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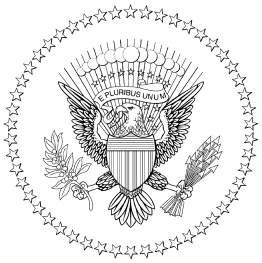

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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Remarks on Hurricane Ike Recovery Efforts

September 13, 2008

Good morning. I just finished a video conference with Secretary Chertoff, Director Paulison, and other people about Hurricane Ike.

Obviously, this is a huge storm that is causing a lot of damage not only in Texas but also in parts of Louisiana. The storm has yet to pass, and I know there are people concerned about their lives. Some people didn't evacuate when asked, and I've been briefed on the rescue teams there in the area. They're prepared to move as soon as weather conditions permit. Obviously, people on the ground there are sensitive to helping people and are fully prepared to do so.

Secondly, I've asked Secretary Chertoff to go down as soon as weather conditions permit. I suspect he'll be able to get down to Texas this afternoon and will be in the gulf coast region, hopefully, within a reasonable period of time to help the State of Texas officials, as well as local officials, begin the recovery effort. There's going to be a need for Federal, State, and local coordination as this storm moves through east Texas.

Obviously, there will be concerns about electricity. We've got generators in place, generators moving into the area to help. They'll be concerned about water and ice. They'll be concerned about energy, and I'm concerned about energy.

This administration has moved quickly. Last night, we suspended EPA waivers on certain reformulated gasolines, which will make it easier for imports from abroad to make it into our markets. In the meantime, the Department of Energy, the Federal Trade Commission, and I know State authorities will be monitoring gasoline prices to make sure consumers are not being gouged; make sure consumers are being treated fairly.

As this massive storm moves through the gulf coast, people of that area can be rest assured that the American people will be praying for them and will be ready to help once the storm moves on.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:39 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

The President's Radio Address

September 13, 2008

Good morning. This week, Americans marked 7 years since the terrorist attacks that shook our Nation on September the 11th, 2001. On that day, we witnessed unspeakable destruction perpetrated by evil men, but we also witnessed selfless acts of valor and compassion performed by courageous citizens. And we saw the strength of the American people as they rallied in defense of the Nation.

On Thursday, I dedicated a new 9/11 memorial at the Pentagon. In the years to come, parents will visit this site to remember children who boarded Flight 77 for a field trip and never emerged from the wreckage. Husbands and wives will visit the memorial to remember spouses who left for work one morning and never returned home. And people from across our Nation will visit to remember the heroism of rescue workers who rushed into the burning Pentagon to save the lives of their fellow citizens.

Seven years after the attacks of 9/11, this spirit of heroism lives on. We see it in the courageous members of the United States Armed Forces. These brave men and women have volunteered to defend our Nation during a time of war. Every day, they are confronting our enemies abroad so we do not have to face them here at home. And because of their efforts, our Nation is safer today than it was 7 years ago.

In Afghanistan, where the 9/11 attacks were planned, our men and women in uniform toppled the Taliban regime, destroyed Al Qaida camps, and liberated more than 25 million Afghans. In the years since, members of the Taliban and Al Qaida have sought to regain power through acts of terror. The United States and our allies are meeting this challenge head on. We will not allow Afghanistan to once again become a safe haven for terror.

Earlier this week, I announced additional American troop deployments to Afghanistan. In November, a Marine battalion that was scheduled to deploy to Iraq will deploy to Afghanistan instead. It will be followed in January by an Army combat brigade. This continuing commitment to the Afghan people illustrates a stark contrast: While the terrorists and extremists deliberately target and murder the innocent, coalition and Afghan forces risk their lives to protect the innocent.

America is also on the offense against terrorists and extremists in Iraq. Since we launched the surge last year, violence has fallen to its lowest point since the spring of 2004. While the enemy in Iraq is still dangerous, we seized the offensive, and Iraqi forces are becoming increasingly capable of leading and winning the fight. As a result, we've been able to carry out a policy of return on success, reducing the number of American combat forces in Iraq as conditions on the ground there continue to improve.

After reviewing conditions in Iraq, General Petraeus and the Joint Chiefs of Staff have recommended additional force reductions. By February, about 8,000 additional American troops will have returned home without replacement. And if this progress in Iraq continues to hold, General Petraeus and our military leaders believe additional reductions will be possible in the first half of 2009.

In the 7 years since the attacks of September the 11th, the men and women of our Armed Forces and their wonderful families have been a source of pride for the Nation. Those who do not wear the uniform also have a responsibility to serve our country. After 9/11, I called on Americans to devote at least 4,000 hours—or 2 years over the course of a lifetime—to volunteering in their communities. This morning, I renew that call. Serving others is more than just a generous act, it is essential to the health of our society. And as any volunteer can tell you, when you bring hope to the lives of others, the life you enrich most is usually your own.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:30 a.m. on September 12 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 13. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 12 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his address, the President referred to Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Following a Briefing on Hurricane Ike Recovery Efforts

September 14, 2008

I want to thank senior members of the administration for coming in this Sunday morning to discuss Hurricane Ike. I was on the phone to—with Secretary Chertoff before coming into this meeting. The Secretary went down yesterday; he gave me a briefing from Austin. He'll be heading into Houston. This is all part of our efforts to help Texas and Louisiana with a focused, effective recovery effort.

Administrator Paulison briefed us on how we're doing on our priorities. First priority is search and rescue, and I want to thank the people at the Federal and State levels for working so hard to rescue our fellow citizens from harm's way. Rescue efforts continue on as we speak.

I do urge people in the affected areas to listen closely to local authorities before they attempt to get back home. There are people now surveying damage; people reporting in to the State as to the conditions there in the different communities. And it's very important for citizens, who I know are anxious to get home, to take your time and listen; take the advice of the local folks.

Our priorities, along with the State and local folks, is to make sure electricity gets up as quickly as possible. Secretary Bodman

gave us a briefing on the outages. Interestingly enough, some electricity is already being restored in Houston, I'm told. And I do want to thank the utility companies for working hard to get electricity up. And to the extent that you need help on stringing lines, I'm confident other utility companies from around the country will help provide manpower.

Secretary Chertoff and David Paulison tell me that the Federal Government will be providing 1½ million liters of water a day and 1 million meals a day to help the people who have been displaced. That'll of course be coordinated with Governor Perry's office and the State of Texas, as well as the mayors.

One of the things that's very important for the city of Houston and the other cities is to get the water up and running, the sewage plants running. And that'll be a priority of ours to help them. And finally, debris removal; it's very important that our Corps of Engineer, working with local officials, implements a coordinated debris removal plan.

And so that's what we discussed this morning. This is a tough storm, and it's one that is going to be—it's going to require time for people to recover.

As well, the Secretary of Energy briefed us on, you know, preliminary reports on gasoline production, pipeline distribution. And it's a little early to fully assess where we stand, although I can say that, you know, one of the plant—one of the pipelines coming out of the gulf coast area is running—the Plantation Pipeline. And we are watching very carefully as to when the Colonial Pipeline can get up and running.

In the meantime, as I mentioned yesterday, in coordination with the Department of Energy, we suspended—and the EPA—we suspended reformulated gasoline rules so it would make it easier to import gasoline from abroad so as to take pressure off of our consumers.

And I repeat what I said yesterday: That the Federal Government, along with State governments, will be monitoring very carefully as to whether or not consumers are being mistreated at the pump—in other words, gouged. It's very important for our fellow citizens, during the period of temporary disruption, to be treated fairly.

And so I'm considering—have considered my plans over the weekend, and I will be going down to Texas on Tuesday to express the Federal Government's support—sympathy on the one hand and support on the other to—for this recovery effort and rebuilding effort.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:50 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Rick Perry of Texas.

Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony for President John Agyekum Kufuor of Ghana

September 15, 2008

President Bush. Good morning. President Kufuor and Mrs. Kufuor, it is a pleasure to welcome you back to the White House. The American people are honored to receive Ghana's official delegation. And Laura and I are happy to host two good friends.

