

At the same time, I've been able to again raise awareness and the political will in addressing global challenges such as climate change. And I need your strong support as we are going through this year, a midpoint year, to realize Millennium Development Goals by 2015. We are going to focus on food situation and agriculture, education, health, and all this, statistical systems, infrastructure of Africa.

In that regard, your visit to African states at this time will be very important and historic. I hope you will be able to discuss with African leaders on how to realize this Millennium Development Goals, how to help people overcome abject poverty and sanitation, access to educational opportunities.

In that regard, I wish you all the best, that this is a very great opportunities. And it would be also very much important for international community to sustain the momentum established in Bali December last year in climate change. I'm going to build up on this Bali roadmap so that we will be able to achieve this globally accepted framework, replacing this Kyoto Protocol.

The United States is the country with the most innovative for technology and financing capacities. I count on your leadership and active participation. I do appreciate your constructive engagement in this, starting from high-level meeting September last year and the major economies meeting in September in Washington and in Honolulu this year. I count on your leadership.

All in all, I need your strong support, because I believe a stronger partnership between the United Nations and United States is the crucial, the important element in carrying out this—my duty as Secretary-General and also making United Nations organization more strengthened in carrying out common challenges we share together.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Yes, thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:09 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Executive Order 13461—Providing an Order of Succession Within the Department of Health and Human Services

February 15, 2008

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

Section 1. Subject to the provisions of section 3 of this order, the officers named in section 2, in the order listed, shall act as and perform the functions and duties of the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services (Secretary), if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, during any period in which the Secretary has died, resigned, or become otherwise unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary.

Sec. 2. Order of Succession.

- (a) Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services;
- (b) General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services;
- (c) Assistant Secretary (Resources and Technology);
- (d) Assistant Secretary (Planning and Evaluation);
- (e) Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services;
- (f) Commissioner of Food and Drugs;
- (g) Director of the National Institutes of Health;
- (h) Assistant Secretary for Family Support;
- (i) Other Assistant Secretaries of the Department of Health and Human Services appointed by the President, in the order in which they shall have taken the oath of office as such;
- (j) Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and
- (k) Director, Region 4.

Sec. 3. Exceptions.

- (a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 2 of this order in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this order.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this order, the President retains discretion, consistent with the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, to depart from this order in designating an acting Secretary.

Sec. 4. Revocation. Executive Order 13250 of December 28, 2001 (Providing An Order of Succession Within the Department of Health and Human Services), and the President's memorandum of March 19, 2002 (Designation of Officers of the Department of Health and Human Services), are hereby revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 15, 2008.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:50 a.m., February 19, 2008]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on February 20.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 9

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

February 10

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

February 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with Annette Lantos, wife of Representative Thomas P. Lantos, and Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi to express his condolences for the death of Representative Lantos. Then, in the National Security Adviser's office, he dropped by a meeting between National Se-

curity Adviser Stephen J. Hadley and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority.

The White House announced that the President will meet with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the White House on February 15.

February 12

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, at the historic Evermay house, the President attended a Republican National Committee luncheon.

During the day, in the Roosevelt Room, the President attended National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley's meeting with the Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People (HELP) Around the Globe Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Peter E. Cianchette to be Ambassador to Costa Rica.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeffrey Robert Brown to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund as well as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board: Perri Klass; Katherine Mitchell; Eduardo J. Padron; Alexa E. Posny; Timothy Shanahan; and Richard Kenneth Wagner.

The President announced his intention to nominate Hyepin Christine Im and Layshae Ward to be members of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

February 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

February 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq and Speaker Mahmud al-Mashhadani, First Deputy Speaker Khalid