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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Memorandum	Immigration (2001 - 2008)	11	N.D.	P1/b1; P5;
002	Memorandum	Extended Background Information	2	04/30/2001	P1/b1; P5;
003	Letter	[Letter] - To: POTUS - From: Harriet Miers	1	06/07/2001	P5;
004	Memorandum	Guidance on Mexican Immigration Issues - To: POTUS - From: Margaret La Montagne, Condoleezza Rice	2	06/07/2001	P1/b1; P5;
005	Memorandum	U.S. - Mexico Immigration Proposals - To: POTUS - From: Margaret La Montagne, Condoleezza Rice	4	07/31/2001	P1/b1; P5;
006	Memorandum	U.S - Mexico Immigration Initiative - To: POTUS - From: Margaret La Montagne, Condoleezza Rice	2	08/03/2001	P1/b1; P5;
007	Letter	[Letter] - To: POTUS - From: John D. Ashcroft	1	09/04/2001	P5;

COLLECTION TITLE:

Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

SERIES:

Von Der Heydt, Thomas (Tommy) - Bush Record Policy Memos

FOLDER TITLE:

Immigration: A Timeline (2001 - 2008) [1]

FRC ID:

13894

RESTRICTION CODES

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008	Memorandum	Law Enforcement Issues	2	N.D.	P1/b1; P5;
009	Memorandum	Immigration Issues	4	N.D.	P1/b1; P5;
010	Memorandum	Temporary Worker Program Update - To: POTUS - From: Diana Schacht	3	05/05/2004	P5;
011	Memorandum	Security Aspects of Immigration Reform - To: POTUS - From: Frances Fragos Townsend	2	06/09/2005	P5;

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1



IMMIGRATION: A TIMELINE (2001–2008)

DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: Karl Zinsmeister
FROM: Ryan Bounds
SUBJECT: Immigration Reform Legacy

Immigration reform has been one of President Bush's principal domestic policy goals from his first weeks in office. In general, the President has sought to achieve three major objectives. The first is increased border security and interior enforcement, a goal that took on renewed urgency after the attacks of September 11, 2001. The second objective is the creation of a new temporary worker program (TWP) to match willing employers and willing foreign workers for jobs that Americans will not do. The third objective, and by far the most controversial, is to resolve the status of the millions of undocumented workers already in the United States. In pursuing this third objective, the President has sought to find what he has termed the "rational middle ground" between automatic citizenship and mass deportation.

Negotiations With Mexico (January – September 2001)

The President's initial push for immigration reform was a component of a larger strategy to improve relations with Mexico. In February 2001, the President visited Mexico on the first foreign trip of his Administration. President Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox took the occasion to instruct their Governments to engage in Cabinet-level negotiations to address migrant and labor issues. Over the next few months, Secretary Powell and Attorney General Ashcroft represented the United States in these discussions. A new TWP and legalization of undocumented Mexicans quickly became core issues; indeed, the latter was President Fox's highest priority. In May 2001, partially as a result of discussions with the Mexicans and also out of concern for the potential disruption of American families, the President announced his support for a bill to extend the application deadline for a legalization program known as 245(i). The program allowed illegal aliens who were eligible for green cards as a result of their familial relationships with citizens or permanent residents to apply for their green cards without first having to leave the country for up to ten years, which was otherwise required under immigration law as a result of their illegal presence. The President sent a letter to Congress urging extension of the program on May 1, the day after the legalization program expired. Three weeks later, the House passed a four-month extension. As the bill made its way to the Senate, the White House indicated its support for a longer extension, partly out of concern that the INS would be unable to process the flood of green card applications that were anticipated during the extension. President Fox wanted to go further, seeking normalization for Mexican nationals who were illegally present in the U.S. but not eligible for legalization under the 245(i) program. Although the President rejected a blanket amnesty early on, he weighed various options during the summer of

2001 to normalize the status of Mexicans unlawfully working in the U.S. Among the considerations were whether any normalization program would be targeted specifically at Mexican nationals, whether such a program could lead to permanent residency, and how to offer normalization without unfairness to aliens who were patiently awaiting status through existing legal channels. The normalization issue carried serious risks, and the Administration proceeded cautiously in order to build support in Congress by first announcing support in principle for a normalized temporary worker program and willingness to consider a path to permanent resident status for workers who would avail themselves of that program. On September 5-6, 2001, President Bush hosted President Fox for the first official state visit of the Bush Administration. Immigration was a top issue during their discussions, and both Presidents publicly reiterated their commitment to an immigration accord that could involve a temporary worker program and normalization of the status of illegal workers already in the country.

Security and Enforcement (September 2001 – 2003)

But the prospects for a deal with Mexico were upended by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Although both Presidents remained supportive, and although talks resumed at lower levels within a few months of 9/11, an agreement of the kind under discussion earlier in 2001 was much lower on the list of priorities—and no longer viable in any event, at least in the short term. Instead, the national focus with respect to immigration issues immediately shifted to tighter borders and more robust enforcement. The Administration ramped up border security and interior enforcement, including significant increases in spending and new policies to crack down on abuses of student visas. In May 2002, the President hosted a White House signing ceremony to sign the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Reform Act of 2002, which focused on improving information collection and the analysis of risks posed by arriving aliens. Among other things, the Act required the Attorney General to recruit hundreds of new investigators and inspectors for the INS and to ensure the timely and centralized reporting of lost or stolen passports, required commercial air carriers to provide advance data on arriving passengers from foreign points of departure, and required the creation of terrorist watchlists and comparison of arriving aliens' names against those watchlists prior to admission. In November 2002, the President signed the Homeland Security Act, which among other things moved the INS and the Border Patrol into a new Department of Homeland Security. And much of 2003 was occupied with the stand-up of DHS.

A Proposal for a Temporary Worker Program (2004)

The next major development on the domestic front came on January 7, 2004, when President Bush gave a major speech in the East Room unveiling a comprehensive immigration reform proposal. The speech was the President's most detailed statement to date of the Administration's immigration reform principles. The controversial centerpiece of the plan was a new temporary worker program that would be open both to new foreign workers and to undocumented individuals currently in the United States. The President affirmed his opposition to amnesty, which he defined as placing undocumented workers on an automatic path to citizenship. He added that immigration reform must control the borders, serve the U.S. economy by matching willing workers with willing employers, promote compassion for unprotected workers, provide incentives for temporary workers to go home, protect the rights of legal immigrants without unfairly rewarding those who have disobeyed U.S. laws, and set high expectations for what citizens should know. A few weeks later, the President devoted a portion of his State of the

Union to this proposal. There was interest in immigration reform in Congress, but by spring, it was clear that no significant legislation would move before the November elections.

Immigration Reform in a GOP Congress (2005-06)

Shortly after President Bush was re-elected, immigration reform developed significant momentum in Congress. The relevant committees began taking up the issue in earnest in the second half of 2005. For his part, the President began a major public push for immigration reform in October, including a series of speeches, radio addresses, and visits to the border. The President's speeches during this time focused primarily on the Administration's border security and interior enforcement accomplishments, and also advocated a TWP. But the GOP-controlled House disregarded the President's call for comprehensive reform. On December 16, 2005, the House passed a major enforcement-only bill sponsored by Rep. Sensenbrenner by a vote of 239-182.

Prospects for comprehensive reform were much better in the Senate, and the President devoted a series of speeches and public events to advocating such reform in early 2006. The Senate took up a comprehensive reform bill in late March and early April, but the bill stalled after about a week. On May 15, as the Senate resumed debate, the President delivered an address to the nation in prime time from the Oval Office. The President announced that he was deploying 6,000 members of the National Guard to the southern border. He noted the ongoing Congressional debate and emphasized that any legislation must be comprehensive, arguing that all elements of the problem must be addressed together, or none of them would be solved. He also outlined his five key objectives for immigration reform: border security, interior enforcement, a new TWP, a resolution of the status of undocumented workers, and assimilation measures. With regard to the undocumented workers, the President sought to outline the "rational middle ground" between automatic citizenship and mass deportation. He advocated distinguishing between illegal immigrants who crossed the border recently and those who have worked here for many years. He proposed that illegal immigrants who have roots in the country and want to stay should have to pay a meaningful penalty, pay their taxes, learn English, and work in a job for a number of years. Such individuals would be eligible to seek citizenship, but approval would not be automatic, and they would need to wait at the back of the line.

On May 25, the Senate passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill by a vote of 62-36. A key provision of the bill was a compromise orchestrated by Sens. Hagel and Martinez to divide illegal immigrants into three tiers, depending upon the length of their stay in the United States, with those here the longest having a less rigorous path to citizenship and those who arrived after January 2004 required to leave the country.

The wide gap between the enforcement-only House bill and the comprehensive Senate bill made it clear that a quick conference agreement was not in the cards. The President continued to push for immigration reform both publicly and privately, but a conference committee was never formally convened. And with midterm elections approaching, Congress turned its attention to enforcement. On October 26, the President signed the Secure Fence Act of 2006, which authorized the construction of hundreds of miles of additional fencing along the Southern border, as well as vehicle barriers, checkpoints, and advanced technology.

Immigration Reform in a Democratic Congress (2007)

Although the 2006 midterm elections spelled trouble for many of the President's legislative priorities, immigration reform was one area in which prospects were arguably even better than they had been when Congress was under GOP control. The President used his State of the Union Address on January 23, 2007, to advocate his five objectives for comprehensive immigration reform, including legalization of the undocumented "without animosity and without amnesty." Shortly thereafter, senior Administration officials began working to develop a framework for immigration legislation with a bipartisan group of Senators led by Sen. Kyl and Sen. Kennedy. After months of negotiations, the so-called "grand bargain" was announced on May 17. The proposal, which formed the basis of the bill the Senate would debate, included the following key elements:

- (a) Security and enforcement benchmarks. These benchmarks must be met before other elements of the program are implemented.
- (b) Mandatory electronic employment eligibility verification.
- (c) A new TWP, with conditions that are designed to ensure that it is "truly temporary."
- (d) Legalization of the undocumented. For illegal immigrants, the plan would grant them "probationary status" as soon as they come out of the shadows. After the security benchmarks are met, these individuals must pass a background check, remain employed, maintain a clean criminal record, pay a \$1,000 fine and receive a tamper-resistant biometric card to apply for and maintain a "Z visa." Some years later, Z visa holders may apply for a green card, but only after paying an additional \$4,000 fine; completing accelerated English requirements; getting in line while the current backlog clears; returning to their home country to file the green card application; and demonstrating merit under the merit-based system.
- (e) Assimilation measures.
- (f) Merit-based legal immigration: Creation of a points system for future immigrants that assigns credit for skills, education, and family ties, among other things.
- (g) Changes to visa quotas: Significantly curtailing chain migration and emphasizing skills-based immigration.
- (h) Family-based immigration. A plan to clear the backlog for family-based immigration within 8 years.

On May 21, the Senate began debating a bill that reflected the "grand bargain." The President spent much of the next month giving speeches and holding public events in an effort to build support. But the bill came under assault from both the left and the right. A key blow came on June 6, when the Senate adopted an amendment to sunset the new TWP after 5 years. After two weeks of debate, Sen. Reid tried to invoke cloture on June 7, but his motion was rejected largely along party lines, amid complaints from Republicans that they had not had sufficient time for amendments. Sen. Reid pulled the bill from the floor, and there was some speculation that the bill was dead, but the "grand bargainers" pressed ahead. Sens. Specter and Kennedy introduced a revised bill on June 18, and floor debate resumed on June 26. However, the final death knell for the bill—and for comprehensive immigration reform during the Bush Presidency—came just two days later, on June 28, when a cloture vote failed with 46 yeas and 53 nays.

Administrative Immigration Reform (2007-08)

With Congressional action not in the offing, the Administration quickly turned to measures it could implement without further legislative approval. On August 10, Secretaries Chertoff and Gutierrez unveiled a package of 26 administrative immigration reforms. The reforms included DHS-driven initiatives on border security and the facilitation of permanent immigration and the assimilation of new citizens as well as efforts involving collaboration with the Department of Labor on regulatory reforms to existing temporary worker programs and with the Department of Justice on interior and criminal enforcement of the immigration laws. In February, Secretaries Chertoff and Chao unveiled the reforms planned for the temporary worker program for agricultural workers. The Administration will spend the remaining months dutifully implementing the promised measures as well as a variety of others, and at this writing, prospects are good for achieving as many as 24 of the 26 items by January 2009.

For its part, Congress has made periodic attempts to enact piecemeal immigration reforms, but has never come close. In October 2007, the Senate blocked the DREAM Act, which would have provided green cards for certain aliens who were brought into the country as minors. And in May 2008, Senate leadership overruled a decision by the Appropriations Committee and stripped a version of the AgJOBS agriculture legalization bill from a supplemental spending measure.

Although the President has acknowledged publicly that he will leave office without signing a comprehensive immigration bill into law, he has also predicted that the unsuccessful bill in 2007 will serve as the model for future reform efforts. In the meantime, the President's aggressive border security and enforcement efforts over the last few years are generating impressive results—results that directly address a key reason for public and congressional discomfort with the kind of immigration reform the President has long advocated.

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Remarks by President George W. Bush and President Vicente Fox of Mexico in Joint Press Conference

Rancho San Cristobal
San Cristobal, Mexico

PRESIDENT FOX: Good afternoon. Good afternoon, Mr. President. This morning I have held very productive and cordial talks with the President of the United States, Mr. George W. Bush. We have agreed on a set of principles and values to provide our relationship as neighbors with more constructive dynamics of more intense cooperation, in order to unfold all the potential of our bilateral relations.

The fact that the President, George Bush's first foreign visit has our country as its destination is a clear message of the interest his administration places on strengthening links with Mexico. At the same time, it is quite a distinction.

This starting point is very encouraging, so that both Mexicans and Americans, together, to inaugurate an era of shared prosperity together. I also acknowledge President Bush's demonstration of friendship by coming to Guanajuato, the cradle of Mexico's independence. And I am particularly grateful for his greeting my mother, Dona Mercedes, as well as for his visit to my house -- his house -- here in San Cristobal.

Let me tell you, Mr. President, that you will always be welcome in this, your home -- or, in your language, President, you know that we consider you a friend of Mexico, a friend of Mexican people, and a friend of mine.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT FOX: The agreements we have reached today are embodied in the document that we have, and we ratified our commitment to values of democracy and the promotion of human rights, as well as the aim of the fruits of development reach all sectors of our society.

The global and hemispheric agenda was also an important part of our talks, as is fitting in a mature dialogue between two prominent members of the international community. We have identified a renewed will for cooperation to design, together with our Canadian partners, a region guided by the search for shared prosperity.

We, the Presidents of Mexico and the United States, have the favorable circumstance of beginning our respective mandates simultaneously. This enables us to project our common objectives with a long-term vision and to undertake negotiations in areas that require a decisive and systematic impetus from the two governments.

Mr. President Bush, the spirit in which we have conducted this first working meeting marks the beginning of a novel stage in our bilateral relations. I am certain that we will be able to take advantage of the historic opportunity we have today to set out on the way to a century of shared prosperity. We will face this challenge on the basis of mutual trust, with a fresh and creative vision to advance in the topics of our bilateral agenda.

Once again, welcome, and this is your home.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Muchos gracias, amigo, el Presidente de Mexico. Su recepcion tan calida refleja el grande amistad entre nuestros pueblos. Me hace sentir que estoy entre familia. Thank you very much.

It's a great honor to come to Mexico as this important nation enjoys a new birth of freedom, signaled by President Fox's election. Our meetings today have been a really good opportunity to renew our personal friendship and the friendship between Mexico and the United States.

Mexico is the first foreign country I have visited as President, and I intended it to be that way. Our nations are bound together by ties of history, family, values, commerce and culture. Today, these ties give us an unprecedented opportunity. We have a chance to build a partnership that will improve the lives of citizens in both countries.

I came here today to seek President Fox's views on how we can go about building on our partnership. We enjoyed a warm and substantive and frank dialogue on the many issues that shape the relationship between America and Mexico.

We talked about strengthening our trade relationship, which offers hope and opportunity on both sides of our border. We talked about how our two nations can work together to meet our current and future energy needs. We exchanged ideas about safe and orderly migration, a policy that respects individuals on both sides of the border. We talked about expanding educational opportunities. We talked about what we can do together to fight drug trafficking and other types of organized crime.

We also talked about what we can do together to extend the benefits of freedom and prosperity throughout the entire hemisphere. I told President Fox that building a hemisphere of freedom will be a fundamental commitment of my administration. We both look forward to discussing these ideas with other hemispheric leaders in Quebec in April at the Summit of the Americas.

We are welcoming a new day in the relationship between America and Mexico. Each nation has a new President, and a new perspective. Geography has made us neighbors; cooperation and respect will make us partners. And the promise of the partnership was renewed and reinvigorated today.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT FOX: If I understood correctly, we're going to take questions in Spanish for the Mexican press, and some questions in English for the American press. So we'll go first to the women first, and here we'll take the Spanish question first.

Q I have two questions, one for the President of Mexico. We've spoken about new agreements and a new path on migration issues. What has been the advancements on the two topics as you -- you're campaign to open the border for the free transit of people and to have the free trade agreement in the same way that the European Community has done it?

You talked to President Bush about the amnesty, about the illegal aliens in the United States. I have a question for President Bush. What is the message that you want to send right now, what

does the United States want to send to the world as a message with the new bombing of Iraq? And, above all, why, Mr. Bush, at this point, when you are establishing a dialogue with the President of Mexico? Why? Is this a beginning of a new war?

PRESIDENT FOX: Actually, we discussed amply the migration issues that we have. But this is not a meeting in which decisions or details are going to be reached, because they do not belong in the power of -- the executive power, as such, because they have to have the participation of other groups.

We have spoken on migration from the viewpoint of our countrymen that are in the United States, and we have spoken about the possibilities of working on agreements of temporary legal work and employment. We have spoken on the firm idea that we have of fighting violence against immigrants, and to work based on the law, and to see how the coyotes and all the people that will be taking these people -- or the polleros taking our illegal workers into U.S. territory.

We have spoken of a long-term vision and approach and constructive approach on this topic. And perhaps here, the most important thing will be presented by President Bush later on. But certainly there is a new attitude, there is a new way of approaching things, much more positive approach to things on this issue of migration.

The conclusion has been to create a commission at the highest level, as it was read in the Guanajuato Proposal, to begin and to discuss and to advance on this topic on very concrete steps. I believe this is a great advancement on what we had before.

PRESIDENT BUSH: In answer to part B of your question, the United States is engaged in the Middle East and Persian Gulf. We will remain so. Since 1991, our country has been enforcing what's called a no-fly zone. A routine mission was conducted to enforce the no-fly zone. And it is a mission about which I was informed and I authorized. But, I repeat, it is a routine mission, and we will continue to enforce the no-fly zone until the world is told otherwise.

Ron.

Q Sir, as you say, this is the first military action you've taken as President of the United States. I'm wondering whether it signals a hardening of the U.S. position towards Iraq. And specifically, is it your goal to drive Saddam Hussein from power? And, secondly, are you putting Saddam on notice today that American military action will be more frequent or more forceful than it was before you became President?

PRESIDENT BUSH: Mr. Fournier, Saddam Hussein has got to understand that we expect him to conform to the agreement that he signed after Desert Storm. We will enforce the no-fly zone, both south and north. Our intention is to make sure that the world is as peaceful as possible. And we're going to watch very carefully as to whether or not he develops weapons of mass destruction, and if we catch him doing so we'll take the appropriate action.

Q Mr. President, President Bush, welcome to Mexico. We will be waiting for you in Cancun. The question is on globalization; the question, support to Mexico. And another question, certification in Mexico, will it continue? Will it disappear forever? Would you trust our friend, Fox?

PRESIDENT BUSH: The question is on drug certification and really about our relations with President Fox. I trust your President. He's the kind of man you can look in the eye and know he's shooting straight with you. I appreciate the fact that he was a one-time governor. I've got kind of partiality to governors.

We need to work together on the drug issue. One of the reasons why drugs are shipped -- the main reason why drugs are shipped through Mexico to the United States is because United States citizens use drugs. And our nation must do a better job of educating our citizenry about the dangers and evils of drug use.

Secondly, I believe there is a movement in the country to review all the certification process. I'm certainly going to take the message back to the members of Congress that I firmly believe that President Fox will do everything in his power to root out the drug lords and to halt drug trafficking as best as he possibly can.

As you know, he made some very bold and courageous statements about extradition. He showed unique leadership on that issue. It certainly caught my attention. And I believe when the American people and the members of Congress hear this bold action that he's willing to take, they will understand what I know, that he is committed to battling the drug trade.

Jim -- Steve, sorry. You are? (Laughter.) We've got you out of order -- I know you're Steve. Stefan, hombre muy bueno.

Q Sir, now that Republicans have told you there are not enough votes for your tax plan in the Senate, how do you proceed from here? And do you consider cutting the size of it?

PRESIDENT BUSH: His question was about our tax plan. I don't agree with that assessment, that there are not enough votes in the Senate. I believe when it's all said and done, we're going to get a tax bill out of the House and the Senate that will be at the level I think it ought to be. I know there is a lot of speculation about members, but it's early, it's early in the process.

Washington, Mr. President, has got a unique way of asking Presidents to negotiate with themselves. And that's not what is going to happen in this administration. We'll get a tax package because it's the right thing for the American people.

Ours, Mr. President, is getting ready to submit a budget that will set priorities. Education will be a priority; health care for our citizens will be a priority; setting aside Social Security -- all the payroll taxes for Social Security will be a priority. We've still got money left over and I want to pass some of it back to the people who pay the bills, in order to make sure our economy does not drag.

And the President and I talked about economic growth. He knows exactly what I know, that if our economy were to slow significantly, it would affect our abilities to see the benefits of free trade; it would affect the Mexican economy.

And so I want to assure our friends from Mexico that we will put fiscal and monetary -- I have nothing to do with monetary policy, of course -- but fiscal policy in place that will affect economic growth, because it is beneficial not only for our people, but for the Mexican people.

Look, to answer your question directly, we are going to get a good tax cut through and I think it is going to be the size I'm suggesting.

Q To President Fox, since you two are working together on several actions that you want to undertake together in a short future and also in the long-term future, do you support the military actions like the ones like the United States is doing, bombing Iraq? Thank you.

PRESIDENT FOX: I do not have a position or a statement on that topic, specifically because this will be done through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the future.

It's your turn.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Short answer, Mr. President. (Laughter.) Campbell Brown.

Q Much has been made of you choosing Mexico as your first foreign trip. But it is also causing consternation among the European allies and Canada that you are going to put a greater emphasis here at the expense of those countries. What do you say to that, please?

PRESIDENT BUSH: Well, I appreciate that question. First, I met with Prime Minister Chretien and assured him that a vision of -- a foreign policy that understands good policy starts in the neighborhood is a vision that goes both north and south.

I would hope that nations around the world, and leaders, would understand the logic behind saying that good foreign policy, good relations must be firm on our borders. I can't think of anything more logical and more common-sensical than to understand our hemisphere which can be and will be bound by freedom and free markets and free trade is in the interests of our people.

We'll have a foreign policy as one that engages the world. I've rejected isolationism, as you know, and protectionism. Ours is going to be an active foreign policy. It's going to be consistent and firm; one that starts, though, by building friendships -- in this case, renewing a friendship. And it should send a strong signal to all nations who watch that if you're our friend, we'll be your friend. And Mexico is our friend and will remain our friend.

Q Thank you very much, Presidents Bush and Fox. A question for President Fox. Do you think that it is not an improper gesture in this for a visit that the recent bombing of Iraq is one that is attracting the attention, and would put a shade or a shadow on this meeting here in Guanajuato?

PRESIDENT FOX: I see no reason why we should connect one event with the other one. Here we are in the process of building up and constructing a strategy to foster the economic and human development of a complete region that is formed by three countries that have been associated under a free trade agreement, and the relationship between the United States and Mexico that has proven already that has made advancements, very constructively.

The levels of trade we have are really fantastic and they are the envy of many people. Many people have never thought that in the year of 2001 with a trade balance of \$250 billion. This has meant development for the United States; it has meant employment in the United States. It has meant development and employment in Mexico, as well.

This is what has allowed us to reduce substantially the level of poverty in Mexico. In the last four years, more than 4 million poor people have gone beyond extreme poverty levels. This is

what we have invested on, to take these people above this level. And all the time that we have invested discussing these strategic points allow us to see that there is a possibility of going ahead to get more benefits from good relationships and to be true partners toward prosperity, and to be true friends and to be true neighbors.

And this purpose is something that has been clearly stated today and we're very pleased with it. And we are full of confidence that we can see the future with a more optimistic approach as of today's meeting.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Jim.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Apologies to you, Presidente Fox, for not asking a question about the U.S. and Mexico. But, President Bush, if I may, another question about Iraq. As we understand it, this was in response to violations that have happened over several weeks, perhaps several months. What prompted you to take this decision at this time?

PRESIDENT BUSH: The commanders on the ground, rightly, make the decision as to how to enforce the no-fly zone. I want to assure those who don't understand U.S. policy that this is a routine mission. Some of the missions require the Commander-in-Chief to be informed. This was such a mission. It is not the first time it has happened, regrettably so.

We will continue to enforce the no-fly zones. The no-fly zones are enforced on a daily basis. It is a part of a strategy, and until that strategy is changed, if it is changed at all, we will continue to enforce the no-fly zone.

But, anyway, the decision is made on the ground, Jim.

Q I would like to ask you whether there was a petition from the U.S. government as far as oil is concerned, or any requests for support on electricity and oil?

PRESIDENT FOX: No, not specifically. We spoke about the California problems, by itself, and, yes, we are speaking about the possibility of creating an energy policy that will be common to all the northern part of the country and into Canada, the United States and Mexico and part of Central America, to try to create a synergy or a synergism so that each one of the countries would benefit from all these policies, because there is energy that we need to import in Mexico that we do not have enough, and at this moment we know in some part of the U.S. territory, this is happening, too. And the same could happen to the Central American countries.

Here, what is important is to have a common policy whereby no one takes advantage of the other. But the other way around it, and it's a win-win situation for everyone, that everyone would be benefitted from the organization of an energy plan for the benefit of all the continent of, in this case, the northern part of the Americas.

We also spoke about water problems at the border zones. These are common problems that we have, and if we administer and manage these common problems in a timely manner, in a positive and optimistic way, we could mutually be benefitted in the water problems that we have at the border. And this is something that obviously we discussed here.

I believe this is the foundation that we laid down for our project today. And we are trying with goodwill to remove all the obstacles and to take advantage of all the opportunities that we have. And, certainly, today we saw more opportunities than obstacles. And therefore, I do ratify that this makes us see the near future with much more optimism than before.

Q Mr. President, when you met with President Fox in August in Dallas, you talked about the possibility of finding ways to share energy resources. With the current climate in America -- energy prices high, supplies low -- can you tell me how you pushed that issue today and what sense of progress you have?

PRESIDENT BUSH: Yes, I appreciate that. The question was about energy policy. First of all, good energy policy is one that encompasses not only Mexico, but Canada. We must think about energy shortages and energy demands in regards to our hemisphere.

Secondly, the President and I did discuss how best to share resources to the benefit of both countries. We talked about the possibility of exploration in Canada and the United States and Mexico. A cubic foot of gas imported into Mexico is one, obviously, less able to burn in the United States. It is a hemispheric issue and it needs to be elevated to the presidential level.

We did talk about power, the generation of power; the possibility as to whether or not in Baja, for example, more power could be added to the Western Grid. It's an obvious opportunity, if possible. Now, there are some bottlenecks, and one of the things we need to do is address those bottlenecks, one of which is the ability to transmit power from south to north.

Now, there is pipeline availability. And we're going to need to -- so when we talk about an energy policy at home, it is also in the context of Mexico and Canada. This is an issue where we need to continue the dialogue. It's an issue that is going to affect the people of Mexico and the people of the United States if we don't recognize that we need more supply.

We can conserve better; there's no question about it. But demand is far outstripping supply, which is creating a real problem for the working people of our respective countries. And so this subject, rightly so, took quite a bit of time in our meeting, and is going to take more time down the road.

We have a great opportunity to come together and have a strategy that honors Mexico and honors its sovereignty and, at the same time, recognizes that people are what matters most. And we've got to make sure our people have got the energy necessary to be able to find jobs and find work.

PRESIDENT FOX: We are finished. Thank you very much for coming to the press conference. Good luck and thank you.

PRESIDENT BUSH: They just want to get in the picture.

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Joint Statement by President George Bush and President Vicente Fox Towards a Partnership for Prosperity

The Guanajuato Proposal

We met today at Rancho San Cristobal, in Guanajuato, in a dialogue of friends and neighbors to agree on important goals and principles that will govern relations between our two countries.

We are united, as never before, by values and interests that cover the entire span of our rich and broad relationship. That relationship is grounded in our respect for democracy and human rights, not just for ourselves but for all people in every nation. We share a fundamental commitment to free trade as an engine of economic growth and development that leaves nobody behind. And, we are committed to ensuring the rule of law, the framework on which our people's freedom and prosperity depends. This common outlook is the basis for a full, mature, and equitable partnership for prosperity.

Among our highest priorities is unfettering the economic potential of every citizen, so each may contribute fully to narrowing the economic gaps between and within our societies. We acknowledge the dynamism achieved through NAFTA, which has ushered in dramatic increases in trade that have transformed our economic relationship. After consultation with our Canadian partners, we will strive to consolidate a North American economic community whose benefits reach the lesser-developed areas of the region and extend to the most vulnerable social groups in our countries. To this end, we support policies that result in sound fiscal accounts, low inflation, and strong financial systems.

Migration is one of the major ties that bind our societies. It is important that our policies reflect our values and needs, and that we achieve progress in dealing with this phenomenon. We believe that Mexico should make the most of the skills and productivity of their workers at home, and we agree there should be an orderly framework for migration which ensures humane treatment, legal security, and dignified labor conditions. For this purpose, we are instructing our Governments to engage, at the earliest opportunity, in formal high-level negotiations aimed at achieving short and long-term agreements that will allow us to constructively address migration and labor issues between our two countries. This effort will be chaired by the Secretary of State and the Attorney General of the U.S. and the Secretary of Foreign Relations and the Secretary of the Interior of Mexico.

We attach the utmost importance to issues affecting the quality of life along our common border. We shall work for the economic and social development of our border communities, fight violence and strive to create a safe and orderly environment. We will form a new high-level working group under the auspices of the Binational Commission to identify specific steps each country can take to improve the efficiency of border operations. We will begin immediate discussions to implement the NAFTA panel decision on trucking.

Drug trafficking, drug abuse, and organized crime are major threats to the well-being of our societies. To combat this threat, we must strengthen our respective law enforcement strategies and institutions, as well as develop closer and more trusting bilateral and multilateral cooperation. We want to reduce the demand for drugs and eliminate narcotrafficking organizations. To this end, we will undertake immediate steps to review law enforcement policies and coordination efforts in accordance with each country's national jurisdiction. We will

consult with our NAFTA partner Canada regarding development of a North American approach to the important issue of energy resources. Building on the strength of our respective cultures, we will seek to expand our partnership broadly in ways that help secure a better future for our people. Education is a key to that future; we will increase exchanges and internships that help develop human capital and promote respect for each other's rich cultural heritage. We will seek new cooperation in science, technology, and the environment, on which much of our economic progress and our people's well-being will depend. Beyond the bilateral agenda, our two Governments are also ready to discuss regional and hemispheric issues important to both our nations. The Summit of the Americas, to be held in April in Quebec City, will provide a valuable forum in which the hemisphere's democracies can address and advance shared goals of strengthening democratic institutions and stimulating economic prosperity through free trade and education. We reaffirm our support for the creation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas as soon as possible.