The ties of friendship between the United States and Ghana are strong, and they are enduring. Many Americans—citizens trace their ancestry to Ghana; for example, the great jazz legend Louis Armstrong, traced his ancestry back to Ghana. Centuries ago, Armstrong's forebears came to America as slaves. In 1956, Armstrong returned to Ghana and played a concert for more than 100,000 people who turned out to celebrate their country's march toward freedom.

And when Ghana's independence was secure, President Eisenhower sent a message to Ghanaians from the people of the United States. He said, "We revere in common with you the great and eternal principles which characterize the free democratic way of life. I am confident that our two countries will stand as one in safeguarding this greatest of all bonds between us."

Half a century later, we see that President Eisenhower's confidence was well placed. Today, Ghana and America are still bound by our love for liberty, and we stand as one in our efforts to safeguard freedom.

Ghana and America stand as one as we work to secure freedom from poverty. Ghana's leaders are governing justly, fighting corruption, and investing in their people. And

America is proud to support these efforts through our Millennium Challenge compact. Together, we work with Ghana to improve agriculture and infrastructure, and support development in Ghana's rural areas, and bring prosperity to Ghana's people. We have worked to promote free trade as a powerful engine of prosperity for both our countries. Last year, trade between Ghana and the United States was valued at more than $600 million, an increase of more than 55 percent since President Kufuor and I took office.

Ghana and America stand as one in our work to free people from illiteracy and ignorance. Through the Africa Education Initiative, Ghana and the United States have partnered to provide thousands of scholarships to girls. We've trained teachers. And across that important country, schools are being renovated, textbooks are being distributed, and Ghana's children are looking toward a brighter future.

Ghana and America stand as one in our work to free people from disease. Together, we've protected hundreds of thousands of people from malaria. Starting this month, Ghana and the United States will begin distributing medicines to about 8 million people, as part of a new initiative to combat neglected tropical diseases.

Ghana and America stand as one in our work to promote free elections. Ghana is now in the middle of a lively election season, marked by spirited debate and close-fought contests, which sounds kind of familiar, Mr. President. [*Laughter*] Whatever the outcome, Ghana is showing Africa that democracy is not a challenge to be feared, but a sure path to prosperity and peace.

Ghana and America stand as one in our work to promote peace. Ghana is a vital partner in our efforts to resolve the crisis in Darfur. Ghana has more than 3,000 peacekeepers serving around the world, from Liberia and the Congo to Kosovo and Georgia.

President Kufuor, your country is a model of entrepreneurship and democracy and peace on the continent of Africa. We are grateful for the warm friendship your nation has shown ours. When Laura and I visited Ghana this February, we were touched by the gracious hospitality shown by you and Mrs. Kufuor. Thousands of people lined the street to show their gratitude to America. One shop even painted the colors of the American flag; I hope their business went up. [*Laughter*] I was moved by your decision to name a new road the "George Bush Motorway." Maybe next time I visit Ghana, I can see that motorway without stopping a lot of traffic. [*Laughter*]

What inspired us most on our visit was the incredible energy and optimism of Ghana's people. I will always remember the Little League game in Accra, played between children from local churches and a local orphanage. As each young batter stepped up to the plate, we heard about their plans for the future, to become businessmen or doctors or astronauts or even a fashion designer. One after another, we saw children confident of their place in a free and prosperous Ghana.

Mr. President, I congratulate you on the progress Ghana has made under your strong leadership. And on behalf of the American people, Laura and I are honored to welcome you and Mrs. Kufuor to the United States. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless our great nations. Mr. President.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:11 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, where President Kufuor was accorded a formal welcome with full military honors. In his remarks, he referred to Theresa Kufuor, wife of President Kufuor. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Kufuor.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President John Agyekum Kufuor of Ghana

September 15, 2008

President Bush. Good morning. I'm pleased to be here with my friend the President of Ghana, John Kufuor of Ghana. We just had a very good discussion, and before I summarize it, I do want to say a word about the U.S. economy.

I know Americans are concerned about the adjustments that are taking place in our financial markets. At the White House and throughout my administration, we're focused on them, and we're working to reduce disruptions and minimize the impact of these

financial market developments on the broader economy.

I've been in close touch with Secretary Paulson throughout this weekend and this morning. I appreciate the work the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve and the Securities and Exchange Commission and major financial institutions here and around the world are doing to promote stability in the financial systems.

As policymakers, we're focused on the health of the financial system as a whole. In the short run, adjustments in the financial markets can be painful, both for the people concerned about their investments and for the employees of the affected firms. In the long run, I'm confident that our capital markets are flexible and resilient, and can deal with these adjustments.

I admire President Kufuor, and the reason I do is because he has shown the world that democracy can flourish on the continent of Africa. He's been a steady and principled leader. We're soon to leave office, but I'm going to finish strong, and I know you are as well.

We had a good discussion about important issues, such as fighting disease. One of the initiatives that we're working on together is the fight against neglected tropical diseases. And the President brought me up to date on the strategy to deal with that important issue and how we can help.

We're talking about, obviously, fighting malaria. And the good news is, is that this is a Government that's very capable of taking American help and converting it into the kind of results that we all expect.

We talked about education and economic opportunity. The United States supports vital educational partnerships in Ghana. We're training teachers. We've issued 6,000 scholarships to girls. Under the President's leadership, the education system is improving, and we're glad just to be a small part of that, Mr. President.

And one of the most important initiatives of this administration has been the Millennium Challenge Account. It's an opportunity for the United States Government to help countries that govern justly and invest in the health and education of their people and believe in market economies. Ghana is such a country. And as the President mentioned in the welcoming ceremony, we're soon to begin spending $547 million to renovate schools, increase agricultural productivity, expand infrastructure, and support rural development.

The conclusion of the Millennium Challenge compact, Mr. President, is a testament to your leadership, and I'm very comfortable in telling the American people that this will be money well spent.

The President has been very strong voice for peace. We talked about Darfur. I appreciate very much Ghana's 11 U.N. peacekeeping operations that are ongoing. He has been a good, steady voice for strong leadership and for conflict resolution, witnessed by the fact that they were great on the U.N. Security Council. And thank you for your leadership there.

All in all, it's been a good partnership, it's been good partners amongst me and you, John, but it's been a good partner between our countries. And I firmly believe that beyond our time in office, whoever the next Presidents will be, they will find relations between our countries are in good shape, which I believe is vital.

And so I welcome you here. Laura and I are looking forward to having you to dinner tonight. I promise not to unleash the dance moves—[*laughter*]—that I first displayed in Ghana, in what was one of the most memorable trips of my Presidency.

And so we're sure glad you're here. Welcome.

President Kufuor. Thank you very much. Mr. President, I want to use this opportunity to express the deep appreciation of my nation and myself to you, as President of the United States, and to your great nation, for the supports we've benefited and our relationship with you.

The two countries have been friendly since Ghana attained independence in 1957. But I believe, under our watch this relationship has been taken even higher——

President Bush. Yes, sir.

President Kufuor. ——and has translated into many supports affecting the—all aspects of our national life in Ghana. A typical example is the Millennium Challenge Accounts by which Ghana received, or is receiving, $547

million to modernize and commercialize agriculture. You would appreciate the importance of this gesture from the United States when you know that about 60 percent of the Ghana population is rural and depends on agriculture.

So far much of our agriculture is subsistence, meaning farmers just scratch—[*inaudible*]—to feed themselves. But with the advent of the Millennium Challenge Accounts, we want to move the farmers on to more scientific and technological agriculture, and thereby empower them more and make agriculture worth pursuing for the youth.

President Bush. Yes, sir.

President Kufuor. We are suffering as an economy adrift—very serious drift of the youth from the rural parts to the urban areas, which have not been planned to accommodate——

President Bush. Right.

President Kufuor. ——the drifts. And so now, in our streets in the big towns you have street children. We believe the success of the Millennium Challenge Account will help stem all these anti-social developments.

