also talked about the need to have effective response if there is a emergency, if there is a catastrophe. And one Agency that has been under fire and that needed to be reorganized was FEMA, and I asked David Paulison to do just that. We took the lessons learned from Katrina and applied it to this vital Agency. And this Agency was recently tested through the tornadoes there in central Florida. And I want to thank you, Dave, and your team for a quick response to help the poor citizens who were affected by that natural disaster.

The Department of Homeland Security was initially melded together by organizations that tended to be stovepiped—independently run organizations that we felt needed to be brought under the central planning, the central organizing principle of a single department.

The organization of such a vast enterprise has been difficult and complicated. Nevertheless, there is noticeable and substantial and measurable progress. And I appreciate all the hard-working folks for putting together an institute, part of our Government, all aiming to protect the American people.

And so, Secretary, thank you for the invitation. I appreciate the hard work of the people of this Department. I oftentimes say to the American people that you can go about your business, you can run your enterprises, you can send your children to school knowing full well that there are thousands of our fellow citizens who work every day, 24 hours, to help you by protecting this homeland. And this is where it all starts. And I thank you for your hard work.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:20 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to W. Ralph Basham, Commissioner, Customs and Border Protection.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of National Security Leaders

February 8, 2007

I am pleased that the Senate, with strong bipartisan support, has confirmed several key members of my national security team. America will benefit from the leadership of Mike McConnell as Director of National Intelligence, General George Casey as Chief of Staff of the United States Army, and Admiral William Fallon as commander of U.S. Central Command.

Mike McConnell is an experienced and proven leader who will continue implementing historic reforms of America's intelligence community designed to ensure we receive timely, accurate information on threats to our country. General Casey's extensive knowledge of our military challenges and capabilities will enable him to lead our soldiers in successful pursuit of their mission. Admiral Fallon is an innovative thinker who will skillfully guide our military commanders as we confront our enemies in the war on terror.

I look forward to working with each of these strong leaders in combating terrorism and protecting the American people.

Memorandum on Implementation of Sections 603 and 604 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–228)

February 7, 2007

Presidential Determination No. 2007–12

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Implementation of Sections 603 and 604 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–228)

Consistent with the authority contained in section 604 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–228) (the “Act”), and with reference to the determinations set out in the report to the Congress transmitted pursuant to section 603 of the Act, regarding noncompliance by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Palestinian Authority with certain commitments, I hereby impose the sanction set out in section 604(a)(2), “Downgrade in Status of the PLO Office in the United States.” This sanction is imposed for a period of 180 days from the date hereof or until such time as the next report required by section 603 of the Act is transmitted to the Congress, whichever is later. You are authorized and directed to transmit to the appropriate congressional committees the report described in section 603 of the Act.

Furthermore, I hereby determine that it is in the national security interest of the United States to waive that sanction, pursuant to section 604(c) of the Act. This waiver shall be effective for a period of 180 days from the date hereof or until such time as the next report required by section 603 of the Act is transmitted to the Congress, whichever is later.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 9.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

February 9, 2007

Memorandum for the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345, *et seq.*, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Order of Succession. During any period when the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (Director) has died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of the Director, the following officials of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, until such time as the Director is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation:

- (a) Deputy Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
- (b) Associate Deputy Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
- (c) Executive Assistant Director of the National Security Branch;
- (d) Executive Assistant Director for Criminal, Cyber, Response and Services; and
- (e) The Assistant Directors of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in the order listed:
 - (1) Assistant Director, Counterterrorism Division;
 - (2) Assistant Director, Criminal Investigative Division;
 - (3) Assistant Director, Counterintelligence Division;
 - (4) Assistant Director, Washington Field Office;
 - (5) Assistant Director, New York Field Office; and
 - (6) Assistant Director, Los Angeles Field Office.

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

- (a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity,

by virtue of so serving, shall act as the Director pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) No individual shall act as Director unless that individual is otherwise eligible to so serve under the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by law, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Director.

Sec. 3. *Judicial Review.* This memorandum is intended to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

Sec. 4. The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

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 3

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Newport News, VA, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Pat Taylor. He then traveled to Williamsburg, VA.

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

The President declared a major disaster in Florida and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on February 1–2.

February 5

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Office of Management and Budget Director Robert J. Portman.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with 2006 NASCAR Nextel Cup champion driver Jimmie Johnson.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Indianapolis Colts owner James Irsay to congratulate the team on their February 4 Super Bowl victory. He then had separate telephone conversations with Indianapolis Colts head coach Tony Dungy and quarterback Peyton Manning.

In the evening, in the Red Room, the President hosted a dinner in honor of Major League Baseball.

February 6

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Manassas, VA, where he toured Micron Technology, Inc.

Later in the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

February 7

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Luray, VA. Upon arrival, they went to Shenandoah National Park.

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

In the evening, at Blair House, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a reception for Ambassador Donald Burnham Ensenat, Chief of Protocol, State Department.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark P. Lagon to be Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons with the rank of Ambassador at Large at the Department of State.

February 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with former President Amine Gemayel of Lebanon.

In the evening, the President hosted a reception for National Park Foundation board members.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will travel to Brazil, Uruguay, Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico on March 8–14.

The President announced his intention to nominate Steven Jeffrey Isakowitz to be Chief Financial Officer at the Department of Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Williamson Evers to be Assistant Secretary of Education (Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development).

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development: Perry R. Eaton; Sonya Kelliher-Combs; Brenda L. Kingery; Julie E. Kitka; and Kristine Mary Miller.

The President announced his intention to nominate Carol D'Amico, David C. Geary, and Eric Alan Hanushek to be members of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences (Researchers).

The President announced his intention to nominate Marylyn Andrea Howe, Lonnie C. Moore, and Cynthia Allen Wainscott to be members of the National Council on Disability.

The President announced his intention to nominate Janis Herschkowitz, David George Nason, and Nguyen Van Hanh to be members of the Board of Directors of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank.

The President announced his intention to appoint Vayl Oxford as Director of the Office of Domestic Nuclear Detection at the Department of Homeland Security.

The President announced his intention to appoint J. David Cox, Sr., as a member of the Federal Salary Council.

The President declared a major disaster in Florida and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on December 25.

February 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President participated in an interview with Stephen F. Hayes of the *Weekly Standard*.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia to the White House on February 14.

The President declared a major disaster in Illinois and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm on November 30–December 1, 2006.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted February 8

Williamson Evers, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, Department of Education, vice Tom Luce, resigned.

Steven Jeffrey Isakowitz, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy, vice Susan Johnson Grant, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 3

Statement by the Press Secretary on the terrorist attack in Baghdad, Iraq

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Florida

Released February 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Office of Management and Budget Director Robert J. Portman on the President's Fiscal Year 2008 Budget

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Tony Fratto

Released February 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Fact sheet: Balancing the Budget Without Raising Taxes

Released February 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Fact sheet: The National Parks Centennial Initiative

Released February 8

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary: President and Mrs. Bush To Travel to Brazil, Uruguay, Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 188

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Florida

Released February 9

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of the Republic of Liberia

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Illinois

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved February 8

H.R. 188 / Public Law 110-3
To provide a new effective date for the applicability of certain provisions of law to Public Law 105-331