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Appointments and Scheduling, White House Office of Presidential Daily Diary Backup

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Folder Title:

09/18/2001 [3]

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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Report	Pool Report 09/18/2001 #2	1	09/18/2001	P6/b6;
002	Database Printout	WAVES Appointments	7	09/18/2001	P6/b6; b7e;
003	Schedule	Scenario for Working Visit of President Jacques Chirac of France	2	09/18/2001	P5;
004	Press Release	Press Briefing by Ari Fleischer	1	09/18/2001	P3/b3; P6/b6; b7c; b7e; b7f;
005	Report	Pool Report 09/18/2001 #1	1	09/18/2001	P6/b6;

COLLECTION TITLE:

Appointments and Scheduling, White House Office of

SERIES:

Presidential Daily Diary Backup

FOLDER TITLE:

09/18/2001 [3]

FRC ID:

13633

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]

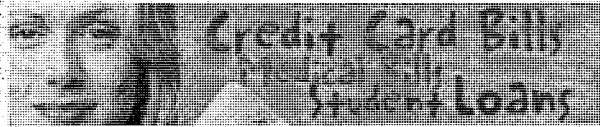
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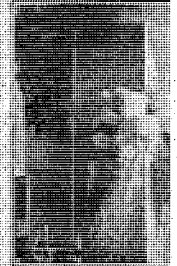
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French President Jacques Chirac speaks to press following a meeting and dinner with U.S. President George W. Bush in the Oval Office, September 18, 2001. The leaders discussed the thousands of victims of the brutal attacks on the United States last week after both the Pentagon and the World Trade Center Buildings in New York City were attacked Tuesday after hijacked commercial jetliners crashed into the buildings. REUTERS/Larry Downing

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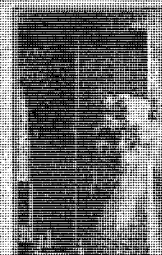
U.S. President George W. Bush is seen while in Oval Office before he enters Rose Garden to thank charitable organizations and Americans helping to support the efforts of disaster relief personnel working to help or find the thousands of victims of the brutal attacks on the United States last week, September 18, 2001. Both the Pentagon and the World Trade Center Buildings in New York City were attacked Tuesday after hijacked commercial jetliners crashed into the buildings. REUTERS/Larry Downing

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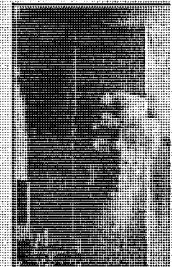
U.S. President George W. Bush (R) joins with French President Jacques Chirac in the Oval Office to discuss the thousands of victims of the brutal attacks on the United States last week, September 18, 2001. Both the Pentagon and the World Trade Center Buildings in New York City were attacked when hijacked commercial jetliners were crashed into the buildings.
REUTERS/Larry Downing

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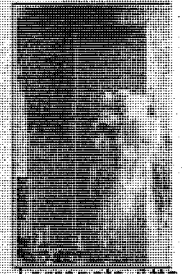
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U.S. President George W. Bush walks with Pennsylvania Governor Thomas Ridge (left), Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore (center) and First Lady of New York Libby Pataki into the Rose Garden of the White House to thank charitable organizations and Americans helping to support the efforts of disaster relief personnel working to help or find the thousands of victims of the brutal attacks on the United States last week, September 18, 2001. Both the Pentagon and the World Trade Center Buildings in New York City were attacked September 11 after hijacked commercial jetliners crashed into the buildings.
 REUTERS/Larry Downing

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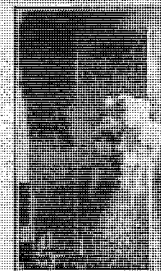
U.S. President George W. Bush (far right) walks out of Oval Office onto South Lawn with L-R: Chief of Staff Andrew Card, Attorney General John Ashcroft, and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice to join White House staff members in a moment of silence in honor of the thousands of victims of the brutal attacks on the United States last week, September 18, 2001. Both the Pentagon and the World Trade Center Buildings in New York City were attacked Tuesday after hijacked commercial jetliners crashed into the buildings. REUTERS/Larry Downing

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Rachael L. Sunbarger

09/18/2001 08:59 PM

Record Type: Record

To:

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Subject: STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 18, 2001

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

On Tuesday, September 18, 2001, the following bills were signed into law:

H.R. 2882, Expedited Payment of Benefits to Public Safety Officers, provides an expedited payment to the public safety officers who were killed or suffered catastrophic injuries as a result of the terrorists attacks of September 11, 2001;

H.R. 2888, 2001 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States, provides additional disaster assistance for anti-terrorism initiatives and recovery as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001;

S.J.Res. 22, Recognizing the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001, expressing the sense of the Senate and House of Representatives regarding the terrorists attacks of September 11, 2001.