President Bush. Right.

President Kufuor. If you look at the malaria support from the United States, our country in the old times was dubbed "the white man's grave." It was malaria-infested and the Europeans who first came along our coasts just didn't last. This disease continues to plague much of Africa and perhaps is the biggest killer—even bigger than HIV/AIDS—of our people on the continent. The hefty support we are getting from the United States, under your watch, is very welcome, and we hope to take it even further, again employing technologies and more scientific research.

President Bush. Yes, sir.

President Kufuor. Similarly, under your watch you have increased the support for the fight against HIV/AIDS, which is devastating many countries on our continent. I believe you've increased the supports your country has been giving by over $20 billion. I believe that's humanitarian——

President Bush. Thank you.

President Kufuor. ——and you have to be accorded the credit——

President Bush. Thank you.

President Kufuor. ——for this gesture.

In terms of trade, your country, I would say, holds the hub. We in Ghana trade in your currency, for instance. So with the current difficulties, naturally we also are affected. So we can only wish that your country rallies quickly to find solutions so that much of the world would be saved the trauma that we are going through.

If you take the current situation of rapidly increasing food prices and crude oil prices, which are subverting all the efforts we are trying to make to put our economies together, we believe the developed as well as the developing countries should feel that we are in the boat together and that we must learn to sail together or perhaps we sink together.

Again, with the climatic change—and here I have to express condolences and sympathy to the United States for what you are suffering down south in your country, especially in your State of Texas now.

President Bush. My State, Texas, yes.

President Kufuor. But you must know you are not alone here.

President Bush. Thank you.

President Kufuor. On the continent of Africa, as elsewhere in Asia, we are victims of the changes of climate. But this, again, should show humanity that perhaps we all belong together more than we want to admit. If we are going to make a dent on the problems caused by the climatic change, we need to be able to marshal scientific and technological knowledge and resources in which your country, the United States, must play leadership.

So look to you to readily put abroad your resources, ethically and selflessly, so all of us will see how to contain——

President Bush. Right.

President Kufuor. ——the challenges of global—climatic change, which again, should make us aware that perhaps we are already into the global village, and which we should share common values and sense of humanity. Forget about the race; forget about the ideology; forget about the religion—it's humanity that is at risk. And the United States definitely is in the forefront, or must be in the vanguard, of trying to find solutions to save mankind.

But at bottom, Ghana is very grateful for the friendship we are—she is enjoying from the United States. And I, personally, am very happy and appreciate your friendship so far.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

President Kufuor. And I look forward to a good and productive retirement, just as I wish for you, as you go into retirement. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Thank you, sir. [*Laughter*]

President Kufuor. You have been good, and I hope history will judge you well.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

President Kufuor. Thank you very much.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks Following a Briefing on Hurricane Ike Recovery Efforts

September 15, 2008

Thank you very much, Secretary Chertoff, for your briefing—you just came back from Houston; Administrator Paulison. The briefing, of course, was on the damage done to Texas and Louisiana, a result of Ike.

We, obviously, watch this recovery very carefully, because the Federal Government is playing a crucial role in helping the people of the devastated areas recover. We're working closely with the State and local authorities on a variety of subjects.

Recently, I was informed that there are going to be a—numerous points of distribution for food, water, and ice throughout Harris County to help the people there adjust. Obviously, until electricity is fully restored, people are going to need help with water, food, and ice.

There's some good news on electricity. Electricity is beginning to be restored. Obviously, there's a lot more houses and folks that are waiting for electricity, but people are working hard. There's crews coming in from around the country to help.

The energy situation is one that's of concern. Our drivers, our folks at the pump, are going to have to expect some upward pressure on price, because the storm disrupted the supply of gasoline as a result of shutting down refineries and pipelines. Now, two—the two major pipelines are up and running, which is positive news, and it happened quicker than we thought it would happen. Yet until those refineries get up and running full blast, those pipelines are going to be looking for product.

And so there's going to be a pinch. I wish it wasn't the case, but it is. On the other hand, if the pinch is too hard, if people think they're being treated unfairly, they need to get on the Department of Energy web site, because there's—or the FTC web site—and make their complaints known.

The storm was—damaged a lot of infrastructure, but truthfully it was not as bad as some predicted that it would be on the energy sector.

I'm going down tomorrow; I'm looking forward to going down. Members of my administration will be going down. We're looking forward to hearing from, you know, the local folks. I'm confident there will be people that are very frustrated because their lives have been severely affected by this storm. And my message will be that we hear you, and we'll work as hard and fast as we can to help you get your lives back up to normal.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:05 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a State Dinner Honoring President John Agyekum Kufuor of Ghana

September 15, 2008

Mr. President and Mrs. Kufuor and family members; members of the Cabinet; Mr. Vice President; Members of Congress; distinguished guests: Thank you all for coming. Laura and I are really happy to host you tonight. And we're particularly happy to host President Kufuor and Mrs. Kufuor. After all, we were in their country last February, and it was a unbelievable visit in spite of my lousy dancing. [*Laughter*] Mrs. Kufuor was my partner, and she can testify to my lousy dancing. [*Laughter*]

The memories of the trip will always stay with us, Mr. President. It was a great experience. You're the President of a country of such great potential, and you're President of a country of such wonderful people.

We really do want to—I hope you relax tonight for this special evening. After dinner we'll go out to the Rose Garden for a—interesting entertainment.

John and I will be joining the ex-Presidents club in a couple of months. [*Laughter*] But I am confident we have left behind an enduring relationship between our two countries. We are—we've worked hard to help the people of Ghana. Because of his integrity and because of his leadership, I was confident in proposing the Millennium Challenge Account for the country of Ghana.

We're working hard to fight disease together. In this room are compassionate people who care deeply about the citizens of your country, John. And we want to thank you for your compassion and thank you for coming. We care deeply about the education of people all across the globe. John, you've helped your people build a thriving democracy, where the rule of law is respected. And as well, you've taken a leadership role on the continent of Africa.

I thank you for your wise counsel and your judgment on how the United States can work to promote peace. I really have greatly enjoyed serving with you in an historic era. I have confidence that the next Presidents of both our countries will be able to work together.

In the meantime, I offer you a toast. I wish you all the best in your retirement. I have loved being in your presence. And so a toast to the President, and his gracious wife, Theresa, and the people of Ghana.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:02 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Kufuor.

Memorandum on Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2009

September 15, 2008

Presidential Determination No. 2008–28

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2009

Pursuant to section 706(1) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–228) (FRAA), I hereby identify the following countries as major drug transit or major illicit drug producing countries: Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela.

A country's presence on the Majors List is not necessarily an adverse reflection of its government's counternarcotics efforts or level of cooperation with the United States. Consistent with the statutory definition of a major drug transit or drug producing country set forth in section 481(e)(2) and (5) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (FAA), one of the reasons that major drug transit or illicit drug producing countries are placed on the list is the combination of geographic, commercial, and economic factors that allow drugs to transit or be produced despite the concerned government's most assiduous enforcement measures.

Pursuant to section 706(2)(A) of the FRAA, I hereby designate Bolivia, Burma, and Venezuela as countries that have failed demonstrably during the previous 12 months to adhere to their obligations under international counternarcotics agreements and take the measures set forth in section 489(a)(1) of the FAA. Attached to this report are justifications for the determinations on Bolivia, Burma, and Venezuela, as required by section 706(2)(B). I have also determined, in accordance with provisions of section

706(3)(A) of the FRAA, that support for programs to aid Venezuela's democratic institutions and continued support for bilateral programs in Bolivia are vital to the national interests of the United States.

Under the leadership of President Karzai, the Government of Afghanistan has made some progress in combating narcotics. However, drug trafficking remains a serious threat to the future of Afghanistan, contributing to widespread public corruption, damaging legitimate economic growth, and fueling violence and insurgency.

A successful counternarcotics strategy in Afghanistan hinges on maintaining security, building public capacity, attaining local support, and actively pursuing our joint counternarcotics strategy.