We believe our two nations can now build an authentic partnership for prosperity, based on shared democratic values and open dialogue that bring great benefits to our people. We want to move beyond the limitations of the past and boldly seize the unprecedented opportunity before us. In order to achieve these goals and follow up on the commitments we made today, we have agreed to meet frequently, as necessary, over the course of our respective terms of office. We will do so as friends, in a spirit of mutual trust and respect.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
DOMESTIC POLICY BRIEFING

April 30, 2001
Oval Office
3:30 p.m.
Margaret La Montagne

01 APR 27 2001

I. PURPOSE

To brief you on the status of education negotiations and to discuss an immigration policy issue which may be raised in your meeting with President Fox.

II. BACKGROUND

Meetings with members of Congress regarding education funding and policy continue. Debate is slated to begin this week in the Senate. The House Committee intends to mark-up the bill beginning Wednesday. We will discuss the current status of the legislation with you.

During the last Congress, legislation was enacted to allow undocumented aliens to apply for citizenship without having to first leave the country for three or ten years. This law includes parents, spouses or minor children of citizens, spouses or minor children of legal permanent residents, and employer sponsored immigrants. Legislation to extend the deadline for six months to one year has been proposed during this Congress. President Fox supports legislation to extend the deadline and urges your support.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Andrew Card
Karen Hughes
Karl Rove
Joshua Bolten
Nicholas Calio
Ari Fleischer
Margaret La Montagne
John Bridgeland
Tony Banbury, Special Assistant for Democracy, Human Rights and International Operations
John Maisto, Special Assistant for Western Hemisphere Affairs
Townsend McNitt, Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs, Senate
Diana Schacht, Special Assistant for Justice Policy
Sandy Kress, Senior Education Advisor

(files)

IV. PRESS PLAN

Closed

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Staff briefing

VI. REMARKS

None

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Extended background information on Section 245(I), Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Memorandum	Extended Background Information	2	04/30/2001	P1/b1; P5;

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COLLECTION:

Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

SERIES:

Von Der Heydt, Thomas (Tommy) - Bush Record Policy Memos

FOLDER TITLE:

Immigration: A Timeline (2001 - 2008) [1]

FRC ID:

13894

OA Num.:

14457

NARA Num.:

14246

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 1, 2001

TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
TO THE SPEAKER AND DEMOCRATIC LEADER
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND
THE MAJORITY AND DEMOCRATIC LEADERS OF THE

SENATE

May 1, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Leader:)

I am a strong proponent of government policies that recognize the importance of families and that help to strengthen them. To the extent possible, I believe that our immigration policies should reflect that philosophy. That is why I support legislation to extend the window created under section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act during which qualified immigrants may obtain legal residence in the United States without being forced to first leave the country and their families for several years.

According to agency estimates, there are more than 500,000 undocumented immigrants in the country who are eligible to become legal permanent residents, primarily because of their family relationship with a citizen or legal permanent resident. However, the law generally requires them to go back to their home country to obtain a visa, and once they do so, they are barred from returning to the United States for up to 10 years. Many choose to risk remaining here illegally rather than to be separated from their families for those many years. This issue has been the subject of discussion in the Working Group that Attorney General Ashcroft and Secretary of State Powell co-chair with officials of the Mexican government, and should be addressed to ensure a more orderly, legal, and humane migration flow between our countries.

I encourage the Congress to consider whether there was adequate time for persons eligible under section 245(i) to apply for adjustment of status before the filing deadline expired yesterday. Information indicates an estimated 200,000 were eligible to file but did not meet the deadline. Preliminary reports suggest that many applicants were unable to complete their paperwork in time, due in part to the fact that the rules explaining how the provision would be applied were not issued until late March. It remains in our national interest to legitimize those resident immigrants, eligible for legal status, and to welcome them as full participants of our society. But we will only be able to do this if the path to legalization encourages family reunification. For this reason, I would support legislation that temporarily extends the recently expired April 30, 2001, filing deadline, while maintaining the requirement that the applicant was physically present in the United States on December 21, 2000.

I look forward to working with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH



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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Letter	[Letter] - To: POTUS - From: Harriet Miers	1	06/07/2001	P5;

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Memorandum	Guidance on Mexican Immigration Issues - To: POTUS - From: Margaret La Montagne, Condoleezza Rice	2	06/07/2001	P1/b1; P5;

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Memorandum	U.S. - Mexico Immigration Proposals - To: POTUS - From: Margaret La Montagne, Condoleezza Rice	4	07/31/2001	P1/b1; P5;

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Memorandum	U.S - Mexico Immigration Initiative - To: POTUS - From: Margaret La Montagne, Condoleezza Rice	2	08/03/2001	P1/b1; P5;

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Letter	[Letter] - To: POTUS - From: John D. Ashcroft	1	09/04/2001	P5;

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Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

SERIES:

Von Der Heydt, Thomas (Tommy) - Bush Record Policy Memos

FOLDER TITLE:

Immigration: A Timeline (2001 - 2008) [1]

FRC ID:

13894

OA Num.:

14457

NARA Num.:

14246

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Memorandum	Immigration Issues	4	N.D.	P1/b1; P5;

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Remarks by President George Bush and President Vicente Fox of Mexico at Arrival Ceremony

The South Lawn

PRESIDENT BUSH: Mr. President, Mrs. Fox, members of the Mexican delegation, distinguished guests: On behalf of the American people, it is my honor to welcome you to the United States.

Mexico is the first country I visited as President. Today it is my privilege to welcome President Fox for the first state visit of my administration. This is a recognition that the United States has no more important relationship in the world than the one we have with Mexico.

The starting point of a sound foreign policy is to build a stable and prosperous neighborhood, with good relations amongst neighbors. Good neighbors work together and benefit from each other's successes.

Mr. President, you are a Mexican patriot with a great vision for a great people -- a vision of justice and prosperity. Your election signaled a new birth of freedom for Mexico and set an example for the entire world. The United States is proud to stand beside you as your partner and as your friend.

Our nations have an historic opportunity to build an authentic partnership grounded in trust and in freedom. Since 1994, the Free Trade Agreement amongst our two countries and Canada has created millions of jobs and lifted millions of lives. NAFTA stands as a model for the benefits that are possible when trade is open and free. Today, our two nations are working together to extend the benefits of free trade throughout our hemisphere and throughout the world.

Our common interests, however, extend far beyond commerce. We value the cultural contributions each nation makes to each other. We treasure the family ties that bind so many millions of our citizens. We understand that the border we share is a vibrant region that unites us.

We understand that our two nations must work together in a spirit of respect and common purpose to seize opportunities and tackle challenges on the issues that affect the lives of our citizens, including migration, the environment, drugs, crime, corruption, and education. And both our governments share a great project, a fully democratic Western Hemisphere that grows in prosperity and trades in freedom.

Some have described the century that just passed as the American century. Now we look forward. We have a chance to build a century of the Americas, in which all our people, North and South, find the blessings of liberty. This goal is worthy of our two great nations.

A Mexican proverb tells us that "Que tiene un buen vecino tiene un buen amigo" -- "He who has a good neighbor has a good friend." Today, both our countries are committed to being good neighbors, and good friends. Friends deal in good faith, and disagree with respect. Friends stick together, in good times and in bad.

Most of all, friends bring out the best in each other. Today, Mexico and the United States are bringing out the best in each other -- in commerce, in culture, and in our shared commitment to democratic values. We're building a relationship that is unique in the world, a relationship of unprecedented closeness and cooperation. And this visit is a milestone on that journey.

President Fox, in February you welcomed me in your home in Guanajuato. Today, Laura and I and the American people are honored to welcome you and Mrs. Fox to the casa blanca nuestro pais. (Laughter.) Thank you for coming. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT FOX: President George Bush, Mrs. Laura Welsh Bush, ladies and gentlemen, friends, all: I want to express to you my most sincere thanks for this warm reception, and to present to you, Mr. President, and to the people of the United States, the greeting of fraternity, warmth and solidarity of the people of Mexico. It is a great honor for me to come once again to this great nation and to have the privilege of enjoying your hospitality.

I have come to Washington today as the President of a democratic Mexico, of a Mexico determined to become a prosperous, secure nation, open to the world; a vibrant and dynamic country which seeks not only to strengthen its bonds of friendship with the rest of the international community, but is also determined to play a more active role in establishing the new international architecture.

I have said with conviction on several occasions that our two countries at present are living in an era which is unique in the history of our relations -- an era full of challenges that we must face united, and of opportunities which we must take up together. For it is only in this way that we will be able to make that area of prosperity shared between Mexico and the United States that we are building a reality, along with Canada and all of North America.

Today our countries have an intense flow of trade. Today Mexico buys from the United States more products and services than from Spain, Germany, France and Italy, combined. We share the most dynamic border in the world. The contacts between the cities and the states along the border are growing and diverse in nature. And our societies have links which grow stronger and more friendly every day.

We wish to take advantage of that foundation in order to strengthen our economic ties, providing a lasting and mutually beneficial solution to the challenges that naturally arise in a relationship as complex and dynamic as our own. We wish to consolidate our cultural and educational exchange, aware of the wealth of our heritage and traditions, and attaching special importance to scientific, technological and computer exchanges.

We also wish to strengthen in every sense of the word our cooperation in fighting drug trafficking and organized crime. Likewise, we want to continue making progress towards the establishment of an agreement on migration which will be of mutual benefit to us, and which will recognize above all the value of migrants as human beings and as workers whose hard work is a daily contribution to the prosperity of this great nation.

The time has come to give migrants and their communities their proper place in the history of our bilateral relations. Both our countries owe them a great deal. And working together, both of us can build new conditions of fairness for them, as well as for the development and prosperity of our two nations.

For this reason, we must, and we can, reach an agreement on migration before the end of this very year, which will allow us, before the end of our respective terms, to make sure that there are no Mexicans who have not entered this country legally in the United States, and that those Mexicans who have come into the country do so with the proper documents.

Mr. President, the values that we share and the interests that bind us must reaffirm our determination to make of the relationship between Mexico and the United States an example of prosperity and understanding. And this will only be possible if we are willing to strengthen the trust between our two nations, because it is only through trust that we will be able to reach the goals that we have set for ourselves.

Together, let us defend the values of democracy and the respect for human rights in our region and throughout the world. Let us see free trade as the engine of economic growth and the source of a better standard of living for our two peoples. Let us understand development with justice to be an inclusive form of prosperity. Let us make law and respect for the law the indispensable framework on which the freedom and security of our citizens depend.

Let us walk together along the path of prosperity with a firm step as partners and as friends, recalling the words of Benjamin Franklin: "A brother may not be a friend, but a friend will always be a brother."

President Bush, my friend, you honored me by visiting my home in Mexico. Today, I feel honored to be welcomed here in the White House. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

###

Fact Sheet on Migration

Migration

"Migration is one of the major ties that bind our societies. It is important that our policies reflect our values and needs, and that we achieve progress in dealing with this phenomenon. We agree there should be an orderly framework for migration which ensures humane treatment, legal security, and dignified labor conditions."

President George W. Bush
February 16, 2001

Guiding Principles in U.S. Discussions with Mexico

- Humane Approach: We want to ensure that migration to the United States is safe, legal, orderly, and dignified. The system should be humane, family-friendly, and respect the enormously valuable role immigrants continue to play in building our nation.
- Protection of American Workers: The immigration system must not disadvantage American workers. We want to ensure an adequate labor supply for U.S. employers when American workers are not available.
- Fairness: The immigration system must be fair. Our most important obligation is to those who follow the rules and abide by the law. The only path is the legal path.
- Joint Commitment: The United States and Mexico must work together in an authentic partnership to keep our borders orderly and safe, and ensure the integrity and success of any new policies.
- Temporary Worker Program: We are working with Mexico on options for a new program for temporary workers -one that is grounded in reality and the needs of our economy, and that doesn't hurt U.S. workers. The program would rest on a carefully worked out partnership between the sending and receiving countries that recognizes the contributions undocumented Mexicans are making in the United States and that brings together willing workers and willing employers. This is an issue that will require close consultations with the U.S. Congress and U.S. civil society.

###

Presidents Bush, Fox Discuss State Visit

Remarks by President George Bush and President Vicente Fox of Mexico Upon Departure
The South Lawn

PRESIDENT BUSH: Thank you very much. The President and I are about to get on Marine One, and then Air Force One, and fly to Toledo, Ohio. I look forward to a joint appearance in the heartland of America. We're going to have a great day in Toledo.

We had a great day here yesterday as well. Not only did we have a successful state dinner last night, but we had a series of meetings that confirmed our close relationship and built on our trust. As I said, Mexico is an incredibly important part of the United States' foreign policy. It is our most important relationship, because Mexico is our neighbor, and neighbors must work together. And we do.

We're confronting a series of opportunities and issues. Over the past hours, we discussed the importance of NAFTA, not only between Canada and Mexico and the United States, but free trade throughout the hemisphere.

We discussed a variety of issues that relate to trade. Trucking is an issue about which we had a long discussion. Mexican trucks ought to be moving in the United States; I call upon Congress to take that provision out of the appropriations bill, otherwise I will veto the bill.

We talked about some commodity issues that we have faced. We had an issue on avocados, for example. For those of you avocado lovers, you'll be pleased to hear that we've solved that problem, and I believe the President is pleased with the progress we're making.

When we trade as much as we do, there are going to be issues that inevitably arise. And we will deal with those with mutual respect and honest discourse.

Secondly, I'm pleased to report that we've made great progress in cooperation in fighting crime. The President told me yesterday about some additional criminals who have been arrested in Mexico. This is a crime-fighting president; he is dedicated to working with our law enforcement officials to interdict drugs and guns, and coyotes on the border. And Mr. President, I appreciate your effort.

Our Congress ought to change the decertification process that, to me, sends the wrong signal to our friends to the south. To have an annual certification process really, I don't think is fair to Mexico, and I think it's counterproductive, and I hope they change the law on decertification.

And finally, an area that has gained a lot of interest, because it's an important issue, of course, is the issue of migration. We've had a lot of frank discussions on migration. We share a lot of principles. One, that we both recognize how important the contribution to our economy the Mexican workers have made; that we want people treated with respect; that we both have a mutual and shared responsibility to make sure our border is safe, and that we enforce the border; that I hope to come forward with a program that will pass the Congress, that deals with guest workers with some sense of normalization. And I would like to do that as soon as possible.

There's obviously a sense of urgency in the President's message. I hear that sense of urgency, and my administration is willing to work as hard as we possibly can to get something done in a constructive fashion.

Mr. President, I think this is a continuation on the road for trust, respect, and cooperation. And I want to thank you very much for your coming here. I appreciate so very much you bringing your beautiful wife. I look forward to our trip to Toledo, and then our dinner tonight at the Blair House with the President.

Mr. President?

PRESIDENT FOX: Okay, I will not have much more to add on this summary of what great has been these two days to us Mexicans, and to us in Mexico. The trust factor, no doubt that is key. And these two days have been a great opportunity to advance in our conversations, in our frank speaking -- all of this aimed at increasing that trust

And for the rest, I'm fully recognized and totally honored on the warm reception we have had, on the opportunity, extended opportunity, to discuss and dialogue on different issues and matters with President Bush. And so to me, if I would describe this, it's a process -- a process that started back in Mexico in our first formal meeting, a process that has continued on an everyday basis by our working teams. And this I would call a station, one first station which has been this state visit to the United States, where we had the opportunity to review the issues, to advance on each of the issues, and to keep on the commitment to work hard for the coming months and the coming years.

So that's totally satisfactory to us. I really thank the American people for the warm welcome we have had, and specifically from Mr. Bush and his lovely wife, the attentions we have had are just something that we -- over-exceeded any expectations that we would have had.

Q Mr. President, even with this sense of urgency on immigration, tell me how difficult it will be to get a deal in the next year. And when you do give legal status to undocumented immigrants, how will you justify that action to the millions of Mexicans still waiting in line for legal entry, and the millions more people who are living in this country now after plowing through the legal process?

PRESIDENT BUSH: Right. Ron, you've just identified one of the complexities of the migration issue. I explained this to President Fox, that there are many in our country who are undocumented. And we want to make sure that their labor is legal. And so part of the issue is how do we match a willing employer with a willing employee, to recognize the value of the work, and to legalize that part of the process? And that's where we need to think creatively on a guest worker program.

I mean, the truth of the matter is that if somebody is willing to do jobs others in America aren't willing to do, we ought to welcome that person to the country, and we ought to make that a legal part of our economy. We ought not to penalize an employer who's trying to get a job done who hires somebody who's willing to do that kind of work.

So that's part of the complexity. The second half of your question really does point out another problem that we have to work through. And that is there are -- one of the things I have

told the President is I am willing to consider ways for a guest worker to earn a green card status. And yet I fully recognize there are a lot of people who have stood in line, who have said, I'll abide by the laws of the United States. And we're trying to work through a formula that will not penalize the person who's chosen the legal route, and at the same time recognizes the contribution that the undocumented has made.

That is part of the reason I say this is an incredibly complex issue. It is complex to the point where my administration is going to spend a lot of time on resolving that type of question. But to make matters even more complicated, we've got to work with the Congress, and we've got to come up with a solution that Congress can accept.

Now, I fully understand President Fox's desire for us to expedite our -- to come up with a solution quickly, to expedite the process. And we're going to do that. I think one of the useful parts of this visit is for me to be able to sit down face to face and to talk about why this is a complex issue within the country. That's precisely part of the issue.

Q You don't sound like you can get it done in four months, though.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Well, he's asked that we do it within the year. One thing he will find is that we will put 100 percent effort into it during the year. And I hope we can come up with a solution; I want to accommodate my friend.

He's got a very important role to play, and that is as a spokesman for Mexican nationals living in this country, as someone who is deeply concerned about their future, their lives. And I completely understand that, and I can assure the President and the people of Mexico, we have heard his call. He is a strong, forceful leader, and we will do everything we can to come up with a solution to this complex problem.

Q Mr. President, along those same lines --

PRESIDENT BUSH: Him? Which President? (Laughter.)

Q President Bush, I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Here we go again, six to nothing. (Laughter.)

Q Sir, could you be more specific as to whether or not, among the set of issues, or the set of values or principles that you share on immigration, you share specifically the goal of finishing this negotiation by the end of the year? And --

PRESIDENT BUSH: I share the idea of working as hard as we possibly can. Listen, we came -- the President came to Washington -- I'm sorry to interrupt you.

Q Well, I'm sorry. I just wanted to say --

PRESIDENT BUSH: Actually, I'm not sorry to interrupt you. I did it -- it's an old trick here. (Laughter.)

Q I just wanted to ask you if -- what would the United States want to see in return. Something --

PRESIDENT BUSH: In return?

Q In return for this negotiation, and for maybe regularizing a number of Mexican illegals, Mexican immigrants in the United States.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Well, I think -- first of all, I think that -- I don't think we ought to view this issue necessarily as a quid pro quo issue. This is an issue that we must confront regardless of a Mexican response. This is an employment issue in the United States.

We've got employers who can't find workers and therefore, then, employ undocumented workers. And under our law that's illegal. And it seems like to me we ought to have a direct and honest assessment of reality. But we are getting what we wanted from Mexico regardless of the details of this particular issue, and that is strong cooperation. That's all we can ask.

And the President has been very forward-leaning in working with us on a variety of matters, including better border enforcement and making sure we find those coyotes who are gathering illegals or undocumented folks and trying to run them into our country for profit. I can't think of anything worse. And yet, this administration and this government and our governments are cooperating very closely on ferreting out those people who are willing to prey on innocent hard-working people, and stop that kind of activity. That's the kind of cooperation we expect and we're getting.

Q Mr. President, why are you abandoning the Clinton Administration's attempt to break up Microsoft? Will this help consumers? And did you sign-off on this decision?

PRESIDENT BUSH: He's asking about a legal matter, Mr. President.

During the course of the campaign and throughout my administration, I have made it abundantly clear that on issues relating to lawsuits, on-going lawsuits, that I expect the Justice Department to handle that in a way that -- in a way that brings honor and thought to the process. I respect and hold our Attorney General in high esteem and I honor the work he's done. And I'm going to leave it at that.

Q You're satisfied with the decision?

PRESIDENT BUSH: I am satisfied with the fact that John Ashcroft is doing a fine job as the Attorney General.

Q (Asked in Spanish.)

PRESIDENT FOX: (Answered in Spanish.)

PRESIDENT BUSH: For those of you who don't speak Spanish, he said, "President Bush's tax cut came right at the right time." (Laughter.)

Q Mr. President, on that same rough subject, when you met with Republican leaders this morning, did you promise them, as they describe it, that no -- that every dime of Social Security will be protected? Does that mean you will not sign any bills that even temporarily take from it? And President Fox is welcome to take a swing at that, too.

PRESIDENT BUSH: He probably doesn't want to. I told the Republican leaders, like I told Mr. Daschle and I will tell Mr. Gephardt tomorrow, we can work together to avoid dipping into Social Security. I have repeatedly said the only time to use Social Security money is in times of war, times of recession, or times of severe emergency. And I mean that. I mean that.

I think it is best for me to start working in a cooperative fashion with the members of Congress, start by saying let's work together to make sure that our budgets don't cause us to dip into Social Security. And of course I've always got the ultimate way to make sure we bring fiscal sanity into Washington. That's what we call a veto, Mr. President.

But rather than come from the negative perspective, my attitude as we begin the fall session is to say we can work together, let's do so.

I will repeat to the American people, there is ample money coming into our government to fund our priorities. And what we need is fiscal discipline in Washington, D.C. The tax cut that we passed was a very important move to make sure our economy begins to gather momentum and grow.

The President knows what I know: when our economy is ill or slow or not meeting expectations, it affects our neighborhood. He's getting blamed for something that's taking place in America, and that's not fair. And so our tax relief plan is part of an economic growth package.

I urge the Congress to pass an energy package. That's a job creation package. That's part of economic growth. I urge the Congress to pass trade promotion authority. If people are interested in growing our economy, so that there are more jobs available, then they ought to not only herald the tax relief plan, they ought to be thinking about how to pass an energy package and a trade promotion authority package as well. That's important for growth. We ought to be thinking, in Washington, D.C., how to grow the economy.

Now, I realize, Mr. President, sometimes there are second-guessers in the political process, and there are some in Washington who appear to be second-guessing the tax relief plan. My guess is, is that they probably want to raise taxes. If they're against relief, the fundamental question is what they're for. And I suspect, if they're against one thing, they must be for raising taxes. And my argument to them is that would hurt the economy.

The best way for us to continue economic growth is to have a pro-growth plan in place, and have fiscal discipline in Washington, D.C. I look forward to working with the members of both parties to insist upon and implement a package that is fiscally disciplined. And we can do that, and I'm confident we can do that.

Q (Asked in Spanish.)

PRESIDENT FOX: (Answered in Spanish.)

Q (Asked in Spanish.)

PRESIDENT FOX: (Answered in Spanish.)

Q President Fox, I'd like you to talk about trucking? Trucking? The trucking issue?

PRESIDENT FOX: (Answered in Spanish.)

MR. FLEISCHER: This way, Mr. President. (Laughter.)

Q Thank you.

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President Commends Senate Action on Immigration Legislation

Statement by the Press Secretary

The President commends the Senate for passage of legislation that will help unite families and make America more welcoming of new immigrants. Allowing qualified immigrants to become lawful residents of the United States without first being forced to leave the country and their families is the right thing to do.

This week, President Fox and President Bush have continued to work toward our shared goal of making the migration of families and workers between our nations more orderly, humane, legal, and safe. The President is heartened by the Senate's action and he looks forward to the House acting quickly to send this legislation to his desk.

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President Increases Immigration Safeguards

Remarks by the President in Photo Opportunity with Homeland Security Council
The Cabinet Room

THE PRESIDENT: Today I had the first official meeting of the Homeland Security Council -- Governor -- that has been chaired by -- when I'm not here, by Governor Ridge. And as you can see, I've assembled many of the members of my administration here, senior members of the administration, because our task is to do everything we can to protect the American people from any threat whatsoever.

The American people are beginning to understand that we fight a two-front war against terror. We fight in Afghanistan, and I appreciate so very much the efforts of our men and women who wear the uniform. And we fight it at home here, to make sure America is as safe as possible.

Along these lines, we've set up a foreign terrorist tracking task force to make sure that the Land of the Free is as safe as possible from people who might come to our country to hurt people. We welcome legal immigrants and we welcome people coming to America. We welcome the process that encourages people to come to our country to visit, to study, and to work.

What we don't welcome are people who come to hurt the American people. And, so, therefore, we're going to be very diligent with our visas and observant with the behavior of people who come to this country.

As an example, if a person applies for a student visa and gets that visa, we want to make sure that person actually goes to school; in other words, if they're using the visas for the intended purpose.

The American people need to know that we're doing everything we possibly can to prevent and disrupt any attack on America, and that we're doing everything we can to respond to attacks. And I'm proud of the public health workers, people that report to Tommy Thompson's agency, about their hard work. They're working hours on hours. And I believe that lives have been saved as a result of their diligent efforts.

Be glad to answer a couple of questions. Fournier, then Dave, then Stretch.

Q Mr. President, thank you. Yesterday, there was quite a bit of talk on Capitol Hill about the need for ground troops to step up the military action another notch; Senator McCain, Senator Dodd, among others. Do you think the American public is ready for a significant number of ground troops in Afghanistan?

THE PRESIDENT: I the most important thing that the American people realize is that we're steady and determined and patient, that we've got a strategy in place to bring al Qaeda to justice, and at the same time make it clear that any nation which harbors terrorists will be held accountable for their decisions. And we are implementing our strategy. And we appreciate any suggestions people may have.

But the strategy we have at the time right now is to use our military to dismantle Taliban defenses, use our military to destroy al Qaeda training bases, and to work with troops that now exist on the ground to fulfill our mission. And I am pleased with the progress we're making.

And I'm really pleased with the fact that the American people are patient. They realize this is a war the likes of which they have never seen before. And, therefore, they are rooting on their government and the men and women who wear the uniform. They understand that it's going to take a while to achieve our objective, and I appreciate that patience.

Q Sir, since so many of the hijackers were in the country legally, do you plan to crack down on student visas or political asylum cases, things of that sort?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we plan on making sure that if a person has applied for a student visa, they actually go to college or a university. And, therefore, we're going to start asking a lot of questions that heretofore have not been asked.

We're going to tighten up the visa policy. That's not to say we're not going to let people come into our country; of course we are. But we're going to make sure that when somebody comes, we understand their intended purpose and that they fulfill the purpose that they -- on their application.

You bring up a very good point, Steve. And that is, that sometimes, people come here with no intention to fulfill their purpose. And when we find those, they will be escorted out of the United States.

Q Mr. President, a couple of weeks ago the FBI issued an alert indicating that within several days the country could be attacked by terrorists again. Does the government still believe and have information to support the notion that Osama bin Laden is planning a second wave of attacks, and do you believe that all of the resources now dedicated to the anthrax situation reduce the country's level of preparedness?

THE PRESIDENT: We believe that the country must stay on alert, that there is -- that our enemies still hate us. Our enemies have no values that regard life as precious. They're active, and therefore, we're constantly in touch with our law enforcement officials to be prepared.

Now, having said that, the American people must go about their lives. And I recognize it's a fine balance. But the American people also understand that the object of any terrorist activity is to cause Americans to abandon their lifestyles.

Every American is a soldier, and every citizen is in this fight. And I am proud of our country. Our country is united and strong, and we're prepared. We've got ample resources to fight the war on the home front on many fronts. And part of our purpose of being here is to make sure that those resources are well organized and that fit into a strategy that this administration is designing.

Q We have some new consumer confidence numbers coming out tomorrow, so perhaps this would be a better question to ask then. But based on what you're hearing from all of the people in this room, what is your sense of the extent which the terrorist attacks, now the anthrax mailings, are having on the consumer? And is it your sense that people really are hunkering

down, they're apprehensive, they're -- are they finding it difficult to get back to their daily routines?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I haven't seen the numbers, but my view of the mood of the country is, is that the country understands we've entered into a new period in our history. And that there is a -- that lives are simply not going to be as normal as they were in the past. And that so long as there is terrorist activities in the world and aggression toward our country, that people are going to have to be diligent and on guard, and they are.

Now, having said that, the American people are very patient, and they appreciate the efforts of the government, and they appreciate the efforts of our military. They understand better than most, better than the world, that this is going to take a long period of time, and they are prepared for this.

They are prepared to wait in long lines at airports. They're prepared to support our military. They are prepared to support local law enforcement as local law enforcement works hard with federal officials to disrupt any potential terrorist activities.

And so, the mood of the country is certainly different from what it was on September the 10th, but I find the mood of the country to be incredibly refreshing and strong and powerful. It is a clear statement to anybody who would want to harm us that instead of weakening America, they have strengthened America.

And how that -- what that means to the economy, it means that the -- it means that over time, our economy is going to be just as strong as the American spirit. And so I'm very optimistic about the economy. How long it will take to recover to the levels that we hope is just -- is beyond my pay grade. But I can tell you that the people of this country are strong and resolute, and for that I am grateful and incredibly proud.

Last question.

Q Mr. President, we understand this task force is to help tighten and close the loopholes in immigration laws. Why were these loopholes so vast, and why were they left for so long? And also, what do you say to the American public who is concerned about anti-American sentiment among Americans who may have helped these immigrants who came in and started September the 11th?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course, I -- you know, our country has been an incredibly generous country, the most generous country in the world. We're generous with our universities, we're generous with our job opportunities, we're generous with the beautiful system that is, that if you come here and you work hard, you can achieve a dream.

Never did we realize then that people would take advantage of our generosity to the extent they have. September the 11th taught us an interesting lesson, that while -- by far, the vast majority of people who have come to America are really good, decent people, people that we're proud to have here. There are some who are evil. And our job now is to find the evil ones and to bring them to justice, to disrupt anybody who might have designs on hurting -- further hurting Americans.

The second part of your question? Sorry.

Q The second part is about the Americans in this country who -- some may have helped the terrorists.

THE PRESIDENT: I think Americans who unwittingly helped people that hurt Americans regret that now. Americans who are willingly participants and have plans to hurt America, they will be brought to justice. My judgment is, anybody who is a terrorist or helps a terrorist are equally culpable. And so, we're doing everything we can, obviously within the law.

And we've got now a new law that will help us pursue those who would harm Americans and those who would help them harm Americans. People need to be held accountable in America, and we're going to do just that.

Thank you all.

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Fact Sheet

Fact Sheet on Increasing Immigration Safeguards and Improving Vital Information Sharing

TODAY'S PRESIDENTIAL ACTION

- President Bush convened the first formal meeting of the full Homeland Security Council (HSC).
- The President took another step in the fight against terrorism by issuing a Presidential Directive to improve immigration policies and practices and make it more difficult for terrorists to enter or remain in the United States.

ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION TO TIGHTEN IMMIGRATION POLICIES

- Improving legal immigration remains a priority for the Bush Administration, but the Bush Administration is committed to ensuring that our immigration policies and practices do not allow terrorists to enter or remain in the United States.
- To increase immigration safeguards and improve vital information sharing between federal agencies, President Bush issued a new Homeland Security Presidential Directive to help combat terrorism through more effective immigration policies and practices.
- Among its key features, the Presidential Directive:
 - Creates a Foreign Terrorist Tracking Task Force: The Task Force will coordinate Federal programs designed to: (1) deny entry into the U.S. of aliens associated with, suspected of being engaged in or supporting terrorist activity; and (2) locate, detain, prosecute, or deport any such aliens already present in the U.S. The Task Force will be established by the Attorney General by November 1. Experts from the State Department, FBI, INS, Secret Service, Customs Service and the intelligence community will serve on the Task Force.
 - Orders a Thorough Review of Student Visa Policies: International students add greatly to the vitality and quality of our nation's colleges, universities and other institutions of learning. The Presidential Directive orders the Secretary of State and the Attorney General -- working with the Secretary of Education, Secretary of Defense, Secretary of Energy and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) -- to institute tighter controls and ensure that student visas are being issued appropriately. A goal of the program is to prohibit the education and training of foreign nationals who would use their training to harm the United States and its Allies.
 - Better Coordinates Immigration and Customs Policies with Canada and Mexico: Millions of people and billions of dollars of goods move legally between the United States, Canada and Mexico each year. The United States seeks to deny potential terrorists easy entry into the country from Canada or Mexico, while ensuring that legal travel and commerce continues with minimal border restrictions. The Directive orders the Secretaries of State and Treasury and the Attorney General to increase the sharing of customs and immigration information with Canada and Mexico, and work with our neighbors to develop a shared immigration and customs control database. These efforts will ensure the maximum possible compatibility of immigration, customs and visa policies.

The Presidential Directive also:

- Directs the Attorney General and Secretary of the Treasury to enhance the investigative and intelligence analysis capabilities of the INS and the Customs Service, and to increase INS and Customs special agent personnel assigned to Joint Terrorism Task Forces
- Directs the Office of Science and Technology Policy to work with the Attorney General and the Director of Central Intelligence to make recommendations on advanced technology that could be used to aid immigration enforcement
- Directs the Office of Management and Budget to work with the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security to develop a budgetary plan to support this effort

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Action Plan for Creating a Secure and Smart Border

U.S. and Canada

An Efficient, Secure and Smart Border

■ Specifics of Secure and Smart Border Action Plan

Public security and economic security are mutually reinforcing. By working together to develop a zone of confidence against terrorist activity, the United States and Canada create a unique opportunity to build a smart border for the 21st century, a border that allows the secure, free flow of people and goods, a border that reflects the largest trading relationship in the world.

Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge led a U.S. delegation that included representatives from the departments of Justice, Transportation, Defense, State, and Treasury; and the offices of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the National Security Council, Customs, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

ACTION PLAN FOR CREATING A SECURE AND SMART BORDER

Secure Flow of People

- Resume and evaluate the NEXUS (Easy-pass) pilot project for two-way movement of pre-approved travelers at Sarnia-Port Huron.
- Share Advance Passenger Information on flights between Canada and the United States, and increase the number of Canadian and U.S. immigration officers at overseas airports.
- Promote additional systems to identify travelers who pose security risks while maintaining the current flow of law-abiding people between the countries.

Secure Flow of Goods

- Devise and implement innovative, smart technologies, including common cargo screening, harmonized commercial processes at the border, and compatible security standards to identify dangerous cargo while expediting the flow of low-risk goods. This will include secure procedures to clear goods on the factory floor, at rail yards, and at marine ports.

Secure Infrastructure

- Relieve congestion at key crossing points by investing reciprocally in border infrastructure and identifying technological solutions that will help to speed movement across the border. Nearly 70% of traffic and over 80% of the value of goods flowing between the two countries passes through just six border crossings

Coordination and Information Sharing in the Enforcement of these Objectives

- Strengthen coordination between law enforcement agencies for addressing common threats.

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Specifics of Secure and Smart Border Action Plan

ACTION PLAN FOR CREATING A SECURE AND SMART BORDER THE SECURE FLOW OF PEOPLE

1) Biometric identifiers

Jointly develop on an urgent basis common biometric identifiers in documentation such as permanent resident cards, NEXUS, and other travel documents to ensure greater security.

2) Permanent Resident Cards

Develop and deploy a secure card for permanent residents which includes a biometric identifier.

3) Single Alternative Inspection System

Resume NEXUS pilot project, with appropriate security measures, for two-way movement of pre-approved travelers at Sarnia-Port Huron, complete pilot project evaluation and expand a single program to other areas along the land border. Discuss expansion to air travel.

4) Refugee/Asylum Processing

Review refugee/asylum practices and procedures to ensure that applicants are thoroughly screened for security risks and take necessary steps to share information on refugee and asylum claimants.

5) Handling of Refugee/Asylum Claims

Negotiate a safe third-country agreement to enhance the handling of refugee claims.

6) Visa Policy Coordination

Initiate joint review of respective visa waiver lists and share look-out lists at visa issuing offices.

7) Air Preclearance

Finalize plans/authority necessary to implement the Preclearance Agreement signed in January 2001. Resume intransit preclearance at Vancouver and expand to other airports per Annex I of the Agreement.

8) Advance Passenger Information / Passenger Name Record

Share Advance Passenger Information and agreed-to Passenger Name Records on flights between Canada and the United States, including in-transit flights. Explore means to identify risks posed by passengers on international flights arriving in each other's territory.

9) Joint Passenger Analysis Units

Establish joint units at key international airports in Canada and the United States.

10) Ferry Terminals

Review customs and immigration presence and practices at international ferry terminals.

11) Compatible Immigration Databases

Develop jointly an automated database, such as Canada's Support System for Intelligence, as a platform for information exchange, and enhance sharing of intelligence and trend analysis.

12) Immigration Officers Overseas

Increase number of Canadian and US immigration officers at airports overseas and enhance joint training of airline personnel.

13) International Cooperation

Undertake technical assistance to source and transit countries.

THE SECURE FLOW OF GOODS

14) Harmonized Commercial Processing

Establish complementary systems for commercial processing, including audit-based programs and partnerships with industry to increase security. Explore the merits of a common program.

15) Clearance away from the border

Develop an integrated approach to improve security and facilitate trade through away-from-the-border processing for truck/rail cargo (and crews), including inland preclearance/post-clearance, international zones and pre-processing centers at the border, and maritime port intransit preclearance.

16) Joint facilities

Establish criteria, under current legislation and regulations, for the creation of small, remote joint border facilities. Examine the legal and operational issues associated with the establishment of international zones and joint facilities, including armed protection or the arming of law enforcement officers in such zones and facilities.

17) Customs Data

Sign the Agreement on Sharing Data Related to Customs Fraud, exchange agreed upon customs data pursuant to NAFTA, and discuss what additional commercial and trade data should be shared for national security purposes.

18) Intransit Container Targeting at Seaports

Jointly target marine intransit containers arriving in Canada/US by exchanging information and analysts. Work in partnership with the industry to develop advance electronic commercial manifest data for marine containers arriving from overseas.

SECURE INFRASTRUCTURE

19) Infrastructure improvements

Work to secure resources for joint and coordinated physical and technological improvements to key border points and trade corridors aimed at overcoming traffic management and growth challenges, including dedicated lanes and border modeling exercises.

20) Intelligent Transportation Systems

Deploy interoperable technologies in support of other initiatives to facilitate the secure movement of goods and people, such as transponder applications and electronic container seals.

21) Critical Infrastructure Protection

Conduct binational threat assessments on trans-border infrastructure and identify necessary

additional protection measures, and initiate assessments for transportation networks and other critical infrastructure.

22) Aviation security

Finalize Federal Aviation Administration-Transport Canada agreement on comparability/equivalence of security and training standards.

COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF THESE OBJECTIVES

23) Integrated Border and Marine Enforcement Teams

Expand IBET/IMET to other areas of the border and enhance communication and coordination.

24) Joint Enforcement Coordination

Works toward ensuring comprehensive and permanent coordination of law enforcement, anti-terrorism efforts and information sharing, such as by strengthening the Cross-Border Crime Forum and reinvigorating Project Northstar.

25) Integrated Intelligence

Establish joint teams to analyze and disseminate information and intelligence, and produce threat and intelligence assessments. Initiate discussions regarding a Canadian presence on the U.S. Foreign Terrorist Tracking Task Force.

26) Fingerprints

Implement the Memorandum of Understanding to supply equipment and training that will enable the RCMP to access FBI fingerprint data directly via real-time electronic link.

27) Removal of deportees

Address legal and operational challenges to joint removals, and coordinate initiatives to encourage uncooperative countries to accept their nationals.

28) Counter-Terrorism Legislation

Bring into force legislation on terrorism, including measures for the designation of terrorist organizations.

29) Freezing of terrorist assets

Exchange advance information on designated individuals and organizations in a timely manner.

30) Joint Training and Exercises

Increase dialogue and commitment for the training and exercise programs needed to implement the joint response to terrorism guidelines. Joint counter-terrorism training and exercises are essential to building and sustaining effective efforts to combat terrorism and to build public confidence.

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President Increases Budget for Border Security

Southern Maine Technical College
Hutchinson Union Building
Portland, Maine

1:15 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very much for coming. It's nice to be back in -- I guess my second home. (Applause.) I was telling your fine Governor, Angus King -- and thank you for being here, Angus, I'm so honored you're here -- he said, are you going to come back next summer? I said, I knew I should have made my bed last time I was here. (Laughter.)

I'm not so sure my mother is going to invite me back, but I hope she does. (Laughter.) Maine's a fabulous state. And as the Governor knows, it's full of such decent people. And thank you for coming out for such a warm greeting.

I've got some things on my mind, and I want to share them with the good people of Maine. First, I want to tell you, I've got a great Cabinet. I'm so proud of the way our team has responded. A leader is only good as his team. (Applause.)

I brought two members of my Cabinet with me: Secretary Mineta, and when I picked him out of the ranks, he was a -- he served in the previous administration as the Commerce Secretary, he's a proud Democrat -- but he showed America really what he is. He's a proud American, and he's done a fabulous job. (Applause.)

And I knew I needed somebody who knew something about local government to run the Homeland Security office, somebody who had been an administrator, a chief executive officer, and somebody who could organize a massive task. And I picked the right man when it came to the former Governor of Pennsylvania, my very close friend, Tom Ridge. (Applause.)

And one thing the world is learning, something I already knew, we've got a fabulous military run by fine people. Admiral Loy, thank you for your leadership. I appreciate it. (Applause.)

I was supposed to bring two other folks with me today. I think you've heard of them: Snowe and Collins. (Applause.) They missed the flight. (Laughter.) For good reason -- they were working on behalf of the people of Maine. They had some votes to cast.

But I will tell you, these two fine ladies are good to work with, strong for the support of the state of Maine and great patriots. I'm proud of their service to our country and I want to thank you for sending them to Washington, D.C. (Applause.)

And I know a congressman -- one of the two congressman from your state, John Baldacci, is here. John, where are you? Thank you for coming. I appreciate you being here, as well. (Applause.)

First, I want to talk about the Coast Guard. Now, you probably think I've had a sweet spot in my heart for the Coast Guard because when I spend the night at 41's house down the coast -- (laughter) -- I wake up and see the Cutter sitting out there. (Laughter.) Well, that has some good reason why I support the Coast Guard so strong.

But I saw how the Coast Guard has responded after 9/11 and I know how important the Coast Guard is for the safety and security and the well-being of our American citizens.

This is a fine group of people, who don't get nearly as much appreciation from the American people as they should. (Applause.) And I'm here today to say thanks, on behalf of all the citizens who appreciate the long hours you put in, the daring rescues you accomplish and the fine service you provide to our country. Oh, yes, we're on guard in America.

But the Coast Guard has got more missions than that. Admiral Loy told me that right off the coast of my state, of Texas, the Coast Guard enacted one of the largest marijuana busts in history just the other day. Right off the east coast.

The Coast Guard chopper, the Coast Guard crew from Air Station Cape Cod -- Coast Guardsmen who I had a chance to thank personally today -- rescued five fishermen from a 74 foot fishing vessel called the Covered Wagon, that sank in heavy seas. Five human souls returned back to land because of the bravery of people who wear the Coast Guard uniform. (Applause.)

Such bravery is not an isolated event. After all, this story was repeated 4,000 times last year. The Coast Guard, the men and women who accomplish the mission, seized over 60 tons of cocaine last year. They responded to over 11,000 oil spills. They're working around the globe with the Department of Defense.

Today, the Coast Guard is conducting maritime intercept operations in the Persian Gulf, and providing waterside security in Guantanamo Bay.

Earlier today, I had the pleasure of going on board the Tahoma, the Coast Guard vessel that was the command vessel on site in New York Harbor the day the enemy hit us. They stayed there for 40 days, on alert 24 hours a day, making sure that not only the traffic flowed smoothly, but the people were safe. (Applause.)

When it comes to securing our homeland, and helping people along the coast, the Coast Guard has got a vital and significant mission. And, therefore, the budget that I send to the United States Congress will have the largest increase in spending for the Coast Guard in our nation's history. (Applause.)

We must make sure that our Coast Guard has got a modern fleet of vessels. We must make sure that port security is as strong as possible. We must make sure there's additional operating money available for the extended missions of the Coast Guard. And we must make sure those who wear our uniforms are well paid. (Applause.)

I'll have other priorities in my budget. One of the biggest, of course, is to make sure the homeland is secure. You know, none of us ever dreamt that we'd have a two-front war to fight: one overseas and one at home. But we do. That's reality. And as a result, we must respond, and continue to respond, and stay on alert, and help defend America. The biggest chore I have, my biggest job, is to make sure our homeland is secure. (Applause.)

Every morning I go into the Oval Office, and what a thrill it is to walk into that grand office. And I sit at the desk that other Presidents have sat at, Roosevelt, Reagan. And I look at

the -- I look at a threat assessment. The enemy still wants to hit us. And, therefore, this nation must do everything in our power to prevent it.

And so when I speak to the Congress next Tuesday night and I submit my budget, one of the top priorities will be the security of the homeland. I've asked for a doubling of homeland security funds, to \$38 billion a year. Money that will be spent to make sure that the federal government and the state government and the local governments -- and I know some mayors are here -- work in a cooperative way to make sure that our first-responders -- the police, the fire, the emergency medical teams -- have the best equipment, the best training, the best ability to communicate with each other to protect the American people. (Applause.)

In this budget, we will make sure that our health systems are more modern and more responsive; that we stockpile needed medicines, so that they'll be easily accessible at the call of a governor or the call of a mayor; that we've got money in the budget for research and development to stay ahead of what the enemy may try to use; that our public health systems have got the best communications possible and the ability to respond quickly.

In this budget, under Norm Mineta's leadership, we are securing our airports, we're modernizing the equipment, we're sending more people into our airports to make sure that travelers get the best service and the most safe flight humanly possible.

And under this budget, we're spending \$11 billion for controlling of our borders. It is so important for our nation to work with our friends to the north, Canada, and our friend to the south, Mexico, on border initiatives -- that one doesn't tie up commerce but, on the other hand, prevents illegal drugs, terrorists, arms from flowing across our border.

Tom Ridge went up to Canada -- and I know the Governor will appreciate this, since you've got such a huge border with Canada -- he went up with Canada and were talking about a new border initiative with our friends. We're analyzing every aspect of the border and making sure that the effort is seamless, the communication is real, that the enforcement is strong.

And so, to this end, I've got a 29 percent increase in the budget of the INS, to make sure we modernize our reporting data, to know who comes in our country and who leaves our country. (Applause.)

Forty percent -- 40 percent -- the INS estimates that 40 percent of the people who are here illegally have overstayed their visa. Forty percent of the people who are here illegally came because of the generosity of America; were given a period of time in which they could stay, and then they didn't leave.

And one of the things we want to make sure of is we find the 40 percent to make sure they're not part of some al Qaeda network that wants to hit the United States. (Applause.) And so we're looking, we're listening, we're following every single lead. I'm proud of our FBI. We've got a fine man running the FBI, named Robert Mueller.

When Mueller first came in, the main task of the FBI was running down crime -- which is great -- white-collar crime or watching for spies. And those are all important missions.

But I'm proud to report to you now the number one mission of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is to prevent another attack on America. We're going to add agents onto the payroll. (Applause.)

We're going to add agents on our payroll, all aimed to making sure that not only do we find leads, but when we find a lead, we chase them down as quickly as possible.

There is nothing more important for me and the federal government to do everything within the Constitution of the United States -- and I emphasize we will not let the terrorists tear down our Constitution -- (applause) -- we will do everything within the Constitution to protect the innocent Americans, the innocent moms and dads, the people who yearn for freedom and normalcy in their life.

We're working overtime, and I'm proud of the American people and I'm proud of the people who are working to protect the American people. (Applause.) We're going to beef-up Customs. We're on alert.

But I want to assure you, I know this: that the best way to secure freedom in America, the best way to make sure we're a peaceful nation, the best way to ensure that our children can grow up in a world that a lot of us older folks grew up in -- one that was pretty calm, pretty peaceful at home, one that was secure -- the best way to accomplish this dream and mission is to find the enemy where they hide, to rout them out and to bring them to justice. And that's exactly what our nation is going to do. (Applause.)

It wasn't all that long ago that I asked the military to perform a vital function. We've been at this for about four-and-a-half months. Oh, for some people it may seem like a long time, but it's not very long when you think about the magnitude of the task.

But in four-and-a-half months we've accomplished a lot, we really have -- because we've got such a fabulous military. We routed out the Taliban. You see, I told the world -- I told the world that if you harbor a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you're a terrorist, and you're going to pay a price. (Applause.)

Our men and women in uniform are brave, and they're skilled, and they must have all our support. So in the budget I asked for to the United States Congress has got the most significant increase in military spending in the last 20 years. The price of victory is well worth it. (Applause.)

And you know what makes me so proud of America? In the process of holding the Taliban accountable, in the process of defending freedom, our troops became liberators. We liberated women and children from the clutches of one of the most repressive regimes in the history of mankind. We rid women and children of the evils of the Taliban regime. (Applause.)

But I want to explain to the American people that we must be patient. We've just started, and there's a lot to do. We've entered into a dangerous phase of the first theater in the war against terror. And that is, we're now hunting them down.

We've got teams on the ground that are going cave-to-cave. You see, this enemy is one that's willing to send their young on suicide missions, while they, themselves, hide in caves. But

there's no cave deep enough for the reach of the American military. We're patient, we're deliberate, and we're going to bring them to justice, one person at a time. (Applause.)

I want to remind you all that our mission is not one person, our mission is terror wherever it exists. I'm proud we've got a strong coalition, a coalition that our country leads, a coalition bound up to protect freedom, a coalition that I hope will take every step necessary to find terrorists where they live, and help us bring them to justice.

You know, when the enemy hit us, they must have not known what they were doing. I like to tell people, they must have been watching too much TV, because they didn't understand America. (Laughter.) They were watching some of those shows, that one can get the wrong impression about how materialistic we might be, how selfish we might be as a people.

But that's not the way we are. Not only are we patient and determined and resolute to defend values we love, starting with the value of freedom, this good nation understands that in order to fight evil, you do so with acts of kindness and goodness.

People say to me, what can I do, Mr. President, to help? And my answer is, if you want to fight evil, do something good in your neighborhood. If you want to fight evil, be a part of the goodness of the country, by loving a child who may have lost a parent, by walking across the street to a shut-in and say, somebody cares about you.

If you want to be a part of the war against terror, go to your church or synagogue and mosque, and ask the question, how can we love a neighbor in need, and then feed somebody. If you want to be a part of the war on terror, help a teacher, get involved with your public education, mentor a child.

You see, the great strength of America is not only our military. The true strength of America is the million acts of kindness and decency and compassion that define the soul and character of our country on a daily basis. (Applause.)

No, when the enemy struck us, little did they realize that out of the terrible evil would come such good. Our job is not only to win the war overseas, our job is not only to protect the homeland, to make sure we can live peacefully; our job is to fight evil on a daily basis, by loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

And that's what happening all across the country. And for those of you who do that, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. And I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. And I want to thank you for giving me a chance to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the earth.

God bless. (Applause.)

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Securing America's Borders Fact Sheet: Border Security

Action Plan for Creating a Secure and Smart Border

America's borders - land, air or sea - are the boundaries between the United States and the rest of the world. The massive flow of people and goods across our borders helps drive our economy, but can also serve as a conduit for terrorists, weapons of mass destruction, illegal migrants, contraband, and other unlawful commodities. The new threats and opportunities of the 21st century demand a new approach to border management. President Bush envisions a border that is grounded on two key principles:

- First, America's air, land, and sea borders must provide a strong defense for the American people against all external threats, most importantly international terrorists but also drugs, foreign disease, and other dangerous items.
- Second, America's border must be highly efficient, posing little or no obstacle to legitimate trade and travel.

The President's 2003 Budget begins the process of achieving this vision of the border of the future.

Facts about America's Borders

- ☐ The United States has a 7500-mile land and air border shared with Canada and Mexico and an exclusive economic zone encompassing 3.4 million square miles.
- ☐ Each year, more than 500 million people are admitted into the United States, of which 330 million are non-citizens.
- ☐ On land, 11.2 million trucks and 2.2 million rail cars cross into the United States, while 7,500 foreign-flag ships make 51,000 calls in U.S. ports annually.

The Smart Border of the Future

America requires a border management system that keeps pace with expanding trade while protecting the United States and its territories from the threats of terrorist attack, illegal immigration, illegal drugs, and other contraband. The border of the future must integrate actions abroad to screen goods and people prior to their arrival in sovereign U.S. territory, and inspections at the border and measures within the United States to ensure compliance with entry and import permits. Federal border control agencies must have seamless information-sharing systems that allow for coordinated communication among themselves, and also the broader law enforcement and intelligence gathering communities. This integrated system would provide timely enforcement of laws and regulations. Agreements with our neighbors, major trading partners, and private industry will allow extensive pre-screening of low-risk traffic, thereby allowing limited assets to focus attention on high-risk traffic. The use of advanced technology to track the movement of cargo and the entry and exit of individuals is essential to the task of managing the movement of hundreds of millions of individuals, conveyances, and vehicles.

Some of this work has already begun with Canada, our largest trading partner. On December 12, 2001, Governor Tom Ridge, Director of the Office of Homeland Security, and John Manley, then Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, signed the "Smart Border Declaration" with a 30-point action plan that will help speed and secure the flow of people and goods between the United States and Canada. The Smart Border Declaration recognizes that "our current and future

prosperity and security depend on a border that operates efficiently and effectively under all circumstances." A similar effort is currently underway with Mexico.

Border Security Initiatives in the 2003 Budget

In the 2003 Budget, the President will propose approximately \$11 billion for border security, including \$380 million for the Immigration and Naturalization Service to construct a state of the art Entry-Exit visa system. In total, this will represent an increase of \$2.2 billion from the 2002 Budget for border security. This additional funding will allow our border agencies to begin implementing a seamless air, land, and sea border that protects the United States against foreign threats while moving legitimate goods and people into and out of the country. The new border initiatives will be managed by the agencies with primary responsibility for border control.

U.S. Customs Service -- Inspections

The President's 2003 Budget increases the inspection budget of the Customs Services by \$619 million, for a total of \$2.3 billion. This additional funding increases the ability of the Customs Service to fulfill its critical border security role. Specifically, the additional resources in the 2003 Budget will allow the Customs Service to achieve the following key objectives:

- **Additional Personnel.** The Customs Service will complete the hiring of approximately 800 new inspectors and agents to carry out additional security activities on our borders and at our seaports.
- **New Technology.** The President's Budget provides resources to purchase technologically advanced equipment that will assist in inspecting shipments so that time consuming and labor-intensive searches can be minimized.

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) -- Enforcement

The President's 2003 Budget increases the INS budget for enforcement by \$1.2 billion, for a total of \$5.3 billion, including the resources necessary to implement the Entry-Exit visa system. These resources will enhance key INS missions related to homeland security, including border patrol, inspections, and the implementation of a technologically advanced system for monitoring the entry and exit of foreign visitors. Key goals include:

- **Additional Personnel.** The INS will more than double the number of border patrol agents and inspectors on the northern border. INS will also install integrated information systems to ensure that timely, accurate and complete enforcement data is transmitted to INS agents and other border security agencies operating in the field.
- **Entry-Exit Tracking System.** The INS will implement a new entry-exit system to track the arrival and departure of non-U.S. citizens. This new system will dramatically improve our ability to deny access to those individuals who should not enter the United States, while speeding the entry of routine, legitimate traffic.

United States Coast Guard

The President's 2003 Budget increases funding for the Coast Guard's homeland security-related missions (protecting ports and coastal areas, as well as interdiction activities) by \$282 million, to an overall level of \$2.9 billion. After September 11, the Coast Guard's port security mission grew from approximately 1-2 percent of daily operations to between 50-60 percent today. In addition,

the Coast Guard has important national security missions such as illegal immigration and drug interdiction and port security.

- **Coordination.** Working with other port entities, the Coast Guard is developing tracking mechanisms for all vessels operating in the maritime domain: within or transiting to U.S. ports and transiting our coastal waters. The heart of this maritime domain awareness program is accurate information, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance of all vessels, cargo, and people extending well beyond our traditional maritime boundaries.
- **Coastal Asset and Infrastructure Protection.** Coast Guard forces will provide enhanced defenses for critical high-risk vessels and coastal facilities, marine and otherwise (e.g. nuclear power plants, oil refineries). Close coordination through Harbor Safety Committees, which help bring together the many local, state, and Federal agencies that maintain and protect the harbor, will ensure a well-balanced protective envelope is sustained at different threat levels

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14

President Pleased with Immigration Bill

Statement by the President

I applaud the House for working in a bipartisan fashion to pass legislation that strengthens border security while recognizing the importance of keeping families together and making America a more welcoming society. Many immigrants who are otherwise eligible to become legal residents will be forced to leave the United States and their families unless a temporary extension is granted. The Senate should act quickly to pass this legislation and send it to my desk for signature.

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15

President Signs Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act

Remarks by the President at Signing of the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act

Presidential Hall

Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building

3:29 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you all for coming. I'm honored today to sign a bill that is an important step in an effort to secure our border, while promoting trade and commerce. It's a good piece of legislation. It's bipartisan legislation. And I want to thank the members of both parties who have worked hard to get this bill to my desk.

I want to thank Tom Ridge, who's here. Where are you, Tom? Oh, you're Tom Ridge, yeah. (Laughter.) At least that's what some of the members are saying. I particularly want to thank Senators Kyl, Brownback, and Kennedy, Feinstein, and Hatch for being here, as fine, fine members of the United States Senate. I want to thank you for coming. I also want to appreciate Chairman Jim Sensenbrenner and George Gekas, as well. These members worked hard on this legislation. I want to thank the members of my administration who are here.

I also want to say hello to Arlene Howard. Ms. Howard, it's good to see you. A lot of folks might -- you can stand up. Thank you for coming. (Applause.) Arlene gave me her son, George's badge, and -- as a reminder of the evil the had been done to our country. You look great. I remember when I went over to Yankee Stadium to throw out the ball there at the World Series, Arlene's -- one of Arlene's other sons was there. Where is he? Oh, there he is. Thanks for the advice -- aim high. (Laughter.)

I want to thank Peter Johnson, who was George's partner for 12 years. Peter, thanks for coming. It's good to see you. I appreciate you being here. Thank you, sir. (Applause.)

I want to welcome you all. I was looking at Arlene and the brave folks here -- it reminds me of what was done to us there on September 11th, and how important it is that we remain tough and strong and diligent, as we seek justice -- as we chase down these killers one by one, and bring them to justice. (Applause.)

And that's a major responsibility of all of ours, and it's a responsibility we take seriously. The country is united in our drive for justice. This nation is determined, and we're patient, much to the chagrin of the enemy. It must make them really worried to know that we don't have a calendar that says, on such and such a date we're going to quit; that when it comes to our freedoms -- defending our freedoms, and securing our homeland, and protecting our innocent Americans, and never forgetting what happened on September the 11th, we are some kind of tough. And that's the way it's going to be. (Applause.)

We've got responsibilities here at home, as well, and it starts with our borders. Our borders process an incredibly huge number of people. It may come as a surprise to some of you, but there's -- over 500 million people a year enter America, and half of those are our own citizens that may have been traveling. We have 11 million trucks come across our borders. We have 51,000 foreign ships call into our ports. It reminds us that no nation can be totally secure, or

more secure, unless we're well-protected, and unless our borders are well-screened. We must know who's coming into our country and why they're coming. We must know what our visitors are doing and when they leave. That's important for us to know. It's knowledge necessary to make our homeland more secure.

America is not a fortress; no, we never want to be a fortress. We're a free country; we're an open society. And we must always protect the rights of our law -- of law-abiding citizens from around the world who come here to conduct business or to study or to spend time with their family. That's what we're known for. We're known for respect.

But, on the other hand, we can do a better job of making our borders more secure, and make our borders smart. We must use technology and be wise about how we use technology, to speed the flow of commerce across our borders, and to identify frequent travelers who pose no risk. We should be directing resources to risk. We ought to be routing out smugglers and focusing on criminals -- and, of course, stopping terrorists from coming into the country.

The bill I sign today enhances our ongoing efforts to strengthen our borders. The purpose of this bill is to help our country do a better job of border security. It authorizes 400 additional inspectors, investigators, and other staff on the INS over the next five years. We're adding manpower, obviously. It makes it easier for the INS and other federal agencies to get better information about people and products that come into America. It requires every foreign visitor desiring entrance into the United States to carry a travel document containing biometric identification -- that would be fingerprints or facial recognition -- that will enable us to use technology to better deny fraudulent entry into America.

It strengthens the requirements that all commercial passenger ships and airplanes entering the United States provide a list of passengers and crew before arrival, so that border authorities can act immediately to prevent someone from entering the country if he or she poses a threat to our citizens. It makes a lot of sense to do that. We should have probably been doing it a long time ago.

These new measures will only be effective if federal authorities have access to important information. One of the things we've learned is how to better share information. Right now, the FBI and the CIA do a good job of sharing information. Information is getting better shared from the federal to the state to the local levels.

But we've got to do a better job of sharing information and expanding information to the INS and the State Department and Customs agents, and throughout the intelligence community. We've just got to do a better job. This bill enables us to modernize our communication, so the information flows freely and quickly. The legislation requires law enforcement and intelligence communities to continue to develop a list of suspected terrorists, and to maintain that list, and to make it readily available, so that nobody is granted entry into the United States that's on the list.

In other words, we're beginning to gather information overseas in a much better way. We've got a vast coalition of nations that are still with us. They heard the message, either you're with us, or you're not with us. They're still with us. And we're sharing information. And we can use that -- better use that information with our own agencies here at home, to make sure that we really button this up, that we do our job, the job the American people expect.

The bill didn't have everything I wanted. I wanted a temporary extension of 245-I in the bill, which basically allowed certain immigrants, sponsored by their families or employers, to become legal residents without having to leave the country, so that families can stay together. I thought that made sense. It's not a part of the bill; I intend to work with Congress to see if we can't get that done here pretty quick.

Yet, the common sense measures will help us meet the goal, and that's important. It will help us meet the goals of legitimate commerce and important travel. And at the same time, it will help us keep the country secure. Basically what we're saying is, this is part of a -- legislative part of a national strategy. Tom's worked on the national strategy. He's worked with our respective agency heads. And Congress has been a great partner in this strategy. This is good work.

You know, sometimes in Washington we actually are able to put our political parties aside and focus on what's best for the country. And we're able to say, let's make sure America comes -- is the first priority of all of us. And this has happened in this bill.

So it's my honor to welcome both Republicans and Democrats from the Legislative Branch of government here as I sign this important legislation. Thank you all for coming. God bless.
(Applause.)

(The bill is signed.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very much. (Applause.)

###

1

Expedited Naturalization Executive Order

Executive Order Expedited Naturalization of Aliens and Noncitizen Nationals Serving in An Active-Duty Status During the War on Terrorism

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1440) (the "Act"), and solely in order to provide expedited naturalization for aliens and noncitizen nationals serving in an active-duty status in the Armed Forces of the United States during the period of the war against terrorists of global reach, it is hereby ordered as follows:

For the purpose of determining qualification for the exception from the usual requirements for naturalization, I designate as a period in which the Armed Forces of the United States were engaged in armed conflict with a hostile foreign force the period beginning on September 11, 2001. Such period will be deemed to terminate on a date designated by future Executive Order. Those persons serving honorably in active-duty status in the Armed Forces of the United States, during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and terminating on the date to be so designated, are eligible for naturalization in accordance with the statutory exception to the naturalization requirements, as provided in section 329 of the Act. Nothing contained in this order is intended to affect, nor does it affect, any other power, right, or obligation of the United States, its agencies, officers, employees, or any other person under Federal law or the law of nations.