###

Rachael L. Sunbarger

09/18/2001 07:36 PM

Record Type: Record

To:

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Subject: REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BUSH AND PRESIDENT CHIRAC OF FRANCE IN PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 18, 2001

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BUSH
AND PRESIDENT CHIRAC OF FRANCE
IN PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

The Oval Office

6:30 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT BUSH: It is my honor to welcome a good friend, a good personal friend and a good friend of America to the Oval Office. It's the first formal visit I've had with any world leader since the terrible day a week ago.

After the incident, after that day, I got a lot of phone calls, and one of the most meaningful phone calls of all was from Jacques Chirac, who expressed his concern for the American citizens. He expressed his desire to stand solidly with America during this terrible, terrible day.

President Chirac understands that we have entered a new type of war. It's a war against people who hate freedom. And I am honored to welcome our friend here to the Oval Office.

Welcome, sir.

PRESIDENT CHIRAC: Thank you. I've come here to tell you of the emotion -- the emotion of France, the French people, an emotion which has no precedent in history before this tragedy, which does not have a parallel. Indeed, it is a tragic event, something which is beyond crime; there are no words to qualify it.

I want to tell President Bush, who is my friend, that we

stand in total solidarity -- we bring you the total solidarity of France and the French people. It is solidarity of the heart.

I also wanted to say that we are completely determined to fight by your side this new type of evil, of absolute evil, which is terrorism. And I also wanted to say that France is prepared and available to discuss all means to fight and eradicate this evil.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Thank you, sir.

Yes, Ron.

Q Mr. President, sir, do you expect French and British soldiers to fight side-by-side with ours?

And, President Chirac, do you agree that we are in a war, and is France in it? Will you fight side-by-side with U.S. troops?

PRESIDENT BUSH: This is a new kind of war. This war will require determination and patience. People who love freedom, such as Jacques Chirac and the people of France, will join us. I'm confident of that, in finding those who feel like they can terrorize nations because they hate freedom.

We will -- it's a policy of my government not to discuss any plans we may have as to how we intend to deal with the terrorists and the terrorist networks that believe they can disrupt lives, anyplace, anytime in the world. I look forward to talking with one of our strongest allies in private about what's on my mind.

But make no mistake about it: This administration has got a firm goal and a determination to achieve the goal, and that is to rally the world toward a campaign to find terrorists, to smoke them out of their holes, and to get them, and to bring them to justice.

And there's no doubt in my mind France joins with us in this most important campaign. Jacques Chirac has -- this is my fourth meeting with this leader. He's a man of vision. He's a man who understands what I understand, that we've entered into a new era. And I feel confident that we're going to work in a collaborative way to achieve a common objective.

If you love freedom, you must join with us -- must join with America and France. That's the message of this meeting. And we will discuss ways that we can work in a way that will achieve the goal. And there's no doubt in my mind that we'll find solidarity with the French and the French government.

Q Will your citizens fight shoulder-to-shoulder with ours?

PRESIDENT CHIRAC: I don't know whether we should use the

word "war," but what I can say is that now we are faced with a conflict of a completely new nature. It is a conflict which is attempting to destroy human rights, freedom, the dignity of man. And I believe that everything must be done to protect and safeguard these values of civilization.

Therefore -- and we are, naturally, prepared to work in complete solidarity with the United States and do everything which is necessary, in consultation with them, to reach this target which is the elimination of terrorism. And I would also like to add that practically all the leaders of the world are following the same line.

Q Mr. President, don't you think it's high time for the occidental world to review in a very tougher way its relationship with a certain number of, let's say, Arabic countries which have been helping or harboring the terrorists?

PRESIDENT BUSH: In my statement to our nation, I told the people of the United States that we would not only hold those who committed these horrible acts accountable, that we would also hold those accountable who harbored them, who fed them, who hide them. That's our policy.

Many, many Arab -- first of all, it is important to know that this is not a campaign against Islam; this is not a campaign against Arab people. This is a campaign against terrorists. This is a campaign against evil-doers who hate freedom.

I have had, and I'm sure Jacques, as well, have had strong statements of solidarity from governments in the Middle East. I've talked to many world leaders, Arab leaders, all of whom are outraged by the acts of terrorism against America; all of whom understand it could be them, as well. Terrorism knows no borders.

And so I've been very pleased with the outpouring of support. And we will take the governments for their word and will work with them to disrupt the finances, the travel, the communications. We will find them in their hiding places, and we'll get them moving, and we'll bring them to justice. Make no mistake about it.

Q Mr. President --

PRESIDENT BUSH: Yes, Patsy.

Q Do you think the Middle East cease-fire will hold? And what do you think the next step should be for both the Israelis and the Palestinians?

