

to get over; the President wants you right now.” [Laughter] “Come on, I’m just thawing out here.” “Get over there.” [Laughter] So I went over, and it was very, very moving.

President Bush. It was an awesome moment, it really was, as you can imagine.

Message From the Outgoing President to the Incoming President

Mr. Hume. It is the custom of departing Presidents is to leave a note in the drawer.

President Bush. Yes. Actually, it’s a custom to leave a note upstairs at the—if I’m not mistaken—the residence.

Mr. Hume. Well, however you do it. Do you recall what you wrote?

Former President Bush. Reagan wrote me, and it was in the desk. And I think I did the same thing.

President Bush. Oops.

Mr. Hume. And what did you say, roughly?

Former President Bush. I don’t remember, just good luck

Mr. Hume. To Bill Clinton?

President Bush. I’m going to write one.

Mr. Hume. Have you thought about it—what you’re going to say?

President Bush. I have not. I think it’s probably best I wait for, you know, right before he and his family come to ride down Pennsylvania Avenue with me.

The Oval Office

Mr. Hume. This office has been used in different ways by different Presidents—atmosphere, formality, in some less formality than others. As I recall, you never set foot in this office, Mr. President 41, without a jacket and tie. Is that—that was true wasn’t it?

Former President Bush. That was my policy, I think.

Mr. Hume. And how about you? Did you—

President Bush. I thought it was the right policy.

Mr. Hume. Has that always been the case?

President Bush. Yes, I may have come in here once in over 8 years without a tie on—or twice. But I come in here to work. And as I said, I refer to this as a shrine to

democracy, and it is, and it needs to be treated that way. And I had a fabulous mentor.

Former President Bush. Now, I think it’s important to treat this place with respect, and that’s what we tried to do.

Mr. Hume. Well, I’m sure you’ll be remembered for having done just that. Thank you very much, gentlemen.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Former President Bush. Brit, good luck to you.

Mr. Hume. Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

NOTE: The interview began taping at 10:32 a.m. in the Cabinet Room and continued in the Oval Office at the White House, for later broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida. Former President Bush referred to former Rep. Otis G. Pike of New York; Michael V. Hayden, director, Central Intelligence Agency; Gen. Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.), former chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, USA (Ret.), former commander, U.S. Central Command. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 11. A portion of this interview could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on the Death of Cardinal Pio Laghi

January 11, 2009

Laura and I send our deepest condolences to Pope Benedict XVI and all Catholics on the passing of Cardinal Pio Laghi. Cardinal Laghi was a friend who, in his more than 60 years of service to the Catholic Church, worked tirelessly for peace and justice in our world. As the Papal Nuncio to the United States during the final years of the cold war, and in his many other assignments, Cardinal Laghi always strove to unite people of all religions and promote reconciliation, religious freedom, and tolerance. Cardinal Laghi holds an especially important place in the hearts of the American people, having served as the first Papal Nuncio to the United States following the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Holy See in 1984.

On behalf of all Americans, Laura and I join Catholics around the world to offer our gratitude for the courageous service and life

of Cardinal Laghi and commit ourselves to carrying his peaceful message forward.

Memorandum on Provision of Atomic Information to Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia

January 9, 2009

Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Provision of Atomic Information to Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia

In your memorandum to me of August 1, 2008, you recommended that I approve pursuant to sections 123 and 144b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, an agreement for cooperation within the context of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as between the Government of the United States and the following seven new members of NATO: the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, Romania, the Slovak Republic, and the Republic of Slovenia, hereinafter the “New Parties.” The subject agreement is the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for Co-operation Regarding Atomic Information, including a technical annex and security annex (hereinafter collectively referred to as the ATOMAL Agreement), which entered into force on March 12, 1965, with respect to the United States and the other members of NATO at that time.

Having considered your recommendations and the cooperation provided for in the ATOMAL Agreement with respect to the New Parties, in accordance with sections 123 and 144b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, I hereby:

a. Determine that the performance of the ATOMAL Agreement, including the proposed cooperation and the proposed communication of Restricted Data thereunder, with respect to the New Parties, will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security.

b. Approve the ATOMAL Agreement with respect to the New Parties.

c. Authorize the Department of Defense to cooperate with the New Parties to the ATOMAL Agreement in the context of NATO upon satisfaction of the requirements of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 12.

Directive on Arctic Region Policy

January 9, 2009

National Security Presidential Directive/NSPD-66

Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-25

Memorandum for the Vice President; the Secretary of State; the Secretary of the Treasury; the Secretary of Defense; the Attorney General; the Secretary of the Interior; the Secretary of Commerce; the Secretary of Health and Human Services; the Secretary of Transportation; the Secretary of Energy; the Secretary of Homeland Security; Chief of Staff; Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; Director of the Office of Management and Budget; Director of National Intelligence; Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs; Counsel to the President; Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs; Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism; Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality; Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy; Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard; and Director of the National Science Foundation

Subject: Arctic Region Policy

I. Purpose

A. This directive establishes the policy of the United States with respect to the Arctic region and directs related implementation actions. This directive supersedes Presidential Decision Directive/NSC-26 (PDD-26; issued 1994) with respect to Arctic policy