Poppy cultivation continues to be marked by the divide between the increasingly poppy-free northern provinces and the insurgency-dominated regions in the south. Through political will, and by using a mixture of incentives and disincentives, governors in key northern provinces like Badakshan and Nangarhar have significantly reduced poppy cultivation.

Inspired by the Nangarhar model, the newly appointed governor of the southern province of Helmand has taken bold steps to implement the first truly serious counternarcotics campaign in the province. It is clear that progress in Helmand Province will not come easily. Drug control efforts in this area of pronounced poppy cultivation are thwarted by heavily entrenched Taliban centers of power. In 2007 Helmand Province cultivated more than half of Afghanistan's illegal poppy crop.

Difficult security conditions greatly impede counternarcotics operations, particularly in the south and southwest provinces, areas in which the insurgency and organized crime groups predominate and where over 85 percent of Afghan poppy is cultivated.

Drug-related corruption in Afghanistan—one of the most intransigent problems in the country—must be confronted, particularly at provincial and district government levels. Corruption and illegal drugs in Afghanistan threaten to undermine all aspects of the country's efforts to build a sustainable economic infrastructure and functioning democracy.

The United States enjoys close cooperation with Canada across a broad range of law enforcement issues. Both of our nations face a serious challenge from the 2-way flow of drugs across our long border. While Canada is primarily a drug consuming country, it is also a significant producer of highly potent marijuana and has become the primary source country for MDMA (ecstasy) available in the United States. Additionally, Canada serves as a transit or diversion point for precursor chemicals and over-the-counter pharmaceuticals used to produce illicit synthetic drugs, most notably MDMA. While methamphetamine use has decreased in the United States, due in large part to past efforts to reduce precursor chemical diversion by Canadian authorities, production of finished methamphetamine is increasing in Canada and could lead to greater supplies in the United States. Canada is pursuing a new National Anti-Drug Strategy that focuses on proven approaches to reduce drug use and deter drug trafficking. The United States and Canada continue to work productively in joint law enforcement operations that disrupt drug and currency smuggling operations along the border.

The growing expansion of drug trafficking in Central America poses serious challenges to the region's limited capability to combat both the narcotics trade and organized crime. We are particularly concerned about the increasing presence of drug trafficking organizations in Central America that are fleeing more robust counternarcotics regimes elsewhere, especially in Mexico and Colombia. Often unimpeded, traffickers use long Central American coastlines for illegal maritime drug shipments. Even though there have been noteworthy seizures, a high proportion of drugs transiting Central America are not detected or seized.

The March 2008 gun battle between drug organizations in Guatemala demonstrates that criminal organizations such as the Sinaloa cartel are trying to reinforce their trafficking strongholds in Central America. In 2008, Guatemala passed new anti-organized crime and extradition laws. While such actions are encouraging, Guatemala must

work aggressively to implement these measures, just as neighboring countries must redouble their practical efforts to implement adopted reforms aimed at thwarting criminal activity.

The United States is encouraged by the commitment of the Regional Integration System to a regional response, such as sharing counternarcotics intelligence. Support for cohesive regional institution-building and practical law enforcement enhancements in Central America are critical components to a successful regional counternarcotics strategy. We look forward to working with Guatemala and other Central American nations to support counternarcotics programs and the rule of law under the new Merida Initiative.

The Government of Ecuador is committed to protecting its borders and territory against drug trafficking and other transnational crimes. The increased presence of Ecuadorian security forces in its counternarcotics efforts provided a more effective deterrent to drug production and trafficking. The identification of new trafficking trends and increased staffing and inspection at all air, land, and sea ports are also helping to hinder drug trafficking. With a system for tracking vessels already in place, Ecuador is expanding this capability and more effectively utilizing it as a tool for working with partner nations. The country's ability to identify the nationality of ships is of special concern as considerable cocaine destined for the United States has been detected on Ecuadorian-flagged vessels.

The countries of West Africa have emerged as key transit hubs for Andean cocaine trafficked through Venezuela and Brazil and destined for European markets. This trafficking is undermining many of the already fragile institutions of countries in the region. Narcotics traffickers have focused their illegal activities in Guinea-Bissau, but have recently extended their operations south to Guinea. The presence of Latin American drug traffickers and the large quantities of cocaine trafficked openly suggest that drug criminals may exercise the prerogatives of sovereign nation-states in these two countries. West Africa has long been a hub for illicit criminal networks. West African states lack resources to sufficiently counter efforts by drug trafficking organizations whose activity threatens the stability of these countries and the well-being of their people.

International donors and organizations are working to assist governments in their counternarcotic efforts. We support these efforts to preserve and protect stability and positive growth in this region.

Nigeria, a major transit country for illicit drugs destined for the United States, continues to make some progress on counternarcotics and has cooperated effectively with the United States on drug-related money laundering cases. Since it began operations in 2005, the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit has investigated numerous suspicious transaction reports that have resulted in high-profile convictions recorded by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). However, recent developments in Nigeria raise questions about whether the EFCC will remain an effective anticorruption agency. The United States Government has had extradition requests pending in Nigeria for years and is concerned that Nigeria's extradition practices and procedures remain obstacles to the effectiveness of this essential counternarcotics law enforcement tool. We are encouraged that Nigeria's use of U.S.-donated body scanners at its four major international airports has resulted in the arrest of numerous drug traffickers. Moreover, we fully support the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency's recent cooperation in regional search and seizure operations.

The Government of India maintains a strong track record of regulating, monitoring, and curbing its licit opium production and distribution process. India has introduced robust, high-tech methods to control cultivation by licensed opium farmers. In this sense, India must continue to refine its control measures to guard against the continuing problem of diversion of licit opium crops, grown for the production of pharmaceutical products, to illegal markets. The United States continues to be concerned about illicit opium poppy production in certain areas of the country, such as West Bengal and the state of Uttaranchal along the India-China Border, previously thought to be free of such

cultivation. Nevertheless, during the past year the country has destroyed substantial areas of illicit poppy cultivation. The Indian Government must also continue to investigate cases of large, illicit poppy production and accordingly bring perpetrators to trial. The United States, along with other foreign governments and international organizations, has a good working relationship with India to interdict the flow of narcotics being smuggled across India's borders.

You are hereby authorized and directed to submit this report under section 706 of the FRAA, transmit it to the Congress, and publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 16. This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 24.

Remarks Following a Briefing on Hurricane Ike Recovery Efforts in Houston, Texas

September 16, 2008

The President. So listen, I have come home to the great State under very difficult circumstances for the people who live down here. My first observation is that the State government and local folks are working very closely and working hard and have put a good response together. The evacuation plan was excellent in its planning and in execution. The rescue plan was very bold. And we owe a debt of gratitude to those who were on the frontline pulling people out of harm's way, like the Coast Guard people behind us here.

I'm now asking questions about how the Federal Government can help the response and help the recovery effort begin. One thing is, is that we have decided to match 100 percent—or pay 100 percent with no State match for debris removal, as well as the emergency preparedness that the State and local governments have put in place and executed.

Secondly, obviously, people are concerned about electricity and, you know, the—what I look for—or is there enough help to get these energy companies to do what they instinctively want to do, which is get the grid up and running. And I'm told by the folks who are monitoring this that there is a lot of people that are coming into this State to help restring wires, and that there's a lot of focus on getting the grid up. And so the sooner this electricity gets going, obviously, the easier it is going to be to help recover.

People have been moved out of their homes, and I know a lot of people are anxious to get back in. I urge you to listen to State and local authorities before you come back. It is their considered judgment which is important for you. And I know some are concerned about whether or not the government will reimburse you for your stay, and the answer is yes. We've got a plan for the next 30 days, and of course, we'll continue to monitor this situation as to reimbursing you for your time away from home.