GEORGE W. BUSH
THE WHITE HOUSE,
July 3, 2002.

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1

Executive Order Regarding Undocumented Aliens in the Caribbean Region

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 212(f) and 215(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended (8 U.S.C. 1182(f) and 1185(a)(1)), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in order to delegate appropriate responsibilities to Federal agencies for responding to migration of undocumented aliens in the Caribbean region, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Duties and Authorities of Agency Heads. Consistent with applicable law,

(a)(i) The Attorney General may maintain custody, at any location he deems appropriate, of any undocumented aliens he has reason to believe are seeking to enter the United States and who are interdicted or intercepted in the Caribbean region. In this regard, the Attorney General shall provide and operate a facility, or facilities, to house and provide for the needs of any such aliens. Such a facility may be located at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base or any other appropriate location.

(ii) The Attorney General may conduct any screening of such aliens that he deems appropriate, including screening to determine whether such aliens should be returned to their country of origin or transit, or whether they are persons in need of protection who should not be returned without their consent. If the Attorney General institutes such screening, then until a determination is made, the Attorney General shall provide for the custody, care, safety, transportation, and other needs of the aliens. The Attorney General shall continue to provide for the custody, care, safety, transportation, and other needs of aliens who are determined not to be persons in need of protection until such time as they are returned to their country of origin or transit.

(b) The Secretary of State shall provide for the custody, care, safety, transportation, and other needs of undocumented aliens interdicted or intercepted in the Caribbean region whom the Attorney General has identified as persons in need of protection. The Secretary of State shall provide for and execute a process for resettling such persons in need of protection, as appropriate, in countries other than their country of origin, and shall also undertake such diplomatic efforts as may be necessary to address the problem of illegal migration of aliens in the Caribbean region and to facilitate the return of those aliens who are determined not to be persons in need of protection.

(c)(i) The Secretary of Defense shall make available to the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, for the housing and care of any undocumented aliens interdicted or intercepted in the Caribbean region and taken into their custody, any facilities at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base that are excess to current military needs and the provision of which does not interfere with the operation and security of the base. The Secretary of Defense shall be responsible for providing access to such facilities and perimeter security. The Attorney General and the Secretary of State, respectively, shall be responsible for reimbursement for necessary supporting utilities.

(ii) In the event of a mass migration in the Caribbean region, the Secretary of Defense shall provide support to the Attorney General and the Secretary of State in carrying out the duties described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section regarding the custody, care, safety, transportation, and other needs of the aliens, and shall assume primary responsibility for these duties on a non-reimbursable basis as necessary to contain the threat to national security posed

by the migration. The Secretary of Defense shall also provide support to the Coast Guard in carrying out the duties described in Executive Order 12807 of May 24, 1992, regarding interdiction of migrants.

Sec. 2. Definitions. For purposes of this order, the term "mass migration" means a migration of undocumented aliens that is of such magnitude and duration that it poses a threat to the national security of the United States, as determined by the President.

Sec. 3. Scope.

(a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the authorities and responsibilities set forth in Executive Order 12807 of May 24, 1992.

(b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to make reviewable in any judicial or administrative proceeding, or otherwise, any action, omission, or matter that otherwise would not be reviewable.

(c) This order is intended only to improve the management of the executive branch. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity or otherwise against the United States, its departments, agencies, entities, instrumentalities, officers, employees, or any other person.

(d) Any agency assigned any duties by this order may use the provisions of the Economy Act, 31 U.S.C. 1535 and 1536, to carry out such duties, to the extent permitted by such Act.

(e) This order shall not be construed to require any procedure to determine whether a person is a refugee or otherwise in need of protection.

GEORGE W. BUSH
THE WHITE HOUSE,
November 15, 2002.

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18

President Bush Signs Homeland Security Act

Remarks by the President at the Signing of H.R. 5005 the Homeland Security Act of 2002
The East Room

1:30 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks for coming. Thanks for the warm welcome, and welcome to the White House.

Today, we are taking historic action to defend the United States and protect our citizens against the dangers of a new era. With my signature, this act of Congress will create a new Department of Homeland Security, ensuring that our efforts to defend this country are comprehensive and united.

The new department will analyze threats, will guard our borders and airports, protect our critical infrastructure, and coordinate the response of our nation for future emergencies. The Department of Homeland Security will focus the full resources of the American government on the safety of the American people. This essential reform was carefully considered by Congress and enacted with strong bipartisan majorities.

I want to thank Tom Ridge, the Homeland Security Advisor, for his hard work on this initiative. I want to thank all the members of my Cabinet who are here for their work. I want to thank the members of Congress who are with us today, particularly those members of Congress who were essential to the passage, many of whom stand up here on the stage with me. One member not with us is our mutual friend from Texas, Phil Gramm. I appreciate his hard work. I thank the work of Senator Fred Thompson and Senator Joe Lieberman. I appreciate Zell Miller and Don Nickles' hard work as well. We've got a lot of members from the House here and I want to thank you all for coming. I particularly want to pay homage to Dick Armey, who shepherded the bill to the floor of the House of Representatives. I'll miss him -- I'm not so sure everybody will. (Laughter and applause.)

I thank Tom DeLay for making sure the bill got passed. I thank Rob Portman for his hard work. And I want to thank Ellen Tauscher as well for her leadership on this issue.

I appreciate Kay James of the Office of Personnel Management who worked so hard to make sure this effort was understood by everybody in our government, and I want to thank the other administration officials who are here, many of whom are going to be responsible for seeing to it this new department functions well.

I want to thank all the local and state officials who are here with us today. I see governors and county judges, mayors for coming. My own mayor -- the Mayor of Washington, D.C., I appreciate you coming, Mr. Mayor.

I want to thank the local and state law enforcement officials who are here, the chiefs of police and fire chiefs who are with us today. I see the chief of my city now is here as well. Thank you, Mr. Chief, for coming.

I want to thank the union representatives who are here. We look forward to working with you to make sure that your people are treated fairly in this new department. I want to thank the federal

workers who are here. You're charged with being on the front line of protecting America. I understand your job, we look forward to working with you to make sure you get your job done. I want to thank the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council as well. And thank you all for coming.

From the morning of September the 11th, 2001, to this hour, America has been engaged in an unprecedented effort to defend our freedom and our security. We're fighting a war against terror with all our resources, and we're determined to win.

With the help of many nations, with the help of 90 nations, we're tracking terrorist activity, we're freezing terrorist finances, we're disrupting terrorist plots, we're shutting down terrorist camps, we're on the hunt one person at a time. Many terrorists are now being interrogated. Many terrorists have been killed. We've liberated a country.

We recognize our greatest security is found in the relentless pursuit of these cold-blooded killers. Yet, because terrorists are targeting America, the front of the new war is here in America. Our life changed and changed in dramatic fashion on September the 11th, 2001.

In the last 14 months, every level of our government has taken steps to be better prepared against a terrorist attack. We understand the nature of the enemy. We understand they hate us because of what we love. We're doing everything we can to enhance security at our airports and power plants and border crossings. We've deployed detection equipment to look for weapons of mass destruction. We've given law enforcement better tools to detect and disrupt terrorist cells which might be hiding in our own country.

And through separate legislation I signed earlier today, we will strengthen security at our nation's 361 seaports, adding port security agents, requiring ships to provide more information about the cargo, crew and passengers they carry. And I want to thank the members of Congress for working hard on this important piece of legislation as well.

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 takes the next critical steps in defending our country. The continuing threat of terrorism, the threat of mass murder on our own soil will be met with a unified, effective response.

Dozens of agencies charged with homeland security will now be located within one Cabinet department with the mandate and legal authority to protect our people. America will be better able to respond to any future attacks, to reduce our vulnerability and, most important, prevent the terrorists from taking innocent American lives.

The Department of Homeland Security will have nearly 170,000 employees, dedicated professionals who will wake up each morning with the overriding duty of protecting their fellow citizens. As federal workers, they have rights, and those rights will be fully protected. And I'm grateful that the Congress listened to my concerns and retained the authority of the President to put the right people in the right place at the right time in the defense of our country.

I've great confidence in the men and women who will serve in this department and in the man I've asked to lead it. As I prepare to sign this bill into law, I am pleased to announce that I will nominate Governor Tom Ridge as our nation's first Secretary of Homeland Security. (Applause.)

Americans know Tom as an experienced public servant and as the leader of our homeland security efforts since last year. Tom accepted that assignment in urgent circumstances, resigning as the governor of Pennsylvania to organize the White House Office of Homeland Security and to develop a comprehensive strategy to protect the American people. He's done a superb job. He's the right man for this new and great responsibility. (Applause.)

We're going to put together a fine team to work with Tom. The Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England, will be nominated for the post of Deputy Secretary. (Applause.)

And Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas, now the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, will be nominated to serve as Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security. (Applause.)

The Secretary-designate and his team have an immense task ahead of them. Setting up the Department of Homeland Security will involve the most extensive reorganization of the federal government since Harry Truman signed the National Security Act. To succeed in their mission, leaders of the new department must change the culture of many diverse agencies -- directing all of them toward the principal objective of protecting the American people. The effort will take time, and focus, and steady resolve. It will also require full support from both the administration and the Congress. Adjustments will be needed along the way. Yet this is pressing business, and the hard work of building a new department begins today.

When the Department of Homeland Security is fully operational, it will enhance the safety of our people in very practical ways.

First, this new department will analyze intelligence information on terror threats collected by the CIA, the FBI, the National Security Agency and others. The department will match this intelligence against the nation's vulnerabilities -- and work with other agencies, and the private sector, and state and local governments to harden America's defenses against terror.

Second, the department will gather and focus all our efforts to face the challenge of cyberterrorism, and the even worse danger of nuclear, chemical, and biological terrorism. This department will be charged with encouraging research on new technologies that can detect these threats in time to prevent an attack.

Third, state and local governments will be able to turn for help and information to one federal domestic security agency, instead of more than 20 agencies that currently divide these responsibilities. This will help our local governments work in concert with the federal government for the sake of all the people of America.

Fourth, the new department will bring together the agencies responsible for border, coastline, and transportation security. There will be a coordinated effort to safeguard our transportation systems and to secure the border so that we're better able to protect our citizens and welcome our friends.

Fifth, the department will work with state and local officials to prepare our response to any future terrorist attack that may come. We have found that the first hours and even the first minutes after the attack can be crucial in saving lives, and our first responders need the carefully planned and drilled strategies that will make their work effective.

The Department of Homeland Security will also end a great deal of duplication and overlapping responsibilities. Our objective is to spend less on administrators in offices and more on working agents in the field -- less on overhead and more on protecting our neighborhoods and borders and waters and skies from terrorists.

With a vast nation to defend, we can neither predict nor prevent every conceivable attack. And in a free and open society, no department of government can completely guarantee our safety against ruthless killers, who move and plot in shadows. Yet our government will take every possible measure to safeguard our country and our people.

We're fighting a new kind of war against determined enemies. And public servants long into the future will bear the responsibility to defend Americans against terror. This administration and this Congress have the duty of putting that system into place. We will fulfill that duty. With the Homeland Security Act, we're doing everything we can to protect America. We're showing the resolve of this great nation to defend our freedom, our security and our way of life.

It's now my privilege to sign the Homeland Security Act of 2002. (Applause.)

(The bill is signed.)

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1

President Bush Proposes New Temporary Worker Program

Remarks by the President on Immigration Policy

The East Room

Fact Sheet

2:45 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks for coming, thanks for the warm welcome, thanks for joining me as I make this important announcement -- an announcement that I believe will make America a more compassionate and more humane and stronger country.

I appreciate members of my Cabinet who have joined me today, starting with our Secretary of State, Colin Powell. (Applause.) I'm honored that our Attorney General, John Ashcroft, has joined us. (Applause.) Secretary of Commerce, Don Evans. (Applause.) Secretary Tom Ridge, of the Department of Homeland Security. (Applause.) El Embajador of Mexico, Tony Garza. (Applause.) I thank all the other members of my administration who have joined us today.

I appreciate the members of Congress who have taken time to come: Senator Larry Craig, Congressman Chris Cannon, and Congressman Jeff Flake. I'm honored you all have joined us, thank you for coming.

I appreciate the members of citizen groups who have joined us today. Chairman of the Hispanic Alliance for Progress, Manny Lujan. Gil Moreno, the President and CEO of the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans. Roberto De Posada, the President of the Latino Coalition. And Hector Flores, the President of LULAC.

Thank you all for joining us. (Applause.)

Many of you here today are Americans by choice, and you have followed in the path of millions. And over the generations we have received energetic, ambitious, optimistic people from every part of the world. By tradition and conviction, our country is a welcoming society. America is a stronger and better nation because of the hard work and the faith and entrepreneurial spirit of immigrants.

Every generation of immigrants has reaffirmed the wisdom of remaining open to the talents and dreams of the world. And every generation of immigrants has reaffirmed our ability to assimilate newcomers -- which is one of the defining strengths of our country.

During one great period of immigration -- between 1891 and 1920 -- our nation received some 18 million men, women and children from other nations. The hard work of these immigrants helped make our economy the largest in the world. The children of immigrants put on the uniform and helped to liberate the lands of their ancestors. One of the primary reasons America became a great power in the 20th century is because we welcomed the talent and the character and the patriotism of immigrant families.

The contributions of immigrants to America continue. About 14 percent of our nation's civilian workforce is foreign-born. Most begin their working lives in America by taking hard jobs and

clocking long hours in important industries. Many immigrants also start businesses, taking the familiar path from hired labor to ownership.

As a Texan, I have known many immigrant families, mainly from Mexico, and I have seen what they add to our country. They bring to America the values of faith in God, love of family, hard work and self reliance -- the values that made us a great nation to begin with. We've all seen those values in action, through the service and sacrifice of more than 35,000 foreign-born men and women currently on active duty in the United States military. One of them is Master Gunnery Sergeant Guadalupe Denogean, an immigrant from Mexico who has served in the Marine Corps for 25 years and counting. Last year, I was honored and proud to witness Sergeant Denogean take the oath of citizenship in a hospital where he was recovering from wounds he received in Iraq. I'm honored to be his Commander-in-Chief, I'm proud to call him a fellow American. (Applause.)

As a nation that values immigration, and depends on immigration, we should have immigration laws that work and make us proud. Yet today we do not. Instead, we see many employers turning to the illegal labor market. We see millions of hard-working men and women condemned to fear and insecurity in a massive, undocumented economy. Illegal entry across our borders makes more difficult the urgent task of securing the homeland. The system is not working. Our nation needs an immigration system that serves the American economy, and reflects the American Dream.

Reform must begin by confronting a basic fact of life and economics: some of the jobs being generated in America's growing economy are jobs American citizens are not filling. Yet these jobs represent a tremendous opportunity for workers from abroad who want to work and fulfill their duties as a husband or a wife, a son or a daughter.

Their search for a better life is one of the most basic desires of human beings. Many undocumented workers have walked mile after mile, through the heat of the day and the cold of the night. Some have risked their lives in dangerous desert border crossings, or entrusted their lives to the brutal rings of heartless human smugglers. Workers who seek only to earn a living end up in the shadows of American life -- fearful, often abused and exploited. When they are victimized by crime, they are afraid to call the police, or seek recourse in the legal system. They are cut off from their families far away, fearing if they leave our country to visit relatives back home, they might never be able to return to their jobs.

The situation I described is wrong. It is not the American way. Out of common sense and fairness, our laws should allow willing workers to enter our country and fill jobs that Americans have are not filling. (Applause.) We must make our immigration laws more rational, and more humane. And I believe we can do so without jeopardizing the livelihoods of American citizens.

Our reforms should be guided by a few basic principles. First, America must control its borders. Following the attacks of September the 11th, 2001, this duty of the federal government has become even more urgent. And we're fulfilling that duty.

For the first time in our history, we have consolidated all border agencies under one roof to make sure they share information and the work is more effective. We're matching all visa applicants against an expanded screening list to identify terrorists and criminals and immigration violators.

This month, we have begun using advanced technology to better record and track aliens who enter our country -- and to make sure they leave as scheduled. We have deployed new gamma and x-ray systems to scan cargo and containers and shipments at ports of entry to America. We have significantly expanded the Border Patrol -- with more than a thousand new agents on the borders, and 40 percent greater funding over the last two years. We're working closely with the Canadian and Mexican governments to increase border security. America is acting on a basic belief: our borders should be open to legal travel and honest trade; our borders should be shut and barred tight to criminals, to drug traders, to drug traffickers and to criminals, and to terrorists.

Second, new immigration laws should serve the economic needs of our country. If an American employer is offering a job that American citizens are not willing to take, we ought to welcome into our country a person who will fill that job.

Third, we should not give unfair rewards to illegal immigrants in the citizenship process or disadvantage those who came here lawfully, or hope to do so.

Fourth, new laws should provide incentives for temporary, foreign workers to return permanently to their home countries after their period of work in the United States has expired.

Today, I ask the Congress to join me in passing new immigration laws that reflect these principles, that meet America's economic needs, and live up to our highest ideals. (Applause.)

I propose a new temporary worker program that will match willing foreign workers with willing American employers, when no Americans can be found to fill the jobs. This program will offer legal status, as temporary workers, to the millions of undocumented men and women now employed in the United States, and to those in foreign countries who seek to participate in the program and have been offered employment here. This new system should be clear and efficient, so employers are able to find workers quickly and simply.

All who participate in the temporary worker program must have a job, or, if not living in the United States, a job offer. The legal status granted by this program will last three years and will be renewable -- but it will have an end. Participants who do not remain employed, who do not follow the rules of the program, or who break the law will not be eligible for continued participation and will be required to return to their home.

Under my proposal, employers have key responsibilities. Employers who extend job offers must first make every reasonable effort to find an American worker for the job at hand. Our government will develop a quick and simple system for employers to search for American workers. Employers must not hire undocumented aliens or temporary workers whose legal status has expired. They must report to the government the temporary workers they hire, and who leave their employ, so that we can keep track of people in the program, and better enforce immigration laws. There must be strong workplace enforcement with tough penalties for anyone, for any employer violating these laws.

Undocumented workers now here will be required to pay a one-time fee to register for the temporary worker program. Those who seek to join the program from abroad, and have complied with our immigration laws, will not have to pay any fee. All participants will be issued a

temporary worker card that will allow them to travel back and forth between their home and the United States without fear of being denied re-entry into our country. (Applause.)

This program expects temporary workers to return permanently to their home countries after their period of work in the United States has expired. And there should be financial incentives for them to do so. I will work with foreign governments on a plan to give temporary workers credit, when they enter their own nation's retirement system, for the time they have worked in America. I also support making it easier for temporary workers to contribute a portion of their earnings to tax-preferred savings accounts, money they can collect as they return to their native countries. After all, in many of those countries, a small nest egg is what is necessary to start their own business, or buy some land for their family.

Some temporary workers will make the decision to pursue American citizenship. Those who make this choice will be allowed to apply in the normal way. They will not be given unfair advantage over people who have followed legal procedures from the start. I oppose amnesty, placing undocumented workers on the automatic path to citizenship. Granting amnesty encourages the violation of our laws, and perpetuates illegal immigration. America is a welcoming country, but citizenship must not be the automatic reward for violating the laws of America. (Applause.)

The citizenship line, however, is too long, and our current limits on legal immigration are too low. My administration will work with the Congress to increase the annual number of green cards that can lead to citizenship. Those willing to take the difficult path of citizenship -- the path of work, and patience, and assimilation -- should be welcome in America, like generations of immigrants before them. (Applause.)

In the process of immigration reform, we must also set high expectations for what new citizens should know. An understanding of what it means to be an American is not a formality in the naturalization process, it is essential to full participation in our democracy. My administration will examine the standard of knowledge in the current citizenship test. We must ensure that new citizens know not only the facts of our history, but the ideals that have shaped our history. Every citizen of America has an obligation to learn the values that make us one nation: liberty and civic responsibility, equality under God, and tolerance for others.

This new temporary worker program will bring more than economic benefits to America. Our homeland will be more secure when we can better account for those who enter our country, instead of the current situation in which millions of people are unknown, unknown to the law. Law enforcement will face fewer problems with undocumented workers, and will be better able to focus on the true threats to our nation from criminals and terrorists. And when temporary workers can travel legally and freely, there will be more efficient management of our borders and more effective enforcement against those who pose a danger to our country. (Applause.)

This new system will be more compassionate. Decent, hard-working people will now be protected by labor laws, with the right to change jobs, earn fair wages, and enjoy the same working conditions that the law requires for American workers. Temporary workers will be able to establish their identities by obtaining the legal documents we all take for granted. And they will be able to talk openly to authorities, to report crimes when they are harmed, without the fear of being deported. (Applause.)

The best way, in the long run, to reduce the pressures that create illegal immigration in the first place is to expand economic opportunity among the countries in our neighborhood. In a few days I will go to Mexico for the Special Summit of the Americas, where we will discuss ways to advance free trade, and to fight corruption, and encourage the reforms that lead to prosperity. Real growth and real hope in the nations of our hemisphere will lessen the flow of new immigrants to America when more citizens of other countries are able to achieve their dreams at their own home. (Applause.)

Yet our country has always benefited from the dreams that others have brought here. By working hard for a better life, immigrants contribute to the life of our nation. The temporary worker program I am proposing today represents the best tradition of our society, a society that honors the law, and welcomes the newcomer. This plan will help return order and fairness to our immigration system, and in so doing we will honor our values, by showing our respect for those who work hard and share in the ideals of America.

May God bless you all. (Applause.)

###

Fact Sheet: Fair and Secure Immigration Reform

Today's Presidential Action

- Today, President Bush proposed a new temporary worker program to match willing foreign workers with willing U.S. employers when no Americans can be found to fill the jobs. The program would be open to new foreign workers, and to the undocumented men and women currently employed in the U.S. This new program would allow workers who currently hold jobs to come out of hiding and participate legally in America's economy while not encouraging further illegal behavior.
- President Bush also asked Congress to work with him to achieve significant immigration reform that protects the homeland by controlling the borders; serves America's economy by matching a willing worker with a willing employer; promotes compassion for unprotected workers; provides incentives for temporary workers to return to their home countries and families; protects the rights of legal immigrants while not unfairly rewarding those who came here unlawfully or hope to do so. This legislation must also meet the Nation's economic needs and live up to the promise and values of America.

Background on Today's Presidential Action

America is a welcoming nation, and the hard work and strength of our immigrants have made our Nation prosperous. Many immigrants and sons and daughters of immigrants have joined the military to help safeguard the liberty of America. Illegal immigration, however, creates an underclass of workers, afraid and vulnerable to exploitation. Current immigration law can also hinder companies from finding willing workers. The visas now available do not allow employers to fill jobs in many key sectors of our economy. Workers risk their lives in dangerous and illegal border crossings and are consigned to live their lives in the shadows. Without harming the economic security of Americans, reform of our Nation's immigration laws will create a system that is fairer, more consistent, and more compassionate.

- **Principles of Immigration Reform** -- The President's proposal is based on several basic principles:
 - **Protecting the Homeland by Controlling Our Borders:** The program should link to efforts to control our border through agreements with countries whose nationals participate in the program. It must support ongoing efforts to enhance homeland security.
 - **Serve America's Economy by Matching a Willing Worker with a Willing Employer:** When no American worker is available and willing to take a job, the program should provide a labor supply for American employers. It should do so in a way that is clear, streamlined, and efficient so people can find jobs and employers can find workers in a timely manner.
 - **Promoting Compassion:** The program should grant currently working undocumented aliens a temporary worker status to prevent exploitation. Participants would be issued a temporary worker card that will allow them to

travel back and forth between their home and the U.S. without fear of being denied re-entry into America.

- **Providing Incentives for Return to Home Country:** The program will require the return of temporary workers to their home country after their period of work has concluded. The legal status granted by this program would last three years, be renewable, and would have an end. During the temporary work period, it should allow movement across the U.S. borders so the worker can maintain roots in their home country.
- **Protecting the Rights of Legal Immigrants:** The program should not connect participation to a green card or citizenship. However, it should not preclude a participant from obtaining green card status through the existing process. It should not permit undocumented workers to gain an advantage over those who have followed the rules.

- **Temporary Worker Program**

President Bush does not support amnesty because individuals who violate America's laws should not be rewarded for illegal behavior and because amnesty perpetuates illegal immigration. The President proposes that the Federal Government offer temporary worker status to undocumented men and women now employed in the United States and to those in foreign countries who have been offered employment here. The workers under temporary status must pay a one-time fee to register in the program, abide by the rules, and return home after their period of work expires. There would be an opportunity for renewal. In the future, only people outside the U.S. may join the temporary worker program, and there will be an orderly system in place to address the needs of workers and companies.

- **American Workers Come First:** Employers must make every reasonable effort to find an American to fill a job before extending job offers to foreign workers.
- **Workplace Enforcement of Immigration Laws:** Enforcement against companies that break the law and hire illegal workers will increase.
- **Economic Incentives to Return Home:** The U.S. will work with other countries to allow aliens working in the U.S. to receive credit in their nations' retirement systems and will support the creation of tax-preferred savings accounts they can collect when they return to their native countries.
- **Fair and Meaningful Citizenship Process:** Some temporary workers will want to remain in America and pursue citizenship. They should not receive an unfair advantage over those who have followed the law, and they will need to be placed in line for citizenship behind those who are already in line. Those who choose the path of citizenship will have an obligation to learn the facts and ideals that have shaped America's history.

- **Reasonable Annual Increase of Legal Immigrants:** A reasonable increase in the annual limit of legal immigrants will benefit those who follow the lawful path to citizenship.
- **Benefits to America of the Temporary Worker Program**
 - A more prosperous economy -- for America. The program would allow workers to find jobs and employers to find workers, quickly and simply.
 - A more secure homeland -- to improve the efficiency and management of all people who cross our borders. It is in the interest of the Nation, and each community, to identify foreign visitors and immigrants and make clear the nature of their intentions.
 - A more compassionate system -- to protect all workers in America with labor laws, the right to change jobs, fair wages, and a healthy work environment.
- **Homeland Security and Border Enforcement**
 - Border Patrol has increased from a strength of 9,788 on September 11, 2001 to 10,835 on December 1, 2003. Between ports of entry on the northern border, the size of the Border Patrol has tripled to more than 1,000 agents. In addition, the Border Patrol is continuing installation of monitoring devices along the borders to detect illegal activity.
 - The Bush Administration's Operation Tarmac was launched to investigate businesses and workers in the secure areas of domestic airports and ensure immigration law compliance. Since 9/11, DHS has audited 3,640 businesses, examined 259,037 employee records, arrested 1,030 unauthorized workers, and participated in the criminal indictment of 774 individuals.
 - President Bush announced the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), an internet-based system that is improving America's ability to track and monitor foreign students and exchange visitors. Over 870,000 students are registered in SEVIS. Of 285 completed field investigations, 71 aliens were arrested.
 - This week, the US-VISIT program began to digitally collect biometric identifiers to record the entry and exit of aliens who travel into the U.S on a visa. Together with the standard information, this new program will confirm compliance with visa and immigration policies.

###

President's Radio Address

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. As the year 2004 begins, America's economy is strong and getting stronger. More Americans than ever own their own homes. More businesses are investing. More manufacturers are seeing increased activity than at any time in the last 20 years. Stock market wealth has increased by more than \$3 trillion over the past year. And over the past five months, more than a quarter-million Americans started work at new jobs. In December, the unemployment rate fell to 5.7 percent, from a high of 6.3 percent last June.

This latest report underscores a choice about the future of our economy, and the future of those who are looking for work. We can continue on the path to prosperity and new jobs - a path marked by a pro-growth agenda that has cut taxes on paychecks for 109 million American taxpayers - or we can reverse the course by raising taxes on hardworking Americans. The choice is clear. Tax relief has got this economy going again, and tax relief will keep it moving forward.

In my budget for the upcoming fiscal year, I will call on Congress to make permanent all the tax relief we have delivered to the American people and our nation's small businesses. If Congress fails to act, this tax relief will disappear and millions of American families and small businesses would see tax hikes starting in 2005. For the sake of our economic expansion, and for the sake of millions of Americans who depend on small businesses for their jobs, we need Congress to act to make tax relief permanent.

Every American who pays income taxes got a tax cut: They should keep that tax cut in the future. American families saw the child credit double to \$1,000 per child: They should keep that higher credit. American investors, including millions of seniors, saw taxes fall on dividend income and investment gains: They should keep that tax relief. American small businesses received new tax incentives to invest in equipment and software: They should keep those incentives. Every American family, including every farmer, rancher, and small business owner, will see the death tax disappear in 2010, then reappear in 2011. But the death tax should stay buried.

Now is not the time to turn our backs on America's families and workers and entrepreneurs by letting much needed tax relief expire. Making tax relief permanent is a simple step that would keep our economy growing, so that every American who wants to work can find a job.

We must continue to take other steps to promote growth and job creation throughout our economy. We must promote free and fair trade, reform our class action system, and help businesses and their employees address the problem of rising health care costs.

To serve the economic needs of our country, we must also reform our immigration laws. Reform must begin by confronting a basic fact of life and economics: Some of the jobs being generated in America's growing economy are jobs American citizens are not filling. This past week, I proposed a new temporary worker program that would match willing foreign workers with willing American employers, when no Americans can be found to fill the jobs. If an American employer is offering a job that American citizens are not willing to take, we ought to welcome into our country a person who will fill that job.

The program I've outlined is not an amnesty program, an automatic path to citizenship. It is a program that recognizes the contributions that many undocumented workers are now making to our economy. This temporary worker program represents the best tradition of our society. It will help strengthen our economy, return order to our immigration system, and secure our homeland.

Thank you for listening.

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President Bush, President Fox Meet with Reporters in Mexico

Remarks by President Bush and President Fox of Mexico in Press Availability

Quinta Real Hotel

Monterrey, Mexico

2:12 P.M. (Local)

PRESIDENT FOX: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. President Bush, welcome to Mexico, and welcome to Monterrey. We receive you with great enthusiasm, the way we are receiving the leaders of the countries of America. We have great expectations in order to work in this extraordinary Summit of the Americas.

In order to know each other better -- all of us leaders have had responsibilities in America -- it's best to analyze extraordinary matters that have been brought about in the last few years, since the last meeting of the Americas. While checking and making a revision on these matters, we can give broad solutions to the problems -- economic and poverty problems in a great part of the continent; perhaps solutions to the problems of human capital, social capital in our respective countries; and likewise deal, as we have been doing in every single meeting, with the safety and security matters, going deep inside the problems of corruption, making sure that in our countries democracy should be there and the state of law should be there. So this meeting will enable us to give steps forward in all these multilateral topics.

Likewise, we have had a bilateral meeting -- and I will mention this later on -- a couple of matters, important matters in reference to this bilateral conversation. First of all, relating to that migration topic, President Bush has given us in full detail and has told us once again the proposal made in the United States for the migration matters and the policy that should be checked upon that -- that topic. It's a sovereign matter of the United States.

Consequently this migration proposal is analyzed according to the different conversations that President Bush and President Fox, myself, even when he was a governor in the state of Texas and I was a governor in the state of Guanajuato. Since that time, we have been touching upon this subject. And we did that in the first meeting in Rancho San Cristobal in the state of Guanajuato. We did it once again and we spoke about migration. We have been doing this in each one of the different meetings.

