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here tonight; members of the diplomatic corps, we are glad you're here; my fellow citizens. Major, I'm looking forward to the blessings. Thank you for being here with us today.

According to the teachings of Islam, Ramadan commemorates the revelation of God's word in the Holy Koran to the prophet Muhammad. The word has become the foundation for one of the world's great religions. Today, more than a billion Muslims around the globe celebrate the month of Ramadan with daily fasting, heartfelt prayer, and acts of charity.

During Ramadan, we are reminded of Islam's long and distinguished history. Throughout the centuries, the Islamic world has been home to great centers of learning and culture. Muslim thinkers and scientists have advanced the frontiers of human knowledge. People of all faiths have benefited from the achievements of Muslims in fields from philosophy and poetry to mathematics and medicine.

At the beginning of a new century, Muslims in the United States are continuing this proud tradition of innovation and invention. Tonight we honor members of the Muslim community who've risen to the top of their professions. Among our guests are individuals with wide-ranging accomplishments, from working on the Apollo program, to pioneering advances in health care and medicine, to developing cutting-edge applications for the Internet.

One of these innovators is Professor Maysam Ghovanloo. This immigrant from Iran has become one of our Nation's most ingenious biomedical engineers. Last month, the good professor and his team of researchers at Georgia Tech unveiled an incredible invention that could one day help people with severe disabilities operate wheelchairs and surf the Internet by simply moving their tongue. Through this pioneering research, this good professor has brought new hope to thousands. He, like others in this room, have earned the admiration of our citizens.

Stories like the professor's remind us that one of the great strengths of our Nation is its religious diversity. Americans practice many different faiths, but we all share a belief in the right to worship freely. We reject bigotry in all its forms. And over the past 8 years, my administration has been proud to work closely with Muslim Americans to promote justice and tolerance of all faiths.

We've also partnered with Muslims around the world to spread freedoms to millions of people who have never known it before. We're helping the people of Iraq and Afghanistan build free societies after decades of tyranny. And during the month of reflection, we will remember all the brave Muslim Americans who wear the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. They represent the best of our Nation. I'm honored to be their Commander in Chief.

As we break the fast tonight, let us give thanks for all those who serve a cause greater than themselves. Let us give thanks for the many ways that Muslim Americans have enriched our lives. And let us give thanks that we live in a country that makes one people out of many.

I thank you for joining us tonight. I wish you all a blessed Ramadan. And now the imam will say the blessing.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:35 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Nasir al-Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah of Kuwait; and Maj. Abdullah Hulwe, Navy Chaplain Corps, who gave the blessing.

Memorandum on Continuation of the Exercise of Certain Authorities Under the Trading With the Enemy Act

September 12, 2008

Presidential Determination No. 2008–27

Memorandum for the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury

Subject: Continuation of the Exercise of Certain Authorities Under the Trading With the Enemy Act

Under section 101(b) of Public Law 95–223 (91 Stat. 1625; 50 U.S.C. App. 5(b) note), and a previous determination on September 13, 2007 (72 *FR* 53409), the exercise of certain authorities under the Trading With the Enemy Act is scheduled to terminate on September 14, 2008.

I hereby determine that the continuation for 1 year of the exercise of those authorities with respect to Cuba is in the national interest of the United States.

Therefore, consistent with the authority vested in me by section 101(b) of Public Law 95–223, I continue for 1 year, until September 14, 2009, the exercise of those authorities with respect to Cuba as implemented by the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 515.

The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 16, 2008]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 18.

Remarks on the National Economy

September 18, 2008

The American people are concerned about the situation in our financial markets and our economy, and I share their concerns.

I've canceled my travel today to stay in Washington, where I will continue to closely monitor the situation in our financial markets and consult with my economic advisers. I spoke to Secretary Paulson this morning, and I will meet with him later on today.

In recent weeks, the Federal Government has taken extraordinary measures to address the challenges confronting our financial markets. We've taken control of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—the home finance agencies—to help promote market stability and to ensure they can continue to play a role in helping our housing market recover. This week the Federal Reserve acted to prevent the disorderly failure of the insurance company AIG, a development that could have caused a severe disruption in our financial markets and threatened other sectors of the economy. Yesterday the Security and Exchange Commission took action to strengthen investor protections and step up its enforcement actions against illegal market manipulation. Last night the Federal Reserve, in coordination with central banks around the world, took a substantial step to provide additional liquidity to the U.S. financial system.

These actions are necessary, and they're important, and the markets are adjusting to them. Our financial markets continue to deal with serious challenges. As our recent actions demonstrate, my administration is focused on meeting these challenges. The American people can be sure we will continue to act to strengthen and stabilize our financial markets and improve investor confidence.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:15 a.m. on the Colonnade at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on the Death of Carlos Marin

September 18, 2008

I am deeply saddened by the tragic death of Carlos Marin, a dedicated public servant who died while fulfilling his responsibilities as United States Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico. Carlos Marin was an accomplished engineer and capable leader who achieved the American dream while serving at the Commission for over two decades. He quickly rose through the ranks as he worked hard to effectively apply the boundary and water treaties between our country and Mexico. I appreciate his efforts to protect our Nation's interests, raise agency morale, and establish solid and transparent relationships with his Mexican counterparts. I am honored that he served in my administration.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Rosa Alva, and the entire Marin family.

Mexican Commissioner Arturo Herrera, Jake Brisbin, Jr., and Matthew Peter Juneau were also killed in this tragic plane crash. Their families are also in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

NOTE: The statement referred to Jake Brisbin, Jr., executive director, Rio Grande Council of Governments; and pilot Matthew Peter Juneau.