One thing that's a concern is to whether or not we're getting water and fuel distributed. We just had a good discussion about how to make sure that we continue the—making sure these points of distribution are fully supplied. Step one is, do we have points of distribution in place? And then, how do we make sure they are supplied in a way that meets the people's needs? And the State and the Federal Government are sharing that responsibility—the Federal Government inside Harris County, primarily the State outside Harris County. Thus far—I know there are some shortages, but thus far the demand has been met. And we'll continue to monitor the situation to make sure that people are taken care of.

We're fixing to go down to Galveston and, obviously, going to see a devastated part of this fantastic State. And it'll give the Governor and me, and the Congressmen, Senator, and others a chance to express our heartfelt sympathies for those whose lives have been, you know, disrupted. It's—you know, it's a tough situation on the coast. I have been President long enough to have seen tough situations and have seen the resilience of the people be able to deal with a tough situation. It may be hard for people to now envision a better Galveston or a better Orange or some of these other communities that have been affected. But I know, with

proper help from the Federal Government and State government, there will be a better tomorrow.

And so it is with—you know, it is—it's good to be home. I'm just sorry it's under these circumstances.

I do want to say something about the American Red Cross. The American Red Cross is working closely with the emergency rescue efforts. A lot of people are sheltered, and the Red Cross is helping those people who have been displaced from their homes. It is very important for our citizens to support the American Red Cross. You can get on their web page and find a way to contribute. You know, I hope the country does not have disaster fatigue. The Red Cross is a vital part of helping people recover and helping people find the compassionate care that our citizens expect when there's a disaster such as this.

Anyway, Governor, thanks——

Governor Rick Perry of Texas. Very good, sir.

The President. ——for having us.

Gov. Perry. Glad to have you home.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:32 a.m. in the U.S. Coast Guard hangar at Ellington Field. In his remarks, he referred to Representatives Kevin Brady, John A. Culberson, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Ted Poe, and Senator John Cornyn of Texas. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Multi-National Force—Iraq Former Commander General David H. Petraeus

September 17, 2008

The President. The United States is fortunate to have great men and women who volunteer to serve in a time of danger. I have been incredibly impressed by the sacrifice of our troops who have been put in harm's way, and I've been incredibly impressed by the level of leadership for those troops.

General David Petraeus was asked to do a very difficult job, and he did it with distinction and honor. He was a part of the planning for the surge. He implemented the surge, along with a lot of other brave people, and the United States and the world is better off because of it.

And now the General has agreed to be commander of CENTCOM, which oversees the very important part of the world, the Middle East. And I want to thank you for taking on that assignment, General.

Recently, we saw how important it is, with the attack on our Embassy in Yemen. There were some security forces that lost their lives there, and we send our condolences to their families. This attack is a reminder that we are at war with extremists who will murder innocent people to achieve their ideological objectives. One objectives of these extremists is they kill; is to try to cause the United States to lose our nerve and to withdraw from regions of the world. And our message is, is that we want to help governments survive the extremists. We want people to live normal lives. We want mothers to be able to raise their sons and daughters in a peaceful environment so they can realize the hopes and dreams of a better world.

And I want to thank our diplomats who stand in harm's way. I thank our military who stands in harm's way. And I want to thank General Petraeus and his family for being so dedicated to our great country.

General.

General Petraeus. Thanks, Mr. President. Great to be home, sir. And it was a great privilege to serve there with our young men and women.

The President. God bless you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:53 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Martin Torrijos Espino of Panama

September 17, 2008

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you for coming. It's—*bienvenidos*.

President Torrijos. Yes.

President Bush. Yes. President Torrijos has been a good personal friend, and he has been a good friend to freedom, prosperity,

and democracy. I've been very impressed by your leadership.

The Panamanian economy is strong. They are implementing now a very strategic decision, which is the—building a parallel canal in Panama. I remember when you first explained it to me there, when I went to visit you, I was most impressed. And then you're here now briefing me that the plans are not only in place, but the operations are beginning soon. And I congratulate you for that.

We've talked about bilateral issues. One key issue, of course, is the free trade agreement between the United States and Panama; Congress needs to get it done. This is important for our—both our nations, it's important for our economies, and it's important for our friendship. And I appreciate you coming to talk to Members of Congress. I think it is most useful.

And so it's a joy to be with you again, and I'm proud to have you here. And I pledge to you that I will continue to work hard on this important agreement—and I will. Welcome.

President Torrijos. Thank you, sir. Thank you. It's always a pleasure talking to you and looking at our bilateral relations. They have grown stronger. There's a lot of issues of cooperation in the agenda, cooperation that will make a difference to common people in Panama: health programs, the regional center that's been established in Panama; educational programs that we're talking; and of course, our commitment to free trade, and, as you said, the commitment that we hope we'll be ready to help in any way to—in the process.

And I just want to thank you for being a friend of the country, being aware of our problem, and reaching out to help the Panamanian people. So thank you, sir.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:54 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation 8289—Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, Constitution Week, 2008

September 17, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Americans are united by the ideals of equal justice, limited government, and the rule of law. On Constitution Day and Citizenship Day and during Constitution Week, we remember the vision and determination of the Framers to build a free society, and we celebrate the historical document they created to achieve that goal.

More than two centuries ago, our Founding Fathers gathered in Philadelphia and produced a charter that would promote justice and preserve the liberty of all our citizens. The Founders established three separate branches of Government with a system of checks and balances among them. Ours is the oldest written constitution in the world, and the American experiment remains the world's best hope for freedom.

The Constitution forged the American creed of liberty and equality and has lifted the lives of countless individuals. Whether they are citizens by birth or by oath, Americans share a great tradition of enjoying liberty protected by a constitutional government of their choosing.

On Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, and during Constitution Week, Americans come together and recognize the blessings bestowed upon our great Nation. On this occasion we celebrate the courage of the Constitution's drafters and recommit ourselves to making the United States a more perfect union.

In recognition of the signing of the Constitution and of Americans who strive to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, the Congress, by joint resolution of February 29, 1952 (36 U.S.C. 106, as amended), designated September 17 as "Constitution Day and Citizenship Day," and by joint resolution of August 2, 1956 (36 U.S.C. 108, as amended), requested that the President proclaim the week beginning September 17

and ending September 23 of each year as "Constitution Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 17, 2008, as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, and September 17 through September 23, 2008, as Constitution Week. I encourage Federal, State, and local officials, as well as leaders of civic, social, and educational organizations, to conduct ceremonies and programs that celebrate our Constitution and reaffirm our rights and responsibilities as citizens of this great Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 18, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 19. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this proclamation.

Proclamation 8290—National POW/MIA Recognition Day, 2008

September 17, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we honor the brave and patriotic Americans who were held as prisoners of war, and we remember those who are still missing in action. For their valor and selfless devotion to protect the country they love, our Nation owes them a debt we can never fully repay. On this day we underscore our commitment and pledge to those who are still missing in action and to their families that we will not rest until we have achieved the fullest possible accounting for every member of our Armed Forces missing in the line of duty.

To observe this important day, the National League of Families POW/MIA flag is flown over the Capitol, the White House, the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and other locations across our country. The flag is a solemn reminder of our Nation's enduring obligation and promise to our courageous service members who remain missing and a tribute to those who have been imprisoned while serving their country in conflicts around the world.

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 Friday, September 19, 2008, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in honoring and remembering all former American prisoners of war and those missing in action for their valiant service to our Nation. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., September 18, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 19.

Remarks at the Iftaar Dinner

September 17, 2008

Good evening, and welcome. Over the past 8 years, we have made the Iftaar dinner an annual tradition here at the White House, and I'm really glad we did. At this year's gathering, we pay special tribute to the many contribution Muslim Americans have made to our Nation. We join in wishing Muslims around the world, *Ramadan Mubarak*.

Mr. Prime Minister, welcome. We are honored you're in our midst. Congressman Keith Ellison, Congressman Andre Carson are with us. Members of the administration

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.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Council on Environmental Quality to Act as Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality

September 18, 2008

Memorandum for the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Council on Environmental Quality to Act as Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and 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.* Subject to the provisions of section 2 of this memorandum, the following officials of the Council on Environmental Quality in the order listed, shall act as and perform the functions and duties of the office of the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality (Chairman), during any period in which the Chairman has died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Chairman until such time as the Chairman is able to perform the functions and duties of that office:

(a) Chief of Staff;

(b) General Counsel; and

(c) Associate Directors in the order that they shall have been appointed as such.