So I would like to give full acknowledgement that part of the conversations, a great part of the conversations have been collected and analyzed. But this is a proposal made by the President of the United States. We totally agree, and are aware that the proposal should be discussed, broadly discussed, analyzed, particularly in the Congress of the United States. Consequently, we should give full time so that the idea -- well, the idea should mature and it should definitely be approved.

So, for us in Mexico, this is a very important step forward on what has to do with the relationship between the two countries on what has to do with the migration flow. It is a topic with a great priority for our countries, for both countries. This proposal opens an opportunity to have a certain movement, a certain situation, important for many millions of Mexicans. It is a priority. It is a valuable proposal, and by all means, it will have to do with the improvement of the situation

of these migrants, but it will have to do, as well, with a strengthening of our respective economies -- that on the one hand.

On the other, the topic that we have been dealing with is the initiative of North America, by means of which both governments want to work with very specific objectives, so as to create a greater economic growth, increase productivity and competitiveness within the region through the reduction of costs, and facilitating trade flows, promoting development of common markets in different specific sectors. And it has as an objective, to establish a security regional framework protecting Mexico, the United States, and Canada from terrorism.

Several tables, working tables analyze the normalization of different standards within the market in automobiles, food, agriculture products, construction materials and consumption goods. Likewise, there's a table that has to do with trade and services. Another one is working on energy; another one in scientific and technological cooperation; another one regional cooperation on trade and investment. Consequently, it is a great effort so as to achieve the objectives that I just mentioned.

President Bush, once again, thank you for visiting us. Thank you for being here. This summit, this meeting will allow us to be near the different Presidents, the different leaders of Latin America, the Caribbean area, Central America, and by all means, North America. And it will be for the good of this continent in the future. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Thank you, Mr. President. Laura and I are -- really appreciate your hospitality. We want to thank you and Martha for being our friends. I remember well our visit to your ranch. And to this end, we would like to extend an invitation to both you and the First Lady of Mexico to visit our ranch on March the 5th and 6th. I hope you can find -- I hope it's a convenient date for you on your calendar because we'd love to -- we'd love to have you there.

The bonds of friendship and shared values between our two nations are strong. We have worked together to overcome many mutual challenges, and that work is yielding results. Today Mexico is America's second largest trading partner, and we are Mexico's largest. Every day thousands of Americans and Mexicans cross the border in both directions for reason of commerce and tourism. And many Americans settle -- many Mexicans settle in America, bringing with them optimism and a strong desire to succeed. They come to fulfill their dreams, and in the process they enrich our nation.

Last week, I proposed a new temporary worker program that will help further the cause of safe, legal and orderly migration. This temporary worker program will match willing foreign workers with willing American employers when no Americans can be found to fill the jobs. Under this program, undocumented workers currently in the United States will be able to come out of the shadows and establish legal identities. All participants in the program will be issued a temporary worker card that will allow them to travel back and forth between their home and the United States without fear of being denied reentry into our country.

This plan is not amnesty, placing undocumented workers on the automatic path of citizenship. I oppose amnesty because it encourages the violation of our laws and perpetuates illegal immigration. My proposal expects that most temporary workers will eventually return permanently to their home countries when the period of work that I will be negotiating with the

Congress has expired. And I think it's important to give financial incentives to those workers in order for them to make the decision to return home permanently.

I'll work with President Fox and other leaders on a plan to give temporary workers credit in their home countries' retirement systems for the time they work in the United States. I support making it easier for temporary workers to contribute a portion of their earnings to tax-preferred savings accounts, money they can collect as they return to their native countries.

Under this program the United States will benefit from the honest labor of foreign workers. Our neighbors will benefit as productive citizens return home with money to invest and to spend in their own nation's economy. This program will be more humane, humane to workers, and will live up to the highest ideals of our nations.

While my nation benefits from the dreams that newcomers bring to America, I believe that people should be better able to achieve their dreams at their own home. The best way in the long-term to reduce the pressures that create illegal immigration is to expand economic opportunity in countries at both ends of an immigrant's journey. This is why President Fox and I are committed to free and fair trade. We've seen it lift both our nations and our economies. Since 1994, trade between our two countries has grown from \$100 billion to \$232 billion. We will continue to work together, and with Canada, to enhance North American prosperity and security.

We're also working to reduce the cost of sending money home to families and local communities. These remittances exceed \$10 billion per year. But the cost of such transfers reduces the amount of money that hardworking people can return to their families. Our two countries have made it a priority to keep hard-earned money in the hands of those who need it most.

In recent years, our efforts under our U.S.-Mexico Partnership for Prosperity Initiative have reduced the cost of remittances by almost 60 percent.

Two years ago, in this city, world leaders agreed on a vision to expand opportunity and spread prosperity throughout the hemisphere. With this year's Special Summit, we continue to put that vision into action. Through the Inter-American Development Bank, we are expanding access to credit for small business entrepreneurs, the key engines of growth and job creation for any nation's economy. We're helping nations improve their legal systems to protect property rights so that owners can use their property as collateral to finance the purchase of a home or to start a business. We're investing in the health and education of our peoples, and we're intensifying our common fight against corruption.

President Fox and I will also continue our efforts to support democracy in the region. We will work with the Organization of American States to ensure the integrity of the presidential recall and referendum process underway in Venezuela. And as part of our effort to protect the institutions of democracy in Bolivia, we will co-chair the initial meeting of the Bolivia Support Group, in Washington this coming Friday.

Our bilateral relationship is strong; this summit's agenda is full. The United States will continue to work with our friends in the neighborhood in a spirit of common purpose and mutual respect.

Thank you Mr. President.

Q Question for both of you. President Fox, once more on migrating matters, what else did the Mexican government propose? What else can we expect for the Mexican workers? Can we expect the same treatment of the Canadian ones without any approaches? What are the purposes in reference to migrants? Does this have election purposes? And will the United States avoid violating the human rights in our airports? that is the question -- and the question is addressed for both Presidents.

PRESIDENT FOX: First of all, I would like to say, what else can we wish? What we want is the plan presented by President Bush. We hope that the plan has a happy ending to the political process that should be followed within the United States so that it can be approved in the Congress of the United States.

I would say that this is what we want. The plan, as it was mentioned before, is a very important step forward for many Mexican workers in the United States. Those that have the direct benefit of this will recognize and acknowledge this proposal that has a great importance for them. Not only -- not only because they can see that their labor rights and their human rights are completely respected there, but there is a human face on this proposal, a human face that has to do with the families of these workers.

Consequently, for us it is a plan that meets the demands and its measures. And our will should be to support the plan to be achieved and go on.

In reference to safety matters on the airports and the flights, that is a sovereign decision in Mexico to implement these safety and security programs within the airports and within the Mexican airlines. So we are not violating any human right of any sort of citizen. What we're doing is paying special attention so as to avoid terrorist acts, violent acts within the Mexican territory or within the Mexican airlines.

And in this same approach, we mention that there's no direct intervention of -- no official personnel, policemen, agents -- direct intervention, direct participation in operations that have to do with the assurance of this task within the Mexican airports or within the Mexican airlines. What we do have is a participation and an exchange with the personnel, the liaison personnel -- personnel for security. We exchange information so as to do our work much better.

We reject any other sort of information, different information that has been brought about. That in this activities, well, we can state that only Mexican personnel participates -- agents of the airlines, or agents of security here in Mexico. Thus, there is no intervention in the direct operation of any other official agent from abroad. It is the liaison officers that link offices.

We exchange information the way we agreed upon with President Bush since the beginning of our conversations in Rancho San Cristobal. And we have a mutual trust -- that's the way we started -- so that the security and safety institutions would trust each other. They could have an exchange of information and they could be very, very efficient in their work. Never, never before had we reached efficiency level fighting organized crime, guaranteeing the security and safety of the different passengers, stopping, let's say, loads of drug, drug trafficking the way we have been achieving this in the last few years, based upon mutual trust and based on this coordinated work between the two parts.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Mr. President, I appreciate your wonderful cooperation that we've achieved between our two countries. You've just articulated that level of cooperation in a way that I don't think I ever could. So that's my answer to the second question you asked.

My answer to the first question you asked is that I proposed this change in immigration law because I think it is the right thing to do. It recognizes the reality of our country. The President and I talked about whether or not -- the ramifications of this initiative to Mexico. But the migration policy applies to all foreign workers. But the truth is, the vast majority of foreign workers in America are from Mexico. We know that in Texas very well. And I repeat to you that this is -- these workers are a benefit to my country. These are hardworking, decent, honorable people that are in our country because -- to fill jobs that others won't take, on the one hand, and also to make a living, to put money -- to get money and to send money back to their families.

There is a deep human desire for a mother or a father to provide for his or her family. And that's how I view the motivations of good, decent Mexican citizens working in our country. And it seems like to me it makes sense to have laws that treat people with respect. We are a country of law. Rule of law is important in America. And, therefore, we ought to not have a system that is based upon an undocumented under-class, but a system that is based upon law.

And so I -- you said something about politics -- yes, there's politics involved. But the reason I made -- and there will be politics probably involved in whether or not it passes Congress. But the reason I proposed the initiative is because it is the right thing for America to do.

Q Thank you, Mr. President, President Fox. My question is about Iraq. The death toll in Iraq, the American death toll is approaching 500. I wonder whether you have any reservations now about whether that toll is worth it to achieve your objective in Iraq and the Middle East.

President Fox, you had a disagreement with the President going into the war. I wonder whether you aired that out during your meeting just now, whether you now see eye-to-eye on postwar Iraq. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BUSH: A democratic, free Iraq is in the national interests of our country. A free country in the midst of the Middle East will make America more secure, and matter of fact, make any country more secure. And the decision I made was a tough decision.

We've had discussions prior to the decision and after the decision. Vicente Fox is a good enough friend for him to be able to express his opinion to me without the loss of friendship. And he didn't agree with the decision I made. But the decision I made was the right one for America. And history will prove it's the right one for the world. And we will stay the course until the job is done.

And the job is getting done. Iraq is more free every day. The citizens are beginning -- the lives of the citizens are improving every day. And one thing is for certain; there won't be any more mass graves and torture rooms and rape rooms. The tyrant will no longer come back to threaten the Iraqi people. These people will be able to live in -- these Iraqi citizens will not only be able to live in a free society, they'll be able to live in a society that is free from one of the most brutal dictators in the world's history.

PRESIDENT FOX: As a democratic nation, to meet the challenge of terrorism, to make sure that terrorism is eradicated from the face of this world -- that's our challenge today, and that's what we work on. It is why we congratulate the U.S. government that they withheld Saddam Hussein and he will be taken to trial, to judgment. We fully support that and we congratulate President Bush and the United States for that very important accomplishment, which is for the better of all nations, all families, all people in the world that we want to live in peace without terrorism.

Q Good afternoon. My question is addressed for both Presidents, if you can really talk about a free trade agreement -- North America, between Mexico, United States and Canada, in the midst of all the problems of commercial exchange such as transportation, food, agricultural sector. Second question: Can you achieve a free trade agreement of the Americas with the opposition of many countries such as Brazil and Venezuela?

PRESIDENT FOX: Well, in the case of a Free Trade Agreement of North America we have clearly pointed out many a time that it has been successful for Mexico. We are very much satisfied with what has been achieved in the last 10 years. Mexico is the ninth economy in the world. It has enabled Mexico to have the size of the seventh power for exports in the world, and a per-capita income going beyond, let's say, \$6,000, the highest in Latin America. These are things that have been brought about because of this relation that has been established. And we have worked upon that for 10 years.

I read a report of the ILO about Latin America and unemployment and wages and salaries of the different workers. And Mexico has the best, let's say, rate on unemployment in Latin America, improving the situation, improving the actual wages of the workers in Latin America -- the only one in Latin America. And by all means, this is coming from the free trade agreements. Consequently, we are satisfied with our free trade agreement. And it should continue operating and working with success.

On a parallel basis, we have thought about the initiative of North America to thrust and develop our economies much more, achieving competitiveness and productivity, generating jobs and quality of life in our respective countries. It is a parallel, an additional pathway.

And as President Bush already mentioned in reference to the Association for Prosperity -- the document known as Partnership For Prosperity, that's the name of the document -- it has many -- we work day by day so as to thrust and improve the document. So we're giving steps forward in this direction.

That on the one hand. On the other, as a consequence of this, Mexico is a passionate promoter of the free trade agreements in the Americas. We are totally in favor of the free trade agreement for the American continent. By all means. And we're working in favor and working actively so that it will be achieved as soon as possible.

We received with great satisfaction the results of the last meeting in Miami, Florida, where the agreement is to continue building this free trade agreement so as to have it ready on the foreseen dates that we thought about. So we are working enthusiastically in this field.

By all means, we do not only want a free trade agreement, but we want a very good free trade agreement, an agreement with quality and that has to do with trade that would take development to the less developed countries, the poorest countries in our continent; that could take

development to the different regions where there's greater poverty on our continent. And that is the fundamental purpose of this agreement.

Trade promotes development, undoubtedly. Trade undoubtedly promotes a reduction of poverty. And trade and relations amongst countries promote human capital. So we are absolutely in favor of trusting and supporting this agreement.

PRESIDENT BUSH: It's helped America; it's helped Mexico; it's helped Canada. I think we need to move the process forward -- the President and I discussed that earlier today -- with the North American Initiative.

The President is absolutely right; the best way to eradicate poverty is to encourage trade between nations. Trade gives people hope and provides opportunity. Obviously, that must be coupled with anti-corruption measures, like the President has done here in Mexico. It must be coupled with good education measures. At this meeting we're going to talk about ways to get capital into the hands of the entrepreneurial classes of respective countries. But without trade, there's going to be -- it's going to be hard for some people to find opportunity.

And so I hope those who have expressed some opposition about the free trade agreement of the Americas, look at the facts. And the fact is that NAFTA has lifted lives and ended poverty in some parts of our -- in our neighborhood. And to this end, the United States will not only push for the free trade agreement of the Americas, we will continue free trade agreements with countries like Chile -- we just concluded one with Chile -- but with the Central American countries, Andean countries. We believe in trade. We believe it's in the interest of the neighborhood that we trade freely.

Q Thank you, President Fox. President Bush, is it true, as your former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill says, that you started planning for the invasion of Iraq within days of your inauguration? Do you feel betrayed? And should he have released those documents?

PRESIDENT BUSH: First, let me say, I appreciate former Secretary O'Neill's service to our country. We worked together during some difficult times. We worked together when the country was in recession, and now we're coming out of recession, which is positive news. We worked together when America was attacked on September the 11th, which changed how I viewed the world. September the 11th made me realize that America was no longer protected by oceans, and we had to take threats very seriously no matter where they may be materializing.

And, no, the stated policy of my administration towards Saddam Hussein was very clear. Like the previous administration, we were for regime change. And in the initial stages of the administration, as you might remember, we were dealing with Desert Badger, or fly-overs and fly-betweens and looks, and so we were fashioning policy along those lines. And then, all of a sudden, September the 11th hit. And as the President of the United States, my most solemn obligation is to protect the security of the American people. That's my -- to me that's the most solemn thing an American President -- or any president -- must do. And I took that duty very seriously.

And as you know, not only did we deal with the Taliban, we gave -- working through the United Nations and working through international community, we made it clear that Saddam Hussein should disarm. And like he had done with a lot of previous resolutions, he ignored the world's

demands. And now he's no longer in power, and the world is better for it. The Iraqi people are better for it; America is better for it; Mexico is better for it. The world is more peaceful as a result of Saddam Hussein not being in power.

And the task at hand, Mr. President -- and he and I -- he knows this fully well -- is to make sure that the aspirations of the Iraqi people are allowed to flourish. And we'll get there. It's a tough task right now. It's hard work, but we've done hard work in the past. And a free Iraq is going to be in the world's interest.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT FOX: Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon.

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State of the Union Address

United States Capitol
Washington, D.C.

State of the Union Portal Page

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Speaker, Vice President Cheney, members of Congress, distinguished guests, and fellow citizens: America this evening is a nation called to great responsibilities. And we are rising to meet them.

As we gather tonight, hundreds of thousands of American servicemen and women are deployed across the world in the war on terror. By bringing hope to the oppressed, and delivering justice to the violent, they are making America more secure. (Applause.)

Each day, law enforcement personnel and intelligence officers are tracking terrorist threats; analysts are examining airline passenger lists; the men and women of our new Homeland Security Department are patrolling our coasts and borders. And their vigilance is protecting America. (Applause.)

Americans are proving once again to be the hardest working people in the world. The American economy is growing stronger. The tax relief you passed is working. (Applause.)

Tonight, members of Congress can take pride in the great works of compassion and reform that skeptics had thought impossible. You're raising the standards for our public schools, and you are giving our senior citizens prescription drug coverage under Medicare. (Applause.)

We have faced serious challenges together, and now we face a choice: We can go forward with confidence and resolve, or we can turn back to the dangerous illusion that terrorists are not plotting and outlaw regimes are no threat to us. We can press on with economic growth, and reforms in education and Medicare, or we can turn back to old policies and old divisions.

We've not come all this way -- through tragedy, and trial and war -- only to falter and leave our work unfinished. Americans are rising to the tasks of history, and they expect the same from us. In their efforts, their enterprise, and their character, the American people are showing that the state of our union is confident and strong. (Applause.)

Our greatest responsibility is the active defense of the American people. Twenty-eight months have passed since September 11th, 2001 -- over two years without an attack on American soil. And it is tempting to believe that the danger is behind us. That hope is understandable, comforting -- and false. The killing has continued in Bali, Jakarta, Casablanca, Riyadh, Mombasa, Jerusalem, Istanbul, and Baghdad. The terrorists continue to plot against America and the civilized world. And by our will and courage, this danger will be defeated. (Applause.)

Inside the United States, where the war began, we must continue to give our homeland security and law enforcement personnel every tool they need to defend us. And one of those essential tools is the Patriot Act, which allows federal law enforcement to better share information, to track terrorists, to disrupt their cells, and to seize their assets. For years, we have used similar provisions to catch embezzlers and drug traffickers. If these methods are good for hunting criminals, they are even more important for hunting terrorists. (Applause.)

Key provisions of the Patriot Act are set to expire next year. (Applause.) The terrorist threat will not expire on that schedule. (Applause.) Our law enforcement needs this vital legislation to protect our citizens. You need to renew the Patriot Act. (Applause.)

America is on the offensive against the terrorists who started this war. Last March, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, a mastermind of September the 11th, awoke to find himself in the custody of U.S. and Pakistani authorities. Last August the 11th brought the capture of the terrorist Hambali, who was a key player in the attack in Indonesia that killed over 200 people. We're tracking al Qaeda around the world, and nearly two-thirds of their known leaders have now been captured or killed. Thousands of very skilled and determined military personnel are on the manhunt, going after the remaining killers who hide in cities and caves, and one by one, we will bring these terrorists to justice. (Applause.)

As part of the offensive against terror, we are also confronting the regimes that harbor and support terrorists, and could supply them with nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. The United States and our allies are determined: We refuse to live in the shadow of this ultimate danger. (Applause.)

The first to see our determination were the Taliban, who made Afghanistan the primary training base of al Qaeda killers. As of this month, that country has a new constitution, guaranteeing free elections and full participation by women. Businesses are opening, health care centers are being established, and the boys and girls of Afghanistan are back in school. With the help from the new Afghan army, our coalition is leading aggressive raids against the surviving members of the Taliban and al Qaeda. The men and women of Afghanistan are building a nation that is free and proud and fighting terror -- and America is honored to be their friend. (Applause.)

Since we last met in this chamber, combat forces of the United States, Great Britain, Australia, Poland and other countries enforced the demands of the United Nations, ended the rule of Saddam Hussein, and the people of Iraq are free. (Applause.)

Having broken the Baathist regime, we face a remnant of violent Saddam supporters. Men who ran away from our troops in battle are now dispersed and attack from the shadows. These killers, joined by foreign terrorists, are a serious, continuing danger. Yet we're making progress against them. The once all-powerful ruler of Iraq was found in a hole, and now sits in a prison cell. (Applause.) Of the top 55 officials of the former regime, we have captured or killed 45. Our forces are on the offensive, leading over 1,600 patrols a day and conducting an average of 180 raids a week. We are dealing with these thugs in Iraq, just as surely as we dealt with Saddam Hussein's evil regime. (Applause.)

The work of building a new Iraq is hard, and it is right. And America has always been willing to do what it takes for what is right. Last January, Iraq's only law was the whim of one brutal man. Today our coalition is working with the Iraqi Governing Council to draft a basic law, with a bill of rights. We're working with Iraqis and the United Nations to prepare for a transition to full Iraqi sovereignty by the end of June.

As democracy takes hold in Iraq, the enemies of freedom will do all in their power to spread violence and fear. They are trying to shake the will of our country and our friends, but the United

States of America will never be intimidated by thugs and assassins. (Applause.) The killers will fail, and the Iraqi people will live in freedom. (Applause.)

Month by month, Iraqis are assuming more responsibility for their own security and their own future. And tonight we are honored to welcome one of Iraq's most respected leaders: the current President of the Iraqi Governing Council, Adnan Pachachi.

Sir, America stands with you and the Iraqi people as you build a free and peaceful nation. (Applause.)

Because of American leadership and resolve, the world is changing for the better. Last month, the leader of Libya voluntarily pledged to disclose and dismantle all of his regime's weapons of mass destruction programs, including a uranium enrichment project for nuclear weapons. Colonel Qadhafi correctly judged that his country would be better off and far more secure without weapons of mass murder. (Applause.)

Nine months of intense negotiations involving the United States and Great Britain succeeded with Libya, while 12 years of diplomacy with Iraq did not. And one reason is clear: For diplomacy to be effective, words must be credible, and no one can now doubt the word of America. (Applause.)

Different threats require different strategies. Along with nations in the region, we're insisting that North Korea eliminate its nuclear program. America and the international community are demanding that Iran meet its commitments and not develop nuclear weapons. America is committed to keeping the world's most dangerous weapons out of the hands of the most dangerous regimes. (Applause.)

When I came to this rostrum on September the 20th, 2001, I brought the police shield of a fallen officer, my reminder of lives that ended, and a task that does not end. I gave to you and to all Americans my complete commitment to securing our country and defeating our enemies. And this pledge, given by one, has been kept by many.

You in the Congress have provided the resources for our defense, and cast the difficult votes of war and peace. Our closest allies have been unwavering. America's intelligence personnel and diplomats have been skilled and tireless. And the men and women of the American military -- they have taken the hardest duty. We've seen their skill and their courage in armored charges and midnight raids, and lonely hours on faithful watch. We have seen the joy when they return, and felt the sorrow when one is lost. I've had the honor of meeting our servicemen and women at many posts, from the deck of a carrier in the Pacific to a mess hall in Baghdad.

Many of our troops are listening tonight. And I want you and your families to know: America is proud of you. And my administration, and this Congress, will give you the resources you need to fight and win the war on terror. (Applause.)

I know that some people question if America is really in a war at all. They view terrorism more as a crime, a problem to be solved mainly with law enforcement and indictments. After the World Trade Center was first attacked in 1993, some of the guilty were indicted and tried and convicted, and sent to prison. But the matter was not settled. The terrorists were still training and plotting in other nations, and drawing up more ambitious plans. After the chaos and carnage of

September the 11th, it is not enough to serve our enemies with legal papers. The terrorists and their supporters declared war on the United States, and war is what they got. (Applause.)

Some in this chamber, and in our country, did not support the liberation of Iraq. Objections to war often come from principled motives. But let us be candid about the consequences of leaving Saddam Hussein in power. We're seeking all the facts. Already, the Kay Report identified dozens of weapons of mass destruction-related program activities and significant amounts of equipment that Iraq concealed from the United Nations. Had we failed to act, the dictator's weapons of mass destruction programs would continue to this day. Had we failed to act, Security Council resolutions on Iraq would have been revealed as empty threats, weakening the United Nations and encouraging defiance by dictators around the world. Iraq's torture chambers would still be filled with victims, terrified and innocent. The killing fields of Iraq -- where hundreds of thousands of men and women and children vanished into the sands -- would still be known only to the killers. For all who love freedom and peace, the world without Saddam Hussein's regime is a better and safer place. (Applause.)

Some critics have said our duties in Iraq must be internationalized. This particular criticism is hard to explain to our partners in Britain, Australia, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Italy, Spain, Poland, Denmark, Hungary, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania, the Netherlands -- (applause) -- Norway, El Salvador, and the 17 other countries that have committed troops to Iraq. (Applause.) As we debate at home, we must never ignore the vital contributions of our international partners, or dismiss their sacrifices.

From the beginning, America has sought international support for our operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and we have gained much support. There is a difference, however, between leading a coalition of many nations, and submitting to the objections of a few. America will never seek a permission slip to defend the security of our country. (Applause.)

We also hear doubts that democracy is a realistic goal for the greater Middle East, where freedom is rare. Yet it is mistaken, and condescending, to assume that whole cultures and great religions are incompatible with liberty and self-government. I believe that God has planted in every human heart the desire to live in freedom. And even when that desire is crushed by tyranny for decades, it will rise again. (Applause.)

As long as the Middle East remains a place of tyranny and despair and anger, it will continue to produce men and movements that threaten the safety of America and our friends. So America is pursuing a forward strategy of freedom in the greater Middle East. We will challenge the enemies of reform, confront the allies of terror, and expect a higher standard from our friend. To cut through the barriers of hateful propaganda, the Voice of America and other broadcast services are expanding their programming in Arabic and Persian -- and soon, a new television service will begin providing reliable news and information across the region. I will send you a proposal to double the budget of the National Endowment for Democracy, and to focus its new work on the development of free elections, and free markets, free press, and free labor unions in the Middle East. And above all, we will finish the historic work of democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq, so those nations can light the way for others, and help transform a troubled part of the world. (Applause.)

America is a nation with a mission, and that mission comes from our most basic beliefs. We have no desire to dominate, no ambitions of empire. Our aim is a democratic peace -- a peace founded upon the dignity and rights of every man and woman. America acts in this cause with friends and allies at our side, yet we understand our special calling: This great republic will lead the cause of freedom. (Applause.)

In the last three years, adversity has also revealed the fundamental strengths of the American economy. We have come through recession, and terrorist attack, and corporate scandals, and the uncertainties of war. And because you acted to stimulate our economy with tax relief, this economy is strong, and growing stronger. (Applause.)

You have doubled the child tax credit from \$500 to \$1,000, reduced the marriage penalty, begun to phase out the death tax, reduced taxes on capital gains and stock dividends, cut taxes on small businesses, and you have lowered taxes for every American who pays income taxes.

Americans took those dollars and put them to work, driving this economy forward. The pace of economic growth in the third quarter of 2003 was the fastest in nearly 20 years; new home construction, the highest in almost 20 years; home ownership rates, the highest ever. Manufacturing activity is increasing. Inflation is low. Interest rates are low. Exports are growing. Productivity is high, and jobs are on the rise. (Applause.)

These numbers confirm that the American people are using their money far better than government would have -- and you were right to return it. (Applause.)

America's growing economy is also a changing economy. As technology transforms the way almost every job is done, America becomes more productive, and workers need new skills. Much of our job growth will be found in high-skilled fields like health care and biotechnology. So we must respond by helping more Americans gain the skills to find good jobs in our new economy.

All skills begin with the basics of reading and math, which are supposed to be learned in the early grades of our schools. Yet for too long, for too many children, those skills were never mastered. By passing the No Child Left Behind Act, you have made the expectation of literacy the law of our country. We're providing more funding for our schools -- a 36-percent increase since 2001. We're requiring higher standards. We are regularly testing every child on the fundamentals. We are reporting results to parents, and making sure they have better options when schools are not performing. We are making progress toward excellence for every child in America. (Applause.)

But the status quo always has defenders. Some want to undermine the No Child Left Behind Act by weakening standards and accountability. Yet the results we require are really a matter of common sense: We expect third graders to read and do math at the third grade level -- and that's not asking too much. Testing is the only way to identify and help students who are falling behind. This nation will not go back to the days of simply shuffling children along from grade to grade without them learning the basics. I refuse to give up on any child -- and the No Child Left Behind Act is opening the door of opportunity to all of America's children. (Applause.)

At the same time, we must ensure that older students and adults can gain the skills they need to find work now. Many of the fastest growing occupations require strong math and science preparation, and training beyond the high school level. So tonight, I propose a series of measures

called Jobs for the 21st Century. This program will provide extra help to middle and high school students who fall behind in reading and math, expand advanced placement programs in low-income schools, invite math and science professionals from the private sector to teach part-time in our high schools. I propose larger Pell grants for students who prepare for college with demanding courses in high school. (Applause.) I propose increasing our support for America's fine community colleges, so they can -- (applause.) I do so, so they can train workers for industries that are creating the most new jobs. By all these actions, we'll help more and more Americans to join in the growing prosperity of our country. Job training is important, and so is job creation.

We must continue to pursue an aggressive, pro-growth economic agenda. (Applause.) Congress has some unfinished business on the issue of taxes. The tax reductions you passed are set to expire. Unless you act -- (applause) -- unless you act -- unless you act, the unfair tax on marriage will go back up. Unless you act, millions of families will be charged \$300 more in federal taxes for every child. Unless you act, small businesses will pay higher taxes. Unless you act, the death tax will eventually come back to life. Unless you act, Americans face a tax increase. What Congress has given, the Congress should not take away. For the sake of job growth, the tax cuts you passed should be permanent. (Applause.)

Our agenda for jobs and growth must help small business owners and employees with relief from needless federal regulation, and protect them from junk and frivolous lawsuits. (Applause.)

Consumers and businesses need reliable supplies of energy to make our economy run -- so I urge you to pass legislation to modernize our electricity system, promote conservation, and make America less dependent on foreign sources of energy. (Applause.)

My administration is promoting free and fair trade to open up new markets for America's entrepreneurs and manufacturers and farmers -- to create jobs for American workers. Younger workers should have the opportunity to build a nest egg by saving part of their Social Security taxes in a personal retirement account. (Applause.) We should make the Social Security system a source of ownership for the American people. (Applause.) And we should limit the burden of government on this economy by acting as good stewards of taxpayers' dollars. (Applause.)

In two weeks, I will send you a budget that funds the war, protects the homeland, and meets important domestic needs, while limiting the growth in discretionary spending to less than 4 percent. (Applause.) This will require that Congress focus on priorities, cut wasteful spending, and be wise with the people's money. By doing so, we can cut the deficit in half over the next five years. (Applause.)

Tonight, I also ask you to reform our immigration laws so they reflect our values and benefit our economy. I propose a new temporary worker program to match willing foreign workers with willing employers when no Americans can be found to fill the job. This reform will be good for our economy because employers will find needed workers in an honest and orderly system. A temporary worker program will help protect our homeland, allowing Border Patrol and law enforcement to focus on true threats to our national security.

I oppose amnesty, because it would encourage further illegal immigration, and unfairly reward those who break our laws. My temporary worker program will preserve the citizenship path for

those who respect the law, while bringing millions of hardworking men and women out from the shadows of American life. (Applause.)

Our nation's health care system, like our economy, is also in a time of change. Amazing medical technologies are improving and saving lives. This dramatic progress has brought its own challenge, in the rising costs of medical care and health insurance. Members of Congress, we must work together to help control those costs and extend the benefits of modern medicine throughout our country. (Applause.)

Meeting these goals requires bipartisan effort, and two months ago, you showed the way. By strengthening Medicare and adding a prescription drug benefit, you kept a basic commitment to our seniors: You are giving them the modern medicine they deserve. (Applause.)

Starting this year, under the law you passed, seniors can choose to receive a drug discount card, saving them 10 to 25 percent off the retail price of most prescription drugs -- and millions of low-income seniors can get an additional \$600 to buy medicine. Beginning next year, seniors will have new coverage for preventive screenings against diabetes and heart disease, and seniors just entering Medicare can receive wellness exams.