PRESIDENT BUSH: We've had very positive developments in the Middle East today, and it's one of the subjects that my friend and I will discuss. I was very pleased by the statements by

Chairman Arafat, followed by the strong statements by the Israelis that they would stand down troops.

And I hope in my heart of hearts that out of this evil comes good. I think it will -- I'm a very optimistic person. And one of the goods that can come is that people involved with the Middle East conflict, that both leaders here want to resolve, realize that a terrorist way of life is not going to lead to a peaceful resolution for people.

The next step, of course, is to stay involved in the region; is to work with both the Palestinians and the Israelis to encourage them to seize the moment; to hold Mr. Arafat to his word that he will fight violence; and to encourage the Israelis to sit down and have meaningful dialogue, with the attempt to get into the Mitchell process. And it's a glimmer of hope that all of us hope that the parties involved will seize.

Q Mr. President, how will this new war be fought? This new war against terrorism?

PRESIDENT BUSH: It is new, and it's important for the world to understand that there are no beaches to storm, there are no islands to conquer, there are no battle lines to be drawn. It's a war that is going to take an international effort. It's going to take all of us to gather the necessary intelligence, the necessary information, to be able to find the location of terrorists; to work with governments to smoke them out of their safe houses, to get them moving, and then have the courage to bring them to justice.

My government will commit whatever resources is necessary to be effective in this all-important cause. I repeat: We're fighting for liberty and freedom, a way of life that is so essential for humankind, mankind to be able to realize their full potential. And we are focused on achieving the goal.

There's going to be a time when free nations settle in to what is viewed as an ordinary life -- and I hope that happens soon; I hope that happens soon. But make no mistake about it: My goal, my intentions will not diminish with time. I am absolutely -- I know that we are called to respond to terror now. This is the time. And the world is ready for leadership. And Jacques Chirac is ready to provide that leadership, as am I.

I want to thank you all for being here.

END

6:45 P.M. EDT

Rachael L. Sunbarger

09/18/2001 07:18 PM

Record Type: Record

To:

cc:

Subject: POOL REPORT 9-18-01 #2

POOL REPORT 9-18.

POTUS AND JACQUES CHIRAC in Oval Office

POTUS and President Chirac spoke to reporters for about 15 minutes. They sat beside each other in the Oval Office, each with his fingers linked at the knees. They were grim-faced, and at times POTUS showed anger as he spoke about the need to "smoke out" the terrorists from their hiding places. He punctuated his comments with emphatic nods, though he didn't unclasp his fingers at any point. His brow remained furrowed and his eyebrows were raised throughout much of the exchange with reporters. Chirac spoke in an even voice. He spoke in French and a female interpreter sitting to his right translated. A bust of Lincoln was behind them. A portrait of George Washington was on the wall behind them. Two large table lamps were on either side of the two presidents. Both wore dark suits, white shirts. POTUS had on a blue tie with white and red dots. Chirac had on a dark gray patterned tie. Behind the reporters was Vice President Cheney, who didn't comment. Condoleeza Rice was also there.

Transcript follows.

Some quotes:

Asked how the United States will wage war against the terrorists, POTUS reiterated that people must be patient because it will be long battle without a clear enemy. "There are no beaches to storm. There are no islands to conquer." Chirac said, "We bring you the total solidarity of France and the French people." "If you love freedom, you must run with us, you must run with America and France," POTUS said.

Raju Chebium
Gannett News Service

(b)(6)

Rachael L. Sunbarger

09/18/2001 07:17 PM

Record Type: Record

To:

cc:

Subject: STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 18, 2001

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The President today made additional assistance available to the State of New York by authorizing an increase in the level of Federal funding for all categories of Public Assistance as a result of the September 11, 2001, fires and explosions.

The President's major disaster declaration issued for the State on September 11, 2001, initially directed the Federal government to pay 75 percent of the eligible costs for debris removal, emergency protective measures and repair and restoration of public facilities, with the State and affected local governments providing the remaining 25 percent. Under the President's order today, the Federal share has now been increased to 100 percent for these programs.

The cost share adjustment is retroactive to the date of the President's major disaster declaration for the State.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) disaster housing, unemployment and crisis counseling assistance programs are fully funded at 100 percent. FEMA's Individual and Family Grant and Hazard Mitigation Programs are set by law at 75 percent Federal share.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: FEMA (202) 646-4600.