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 Chairman pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) No individual listed in section 1 shall act as Chairman 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 order in designating an acting Chairman.

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

George W. Bush

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Persons Who Commit, Threaten To Commit, or Support Terrorism

September 18, 2008

On September 23, 2001, by Executive Order 13224, I declared a national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism, 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, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks in New York, in Pennsylvania, and against the Pentagon committed on September 11, 2001, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks against United States nationals or the United States. Because the actions of these persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the United States, the national emergency declared on September 23, 2001, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond September 23, 2008. 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 with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism.

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

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 18, 2008.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 19, 2008]

NOTE: This notice will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 22.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Persons Who Commit, Threaten To Commit, or Support Terrorism

September 18, 2008

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 to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2008.

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks in New York, in Pennsylvania, and against the Pentagon committed on September 11, 2001, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. These actions pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism, and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 18, 2008.

Proclamation 8291—National Farm Safety and Health Week, 2008

September 18, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Agriculture has always been a vital part of America's economy and culture, and our farmers and ranchers are among the best stewards of our land. During National Farm Safety and Health Week, we recognize those working in agriculture for their contributions to our Nation's prosperity, security, and health, and we also seek to raise awareness about the occupational hazards of this industry.

Farming and ranching are strenuous occupations, and workers can be exposed to many dangers, including those associated with extreme weather conditions, operating heavy machinery, and working with livestock. Teaching awareness about potential dangers, implementing preventative measures, and supervising children as they work and play can help mitigate risks and reduce the number of injuries and fatalities on farms and ranches.

Our Nation's farmers and ranchers exemplify the American values of hard work, deep commitment to faith, and love of family. During National Farm Safety and Health Week, we celebrate these extraordinary men and women who are building a prosperous future for our country.

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 the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 21 through September 27, 2008, as National Farm Safety and Health Week. I call upon the agencies, organizations, and businesses

that serve America's agricultural workers to continue to strengthen their commitment to promoting farm safety and health programs. I also urge all Americans to honor our agricultural heritage and to recognize our farmers and ranchers for their remarkable contributions to our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., September 22, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 19, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 23.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Prime Minister Nasir al-Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah of Kuwait

September 19, 2008

President Bush. Your Excellency, thanks for coming. Kuwait is a strategic partner of the United States, and our discussion today was befiting of our strategic partnership.

We talked about a lot of issues. One issue we talked about was Iraq. And I do want to thank Your Excellency for naming an ambassador to Iraq. It's a recognition on your part that a stable and peaceful Iraq is in your interests. And we support those interests.

I also want to thank you for being such a good security partner in the region. I can remember fondly coming to Kuwait and going to our base there, and how appreciative our commanders and our folks based there were for the hospitality of your country.

We talked about the economic situation here in the United States, and I told His Highness—His Excellency I'm going to go give a speech here in a minute.

And all in all, it was a very good discussion. And I thank you for your friendship, and I welcome you to the United States.

Prime Minister Nasir. Thank you, Mr. President. On behalf of my delegation, I want to thank you for the hospitality, the warm welcome. The discussions that we have had here, Mr. President, concern all the international arena. Our people cannot forget the position that United States took—the leadership and the coalition forces to liberate Kuwait in '91.

And since United States has become one of our allies in the region, the discussion that we have had is the mutual interests between both countries in all these fields. And we are happy; we are glad to see that everything is moving very, very well between the two countries.

Thank you again, and I bring the best wishes of the Amir, the Crown Prince, and the people of Kuwait. Thank you, sir, and the people of United States.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:11 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, Prime Minister Nasir referred to Amir Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and Crown Prince Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah of Kuwait.

Remarks on the National Economy

September 19, 2008

Good morning. I thank the Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, and SEC Chairman Chris Cox for joining me today.

This is a pivotal moment for America's economy. Problems that originated in the credit markets—and first showed up in the area of subprime mortgages—have spread throughout our financial system. This has led to an erosion of confidence that has frozen many financial transactions, including loans to consumers and to businesses seeking to expand and create jobs. As a result, we must act now to protect our Nation's economic health from serious risk.

There will be ample opportunity to debate the origins of this problem. Now is the time to solve it. In our Nation's history, there have been moments that require us to come together across party lines to address major challenges. This is such a moment. Last night, Secretary Paulson and Chairman Bernanke and Chairman Cox met with congressional leaders of both parties, and they

had a very good meeting. I appreciate the willingness of congressional leaders to confront this situation head on.

Our system of free enterprise rests on the conviction that the Federal Government should interfere in the marketplace only when necessary. Given the precarious state of today's financial markets—and their vital importance to the daily lives of the American people—Government intervention is not only warranted, it is essential.

In recent weeks, the Federal Government has taken a series of measures to help promote stability in the overall economy. To avoid severe disruptions in the financial markets and to support home financing, we took action to address the situation at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The Federal Reserve also acted to prevent the disorderly liquidation of the insurance company AIG. And in coordination with central banks around the world, the Fed has injected much needed liquidity into our financial system.

These were targeted measures designed primarily to stop the problems of individual firms from spreading even more broadly. But more action is needed. We must address the root cause behind much of the instability in our markets—mortgage assets that have lost value during the housing decline and are now restricting the flow of credit. America's economy is facing unprecedented challenges, and we are responding with unprecedented action.

Secretary Paulson, Chairman Bernanke, and Chairman Cox have briefed leaders on Capitol Hill on the urgent need for Congress to pass legislation approving the Federal Government's purchase of illiquid assets, such as troubled mortgages from banks and other financial institutions. This is a decisive step that will address underlying problems in our financial system. It will help take pressure off the balance sheets of banks and other financial institutions. It will allow them to resume lending and get our financial system moving again.

Additionally, the Federal Government is taking several other steps to address the trouble of our financial markets.

The Department of the Treasury is acting to restore confidence in a key element of America's financial system—money market mutual funds. In the past, government insurance was not available for these funds, and the recent stresses on the markets have caused some to question whether these investments are safe and accessible. The Treasury Department's actions address that concern by offering government insurance for money market mutual funds. For every dollar invested in an insured fund, you will be able to take a dollar out.

The Federal Reserve is also taking steps to provide additional liquidity to money market mutual funds, which will help ease pressure on our financial markets. These measures will act as grease for the gears of our financial system, which were at risk of grinding to a halt. They will support the flow of credit to households and businesses.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has issued new rules temporarily suspending the practice of short selling on the stocks of financial institutions. This is intended to prevent investors from intentionally driving down particular stocks for their own personal gain. The SEC is also requiring certain investors to disclose their short selling and has launched rigorous enforcement actions to detect fraud and manipulation in the market. Anyone engaging in illegal financial transactions will be caught and persecuted [prosecuted]. *

Finally, when we get past the immediate challenges, my administration looks forward to working with Congress on measures to bring greater long-term transparency and reliability to the financial system, including those in the regulatory blueprint submitted by Secretary Paulson earlier this year. Many of the regulations governing the functioning of America's markets were written in a different era. It is vital that we update them to meet the realities of today's global financial system.

The actions I've just outlined reflect the considered judgment of Secretary Paulson, Chairman Bernanke, and Chairman Cox. We believe that this decisive government action is needed to preserve America's financial system and sustain America's overall economy. These measures will require us to put a significant amount of taxpayer dollars on the

* White House correction.

line. This action does entail risk, but we expect that this money will eventually be paid back. The vast majority of assets the Government is planning to purchase have good value over time, because the vast majority of homeowners continue to pay their mortgages. And the risk is—of not acting would be far higher. Further stress on our financial markets would cause massive job losses, devastate retirement accounts, and further erode housing values, as well as dry up loans for new homes and cars and college tuitions. These are risks that America cannot afford to take.