In January of 2006, seniors can get prescription drug coverage under Medicare. For a monthly premium of about \$35, most seniors who do not have that coverage today can expect to see their drug bills cut roughly in half. Under this reform, senior citizens will be able to keep their Medicare just as it is, or they can choose a Medicare plan that fits them best -- just as you, as members of Congress, can choose an insurance plan that meets your needs. And starting this year, millions of Americans will be able to save money tax-free for their medical expenses in a health savings account. (Applause.)

I signed this measure proudly, and any attempt to limit the choices of our seniors, or to take away their prescription drug coverage under Medicare, will meet my veto. (Applause.)

On the critical issue of health care, our goal is to ensure that Americans can choose and afford private health care coverage that best fits their individual needs. To make insurance more affordable, Congress must act to address rapidly rising health care costs. Small businesses should be able to band together and negotiate for lower insurance rates, so they can cover more workers with health insurance. I urge you to pass association health plans. (Applause.) I ask you to give lower-income Americans a refundable tax credit that would allow millions to buy their own basic health insurance. (Applause.)

By computerizing health records, we can avoid dangerous medical mistakes, reduce costs, and improve care. To protect the doctor-patient relationship, and keep good doctors doing good work, we must eliminate wasteful and frivolous medical lawsuits. (Applause.) And tonight I propose that individuals who buy catastrophic health care coverage, as part of our new health savings accounts, be allowed to deduct 100 percent of the premiums from their taxes. (Applause.)

A government-run health care system is the wrong prescription. (Applause.) By keeping costs under control, expanding access, and helping more Americans afford coverage, we will preserve the system of private medicine that makes America's health care the best in the world. (Applause.)

We are living in a time of great change -- in our world, in our economy, in science and medicine. Yet some things endure -- courage and compassion, reverence and integrity, respect for differences of faith and race. The values we try to live by never change. And they are instilled in us by fundamental institutions, such as families and schools and religious congregations. These institutions, these unseen pillars of civilization, must remain strong in America, and we will defend them. We must stand with our families to help them raise healthy, responsible children. When it comes to helping children make right choices, there is work for all of us to do.

One of the worst decisions our children can make is to gamble their lives and futures on drugs. Our government is helping parents confront this problem with aggressive education, treatment, and law enforcement. Drug use in high school has declined by 11 percent over the last two years. Four hundred thousand fewer young people are using illegal drugs than in the year 2001. (Applause.) In my budget, I proposed new funding to continue our aggressive, community-based strategy to reduce demand for illegal drugs. Drug testing in our schools has proven to be an effective part of this effort. So tonight I proposed an additional \$23 million for schools that want to use drug testing as a tool to save children's lives. The aim here is not to punish children, but to send them this message: We love you, and we don't want to lose you. (Applause.)

To help children make right choices, they need good examples. Athletics play such an important role in our society, but, unfortunately, some in professional sports are not setting much of an example. The use of performance-enhancing drugs like steroids in baseball, football, and other sports is dangerous, and it sends the wrong message -- that there are shortcuts to accomplishment, and that performance is more important than character. So tonight I call on team owners, union representatives, coaches, and players to take the lead, to send the right signal, to get tough, and to get rid of steroids now. (Applause.)

To encourage right choices, we must be willing to confront the dangers young people face -- even when they're difficult to talk about. Each year, about 3 million teenagers contract sexually-transmitted diseases that can harm them, or kill them, or prevent them from ever becoming parents. In my budget, I propose a grassroots campaign to help inform families about these medical risks. We will double federal funding for abstinence programs, so schools can teach this fact of life: Abstinence for young people is the only certain way to avoid sexually-transmitted diseases. (Applause.)

Decisions children now make can affect their health and character for the rest of their lives. All of us -- parents and schools and government -- must work together to counter the negative influence of the culture, and to send the right messages to our children.

A strong America must also value the institution of marriage. I believe we should respect individuals as we take a principled stand for one of the most fundamental, enduring institutions of our civilization. Congress has already taken a stand on this issue by passing the Defense of Marriage Act, signed in 1996 by President Clinton. That statute protects marriage under federal law as a union of a man and a woman, and declares that one state may not redefine marriage for other states.

Activist judges, however, have begun redefining marriage by court order, without regard for the will of the people and their elected representatives. On an issue of such great consequence, the people's voice must be heard. If judges insist on forcing their arbitrary will upon the people, the

only alternative left to the people would be the constitutional process. Our nation must defend the sanctity of marriage. (Applause.)

The outcome of this debate is important -- and so is the way we conduct it. The same moral tradition that defines marriage also teaches that each individual has dignity and value in God's sight. (Applause.)

It's also important to strengthen our communities by unleashing the compassion of America's religious institutions. Religious charities of every creed are doing some of the most vital work in our country -- mentoring children, feeding the hungry, taking the hand of the lonely. Yet government has often denied social service grants and contracts to these groups, just because they have a cross or a Star of David or a crescent on the wall. By executive order, I have opened billions of dollars in grant money to competition that includes faith-based charities. Tonight I ask you to codify this into law, so people of faith can know that the law will never discriminate against them again. (Applause.)

In the past, we've worked together to bring mentors to children of prisoners, and provide treatment for the addicted, and help for the homeless. Tonight I ask you to consider another group of Americans in need of help. This year, some 600,000 inmates will be released from prison back into society. We know from long experience that if they can't find work, or a home, or help, they are much more likely to commit crime and return to prison. So tonight, I propose a four-year, \$300 million prisoner re-entry initiative to expand job training and placement services, to provide transitional housing, and to help newly released prisoners get mentoring, including from faith-based groups. (Applause.) America is the land of second chance, and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life. (Applause.)

For all Americans, the last three years have brought tests we did not ask for, and achievements shared by all. By our actions, we have shown what kind of nation we are. In grief, we have found the grace to go on. In challenge, we rediscovered the courage and daring of a free people. In victory, we have shown the noble aims and good heart of America. And having come this far, we sense that we live in a time set apart.

I've been witness to the character of the people of America, who have shown calm in times of danger, compassion for one another, and toughness for the long haul. All of us have been partners in a great enterprise. And even some of the youngest understand that we are living in historic times. Last month a girl in Lincoln, Rhode Island, sent me a letter. It began, "Dear George W. Bush. If there's anything you know, I, Ashley Pearson, age 10, can do to help anyone, please send me a letter and tell me what I can do to save our country." She added this P.S.: "If you can send a letter to the troops, please put, 'Ashley Pearson believes in you.'" (Applause.)

Tonight, Ashley, your message to our troops has just been conveyed. And, yes, you have some duties yourself. Study hard in school, listen to your mom or dad, help someone in need, and when you and your friends see a man or woman in uniform, say, "thank you." (Applause.) And, Ashley, while you do your part, all of us here in this great chamber will do our best to keep you and the rest of America safe and free. (Applause.)

My fellow citizens, we now move forward, with confidence and faith. Our nation is strong and steadfast. The cause we serve is right, because it is the cause of all mankind. The momentum of

freedom in our world is unmistakable -- and it is not carried forward by our power alone. We can trust in that greater power who guides the unfolding of the years. And in all that is to come, we can know that His purposes are just and true.

May God continue to bless America. (Applause.)

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 6, 2004

Sir: DPC will
brief you on this
issue soon. This
memo is to give you
a status report.

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: MARGARET SPELLINGS
FROM: DIANA SCHACHT
SUBJECT: H-2B NON-IMMIGRANT WORKER VISA STATUS

4/7/04

Purpose

By March 9 of this year, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had received in excess of 100,000 petitions for H-2B visas. DHS has determined that, from this pool of applications, the number that will be approved is large enough to exhaust the annual limit of 66,000 H-2B visas. Consequently, DHS has ceased accepting visa petitions for work to be performed during fiscal year 2004. This is the first time in the H-2B program's history that access has been interrupted due to excess demand. Absent statutory action, many traditional users of the H-2B program -- particularly those whose needs arise in the summer season -- will be unable legally to match unfilled jobs with foreign labor. This memo is to update you on possible statutory and administrative responses to this situation.

Background

Current law permits the issuance of 66,000 visas per year to foreign non-agricultural workers coming temporarily to the United States to work in jobs for which the employer cannot find an American worker. By regulation, these "H-2B" visas are available to individuals who will be fulfilling labor needs that are one-time occurrences, seasonal, peak load, or intermittent.

The H-2B program is most commonly used to fill labor needs of employers in sectors such as landscaping, seasonal resorts, fishing, and recreational enterprises, although other individuals such as minor league sports players also qualify for the visas. Employers may begin the labor certification process, through which they must first seek a U.S. worker, between 60 and 120 days prior to the commencement of the job need.

Legislative Proposals

Three legislative fixes have been proposed to date. The first proposal, by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R, UT) (joined by Senate Immigration Subcommittee Chairman Saxby Chambliss (R, GA)), would exempt from the annual limit of 66,000 those H-2B visas issued in fiscal year 2004 to persons whose H-2B visa was counted against the numerical

cap in one of the two prior years. This is consistent with the manner in which H-1B visas (high-tech visas) are counted. A second proposal, by Senator Edward Kennedy (D, MA), would simply increase the fiscal year 2004 cap by 40,000. The third proposal, by Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R, VA), would exempt from the fiscal year 2004 cap visas issued to workers who enter the United States to work for an employer who had employed H-2B workers in fiscal year 2003.

The Administration has not taken a position on any of these approaches, or even indicated whether it would support a legislative solution. However, the Hatch/Chambliss bill is based on the technical suggestions and informal policy preferences of working-level staff from the White House and relevant agencies. It would allow DHS to reopen the petition process immediately, because it would free up the number of visas that would otherwise be allocated to existing petitions received on behalf of prior H-2B visa holders. The result would be that the "traditional" users of the visa would continue to receive H-2B visas throughout the year without numerical limit, and the 66,000 statutory visas would all be available to new users. This approach also has the virtue of essentially creating a 3-year temporary work visa for individuals in the H-2B program, which is consistent with your broader immigration principles.

Regulatory Changes

On a parallel track, DHS and the Department of Labor (DOL) will soon propose regulations that would streamline the H-2B application process as follows:

- Merge employer applications to DOL and DHS into one application. With limited exceptions, employers would no longer be required to obtain labor certification from DOL before they seek DHS approval to employ an H-2B worker. Instead, as part of their petitions to DHS, employers would attest to their compliance with H-2B program requirements. These petitions would be submitted over the internet. Employers would continue to need DHS approval before they could petition for H-2B visas from the Department of State.
- Change the process for recruiting U.S. workers from a government-supervised procedure that occurs during the application process to a pre-application recruitment attested to in the employer's application.
- Authorize DOL to audit petitions adjudicated by DHS and ensure employer compliance with program requirements, and to recommend the debarment of employers found to have abused the program.

These regulatory changes will reduce costs and delays associated with separate DHS petition adjudication and DOL labor certification processes, and will match a U.S. employer with a qualified H-2B worker in a more timely manner. This will be of particular importance if Congressional action allows DHS to reopen the H-2B program this year, as a swift means of processing applications will be needed to make visas available for summer employment.

We will continue to monitor the progress of the various legislative proposals and report back to you when appropriate. We also have upcoming policy time scheduled with you to discuss your temporary worker program initiative and we can update you on this issue at that time.

1

Withdrawal Marker

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Memorandum	Temporary Worker Program Update - To: POTUS - From: Diana Schacht	3	05/05/2004	P5;

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For a complete list of items withdrawn from this folder, see the
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COLLECTION:

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SERIES:

Von Der Heydt, Thomas (Tommy) - Bush Record Policy Memos

FOLDER TITLE:

Immigration: A Timeline (2001 - 2008) [1]

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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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1

State of the Union Address

Chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives
The United States Capitol
Washington, D.C.

9:10 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Speaker, Vice President Cheney, members of Congress, fellow citizens:

As a new Congress gathers, all of us in the elected branches of government share a great privilege: We've been placed in office by the votes of the people we serve. And tonight that is a privilege we share with newly-elected leaders of Afghanistan, the Palestinian Territories, Ukraine, and a free and sovereign Iraq. (Applause.)

Two weeks ago, I stood on the steps of this Capitol and renewed the commitment of our nation to the guiding ideal of liberty for all. This evening I will set forth policies to advance that ideal at home and around the world.

Tonight, with a healthy, growing economy, with more Americans going back to work, with our nation an active force for good in the world -- the state of our union is confident and strong. (Applause.)

Our generation has been blessed -- by the expansion of opportunity, by advances in medicine, by the security purchased by our parents' sacrifice. Now, as we see a little gray in the mirror -- or a lot of gray -- (laughter) -- and we watch our children moving into adulthood, we ask the question: What will be the state of their union? Members of Congress, the choices we make together will answer that question. Over the next several months, on issue after issue, let us do what Americans have always done, and build a better world for our children and our grandchildren. (Applause.)

First, we must be good stewards of this economy, and renew the great institutions on which millions of our fellow citizens rely. America's economy is the fastest growing of any major industrialized nation. In the past four years, we provided tax relief to every person who pays income taxes, overcome a recession, opened up new markets abroad, prosecuted corporate criminals, raised homeownership to its highest level in history, and in the last year alone, the United States has added 2.3 million new jobs. (Applause.) When action was needed, the Congress delivered -- and the nation is grateful.

Now we must add to these achievements. By making our economy more flexible, more innovative, and more competitive, we will keep America the economic leader of the world. (Applause.)

America's prosperity requires restraining the spending appetite of the federal government. I welcome the bipartisan enthusiasm for spending discipline. I will send you a budget that holds the growth of discretionary spending below inflation, makes tax relief permanent, and stays on track to cut the deficit in half by 2009. (Applause.) My budget substantially reduces or eliminates more than 150 government programs that are not getting results, or duplicate current efforts, or

do not fulfill essential priorities. The principle here is clear: Taxpayer dollars must be spent wisely, or not at all. (Applause.)

To make our economy stronger and more dynamic, we must prepare a rising generation to fill the jobs of the 21st century. Under the No Child Left Behind Act, standards are higher, test scores are on the rise, and we're closing the achievement gap for minority students. Now we must demand better results from our high schools, so every high school diploma is a ticket to success. We will help an additional 200,000 workers to get training for a better career, by reforming our job training system and strengthening America's community colleges. And we'll make it easier for Americans to afford a college education, by increasing the size of Pell Grants. (Applause.)

To make our economy stronger and more competitive, America must reward, not punish, the efforts and dreams of entrepreneurs. Small business is the path of advancement, especially for women and minorities, so we must free small businesses from needless regulation and protect honest job-creators from junk lawsuits. (Applause.) Justice is distorted, and our economy is held back by irresponsible class-actions and frivolous asbestos claims -- and I urge Congress to pass legal reforms this year. (Applause.)

To make our economy stronger and more productive, we must make health care more affordable, and give families greater access to good coverage -- (applause) -- and more control over their health decisions. (Applause.) I ask Congress to move forward on a comprehensive health care agenda with tax credits to help low-income workers buy insurance, a community health center in every poor county, improved information technology to prevent medical error and needless costs, association health plans for small businesses and their employees -- (applause) -- expanded health savings accounts -- (applause) -- and medical liability reform that will reduce health care costs and make sure patients have the doctors and care they need. (Applause.)

To keep our economy growing, we also need reliable supplies of affordable, environmentally responsible energy. (Applause.) Nearly four years ago, I submitted a comprehensive energy strategy that encourages conservation, alternative sources, a modernized electricity grid, and more production here at home -- including safe, clean nuclear energy. (Applause.) My Clear Skies legislation will cut power plant pollution and improve the health of our citizens. (Applause.) And my budget provides strong funding for leading-edge technology -- from hydrogen-fueled cars, to clean coal, to renewable sources such as ethanol. (Applause.) Four years of debate is enough: I urge Congress to pass legislation that makes America more secure and less dependent on foreign energy. (Applause.)

All these proposals are essential to expand this economy and add new jobs -- but they are just the beginning of our duty. To build the prosperity of future generations, we must update institutions that were created to meet the needs of an earlier time. Year after year, Americans are burdened by an archaic, incoherent federal tax code. I've appointed a bipartisan panel to examine the tax code from top to bottom. And when their recommendations are delivered, you and I will work together to give this nation a tax code that is pro-growth, easy to understand, and fair to all. (Applause.)

America's immigration system is also outdated -- unsuited to the needs of our economy and to the values of our country. We should not be content with laws that punish hardworking people who want only to provide for their families, and deny businesses willing workers, and invite

chaos at our border. It is time for an immigration policy that permits temporary guest workers to fill jobs Americans will not take, that rejects amnesty, that tells us who is entering and leaving our country, and that closes the border to drug dealers and terrorists. (Applause.)

One of America's most important institutions -- a symbol of the trust between generations -- is also in need of wise and effective reform. Social Security was a great moral success of the 20th century, and we must honor its great purposes in this new century. (Applause.) The system, however, on its current path, is headed toward bankruptcy. And so we must join together to strengthen and save Social Security. (Applause.)

Today, more than 45 million Americans receive Social Security benefits, and millions more are nearing retirement -- and for them the system is sound and fiscally strong. I have a message for every American who is 55 or older: Do not let anyone mislead you; for you, the Social Security system will not change in any way. (Applause.) For younger workers, the Social Security system has serious problems that will grow worse with time. Social Security was created decades ago, for a very different era. In those days, people did not live as long. Benefits were much lower than they are today. And a half-century ago, about sixteen workers paid into the system for each person drawing benefits.

Our society has changed in ways the founders of Social Security could not have foreseen. In today's world, people are living longer and, therefore, drawing benefits longer. And those benefits are scheduled to rise dramatically over the next few decades. And instead of sixteen workers paying in for every beneficiary, right now it's only about three workers. And over the next few decades that number will fall to just two workers per beneficiary. With each passing year, fewer workers are paying ever-higher benefits to an ever-larger number of retirees.

So here is the result: Thirteen years from now, in 2018, Social Security will be paying out more than it takes in. And every year afterward will bring a new shortfall, bigger than the year before. For example, in the year 2027, the government will somehow have to come up with an extra \$200 billion to keep the system afloat -- and by 2033, the annual shortfall would be more than \$300 billion. By the year 2042, the entire system would be exhausted and bankrupt. If steps are not taken to avert that outcome, the only solutions would be dramatically higher taxes, massive new borrowing, or sudden and severe cuts in Social Security benefits or other government programs.

I recognize that 2018 and 2042 may seem a long way off. But those dates are not so distant, as any parent will tell you. If you have a five-year-old, you're already concerned about how you'll pay for college tuition 13 years down the road. If you've got children in their 20s, as some of us do, the idea of Social Security collapsing before they retire does not seem like a small matter. And it should not be a small matter to the United States Congress. (Applause.) You and I share a responsibility. We must pass reforms that solve the financial problems of Social Security once and for all.

Fixing Social Security permanently will require an open, candid review of the options. Some have suggested limiting benefits for wealthy retirees. Former Congressman Tim Penny has raised the possibility of indexing benefits to prices rather than wages. During the 1990s, my predecessor, President Clinton, spoke of increasing the retirement age. Former Senator John Breaux suggested discouraging early collection of Social Security benefits. The late Senator

Daniel Patrick Moynihan recommended changing the way benefits are calculated. All these ideas are on the table.

I know that none of these reforms would be easy. But we have to move ahead with courage and honesty, because our children's retirement security is more important than partisan politics. (Applause.) I will work with members of Congress to find the most effective combination of reforms. I will listen to anyone who has a good idea to offer. (Applause.) We must, however, be guided by some basic principles. We must make Social Security permanently sound, not leave that task for another day. We must not jeopardize our economic strength by increasing payroll taxes. We must ensure that lower-income Americans get the help they need to have dignity and peace of mind in their retirement. We must guarantee there is no change for those now retired or nearing retirement. And we must take care that any changes in the system are gradual, so younger workers have years to prepare and plan for their future.

As we fix Social Security, we also have the responsibility to make the system a better deal for younger workers. And the best way to reach that goal is through voluntary personal retirement accounts. (Applause.) Here is how the idea works. Right now, a set portion of the money you earn is taken out of your paycheck to pay for the Social Security benefits of today's retirees. If you're a younger worker, I believe you should be able to set aside part of that money in your own retirement account, so you can build a nest egg for your own future.

Here's why the personal accounts are a better deal. Your money will grow, over time, at a greater rate than anything the current system can deliver -- and your account will provide money for retirement over and above the check you will receive from Social Security. In addition, you'll be able to pass along the money that accumulates in your personal account, if you wish, to your children and -- or grandchildren. And best of all, the money in the account is yours, and the government can never take it away. (Applause.)

The goal here is greater security in retirement, so we will set careful guidelines for personal accounts. We'll make sure the money can only go into a conservative mix of bonds and stock funds. We'll make sure that your earnings are not eaten up by hidden Wall Street fees. We'll make sure there are good options to protect your investments from sudden market swings on the eve of your retirement. We'll make sure a personal account cannot be emptied out all at once, but rather paid out over time, as an addition to traditional Social Security benefits. And we'll make sure this plan is fiscally responsible, by starting personal retirement accounts gradually, and raising the yearly limits on contributions over time, eventually permitting all workers to set aside four percentage points of their payroll taxes in their accounts.

Personal retirement accounts should be familiar to federal employees, because you already have something similar, called the Thrift Savings Plan, which lets workers deposit a portion of their paychecks into any of five different broadly-based investment funds. It's time to extend the same security, and choice, and ownership to young Americans. (Applause.)

Our second great responsibility to our children and grandchildren is to honor and to pass along the values that sustain a free society. So many of my generation, after a long journey, have come home to family and faith, and are determined to bring up responsible, moral children. Government is not the source of these values, but government should never undermine them.

Because marriage is a sacred institution and the foundation of society, it should not be re-defined by activist judges. For the good of families, children, and society, I support a constitutional amendment to protect the institution of marriage. (Applause.)

Because a society is measured by how it treats the weak and vulnerable, we must strive to build a culture of life. Medical research can help us reach that goal, by developing treatments and cures that save lives and help people overcome disabilities -- and I thank the Congress for doubling the funding of the National Institutes of Health. (Applause.) To build a culture of life, we must also ensure that scientific advances always serve human dignity, not take advantage of some lives for the benefit of others. We should all be able to agree -- (applause) -- we should all be able to agree on some clear standards. I will work with Congress to ensure that human embryos are not created for experimentation or grown for body parts, and that human life is never bought and sold as a commodity. (Applause.) America will continue to lead the world in medical research that is ambitious, aggressive, and always ethical.

Because courts must always deliver impartial justice, judges have a duty to faithfully interpret the law, not legislate from the bench. (Applause.) As President, I have a constitutional responsibility to nominate men and women who understand the role of courts in our democracy, and are well-qualified to serve on the bench -- and I have done so. (Applause.) The Constitution also gives the Senate a responsibility: Every judicial nominee deserves an up or down vote. (Applause.)

Because one of the deepest values of our country is compassion, we must never turn away from any citizen who feels isolated from the opportunities of America. Our government will continue to support faith-based and community groups that bring hope to harsh places. Now we need to focus on giving young people, especially young men in our cities, better options than apathy, or gangs, or jail. Tonight I propose a three-year initiative to help organizations keep young people out of gangs, and show young men an ideal of manhood that respects women and rejects violence. (Applause.) Taking on gang life will be one part of a broader outreach to at-risk youth, which involves parents and pastors, coaches and community leaders, in programs ranging from literacy to sports. And I am proud that the leader of this nationwide effort will be our First Lady, Laura Bush. (Applause.)

Because HIV/AIDS brings suffering and fear into so many lives, I ask you to reauthorize the Ryan White Act to encourage prevention, and provide care and treatment to the victims of that disease. (Applause.) And as we update this important law, we must focus our efforts on fellow citizens with the highest rates of new cases, African American men and women. (Applause.)

Because one of the main sources of our national unity is our belief in equal justice, we need to make sure Americans of all races and backgrounds have confidence in the system that provides justice. In America we must make doubly sure no person is held to account for a crime he or she did not commit -- so we are dramatically expanding the use of DNA evidence to prevent wrongful conviction. (Applause.) Soon I will send to Congress a proposal to fund special training for defense counsel in capital cases, because people on trial for their lives must have competent lawyers by their side. (Applause.)

Our third responsibility to future generations is to leave them an America that is safe from danger, and protected by peace. We will pass along to our children all the freedoms we enjoy -- and chief among them is freedom from fear.

In the three and a half years since September the 11th, 2001, we have taken unprecedented actions to protect Americans. We've created a new department of government to defend our homeland, focused the FBI on preventing terrorism, begun to reform our intelligence agencies, broken up terror cells across the country, expanded research on defenses against biological and chemical attack, improved border security, and trained more than a half-million first responders. Police and firefighters, air marshals, researchers, and so many others are working every day to make our homeland safer, and we thank them all. (Applause.)

Our nation, working with allies and friends, has also confronted the enemy abroad, with measures that are determined, successful, and continuing. The al Qaeda terror network that attacked our country still has leaders -- but many of its top commanders have been removed. There are still governments that sponsor and harbor terrorists -- but their number has declined. There are still regimes seeking weapons of mass destruction -- but no longer without attention and without consequence. Our country is still the target of terrorists who want to kill many, and intimidate us all -- and we will stay on the offensive against them, until the fight is won. (Applause.)

Pursuing our enemies is a vital commitment of the war on terror -- and I thank the Congress for providing our servicemen and women with the resources they have needed. During this time of war, we must continue to support our military and give them the tools for victory. (Applause.)

Other nations around the globe have stood with us. In Afghanistan, an international force is helping provide security. In Iraq, 28 countries have troops on the ground, the United Nations and the European Union provided technical assistance for the elections, and NATO is leading a mission to help train Iraqi officers. We're cooperating with 60 governments in the Proliferation Security Initiative, to detect and stop the transit of dangerous materials. We're working closely with the governments in Asia to convince North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and nine other countries have captured or detained al Qaeda terrorists. In the next four years, my administration will continue to build the coalitions that will defeat the dangers of our time. (Applause.)

In the long-term, the peace we seek will only be achieved by eliminating the conditions that feed radicalism and ideologies of murder. If whole regions of the world remain in despair and grow in hatred, they will be the recruiting grounds for terror, and that terror will stalk America and other free nations for decades. The only force powerful enough to stop the rise of tyranny and terror, and replace hatred with hope, is the force of human freedom. (Applause.) Our enemies know this, and that is why the terrorist Zarqawi recently declared war on what he called the "evil principle" of democracy. And we've declared our own intention: America will stand with the allies of freedom to support democratic movements in the Middle East and beyond, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world. (Applause.)

The United States has no right, no desire, and no intention to impose our form of government on anyone else. That is one of the main differences between us and our enemies. They seek to impose and expand an empire of oppression, in which a tiny group of brutal, self-appointed

rulers control every aspect of every life. Our aim is to build and preserve a community of free and independent nations, with governments that answer to their citizens, and reflect their own cultures. And because democracies respect their own people and their neighbors, the advance of freedom will lead to peace. (Applause.)

That advance has great momentum in our time -- shown by women voting in Afghanistan, and Palestinians choosing a new direction, and the people of Ukraine asserting their democratic rights and electing a president. We are witnessing landmark events in the history of liberty. And in the coming years, we will add to that story. (Applause.)

The beginnings of reform and democracy in the Palestinian territories are now showing the power of freedom to break old patterns of violence and failure. Tomorrow morning, Secretary of State Rice departs on a trip that will take her to Israel and the West Bank for meetings with Prime Minister Sharon and President Abbas. She will discuss with them how we and our friends can help the Palestinian people end terror and build the institutions of a peaceful, independent, democratic state. To promote this democracy, I will ask Congress for \$350 million to support Palestinian political, economic, and security reforms. The goal of two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace, is within reach -- and America will help them achieve that goal. (Applause.)

To promote peace and stability in the broader Middle East, the United States will work with our friends in the region to fight the common threat of terror, while we encourage a higher standard of freedom. Hopeful reform is already taking hold in an arc from Morocco to Jordan to Bahrain. The government of Saudi Arabia can demonstrate its leadership in the region by expanding the role of its people in determining their future. And the great and proud nation of Egypt, which showed the way toward peace in the Middle East, can now show the way toward democracy in the Middle East. (Applause.)

To promote peace in the broader Middle East, we must confront regimes that continue to harbor terrorists and pursue weapons of mass murder. Syria still allows its territory, and parts of Lebanon, to be used by terrorists who seek to destroy every chance of peace in the region. You have passed, and we are applying, the Syrian Accountability Act -- and we expect the Syrian government to end all support for terror and open the door to freedom. (Applause.) Today, Iran remains the world's primary state sponsor of terror -- pursuing nuclear weapons while depriving its people of the freedom they seek and deserve. We are working with European allies to make clear to the Iranian regime that it must give up its uranium enrichment program and any plutonium reprocessing, and end its support for terror. And to the Iranian people, I say tonight: As you stand for your own liberty, America stands with you. (Applause.)

Our generational commitment to the advance of freedom, especially in the Middle East, is now being tested and honored in Iraq. That country is a vital front in the war on terror, which is why the terrorists have chosen to make a stand there. Our men and women in uniform are fighting terrorists in Iraq, so we do not have to face them here at home. (Applause.) And the victory of freedom in Iraq will strengthen a new ally in the war on terror, inspire democratic reformers from Damascus to Tehran, bring more hope and progress to a troubled region, and thereby lift a terrible threat from the lives of our children and grandchildren.

We will succeed because the Iraqi people value their own liberty -- as they showed the world last Sunday. (Applause.) Across Iraq, often at great risk, millions of citizens went to the polls and elected 275 men and women to represent them in a new Transitional National Assembly. A young woman in Baghdad told of waking to the sound of mortar fire on election day, and wondering if it might be too dangerous to vote. She said, "Hearing those explosions, it occurred to me -- the insurgents are weak, they are afraid of democracy, they are losing. So I got my husband, and I got my parents, and we all came out and voted together."

Americans recognize that spirit of liberty, because we share it. In any nation, casting your vote is an act of civic responsibility; for millions of Iraqis, it was also an act of personal courage, and they have earned the respect of us all. (Applause.)

One of Iraq's leading democracy and human rights advocates is Safia Taleb al-Suhail. She says of her country, "We were occupied for 35 years by Saddam Hussein. That was the real occupation. Thank you to the American people who paid the cost, but most of all, to the soldiers." Eleven years ago, Safia's father was assassinated by Saddam's intelligence service. Three days ago in Baghdad, Safia was finally able to vote for the leaders of her country -- and we are honored that she is with us tonight. (Applause.)

The terrorists and insurgents are violently opposed to democracy, and will continue to attack it. Yet, the terrorists' most powerful myth is being destroyed. The whole world is seeing that the car bombers and assassins are not only fighting coalition forces, they are trying to destroy the hopes of Iraqis, expressed in free elections. And the whole world now knows that a small group of extremists will not overturn the will of the Iraqi people. (Applause.)

We will succeed in Iraq because Iraqis are determined to fight for their own freedom, and to write their own history. As Prime Minister Allawi said in his speech to Congress last September, "Ordinary Iraqis are anxious to shoulder all the security burdens of our country as quickly as possible." That is the natural desire of an independent nation, and it is also the stated mission of our coalition in Iraq. The new political situation in Iraq opens a new phase of our work in that country.

At the recommendation of our commanders on the ground, and in consultation with the Iraqi government, we will increasingly focus our efforts on helping prepare more capable Iraqi security forces -- forces with skilled officers and an effective command structure. As those forces become more self-reliant and take on greater security responsibilities, America and its coalition partners will increasingly be in a supporting role. In the end, Iraqis must be able to defend their own country -- and we will help that proud, new nation secure its liberty.