In this difficult time, I know many Americans are wondering about the security of their finances. Every American should know that the Federal Government continues to enforce laws and regulations protecting your money. Through the FDIC, every savings account, checking account, and certificate of deposit is insured by the Federal Government for up to $100,000. The FDIC has been in existence for 75 years, and no one has ever lost a penny on an insured deposit, and this will not change.

America's financial system is intricate and complex. But behind all the technical terminology and statistics is a critical human factor: confidence. Confidence in our financial system and in its institutions is essential to the smooth operation of our economy, and recently that confidence has been shaken. Investors should know that the United States Government is taking action to restore confidence in America's financial markets so they can thrive again.

In the long run, Americans have good reason to be confident in our economic strength. America has the most talented, productive, and entrepreneurial workers in the world. This country is the best place in the world to invest and do business. Consumers around the world continue to seek out American products, as evidenced by record-high exports. We have a flexible and resilient system that absorbs challenges and makes corrections and bounces back.

We've seen that resilience over the past 8 years. Since 2001, our economy has faced a recession, the bursting of the dot-com bubble, major corporate scandals, an unprecedented attack on our homeland, a global war on terror, a series of devastating natural disasters. Our economy has weathered every one of these challenges and still managed to grow.

We will weather this challenge too, and we must do so together. This is no time for partisanship. We must join to move urgently needed legislation as quickly as possible, without adding controversial provisions that could delay action. I will work with Democrats and Republicans alike to steer our economy through these difficult times and get back to the path of long-term growth. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Honoring the 2008 National Basketball Association Champion Boston Celtics

September 19, 2008

The President. Welcome to the White House. Please be seated. So, Celtic Pride is back. So a friend of mine, who is a huge Celtics fan, said, "Why don't you call it the 'Boston Three Party?'" I said, "Because it took a team to win." And I welcome the Boston Celtics team that has brought great pride to the Boston area. You know, I was telling them, I went to school up there. And those were the days when the Celtics were awesome. And there was a little bit of a drouth, but sure enough that drouth ended with the NBA championship. And I welcome you all to the White House as NBA champs.

I do want to say congratulations to the owners. You might recall I was an owner of a baseball team, and never knew what this felt like. [*Laughter*] Wyc Grousbeck, Irv Grousbeck, and wives; Steve Pagliuca; Bob Epstein—these all say managing partner. You got a lot of managing partners. [*Laughter*] But that's good. I know you're proud, and I know you're thrilled to—being here. I congratulate the general manager, Danny Ainge; I—Rick Gotham, the team president who is with us; Doc Rivers—look, this guy can coach. And coaches—and coaches; I congratulate the—all those who work in the organization for joining us.

Welcome to Members of Congress; glad you all are here. I welcome members of my administration who've come; members of the United States Armed Forces who are with us today; Boston Celtics fans who are with us today. I don't think we've had this many fans since Saint Patrick's Day, Senator. [*Laughter*] And finally, and most importantly, the players who brought the championship back to Boston. Welcome. Congratulations to you.

It's amazing how sports works, isn't it? At the beginning of last season, few would have predicted how this season would have ended. After all, the Celtics had finished with the second-worst record in the NBA. And the two-decade championship drouth was pretty likely to continue, at least that's what the experts said. There's a lot of experts in life these days, if you hadn't noticed. [*Laughter*]

Except the owners were determined to win. They said, "We're going to bring a winner for our fans." These are fan-oriented owners who understand that a sports franchise is only good as its fan base. And then you hired a general manager who knew what it meant to be a champion. You didn't hire him; he had been there for a while. But he knew what it meant to be a champion. After all, he's on the 1986 championship team. And he knows there's something special that needs to be put together to make a team work, and that's Danny Ainge.

And so during the offseason, he figured out the need to bring maybe some new blood—or some old new blood. [*Laughter*] Well, older new blood. And of course, you know, the famous trades were made for—the famous pickups were Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen. And these guys are awesome players. But Danny Ainge would be the first to tell you—by the way, the NBA executive of the year would be the first to tell you, it takes an entire team to win a championship. You bet these two people were awesome additions to the team, but it required a bunch of people playing together for the common good to win.

And that's what Doc Rivers did. See, this guy is—I've known him somewhat. He's a good man. He brought character to the clubhouse. He brought unity to the team. And he helped bring the championship back to Boston.

The team got off to a fast start; they won the first 8 games, and they never looked back for 66 wins for the NBA's best record. And then you got in the playoffs, which didn't exactly go as smoothly as some people thought—[*laughter*]—but nevertheless, when it came time to defend your home court, this team figured out how to do it.

And then, of course, the L.A. Lakers in the finals. For baby boomers like me, that is the—that was a reminder of a great basketball rivalry. So, like, Boston fans were screaming, "Beat L.A.!" at the top of their lungs, and that's exactly what this team did in six hard-fought games. If you're a basketball fan or a sports fan, it was really awesome to watch, wasn't it? If you're a Boston Red Sox fan it was doubly awesome to watch—[*laughter*]—Boston Celtics fan—man, you were in heaven. [*Laughter*]

Despite his knee injury early in the series, this team's captain, Paul Pierce, played with courage. You know, leadership comes in all different kinds of ways. Playing hurt in a championship game is the ultimate sign of leadership. And that's why he won the MVP honors for the NBA finals. And that's why the league calls him "The Truth." This team calls him the captain.

It is safe to say that everybody on this team contributed to the championship. You know, not enough focus has been put on, until the end, the depth of the bench on the Boston Celtics. They had a lot of players come off the bench to make a huge difference, and although they—three big names, three great NBA players were there, but the real strength was the depth of the roster, I think. And I think most of the basketball experts will tell you that's the case. So I congratulate all of you for contributing to something that was very important. We'll remember your stifling defense, we'll remember your sharp shooting and the way—we'll remember the way you played together as a unit, as a team.

I appreciate very much the use of the word "*ubuntu*." I don't know if you know what that's talking about here. Probably most people outside Boston don't. It is a African word for unity that they declared when they broke the huddle. I've been looking forward to saying that with a Texas accent. [*Laughter*] *Ubuntu*. Yes. Did I get it right?

I'm proud of your character. I want to thank the Celtic organization for what you do off the court as well. I believe there is a huge responsibility not only to try to win on the court but to be responsible citizens in the community in which you live. The Shamrock Foundation, for example, helps disadvantaged children during the season and after the season. I appreciate the fact that during the second quarter of every home game, the Celtics honor some caring citizen; someone who I said is a soldier in the army of compassion. With the "Hero Among Us" program, that's a really good idea, and I thank you for doing that. I want to congratulate you for worrying about children and literacy and using your special status in society to set a good example.

Most of all I congratulate you for being champs. I wish you all the very best for the next season. Should you win it, you can find me in Texas. [*Laughter*]

Congratulations. Congratulations, and now it is my honor to bring to the podium "The Truth," team captain Paul Pierce.

Paul Pierce. Little nervous. [*Laughter*] Well, Mr. President——

The President. Yes, sir.

Mr. Pierce. We just want to say it's truly an honor to be here in your house today. And on behalf of the Celtics organization, we'd like to thank you. And from what I hear, you played a little high school basketball yourself. So we're going to honor you with a basketball signed from our team.

The President. I'm honored.

Mr. Pierce. And a jersey, Celtic jersey with a 43 on it—even those that's Kendrick Perkins's number. [*Laughter*]

The President. He's from Beaumont.

Mr. Pierce. And he's from Texas. So that's why we gave you 43. [*Laughter*]

No, but for real, in honor for you being the 43rd President, we'd like to present this to you. And also, on behalf of the families and the victims in Hurricane Ike, the organization would like to also present a check for $100,000 to the Red Cross relief.

The President. Well, thank you. That's awesome. Thank you for doing that. That's a big deal—really big.

Mr. Pierce. So once again, we'd just like to say thank you, and it's truly an honor.