Recently an Iraqi interpreter said to a reporter, "Tell America not to abandon us." He and all Iraqis can be certain: While our military strategy is adapting to circumstances, our commitment remains firm and unchanging. We are standing for the freedom of our Iraqi friends, and freedom in Iraq will make America safer for generations to come. (Applause.) We will not set an artificial timetable for leaving Iraq, because that would embolden the terrorists and make them believe they can wait us out. We are in Iraq to achieve a result: A country that is democratic, representative of all its people, at peace with its neighbors, and able to defend itself. And when that result is achieved, our men and women serving in Iraq will return home with the honor they have earned. (Applause.)

Right now, Americans in uniform are serving at posts across the world, often taking great risks on my orders. We have given them training and equipment; and they have given us an example of idealism and character that makes every American proud. (Applause.) The volunteers of our military are unrelenting in battle, unwavering in loyalty, unmatched in honor and decency, and every day they're making our nation more secure. Some of our servicemen and women have survived terrible injuries, and this grateful country will do everything we can to help them recover. (Applause.) And we have said farewell to some very good men and women, who died for our freedom, and whose memory this nation will honor forever.

One name we honor is Marine Corps Sergeant Byron Norwood of Pflugerville, Texas, who was killed during the assault on Fallujah. His mom, Janet, sent me a letter and told me how much Byron loved being a Marine, and how proud he was to be on the front line against terror. She wrote, "When Byron was home the last time, I said that I wanted to protect him like I had since he was born. He just hugged me and said, 'You've done your job, Mom. Now it is my turn to protect you.'" Ladies and gentlemen, with grateful hearts, we honor freedom's defenders, and our military families, represented here this evening by Sergeant Norwood's mom and dad, Janet and Bill Norwood. (Applause.)

In these four years, Americans have seen the unfolding of large events. We have known times of sorrow, and hours of uncertainty, and days of victory. In all this history, even when we have disagreed, we have seen threads of purpose that unite us. The attack on freedom in our world has reaffirmed our confidence in freedom's power to change the world. We are all part of a great venture: To extend the promise of freedom in our country, to renew the values that sustain our liberty, and to spread the peace that freedom brings.

As Franklin Roosevelt once reminded Americans, "Each age is a dream that is dying, or one that is coming to birth." And we live in the country where the biggest dreams are born. The abolition of slavery was only a dream -- until it was fulfilled. The liberation of Europe from fascism was only a dream -- until it was achieved. The fall of imperial communism was only a dream -- until, one day, it was accomplished. Our generation has dreams of its own, and we also go forward with confidence. The road of Providence is uneven and unpredictable -- yet we know where it leads: It leads to freedom.

Thank you, and may God bless America. (Applause.)

Withdrawal Marker

The George W. Bush Library

FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Memorandum	Security Aspects of Immigration Reform - To: POTUS - From: Frances Fragos Townsend	2	06/09/2005	P5;

**This marker identifies the original location of the withdrawn item listed above.
For a complete list of items withdrawn from this folder, see the
Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet at the front of the folder.**

COLLECTION:

Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

SERIES:

Von Der Heydt, Thomas (Tommy) - Bush Record Policy Memos

FOLDER TITLE:

Immigration: A Timeline (2001 - 2008) [1]

FRC ID:

13894

OA Num.:

14457

NARA Num.:

14246

RESTRICTION CODES**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

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DHS White Paper
Border Enforcement and Security Initiative
June 8, 2005

Summary

The Administration is assessing an integrated immigration and border-security initiative with two interdependent goals: (1) achieve control of our borders and illegal immigration; and (2) alter the current immigration dynamics by implementing the Administration's proposed Temporary Worker Program (TWP). The overall goal of this two-part initiative is to serve the economic needs of the nation, honor our history of compassion and openness to immigration, and meet the post-9/11 necessity to improve border security.

This White Paper provides an overview of the security component, the Border Enforcement and Security Initiative (BESI), to achieve control of our borders and illegal immigration. BESI has four component parts:

- Transformational investment in technology and infrastructure for border security;
- Significant increases in border enforcement staffing;
- More robust interior enforcement; and
- More effective coordination among Federal, state, local, tribal, and international enforcement partners.

Objective

Achieving control of the border requires the capability to prevent virtually all illegal immigration across our borders. In the short-term, BESI will reduce illegal immigration by deploying additional technology and enforcement staff to the border, and will place additional agents in interior enforcement. Also in the short-term, DHS will complete a comprehensive acquisition plan for major technological investments that support this effort. Beginning with the FY 2007 Budget, BESI will begin deployment of the new, highly networked combination of sophisticated technology, enforcement infrastructure, and staff targeted to break human-smuggling rings and successfully interdict illegal immigration. BESI will also likely constitute a significant deterrence to illegal immigration.

A Two-Phase Program Structure

This initiative would be implemented in two phases. Phase I would begin immediately using existing funds; the FY 2006 House Appropriations markup provides more than was requested in your budget, but we are prepared to support the higher funding level.

Planning for Phase II – an intensive program of transformational technology investment – would be launched immediately through a dedicated Integrated BESI Program Office created at DHS.

In FY 2005 and FY 2006, DHS will clearly establish capital investment needs for existing and next-generation technology and infrastructure, as well as for additional staffing necessary to implement the new capital investment strategy. This will entail an accelerated, comprehensive review of all relevant DHS legacy assets (including current technology and infrastructure) and of

the existing model for border and interior enforcement at DHS. This review will focus primarily on DHS assets, although DOJ assets and staffing will also be assessed.

Transformational Technology and Infrastructure Investment (2007-2010)

A core objective of BESI is to design and acquire technology and infrastructure assets needed to achieve operational awareness and control of the border. BESI will allow DHS to field the most effective mix of current and next-generation technology with the corresponding mix of appropriately trained personnel. This will allow us to identify, assess, and respond adroitly to those who seek to cross our borders illegally.

BESI acquisitions will take advantage of state-of-the-art technology and actively encourage testing and deployment of next-generation technologies needed for border control. A premium will be placed on tested, proven technology. New capabilities will be sought, for example, by integrating multiple state-of-the-art systems and sensor arrays into a single detection suite. Current and future technology and infrastructure tools include:

- Unattended ground sensors;
- Video detection devices;
- Unmanned aerial vehicle, aerostat balloon or satellite imagery;
- Biometric screening systems;
- Radio-frequency identification technology;
- Global positioning systems;
- Electro-magnetic impulse technology for controlling high-speed pursuits;
- Enhanced and interoperable communications systems; and
- Barriers to block vehicle access between points of entry.

In 2005 and 2006, DHS will continue the deployment of detection technology to high-risk crossing areas. Based on a comprehensive review, the new technology and infrastructure deployments would begin in FY 2007, and be completed within three years.

Combined Enforcement Staffing (2005-2006)

While technology enhancements will be a principal component of BESI, in the near-term we also propose to hire a substantial number of new enforcement personnel to provide an immediate, significant boost to the Department's ability to control the border. Under Phase I staffing (to be implemented in FY 2005 and FY 2006), DHS would deploy a total additional force of 3,261 border- and immigration-enforcement personnel, including border patrol agents, interior investigators, enforcement and removal staff, and other professionals (see Tables 1 and 2, below).

It is anticipated that the FY 2007 through FY 2013 budgets will include additional enforcement staffing, but it is premature to estimate these future staffing requirements before we have determined our technological and infrastructure needs.

Technology and Infrastructure Enhancements (2005-2006)

Most major technology and infrastructure investments would be rolled into Phase II of the BESI. Existing customs-and-border-protection enforcement technology procurements would be incorporated into BESI, and all pending procurements modified as appropriate and folded into BESI. Near-term acquisitions already provided for in the FY 2005 and FY 2006 Budgets would be continued.

Under Phase I, DHS will also continue to apply proven tools to augment border infrastructure, including vehicle barriers, fencing, and lighting. Near-term testing and deployment of UAV surveillance technology will continue, though a longer-term strategy for acquisition of such assets will be part of the Phase II procurement. Implementation of Phase I will improve DHS' ability to detect illegal border crossings.

Finally, DHS would also implement expanded and streamlined expedited removal proceedings between ports of entry in all Border Patrol Sectors and would immediately begin detaining and removing the vast majority of non-Mexican illegal aliens. Current expedited removal proceedings authorize DHS officers at the port of entry to order an alien's removal from the country, rather than an immigration judge, and judicial review of such a determination is significantly limited. The Secretary of DHS has also expanded the use of expedited removal for those aliens who have illegally entered into the United States, been in the United States for less than 14 days, and are encountered within 100 miles of the U.S. border.

More Effective Law Enforcement Coordination

DHS planning for BESI will include working closely with all interagency partners (Federal, state, local, and tribal) as well as Canada and Mexico to tighten working relationships and achieve more effective law enforcement coordination. That coordination includes technological as well as programmatic enhancements.

In addition to ongoing law enforcement coordination initiatives, DHS provides the following examples of initiatives that should be part of BESI.

- Provide statutory enhancements to strengthen enforcement efforts;
- Expansion of 287(g) state and local law enforcement agreements;
- Expanded implementation of Interior Repatriation (will commence this week);
- Enhance Government of Mexico Border Enforcement Authority (with a special focus on joint work to stop human trafficking and smuggling);
- Increase enforcement efforts against document fraud and asylum fraud; and
- Enhanced employment verification systems.

Table 1: Phase I Enacted and Proposed New Staffing, FY 2005-2006

Fiscal Year and Appropriations Vehicle		Border Patrol Agents	ICE Special Agents	Other*
FY 2005 Enacted		---	105	574
FY 2005 Supplemental		<u>500</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>168</u>
Subtotal:		500	155	742
FY 2006 Budget Request		210	140	133
FY 2006 BESI Proposal add		<u>790</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>441</u>
Subtotal:		1,000	290	574
TOTAL:		1,500	445	1,316
GRAND TOTAL (Phase I) =			3,261	

* Includes Immigration Enforcement Agents, Detention Officers and attorneys supporting investigative and removal activity.

Table 2: Estimated BESI Budget Requirements (Dollars in Millions), FY 2006

Enforcement Item	FY 2005 Enacted		FY 2005 Supp		FY 2006 Budget Request		BESI Proposal add		Grand Total	
	staff	cost	staff	cost	staff	cost	staff	cost	staff	cost
Border Patrol Agents	---	---	500	\$124m	210	\$37m	790	\$150m	1,500	\$311m
ICE Special Agents	105	\$21m	50	\$8m	140	\$18m	150	\$19m	445	\$66m
Other staff	574	\$123m	168	\$21m	133	\$41m	441	\$89m	1,316	\$274m
New Detention Bed Space	---	---	1,950	\$64m	1,920	\$63m	1,920	\$63m	5,790	\$190m
Total Staff and Funding	679	\$144m	718	\$217m	483	\$159m	1,381	\$321m	3,261	\$841m

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6/9/05

Immigration Reform

**Border Security, Interior Enforcement,
and the Security Aspects of the
Temporary Worker Program**

June 9, 2005

Purpose

- Discuss the challenges of illegal immigration.
- Review security principles for immigration reform.
- Provide recommendations to:
 - enhance border security against illegal entry;
 - bolster interior enforcement against illegal aliens and the employers who hire them; and
 - outline security elements that will be necessary as components of the Temporary Worker Program (TWP).

The Challenges

- Approximately 11-million illegal immigrants, increasing by over 500K per year.
- Illegal immigrant population composed of approximately 1/3 overstays and 2/3 illegal entry.
- 97% of illegal entry occurs at Southwest Border; 70% of those crossing are smuggled in or trafficked.
- Security force in place along the border is insufficient. Illegal entry leaves us vulnerable to entry of terrorists and other criminals into the U.S.
- Immigrants living outside legal channels can more easily engage in terrorist and criminal activity.

Security Principles

- A bold, sustained effort is necessary to gain operational control of the border.

Includes: Awareness; Interdiction Capability; Processing and Detention; and Deportation.

- Increased security is dependent upon integrating border security, interior enforcement, and TWP – all are mutually dependent.
- Additional foreign cooperation, especially from Mexico, will complement efforts to reduce the flow of illegal immigration.
 - Reduce flow across Southern Border of Mexico.
 - Focus on criminal exploitation by human traffickers.

Border Enforcement and Security Initiative (BESI)

- BESI is a DHS proposal to achieve control of our borders and illegal immigration.
- Four necessary components:
 - Transformational investment in technology and infrastructure for border security.
 - Significant increases in border enforcement staffing.
 - More robust interior enforcement.
 - More effective coordination among Federal, state, local, tribal, and international enforcement partners.

BESI - A Two-Phase Program

- Phase I (FYs 2005-2006):

Deploy significant additional enforcement staff to the border, and place additional agents in interior enforcement (3,261 new agents and supporting staff).

Launch a comprehensive acquisition plan for major technological investments and infrastructure.

Establish a Program Office to manage this large-scale effort.

- Phase II (FYs 2007-2010):

Deploy a new, highly networked combination of next-generation technology, enforcement infrastructure, and enforcement agents.

Phase I: Combined Enforcement Staffing

Enacted and Proposed New Staffing
FY 2005-2006

Fiscal Year and Appropriations Vehicle	Border Patrol Agents	ICE Special Agents	Other*
FY 2005 Enacted	---	105	574
FY 2005 Supplemental	500	50	168
Subtotal:	500	155	742
FY 2006 Budget Request	210	140	133
FY 2006 BESI Proposal add	790	150	441
Subtotal:	1,000	290	574
TOTAL:	1,500	445	1,316

GRAND TOTAL (Phase I) =

3,261

* Includes Immigration Enforcement Agents, Detention Officers and attorneys supporting investigative and removal activity.

Note: Currently there are 6,019 ICE Special Agents and 10,986 Border Patrol Agents.

Phase II: Technology & Infrastructure Investment

- Includes current and next-generation technology, with the corresponding mix of personnel.
- Utilizes current technology and supports deployment of necessary next-generation technologies.
- Investment in technology and infrastructure may include:
 - Unattended ground sensors.
 - Video detection devices.
 - Unmanned aerial vehicle, aerostat balloon, or satellite imagery.
 - Biometric screening systems.
 - Radio-frequency identification technology.
 - Global positioning systems.
 - Electro-magnetic impulse technology for controlling high-speed pursuits.
 - Enhanced and interoperable communications systems.
 - Barriers to block vehicle access between points of entry.

Phase II: More Effective Law Enforcement Coordination

- Close and effective law enforcement coordination between Federal, state, local, and tribal partners is vital. Potential ideas include:

- Enhance statutes to strengthen enforcement efforts (e.g., statutory authorization for ICE to use Social Security Administration "No-Match" records).

- Expand 287(g) state and local law enforcement agreements.

- Implement expanded and mandatory interior repatriation program to directly repatriate Mexican nationals who illegally entered.

- Expand Expedited Removal under its current parameters, between ports of entry in all Border Patrol Sectors.

- Work with Mexico to enhance Government of Mexico Border Enforcement Authority.

- Increase enforcement efforts against document fraud and asylum fraud.

Resources Dedicated To Immigration Enforcement

- 2001-05: Immigration enforcement funding increased by \$825M (31%).
- 2005 Supplemental: Additional \$269M, which includes 500 additional Border Patrol Agents, 50 criminal investigators, and 1,950 detention beds.
- House-passed funding bill for 2006 provides:
 - \$4.2B for immigration enforcement activities (19% increase over FY 2005).
 - \$390M for US-VISIT (a 15% increase over FY 2005).
 - \$2.3B for Border Patrol. (Since 2001, funding for Border Patrol has increased by \$704 million (43%)). The number of Border Patrol Agents is projected to increase by nearly 2,700, resulting in 12,240 Border Patrol Agents in FY 2006. Also, \$1.7 billion for ICE enforcement activities.
- The Senate will begin committee action on 2006 funding on June 14th.
- FY 07 and Beyond: This plan implies significant future expenditures for enhanced security efforts and TWP.

Proposed funding increases for Border Enforcement (funding in millions)

	2005 Supplemental		2006 President's Budget		2006 House Action	
	Item	cost	Item	cost	Item	cost
Border Patrol Agents	500 agents	\$124	210 agents	\$37	1,000 agents	\$187
Border Technology	-	-	sensors/ cameras	\$20	sensors/ cameras	\$20
ICE Investigators	50	\$8	140	\$18	290	\$37
Detention Beds	1,950	\$64	1,920	\$63	3,840	\$126
ICE Staff/Initiatives	168	\$23	133	\$41	574	\$130
Total	\$269		\$179		\$500	



TWP Security Elements

(Efficient Identification; Worksite Enforcement; Return)

- Biometric screening for admittance (e.g., ten fingerprint background checks).
- Ease of identification (i.e., tamper-resistant, biometrically enabled TWP documentation).
- Incentives to return home post-TWP.
- Prompt Expulsion Procedures for TWP Aliens.
- Country certification (e.g., acceptance of deportations).
- No real, or perceived, amnesty.

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President Signs Homeland Security Appropriations Act for 2006

The East Room

1:33 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all. Please be seated. Thanks for coming. Welcome to the White House.

The most solemn duty of the President and the Congress is to protect the American people. To help meet this responsibility we created the Department of Homeland Security. This department united 22 federal agencies under a single command with a clear mission, to protect the American homeland.

To protect our homeland we tore down legal and bureaucratic walls that separated our intelligence agents from our law enforcement officers. We disrupted terrorist planning and financing, as a result of the reforms. We've used the Patriot Act to break up terror cells and prosecute terrorist operatives and supporters. At the same time, the Department of Homeland Security, by working with the United States Congress, has increased the number of people guarding our borders, hardened security at our airports and seaports and bridges and tunnels and water treatment facilities and nuclear plants. We've helped give those most likely to encounter terrorists, our partners in local and state government, the tools they need to do their job.

The bill I sign today supports our ongoing efforts to protect our homeland with \$30.8 billion in discretionary funding for fiscal year 2006, an increase of \$1.8 billion over the 2005 levels. This bill will help us identify terrorists seeking to enter our country, safeguard our cities against weapons of mass destruction, and better prepare the federal government to respond to catastrophic attack.

The bill also includes \$7.5 billion in vital funding to address the serious problem of illegal immigration. We're going to get control of our borders. We'll make this country safer for all our citizens. (Applause.)

I want to thank Secretary Mike Chertoff for the job he's doing. I want to welcome Josh Bolten, Director of OMB. He's the money man. (Laughter.) I appreciate Ambassador John Negroponte for joining us, the Director of National Intelligence; Director Porter Goss of the CIA; Vice Admiral Scott Redd, Director of the National Counterterrorism Center. I want to thank the members of Congress who are up here with me -- Thad Cochran of Mississippi, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee; Senator Judd Gregg, Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security; Senator John Kyl, Chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee.

I want to thank the members of the House who've joined me up here: Congressman Hal Rogers, Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security; Congressman Pete King; Congressman John Shadegg; Congressman Chet Edwards, who happens to be my Congressman; Congressman Sanford Bishop; Congressman Sheila Jackson-Lee. Thank you all for joining us. I appreciate so many members of the House and Senate who have joined us here today. Thank you for working hard on this good bill.

I appreciate Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Rebekah Salazar, who's joined us on stage. Thank you. Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Elizabeth Briones, as well as Patrol Agent in Charge Felix Chavez.

They all work for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Thanks for representing the good folks -- (applause.) I appreciate those first responders who've joined us today. Thanks for bringing honor to -- (applause.)

To defend this country, we've got to enforce our borders. When our borders are not secure, terrorists and drug dealers and criminals find it easier to come to America. This administration is going to work with Congress to make sure we do our job, and that starts with having a clear strategy. And here's how the strategy has got to be: We've got to strengthen security along our borders to stop people from entering illegally. In other words, we've got to stop people from coming here in the first place. Secondly -- (applause) -- secondly, we must improve our ability to find and apprehend illegal immigrants who have made it across the border. If somebody is here illegally, we've got to do everything we can to find them. And thirdly, we've got to work to ensure that those who are caught are returned to their home countries as soon as possible. The bill I sign today will provide critical resources for all these efforts.

For the past four years, we've worked with Congress to implement the strategy. To stop illegal immigrants from coming into the country, we've increased manpower, we've upgraded technology, and we've improved the physical barriers along our border. In other words, we've worked together to implement the strategy.

Since I've been in office, we've increased funding for border security by 60 percent, and we've hired more than 1,900 new Border Patrol agents. We've employed new technology to help our agents do their job -- from unmanned aircraft, to ground sensors, to infrared cameras. We've made better use of physical structures to help our agents do their job. We've taken steps to complete a 14-mile fence running along the San Diego border with Mexico.

Stopping people from crossing our borders illegally is only part of the strategy. The other part of our strategy is enforcing our immigration laws. Since 2001, we've increased funding for immigration enforcement by 35 percent. We've added nearly 1,000 new agents and criminal investigators to help us find and return illegal immigrants. We've targeted violent criminal gangs, whose members are here illegally.

Under a new program launched in February, our Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents have arrested nearly 1,400 illegal immigrant gang members. And this country owes them a debt of gratitude for working so hard to protect our citizens. We're going after criminal organizations and coyotes that traffic in human beings. These people are the worst of the worst. They prey on innocent life. They take advantage of people who want to embetter their own lives.

And we're working hard. In Arizona, we prosecuted more than 2,300 people for smuggling drugs, guns and illegal immigrants across our borders. And I want to thank the federal officers, as well as the folks from Arizona, both local and state, who have made this kind of work possible.

As part of our enforcement efforts, we're working to send the illegal immigrants we catch back to their home countries as soon as possible. It's one thing to catch them, it's the next thing to get them back home. To make progress -- to make our progress more effective, we're going to work with -- we'll continue to work with foreign governments to have their counsel officers review cases and issue travel documents more quickly -- in other words, to expedite the return.

These efforts are getting results. Since 2001, we've removed several million illegal immigrants from the United States, including nearly 300,000 with criminal records. Our Border Patrol and Immigration Enforcement officers are really doing good work. Yet today we capture many more illegal immigrants than we can send home, especially non-Mexicans. And one of the biggest reasons for that is we don't have enough bed space in our detention facilities. When there's no bed space available, non-Mexicans who are caught entering our country illegally are given a slip that tells them to come back for a court appearance. And guess what -- they don't come back.

And so this bill -- and by the way, as a result of that -- this process, the lack of beds, the lack of detention facility, we return home only 30,000 of the 160,000 non-Mexican illegal immigrants we caught coming through our Southwest border. And the system is not fair to those who are working the border. You got agents working hard to do their job, the job Americans expect; 160,000 non-Mexican illegal immigrants were caught, yet only 30,000 of them went home.

And so the bill I sign today -- and I appreciate Congress' work on this matter -- will help us expand our reach and effectiveness in two important ways. First, the bill provides more than \$2.3 billion for the Border Patrol so we can keep more illegal immigrants from getting into this country. In other words, we're expanding the number of agents in a rational, planned way. This bill gives \$139 million to improve our technology and intelligence capabilities, including portable imaging machines, and cameras and sensors and automated targeting systems that focus on high-risk travelers and goods. In other words, we've increased the number of people, but we've given them new technology so they can better do their job.

The bill also includes \$82 million to improve and expand Border Patrol stations and \$70 million to install and improve fencing, lighting, vehicle barriers and roads. What I'm saying is Congress did good work in helping us build a smarter system, so we can say to the American people, we're doing our job of securing our border.

Secondly, the bill provides \$3.7 billion for immigration and customs enforcement, so we can find and return the illegal immigrants who are here. This bill will fund the hiring of 100 new immigration enforcement agents and 250 criminal investigators.

As a result of the bill I'm about to sign, we're going to add nearly 2,000 new beds to our detention facilities. That will bring the number of beds up to nearly 20,000. This will allow us to hold more non-Mexican illegal immigrants while we process them through a program we call "expedited removal." Putting more of these non-Mexican illegal immigrants through expedited removal is crucial to ending the problem of catch-and-release. As Secretary Chertoff told the Senate earlier this morning, our goal is clear: to return every single illegal entrant, with no exceptions. And this bill gets us on the way to do that.

For Mexicans who cross into America illegally, we have a different strategy. Now most of the 900,000 illegal immigrants from Mexico who are caught each year are immediately escorted back across the border. The problem is, these illegal immigrants are able to find another coyote, or human smuggler, and they come right back in. One part of the solution is a program called "interior repatriation," where we fly or bus Mexican illegal immigrants all the way back to their hometowns. See, many of these folks are coming from the interior of Mexico. And so the farther away from the border we send them, the more difficult it will be for them to turn around and cross right back into America. By returning Mexicans to their homes, far away from desert

crossings, we're helping to save lives. These efforts are going to help us enforce our borders, and I want to thank you for your good work.

As we improve and expand our efforts to secure our borders, we must also recognize that enforcement work -- that enforcement cannot work unless it is part of a larger comprehensive immigration reform program. If an employer has a job that no American is willing to take, we need to find a way to fill that demand by matching willing employers with willing workers from foreign countries on a temporary and legal basis. The best way to do that is through a temporary worker program that gives those workers we need a legal, honest way to come into our country and to return home. I'm going to work with members of Congress to create a program that can provide for our economy's labor needs, without harming American workers, without providing amnesty, and that will improve our ability to control our borders.

You see, we got people sneaking into our country to work. They want to provide for their families. Family values do not stop at the Rio Grande River. People are coming to put food on the table. But because there is no legal way for them to do so, through a temporary worker program, they're putting pressure on our border. It makes sense to have a rational plan that says, you can come and work on a temporary basis if an employer can't find an American to do the job. It makes sense for the employer, it makes sense for the worker, and it makes sense for those good people trying to enforce our border. The fewer people trying to sneak in to work means it's more likely we're going to catch drug smugglers and terrorists and gun runners.

A critical part of any temporary worker program is work site enforcement. To deal with employers who violate our immigration law, this bill strengthens our enforcement capabilities by adding new agents and doubling their resources. We've got to crack down on employers who flout our laws. And we will give honest employers the tools they need to spot fake documents and ensure that their workers are respecting our laws. America is a country of laws, and we're going to uphold our laws for the good of the citizens of this country. (Applause.)

The bill I'm about to sign funds a lot of important programs. It helps people do the job they've been called on to do, which is to protect the American people. A key component of this bill is to make sure we enforce the borders of the United States of America. And I want to thank the authors of the bill, those who have worked hard to get this bill to my desk, for putting forth a rational plan, a way to do our job.

We've got a lot of work to do in this country. There are enemies still out there who want to hurt us. But this bill is a step toward all of us -- Republicans and Democrats -- being able to say to the American people, we're coming together to do the best job we can possibly do to protect this country.

Again, I want to thank the members for being here. Thanks for your good work. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless our country. (Applause.)

(The bill is signed.)

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President's Radio Address

In Focus: Homeland Security

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This week I signed into law a bill that supports our ongoing efforts to defend our homeland.

To defend this country, we have to enforce our borders. When our borders are not secure, terrorists, drug dealers, and criminals find it easier to sneak into America. My administration has a clear strategy for dealing with this problem: We want to stop people from crossing into America illegally, and to quickly return the illegal immigrants we catch back to their home countries.

For the past four years, we've been implementing this strategy. To stop illegal immigrants from coming across our borders, we've added manpower, upgraded our technology, and taken the final steps necessary to complete a 14-mile barrier running along the San Diego border with Mexico. To enforce our immigration laws within our borders, we've hired more immigration agents, gone after criminal gangs, and targeted smugglers and coyotes who traffic in human beings. We are getting results: Since 2001, we have removed more than 4.8 million illegal immigrants from the United States, including more than 300,000 with criminal records.

Our border patrol and immigration agents are doing a fine job, but we still have a problem. Too many illegal immigrants are coming in, and we're capturing many more non-Mexican illegal immigrants than we can send home. And one of the biggest reasons we cannot send them back is that we lack space in our detention facilities to hold them until they are removed. When there's no bed available, non-Mexicans who are caught entering our country illegally are given a slip that tells them to come back for a court appearance. Most never show up. And then they disappear back into the shadows of our communities. This is called "catch-and-release," and it is unacceptable.

The bill I signed includes \$7.5 billion that will help us address the problem of illegal immigration in two important ways. First, it provides more than \$2.3 billion for the Border Patrol so we can keep more illegal immigrants from getting into the country in the first place. These funds will help us hire a thousand new border patrol agents, improve our technology and intelligence, expand and improve Border Patrol stations, and install and improve fencing, lighting, vehicle barriers, and roads along our border areas. I appreciate the help Congress has given us for our common goal of creating more secure borders.

Second, this bill also provides \$3.7 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement so we can find and return the illegal immigrants who are entering our country. With these funds, we can expand the holding capacity of our detention facilities by 10 percent. This will allow us to hold more non-Mexican illegal immigrants while we process them through a program we call "expedited removal." This will make the process faster and more efficient. Putting more non-Mexican illegal immigrants through expedited removal is crucial to sending back people who have come here illegally. As Secretary Chertoff told the Senate this week, our goal is to return every single illegal entrant, with no exceptions. And this bill puts us on the path to do that.

For Mexicans who cross into America illegally, we have a different plan, but the same goal. Now, most of the 900,000 illegal immigrants from Mexico who are caught each year are immediately escorted back across the border. The problem is that these illegal immigrants are able to connect with another smuggler or coyote and come right back in. So one part of the solution is a program called "interior repatriation" where we fly or bus these illegal immigrants all the way back to their hometowns in the interior of Mexico. By returning illegal Mexican immigrants to their homes, far away from desert crossings, we're saving lives and making it more difficult for them to turn right around and cross back into America.

As we improve and expand our efforts to secure our borders, we must also recognize that enforcement cannot work unless it's part of a comprehensive immigration reform that includes a temporary worker program. If an employer has a job that no American is willing to take, we need to find a way to fill that demand by matching willing employers with willing workers from foreign countries on a temporary and legal basis. I'll work with members of Congress to create a program that will provide for our economy's labor needs without harming American workers, and without granting amnesty, and that will relieve pressure on our borders.

A critical part of any temporary worker program is ensuring that our immigration laws are enforced at work sites. America is a country of laws; we must not allow dishonest employers to flout those laws. So we've doubled the resources for work site enforcement since 2004.

We have much more work ahead of us. But the Homeland Security bill I signed this week provides vital support for our efforts to deal with the problem of illegal immigration, and make all Americans safer and more secure.

Thank you for listening.

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President Discusses Border Security and Immigration Reform in Arizona

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base

Tucson, Arizona

 In Focus: Homeland Security

 Fact Sheet: Securing America Through Immigration Reform

2:40 P.M. MST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you for the warm welcome. It is such a pleasure to be back in Arizona, and it's great to be here in Tucson. The last time I was here I think there was probably about a 50-degree temperature differential. (Laughter.) It's an honor to stand here with the men and women of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. (Applause.) As well, to be here with the men and women of the Customs and Border Protection Agency, and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, as well. (Applause.)

Securing our border is essential to securing the homeland. And I want to thank all of those who are working around the clock to defend our border, to enforce our laws, and to uphold the values of the United States of America. America is grateful to those who are on the front lines of enforcing the border. (Applause.)

I appreciate so very much the Governor joining us today. Governor, thank you for being here. I'm honored you are here. I appreciate Senator John McCain joining us today. Senator. (Applause.) As well as Senator Jon Kyl. (Applause.) I appreciate three members of the congressional delegation from Arizona -- Congressman Shadegg, Flake and Franks -- for joining us, as well. (Applause.) Two members of my Cabinet are here with us, the Attorney General of the United States, Al Gonzales -- (applause) -- and the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Mike Chertoff. (Applause.)