The President. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:04 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Kevin Garnett, forward, Ray Allen, guard, and Kendrick Perkins, center, Boston Celtics.

Proclamation 8292—Family Day, 2008

September 19, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Strong families are essential to the well-being of our Nation. On Family Day, we celebrate the relationship between parents and their children, and we recognize the importance of families spending time together.

As a source of hope, guidance, stability, and love for every generation, families both teach and exemplify the values and virtues needed in today's changing world. As parents and as role models to America's children, we can help prepare our children for a bright future by offering steadfast support and unconditional love.

The character of a child is formed in his or her earliest years by the love and guidance of family members and other caring individuals. Since 2001, my Administration has worked to strengthen the American family, and we have worked with faith-based and community organizations to promote healthy marriages and responsible fatherhood. By striving to ensure that children remain connected to their families, communities, places of worship, and schools, we are helping them make good choices and build lives of purpose.

Parents are the primary teachers of our Nation's youth, and they are the first ones to educate them about the differences between right and wrong. By being proactive and involved in a child's life, families pass along the traditions and principles that help make America a compassionate, decent, and hopeful society.

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 September 22, 2008, as Family Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day by engaging in activities that strengthen the bonds between children and parents.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., September 22, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 23.

Memorandum on Use of the Department of the Treasury's Exchange Stabilization Fund To Support a Guaranty Facility for Certain Money Market Mutual Funds

September 19, 2008

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury

Subject: Use of the Department of the Treasury's Exchange Stabilization Fund To Support a Guaranty Facility for Certain Money Market Mutual Funds

Pursuant to section 10(b) of the Gold Reserve Act of 1934, as amended, 31 U.S.C. 5302(b), I approve the use of funds from the Exchange Stabilization Fund to provide up to $50 billion as a guaranty facility for certain money market mutual funds, consistent with your recommendation to me and the terms and conditions set out in your memorandum to me dated September 18, 2008.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for the verification of the content of this memorandum.

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.

September 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Then, in the Situation Room, he participated in a video teleconference briefing on Hurricane Ike with officials from the National Hurricane Center, Department of Homeland Security, and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The President declared a major disaster in Texas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Hurricane Ike beginning on September 7 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Louisiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Hurricane Ike beginning on September 11 and continuing.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Texas by authorizing an increase in the level of Federal funding for debris removal undertaken as a result of Hurricane Ike that struck the State beginning on September 7 and continuing.

September 14

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff to discuss Hurricane Ike.

September 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President met with Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson, Jr., to discuss the financial markets situation. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a photo opportunity with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America regional finalists for Youth of the Year.

In the evening, on the North Portico, the President and Mrs. Bush greeted President John Agyekum Kufuor of Ghana and his wife,

Theresa. Then, in the Grand Foyer, they participated in a photo opportunity with President Kufuor and Mrs. Kufuor. Later, in the Rose Garden, the President, Mrs. Bush, President Kufuor, and Mrs. Kufuor viewed entertainment.

The President announced the designation of U.S. Ambassador to China Clark T. Randt, Jr., as his delegate to attend the closing ceremony of the Paralympic Games on September 17 in Beijing, China.

September 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Houston, TX. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson, Jr., to discuss the financial markets situation.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Galveston, TX, where, aboard Marine One, he took an aerial tour of areas damaged by Hurricane Ike. Later, at the City of Galveston Emergency Operations Center, he participated in a briefing on Hurricane Ike damage and recovery efforts. He then returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the afternoon.

Later in the afternoon, in the Roosevelt Room, the President met with the President's Working Group on Financial Markets.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Texas by authorizing an extension of 100 percent in the level of Federal funding for debris removal and emergency protective measures undertaken as a result of Hurricane Ike that struck the State beginning on September 7 and continuing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Cheryl Feldman Halpern to be a U.S. Alternate Representative to the 63d Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The President announced that he has nominated James W. Ceaser to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities.

The President announced that he has nominated Anthony H. Gioia, Bob Corker, and Bill Nelson to be U.S. Representatives to the 63d Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The President announced that he has nominated Karen Elliot House to be a U.S. Alternate Representative to the 63d Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The President announced his intention to appoint R. Timothy Ziemer as Coordinator of U.S. Government Activities To Combat Malaria Globally.

The President announced his intention to appoint Byron R. Johnson, Roland C. Warren, and Harry Wilson as members of the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Education Foundation: Viet Dinh; Elizabeth Dugan; Chrisopher J. Fussner; and Stephen F. Maxner.

September 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President received diplomatic credentials from Russia's Ambassador to the U.S. Sergey I. Kislyak.

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson, Jr., to discuss the financial markets situation.

September 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson, Jr., to discuss the financial markets situation.

In the afternoon, the President met with Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson, Jr., to discuss the financial markets situation. Later, at the Naval Observatory, he attended a barbecue for wounded veterans and their families hosted by Lynne Cheney, wife of Vice President Dick Cheney.

In the evening, the President met with Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson, Jr., and his senior economic advisers to discuss the financial markets situation.

The President declared a major disaster in Arkansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding associated with Hurricane Gustav from September 2–8.

September 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell to thank them for meeting with his economic advisers and to discuss the financial markets situation.

In the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with House Republican Leader John A. Boehner to thank him for meeting with his economic advisers and to discuss the financial markets situation. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a photo opportunity with recipients of the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

The White House announced that the President will host President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority at the White House on September 25.

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 September 15

Barry C. Barish,
of California, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2014 (reappointment).

Ray M. Bowen,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2014 (reappointment).

France A. Cordova,
of Indiana, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2014, vice Jo Anne Vasquez, term expired.

Edwin Eck,
of Montana, to be a member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term expiring September 14, 2013 (reappointment).

William E. Grayson,
of California, to be a member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term expiring September 14, 2010, vice Nancy Killefer, term expired.

Esin Gulari,
of South Carolina, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2014, vice Daniel E. Hastings, term expired.

G. P. Peterson,
of Colorado, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2014, vice Karl Hess, term expired.

Douglas D. Randall,
of Missouri, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2014 (reappointment).

Diane L. Souvaine,
of Massachusetts, to be a member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2014, vice Kenneth M. Ford, term expired.

Withdrawn September 15

Jeffrey A. Taylor,
of the District of Columbia, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia for the term of 4 years, vice Kenneth L. Wainstein, resigned, which was sent to the Senate on February 27, 2007.

Submitted September 16

James W. Ceaser,
of Virginia, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2014, vice Celeste Colgan, term expired.

Bob Corker,
of Tennessee, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the 63d Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Anthony H. Gioia,
of New York, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the 63d Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Karen Elliott House,
of New Jersey, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the 63d Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Alfred S. Irving, Jr.,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice Mary Ann Gooden Terrell, retired.

Bill Nelson,
of Florida, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the 63d Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

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 September 13

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Louisiana

Statements by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Texas

Released September 15

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino and Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson, Jr.

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 6532

Fact sheet: Increasing Fuel Supply in the Aftermath of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike

Released September 16

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott M. Stanzel and Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator R. David Paulison

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's meeting with the Working Group on Financial Markets

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Texas

Released September 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary on amendments to the Americans with Disabilities Act

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Second Amendment Enforcement Act

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 2837

Released September 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 2403

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Arkansas

Released September 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino and National Economic Council Director Keith Hennessey

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority

Fact sheet: Confronting Economic Challenges Head On

Acts Approved by the President

Approved September 15

H.R. 6532 / Public Law 110–318
To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the Highway Trust Fund balance

Approved September 17

S. 2837 / Public Law 110–319
To designate the United States courthouse located at 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York, as the "Theodore Roosevelt United States Courthouse"

Approved September 18

S. 2403 / Public Law 110–320
To designate the United States courthouse located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, as the "Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., United States Courthouse"

Approved September 19

H.R. 6456 / Public Law 110–321
To provide for extensions of certain authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes

S. 2450 / Public Law 110–322
To amend the Federal Rules of Evidence to address the waiver of the attorney-client privilege and the work product doctrine