I want to thank the United States Attorney from the District of Arizona, Paul Charlton, for joining us today. I appreciate David Aguilar, who is the Chief of the Border Patrol, U.S. Customs and Border Protection of the Department of Homeland Security; Mike Nicely, who is the Chief Patrol Agent, Tucson Sector; Ron Colburn, Chief Patrol Agent, Yuma Sector; Martin Vaughan, Director of Air Operations. But most of all, I want to thank those who wear the uniform for doing such a fine job. Thank you all. (Applause.) Finally, I want to thank General Schmidt for welcoming me today. He's the Commander of the 12th Air Force, U.S. Southern Command, based right here at this base. (Applause.)

I have a solemn duty, and so do the members of the United States Congress, to protect our nation, our Constitution, and our laws. Our border and immigration security officers devote themselves to those same missions every single day.

America has always been a compassionate nation that values the newcomer and takes great pride in our immigrant heritage; yet we're also a nation built on the rule of law, and those who enter the country illegally violate the law. The American people should not have to choose between a welcoming society and a lawful society. We can have both at the same time. And to keep the promise of America, we will enforce the laws of our country. (Applause.)

As a former governor, I know that enforcing the law and the border is especially important to the communities along the border. Illegal immigration puts pressure on our schools and hospitals -- I understand that. I understand it strains the resources needed for law enforcement and emergency services. And the vicious human smugglers -- smugglers and gangs that bring illegal immigrants across the border also bring crime to our neighborhoods and danger to the highways. Illegal immigration is a serious challenge. And our responsibility is clear: We are going to protect the border. (Applause.)

Since I've taken office we've increased funding for border security by 60 percent. Our border agents have used that funding to apprehend and send home more than 4.5 million people coming into our country illegally, including more than 350,000 with criminal records. Our Customs and Border Protection agents can be proud of the work that you're doing. You're taking control of this border. And we have more work to do, and that's what I want to talk to you about today. We're going to build on the progress we have made.

We have a comprehensive strategy to reform our immigration system. We're going to secure the border by catching those who enter illegally, and hardening the border to prevent illegal crossings. We're going to strengthen enforcement of our immigration laws within our country. And together with Congress, we're going to create a temporary worker program that will take pressure off the border, bring workers from out of the shadows, and reject amnesty. (Applause.)

Our strategy for comprehensive immigration reforms begins by securing the border. Now, let me talk to you about a three-part plan. The first part of the plan is to promptly return every illegal entrant we catch at the border, with no exceptions. More than 85 percent of the illegal immigrants we catch are from Mexico, and most of them are escorted back across the border within 24 hours.

To prevent them from trying to cross again, we've launched an interesting program, an innovative approach called interior repatriation. Under this program, many Mexicans caught at the border illegally are flown back to Mexico and then bused to their hometowns in the interior part of the country. By returning these illegal immigrants to their home towns far from the border, we make it more difficult for them to attempt to cross again. Interior repatriation is showing promise in breaking the cycle of illegal immigration.

In a pilot program focused on the west Arizona desert, nearly 35,000 illegal immigrants were returned to Mexico through interior repatriation. Last year only about 8 percent of them were caught trying to cross the border again, a much lower rate than we find among illegal immigrants who are escorted directly across the border.

We're going to expand interior repatriation. We want to make it clear that when people violate immigration laws, they're going to be sent home, and they need to stay at home. (Applause.)

We face a different set of challenges with non-Mexicans that we -- who we catch crossing the border illegally. When non-Mexican illegal immigrants are apprehended, they are initially detained. The problem is that our detention facilities don't have enough beds. And so, about four of every five non-Mexican illegal immigrants we catch are released in society and asked to return for a court date. When the date arrives, about 75 percent of those released don't show up to

the court. As a result, last year, only 30,000 of the 160,000 non-Mexicans caught coming across our southwest border were sent home.

This practice of catch and release has been the government's policy for decades. It is an unwise policy and we're going to end it. (Applause.) To help end catch and release, we need to increase the capacity in our detention facilities. Last month at the White House I signed legislation supported by the members of the Arizona delegation that will increase the number of beds in our detention facilities. We're also working to process illegal immigrants through the system more quickly, so we can return them home faster and free up bed space for others.

One of the most effective tools we have in this effort is a process called expedited removal. Under expedited removal, non-Mexicans are detained and placed into streamlined proceedings. It allows us to deport them at an average of 32 days, almost three times faster than usual. In other words, we're cutting through the bureaucracy. Last year we used expedited removal to deport more than 20,000 non-Mexicans caught entering this country illegally between Tucson and Laredo. This program is so successful that the Secretary has expanded it all up and down the border. This is a straightforward idea. It says, when an illegal immigrant knows they'll be caught and sent home, they're less likely to come to the country. That's the message we're trying to send with expedited removal.

We're also pursuing other common-sense steps to accelerate the deportation process. We're pressing foreign governments to take their citizens back promptly. We're streamlining the paperwork and we're increasing the number of flights carrying illegal immigrants home. We recently tested the effectiveness of these steps with Brazilian illegal immigrants caught along the Rio Grande Valley of the Texas border. The effort was called Operation Texas Hold 'Em. (Laughter.) It delivered impressive results. Thanks to our actions, Brazilian illegal immigration dropped by 90 percent in the Rio Grande Valley, and by 60 -- 50 percent across the border as a whole.

With all these steps, we're delivering justice more effectively, and we're changing the policy from catch and release to the policy of catch and return.

The second part of our plan is to strengthen border -- to strengthen border enforcement is to correct weak and unnecessary provisions in our immigration laws. Under current law, the federal government is required to release people caught crossing our border illegally if their home countries do not take them back in a set period of time. That law doesn't work when it comes time to enforcing the border and it needs to be changed. Those we we're forced to release have included murderers, rapists, child molesters, and other violent criminals. This undermines our border security. It undermines the work these good folks are doing. And the United States Congress needs to pass legislation to end these senseless rules. (Applause.)

We need to address the cycle of endless litigation that clogs our immigration courts and delays justice for immigrants. Some federal courts are now burdened with more than six times as many immigration appeals as they had just a few years ago. A panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco declared that illegal immigrants have a right to relitigate before an immigration court as many times as they want. This decision obviously would encourage illegal immigrants who have been deported to sneak back into the country and to re-argue their case.

Congress needs to put an end to this cycle of needless litigation and deliver reforms necessary to help us secure this border. (Applause.)

The third part of our plan to strengthen border enforcement is to stop people from crossing the border illegally in the first place. And we're increasing manpower. We're increasing technology and infrastructure across this border. We're integrating these resources in ways we have never done before.

Since 2001, we've hired 1,900 new Border Patrol agents. I just signed a bill last month that will enable us to add another thousand Border Patrol agents. When we complete these hires, we will have enlarged the Border Patrol by about 3,000 agents from 9,500 the year I took office to 12,500 next year. This is an increase of more than 30 percent, and most of the new agents will be assigned right here in the state of Arizona. (Applause.)

And to help the agents, we're deploying technologies. Listen, technology can help an individual agent have broader reach and more effectiveness. When agents can take advantage of cutting-edge equipment like overhead surveillance drones and infrared cameras, they can do a better job for all of us.

In Tucson, agents on the ground are directing unmanned aerial technology in the sky, and they're acting rapidly on illegal immigration or illegal activities they may see from the drones. In the months since these unmanned flights began, agents have intercepted a lot of drugs on the border that otherwise -- and people -- that otherwise might have made it through.

The legislation I signed last month provides \$139 million to further upgrade the technology and bring a more unified, systematic approach to border enforcement. Again, I want to thank the members of the Congress. (Applause.)

In some places, the most effective way to secure the border is to construct physical barriers to entry. The legislation I signed last month includes \$70 million to install and improve protective infrastructure across this border. In rural areas, we're funding the construction of new patrol roads to give our agents better access to the border, and new vehicle barriers to keep illegal immigrants from driving across the border.

In urban areas, we're expanding fencing to shut down access to human smuggling corridors. Secretary Chertoff recently used authority granted by the Congress to order the completion of a 14-mile barrier near San Diego that had been held up because of lawsuits. By overcoming endless litigation to finish this vital project we're helping our border agents do their job, and making people who live close to the border more secure.

Our actions to integrate manpower, technology and infrastructure are getting results. And one of the best examples of success is the Arizona Border Control Initiative, which the government launched in 2004. In the first year of this initiative -- now, listen to this, listen how hard these people are working here -- agents in Arizona apprehended nearly 500,000 illegal immigrants, a 42-percent increase over the previous year. We've captured a half-million pounds of marijuana, prosecuted more than 400 people suspected of human smuggling, and seized more than \$7 million in cash. You've got some good folks here working hard to do their job, and I appreciate it very much. (Applause.)

As we work to secure the border, comprehensive immigration reform also requires us to improve enforcement of our laws in the interior of the country. Catching and deporting illegal immigrants along the border is only part of the responsibility. America's immigration laws apply across all of America, and we will enforce those laws throughout our land. Better interior enforcement begins with better work site enforcement. American businesses have an obligation to abide by the law, and our government has the responsibility to help them do so. (Applause.)

Enforcing our immigration laws in the interior of the country requires a sustained commitment of resources. Since I took office, we've increased funding for immigration enforcement by 44 percent. We've increased the number of immigration and customs investigators by 14 percent since 2001. And those good folks who are working hard, too. Last year, the -- this year, federal agents completed what they called Operation Rollback. It's the largest work site enforcement case in American history. This operation resulted in the arrest of hundreds of illegal immigrants, criminal convictions against a dozen employers, and a multi-million dollar payment from one of America's largest corporations.

Our skilled immigration security officers are also going against some of the most dangerous people in our society -- smugglers, terrorists, gang members and human traffickers. In Arizona, we have prosecuted more than 2,300 smugglers bringing drugs, guns and illegal immigrants across the border. As a part of Operation Community Shield, federal agents have arrested nearly 1,400 gang members who were here illegally, including hundreds of members of the violent Latin American gangs like MS-13.

Since the Department of Homeland Security was created, agents have apprehended nearly 27,000 illegal immigrant fugitives. Thanks to our determined personnel, society is safer. But we've got more work to do. The legislation I signed last month more than doubled the resources dedicated to interior enforcement. We understand that border security and interior enforcement go hand in hand. (Applause.) We will increase the number of immigration enforcement agents and criminal investigators.

We're confronting the problem of document fraud, as well. When illegal workers try to pass off sophisticated forgeries as employment documents, even the most diligent businesses find it difficult to tell what's real and what's fake. Business owners shouldn't have to act like detectives to verify the legal status of their workers. So my administration has expanded a program called Basic Pilot. This program gives businesses access to an automated system that rapidly screens the employment eligibility of new hire against federal records. Basic Pilot was available in only six states five years ago; now this program is available nationwide. We'll continue to work to stop document fraud, to make it easier for America's businesses to comply with our immigration laws. (Applause.)

As we enforce our immigration laws, comprehensive immigration reform also requires us to improve those laws by creating a new temporary worker program. This program would create a legal way to match willing foreign workers with willing American employers to fill jobs that Americans will not do. Workers would be able to register for legal status for a fixed period of time, and then be required to go home. This program would help meet the demands of a growing economy, and it would allow honest workers to provide for their families while respecting the law.

This plan would also help us relieve pressure on the border. By creating a legal channel for those who enter America to do an honest day's labor, we would reduce the number of workers trying to sneak across the border. This would free up law enforcement officials to focus on criminals, drug dealers, terrorists and others that mean to harm us. Our plan would create a tamper-proof identification card for the temporary legal worker, which, of course, would improve work site enforcement.

Listen, there's a lot of opinions on this proposal -- I understand that. But people in this debate must recognize that we will not be able to effectively enforce our immigration laws until we create a temporary worker program. The program that I proposed would not create an automatic path to citizenship, it wouldn't provide for amnesty -- I oppose amnesty. Rewarding those who have broken the law would encourage others to break the law and keep pressure on our border. (Applause.)

A temporary worker program, by contrast, would decrease pressure on the border. I support the number of -- increasing the number of annual green cards that can lead to citizenship. But for the sake of justice and for the sake of border security, I'm not going to sign an immigration bill that includes amnesty. (Applause.)

I look forward to continue working with the United States Congress on comprehensive immigration reform. In the House of Representatives, your Arizona congressmen are building strong support for border enforcement among their colleagues. Judiciary Committee Chairman Sensenbrenner and Homeland Security Chairman King are moving bills that include tough provisions to help secure this border. The House plans to vote on this legislation soon; I urge them to pass a good bill.

The Senate is continuing to work on border legislation, as well. This legislation improves border security and toughens interior enforcement and creates a temporary worker program. Senators McCain and Kyl have taken the lead. It's two good men taking the lead, by the way. I'm confident something is going to get done that people of Arizona will like, with these two Senators in the lead. (Applause.)

Majority Leader Frist and Judiciary Committee Chairman Specter said they're going to take action in early 2006. See, we have a chance to move beyond the old and tired choices of the immigration debate, and come together on a strategy to enforce our laws, secure our country, and uphold our deepest values.

We make good progress, but you know like I know, there's a lot more to be done. And we've got to continue to work together to get that done, and I'm optimistic that Congress will rise to the occasion. By passing comprehensive immigration reform, we will add to this country's security, to our prosperity, and to justice.

Our nation has been strengthened by generations of immigrants who became Americans through patience and hard work and assimilation. In this new century, we must continue to welcome immigrants, and to set high standards for those who follow the laws to become a part of our country. Every new citizen of the United States has an obligation to learn our customs and values, including liberty and civic responsibility, equality under God and tolerance for others, and the English language. (Applause.) We will continue to pursue policies that encourage

ownership, excellence in education, and give all our citizens a chance to realize the American Dream.

I appreciate once again being here with the Border and Immigration Security officers who have volunteered for a difficult and urgent assignment. I appreciate their courage. By defending our border, you're defending our liberty, and our citizens, and our way of life. I'm proud to stand with you today, and the American people stand with you, as well. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless our country. (Applause.)

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Fact Sheet: Securing America Through Immigration Reform

Today's Presidential Action:

Today, President Bush Outlined The Strategy To Enhance America's Homeland Security Through Comprehensive Immigration Reform. Addressing the Customs and Border Protection agents stationed in southern Arizona, the President discussed the strategy to secure the border, prevent illegal crossings, and strengthen enforcement of immigration laws. The President also proposed to take pressure off the border by creating a Temporary Worker Program that meets the economy's demands while rejecting amnesty for those who break America's laws.

- **Securing The Border Is Essential To Securing The Homeland.** Since he took office, the President has increased funding for border security by 60 percent. Border agents have apprehended and sent home more than 4.5 million people coming into the country illegally including about 350,000 with criminal records. The U.S. border must be open to trade and tourism and closed to criminals, drug dealers, and terrorists.

The President Will Work With Congress To Pass And Sign Into Law Comprehensive Immigration Reform. Comprehensive immigration reform is a top priority for the Administration. Already, Congress is making great strides and has a chance to move forward on a strategy to enforce immigration laws, secure America, and uphold the Nation's deepest values. The President will continue working with Congress so that he can sign a comprehensive immigration reform bill into law in 2006.

The President's Strategy For Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Comprehensive Immigration Reform Begins With Securing The Border. To secure the border, the President is pursuing a three-part plan.

- **First, The U.S. Will Return Every Illegal Entrant Caught Crossing The Southwest Border With No Exceptions.** More than 85 percent of apprehended illegal immigrants are from Mexico, and most are immediately escorted back across the border within 24 hours. To prevent them from trying to cross again, the Federal government is using interior repatriation whereby Mexican illegal entrants are returned to their hometowns, making it more difficult for them to attempt another crossing. This approach is showing great promise. In a West Arizona desert pilot program, nearly 35,000 illegal immigrants were returned to Mexico through interior repatriation, and only about 8 percent turned up trying to cross the border in that sector again. The Administration is working to expand interior repatriation to ensure that when those who violate the country's immigration laws are sent home, they stay home.
 - **The Administration Is Ending The Practice Of "Catch And Release."** Because detention facilities lack bed space, most non-Mexican illegal immigrants apprehended are released and directed to return for a court appearance. However, 75 percent fail to show. Last year, only 30,000 of the 160,000 non-Mexicans caught coming across our Southwest border were sent home. Addressing this problem, the President has signed legislation increasing the number of beds in detention facilities by more than 10 percent over the next year. The Federal

government is also using "expedited removal" to detain, place into streamlined judicial proceedings, and deport non-Mexican illegal immigrants in an average of 32 days almost three times faster than the usual procedure. Last year, more than 20,000 non-Mexicans caught crossing the border between Laredo and Tucson were deported using expedited removal. The use of expedited removal is now being expanded across the entire Southwest border. When illegal immigrants know they will be caught and sent home, they will be less likely to cross illegally in the first place.

- **The Administration Is Taking Further Steps To Accelerate The Removal Process.** The U.S. is pressing foreign governments to take back their citizens more promptly, while streamlining bureaucracy and increasing the number of flights carrying illegal immigrants home. Testing these steps, "Operation Texas Hold 'Em" along the Rio Grande Valley of the Texas Border recently resulted in Brazilian illegal immigration dropping by 90 percent in the Rio Grande Valley and by 50 percent across the entire border. These efforts are helping change a policy of "catch and release" to a policy of "catch and return."
- **Second, The Administration Will Work With Congress To Reform Immigration Laws.** The President is seeking to eliminate senseless rules that require the government to release illegal immigrants if their home countries do not take them back in a set period of time. Among those the government has been forced to release are murderers, rapists, child molesters, and other violent criminals. The President is also working with Congress to address the cycle of endless litigation that clogs immigration courts, rewards illegal behavior, and delays justice for immigrants with legitimate claims. Lawsuits and red tape must not stand in the way of protecting the American people.
- **Third, The Federal Government Will Act To Stop People From Illegally Crossing The Border In The First Place.** The Administration is increasing manpower, technology, and infrastructure at the Nation's borders, and integrating these resources in innovative ways.
 - **Increasing Manpower.** Since 2001, 1,900 Border Patrol agents have been added, and the President has signed legislation allowing the addition of another 1,000 agents in the year ahead. When the hiring is completed, the Border Patrol will have been enlarged by about 3,000 agents from about 9,500 when the President took office to about 12,500 next year. This is an increase of more than 30 percent.
 - **Deploying New Technology.** The Administration is giving Border Patrol agents the tools to expand their reach and effectiveness including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and infrared cameras. In Tucson, agents using UAVs to patrol the border have improved their interception of illegal immigrants and drugs on the border. Legislation signed by the President is providing \$139 million to further

upgrade technology and bring a more unified, systematic approach to border enforcement.

- **Constructing Physical Barriers To Entry.** The President has signed legislation providing \$70 million to install and improve protective infrastructure across the border. In rural areas, the government is constructing new patrol roads to give agents better access to the border and new vehicle barriers to keep illegal immigrants from driving across. In urban areas, the government is expanding fencing to shut down human smuggling corridors. The Administration recently authorized the completion of a 14-mile barrier near San Diego. Once held up by litigation, this project is vital to helping border agents do their jobs and make those who live near the border more secure.

Comprehensive Immigration Reform Requires Improved Enforcement Of Immigration Laws Within The United States. Catching and deporting illegal immigrants along the border is only part of protecting the American people. Our immigration laws must be enforced throughout America.

- **The Federal Government Is Improving Worksite Enforcement.** The President has signed legislation that more than doubles the resources dedicated to worksite enforcement. The government is placing a special focus on enforcement at critical infrastructure. This year, Operation Rollback the largest worksite enforcement case in American history resulted in the arrest of hundreds of illegal immigrants, criminal convictions against a dozen employers, and a multi-million dollar payment from one of America's largest businesses. Worksite enforcement is critical to the success of immigration reform.
 - **To Help Businesses Comply With Immigration Laws, The Government Is Addressing Document Fraud.** Even the most diligent employers find it difficult to spot forged employment documents and verify workers' legal status. So the Administration is expanding the Basic Pilot program enabling businesses to screen the employment eligibility of new hires against Federal records. Since 2001, this program has expanded from only six states to now being available nationwide. The Administration will work with Congress to continue to improve employment verification.
- **The President Has Committed The Resources Necessary To Enforce Immigration Laws.** Since 2001, the Administration has increased funding for interior enforcement by 44 percent; increased the number of immigration and customs investigators by 14 percent; and new funding will allow for an additional 400 immigration enforcement agents and 250 criminal investigators. These skilled officers are getting results. In Arizona alone, 2,300 people have been prosecuted for smuggling drugs, guns, and illegal immigrants across the border. Operation Community Shield has resulted in the arrest of nearly 1,400 illegal immigrant gang members including hundreds of members of violent gangs like "MS-13." Since the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), agents have apprehended nearly 27,000 illegal immigrant fugitives.

As Part Of Comprehensive Immigration Reform, The President Has Proposed The Creation Of A New Temporary Worker Program. To match foreign workers with American employers for jobs that no American is willing to take, temporary workers will be able to register for legal status for a fixed time period and then be required to return home. This plan meets the needs of a growing economy, allows honest workers to provide for their families while respecting the law, and relieves pressure on the border. By reducing the flow of illegal immigrants, law enforcement can focus on those who mean this country harm. To improve worksite enforcement, the plan creates tamper-proof I.D. cards for every legal temporary worker.

- **A Temporary Worker Program Would Not Provide Amnesty.** The program does not create an automatic path to citizenship or provide amnesty. The President opposes amnesty because rewarding those who break the law would encourage more illegal entrants and increase pressure on the border. A Temporary Worker Program, by contrast, would promote legal immigration and decrease pressure on the border. The President supports increasing the annual number of green cards, but for the sake of justice and security, the President will not sign an immigration bill that includes amnesty.

By Reforming Immigration Laws, The United States Will Preserve The Promise Of America. Immigrants play a vital role in strengthening American democracy. This is a land in which foreigners who respect the laws are welcomed as contributors to American culture not feared as threats. The United States has been strengthened by generations of immigrants who became Americans through patience, hard work, and assimilation. Like generations of immigrants that have come before them, every new citizen has an obligation to learn this Nation's customs and values. At the same time, America will fulfill its obligation to give each citizen a chance to realize the American dream. By enforcing immigration laws, the Federal government is protecting the promise of a tolerant, welcoming America and preserving opportunity for all.

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President Tours Border, Discusses Immigration Reform in Texas

El Paso Sector

El Paso, Texas

In Focus: Homeland Security

9:41 A.M. MST

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, it's good to be back in El Paso. I spent a lot of quality time in this part of the world when I was the governor -- and I appreciate, by the way, the governor, standing with me here. I don't know if you remember or not, but Laura's mother was raised here, so El Paso has always had a special spot in our heart.

I want to thank the people that are working the border. We have a responsibility in the government to enforce our border. It's important for national security, it's important for economic security to have a good border security plan. And so the Secretary and I, and the Attorney General - Secretary of State of Texas, Johnny Sutton, the D.A., Congressman Mike Conaway -- we've just taken a tour of this part of the border. And what should be a lesson is that you've got to adjust your strategy based upon the conditions. This is an urban environment. Right over here is Juarez. And people are able to easily come into the border - into Texas, in this part of - in part of the border.

And so what you're seeing is, you're seeing a combination of fencing, cameras, infrared, and border patrol agents all doing their job. What we've done is we have boosted the amount of money available to our - to enforce this border. We're adding agents - we've added agents since I've become the President; we're adding more agents as a result of the bill I just signed; and we're adding infrastructure to make the city secure, as well as the rural parts of our border secure. So step one of a border control strategy is increase the resources so the people standing behind me are able to do their job.

Step two is when we catch somebody, don't release them. Catch and release has been a long-standing policy of the federal government and we're going to change that. Listen, we've got people risking their lives to do their job here on the border, and there's nothing more dispiriting than to know the person that they have stopped coming into our country illegally is being released back into society. And so we've got a plan for what we call internal repatriation for Mexicans, and we've got a plan for non-Mexican illegal immigrants.

And part of that plan is to increase the number of beds available to detain people caught illegally coming into our country. And the second part is for Congress to change the laws that will enable us to have - more likely to have expedited removal.

The third aspect of our comprehensive strategy to do our duty and enforce the border is to have a worksite enforcement program. I mean, our employers in America have an obligation not to hire illegal immigrants. Many of those immigrants, by the way, use forged documents. And so we've got a computer system up and running to enable employers to be able to determine whether or not the documents they're being presented are fake or not. We're also increasing the number of agents that will be working in the internal part of the country to find those who've broken the law and bring them to justice.

See, we're a nation of law. We're also a compassionate nation. We've got to treat people with respect and dignity. The third aspect of our policy is this: We need to have a rational, temporary worker plan that is not amnesty. Amnesty would be a mistake. Granting amnesty to the people who have come to our country illegally would invite others to come to our country illegally. On the other hand, a temporary worker program would take pressure off our border. When you match willing worker with willing employer on a job Americans won't do, with a tamper-proof card that says, I'm here legally for a temporary basis, it means our border patrol agents won't have to chase people coming here illegally to work, they'll be able to chase criminals and drug traffickers and crooks.

What I'm telling you is, we want to make the job of these folks easier. We want to support them. We want to support them with resources, we want to support them with rational policy, so that we can say to the American people, we've done our job - which is enforce this border.

I want to thank you very much for the tour, I want to thank you all for your hard work. You bring great pride to the uniform. I appreciate the risks you take on a daily basis. And with the bill I signed, the appropriations bill I signed, and the bills that are going to be working through the House and the Senate, will make it more likely you'll be able to do your job. So it's an honor to be here on the border and I want to thank everybody for showing up.

I'll be glad to answer a couple of questions. Patsy.

Q Sir, with elections coming up next year, how much pressure are you under to reduce the U.S. troop presence in Iraq, before the end of 2006?

THE PRESIDENT: Our policy - I'm giving a speech tomorrow that outlines the training - and the progress we're making in training Iraqis to provide security for their country. And we will make decisions about troop levels based upon the capacity of the Iraqis to take the fight to the enemy. And I will make decisions based upon -- the level of troops based upon the recommendations by the commanders on the ground. If they tell me we need more troops, we'll provide more troops. If they tell me we've got sufficient level of troops, that will be the level of troops. If they tell me that the Iraqis are ready to take more and more responsibility and that we'll be able to bring some Americans home, I will do that. It's their recommendation.

Secondly, we want to win. The whole objective is to achieve a victory against the terrorists. The terrorists have made it very clear that Iraq is a central front on the war on terror. See, they want us to leave before we've achieved our mission. You know why? Because they want a safe haven. They want to be able to plot and plan attacks. This country must never forget the lessons of September the 11th, 2001. And a victory in Iraq will deny the terrorists their stated goal.

Finally, a democracy in Iraq, which is now emerging, will serve as a fantastic example for reformers and others. And as democracy takes hold in the broader Middle East, we can say we have done our duty and laid the foundation of peace for generations to come.

Q Since we know that the preparation of Iraqi troops is a main reason you want to bring U.S. troops home, can you talk about how satisfied you are with the Iraqi troop preparedness?

THE PRESIDENT: Look, here's what I'm interested in. I'm interested in winning. I want to defeat the terrorists. And I want our troops to come home. But I don't want them to come home

without having achieved victory, and we've got a strategy for victory. And the commanders will make the decision. See, that's what the people want. The people don't want me making decisions based upon politics; they want me to make decisions based upon the recommendation from our generals on the ground. And that's exactly who I'll be listening to.

Now, I know there's a lot of voices in Washington. We've heard some people say, pull them out right now. That's a huge mistake. It'd be a terrible mistake. It sends a bad message to our troops and it sends a bad message to our enemy and it sends a bad message to the Iraqis.

So my decision will be based upon the capacity of the - the willingness of our commanders to say, the Iraqis are taking more of the fight and, therefore, the conditions are such that we can reduce our troop presence.

Q Sir, do you agree with comments by Secretary Rice, who says that U.S. troops may not need to stay at current troop levels that we have there now for much longer?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, this is a conditions-based strategy we have. If conditions on the ground are such that we can reduce presence, the commanders will make that recommendation. But victory is the primary objective. We've sacrificed a lot. We've had - we've had, you know, some of the finest Americans die in Iraq. And one thing we're not going to do is let them die in vain. We will achieve our objective, which is a stable Iraq, an ally in the war on terror. And we will deny the terrorists safe haven in Iraq. Their stated objective is to use the one tool they've got - which is suicide bombers, beheadings and killings of innocent people - to drive us out of Iraq and the Middle East because they want to have safe haven, they want to spread their totalitarian ideology.

And so our objective in Iraq is to win. And we will make our decisions based upon primarily victory, and, second, whether or not the commanders think we can achieve that victory and what the - with a certain troop level. And that's what's important for the American people to understand. That one, we're not going to cut and run. Two, we'll achieve our objective. And, three, the President is going to listen to those who are on the ground, who can make the best assessment.

Yes, where are you from?

Q With the El Paso Times, sir, Louie Gilot. Mr. President, what is the security risk on the border as far as homeland security and terrorism?

THE PRESIDENT: Look, there is great risk for people who wear the green. And they know that. And the reason there's great risk is because they don't know whether they're going to encounter some innocent soul just coming to work or somebody trying to smuggle drugs.

On our briefing as we came up and down the - came down the border here, I was told about a recent apprehension made by our border patrol agents of people trying to smuggle drugs in. And it's night, you know. And this happened to be in a more rural area, and the chopper had to leave to go refuel. And so we've got people risking their lives out there to stop the trafficking of drugs into our country, and that's dangerous. And so it's dangerous here. I mean, there's no other way to look at it. And that's why these folks need more resources and more agents to help them, and that's what we're providing.

And there is lighting up and down this part of the border. We're going to use drones to be able to help enforce the border in rural Texas and in rural New Mexico and rural Arizona. See, it's one thing to add agents, but if you look at the size of this border, you can't add enough agents. What you've got to do is get technology in the hands of the agents so they can better do their job. Slowly, but surely, technology is being employed up and down the border, and that's a key part of our strategy - as well as physical barriers. You see a physical barrier right here. This is good for an urban environment. As you head out into the rural parts of the world, there are other types of physical barriers we can use, such as impediments to vehicular traffic or berming, which is precisely what our strategy is.

We've got a comprehensive strategy that says we're going to enforce this border; we're going to prevent people from coming here in the first place. And when we catch people - and, by the way, since 2001, our border patrol have apprehended 4.5 million people illegally coming into the country. But we've got to end catch-and-release. In other words, we've got to end this program particularly for non-Mexican, illegal immigrants. This business about catching people and then letting them back out in the society - it's not fair to those who are working hard and it's not fair to the American people. We're ending the practice.

And then I told you we've got to have better interior enforcement, plus a rational worker plan that is not amnesty. That's a very important part of the plan.

Q Do you have any reaction to the resignation of Congressman Cunningham and the charges that were brought against him?

THE PRESIDENT: Any member of Congress, Republican or Democrat, must take their office seriously and the ethics seriously. The idea of a congressman taking money is outrageous. And Congressman Cunningham is going to realize that he has broken the law and is going to pay a serious price, which he should.

Q Is there going to be investigating the allegations that there are U.S.-run terrorist detention centers abroad? Don't the American people deserve an accounting of why these places exist and what's being done there?

THE PRESIDENT: The United States of America does not torture. And that's important for people around the world to understand.

Q Will we ever see a wall here in the border?

THE PRESIDENT: You've got a fence here in the border. You're going to have a virtual fence in the border when we bring technology to bear - infrared, cameras, drones. And you've got some of the finest Americans in our country enforcing the border. Ours is a nation of law. People should not be allowed to break the law.

So one of the ways to make sure we have a rational border control policy is to make work legal - not amnesty, but work legal - on a temporary basis. People ought to be given a tamper-proof work card, come here and do jobs Americans won't do, and then after a set period of time, go home. And that's what we're going to work with Congress about, a comprehensive plan that will make it easier for these good folks to do their job, which is enforce the border of the United States.



Listen, thank you all.

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