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Appointments and Scheduling, White House Office of

SERIES:

Presidential Daily Diary Backup

FOLDER TITLE:

09/18/2001 [3]

FRC ID:

13633

OA Num.:

13589

NARA Num.:

13610

FOIA IDs and Segments:

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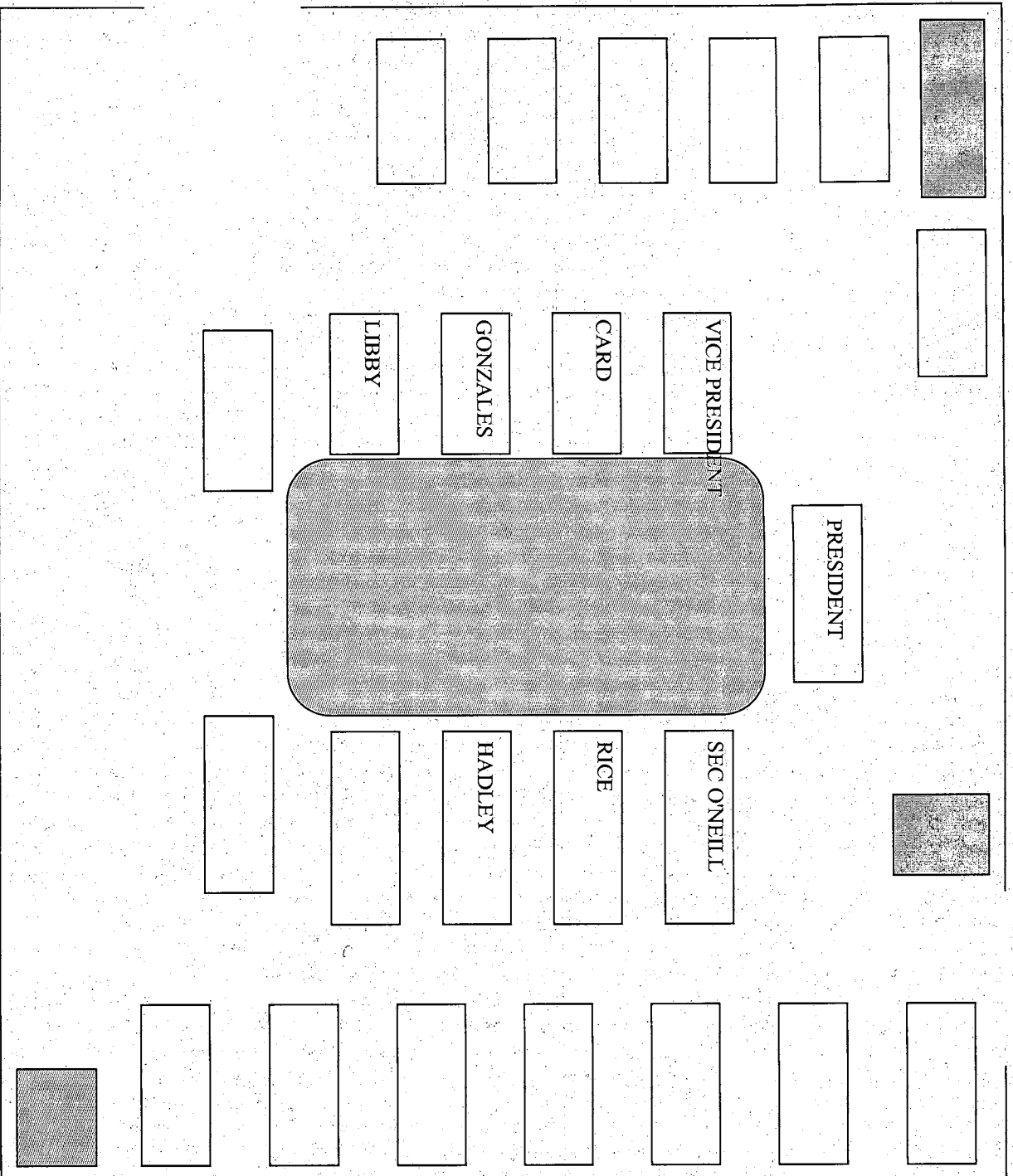
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Rachael L. Sunbarger

09/18/2001 12:38 PM

Record Type: Record

To:

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Subject: REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT SUPPORTING CHARITIES

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 18, 2001

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
SUPPORTING CHARITIES

The Rose Garden

11:46 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Please be seated. Welcome. Last week, America suffered greatly. Thousands of our citizens lost lives. Thousands were hurt. But thousands of our citizens rose to the occasion to help.

Last week was a really horrible week for America. But out of our tears and sadness, we saw the best of America as well. We saw a great country rise up to help.

Tens of millions of dollars and thousands of hours and tons of food and clothing have all been donated to help rebuild shattered lives. Americans' love for America was channeled through our nation's great charities. And as President of this great land, nothing made me more proud.

In the week since the attack, our compassion and generous citizens have led the first phase in the war on terrorism. They have sustained and strengthened the home front. Today, I'm joined by representatives of charities which have brought relief to citizens in New York City and Virginia, Pennsylvania. We've got representatives of firefighters, police officers, entrepreneurs who have helped out all across America.

We've got many good citizens here who represent the large

national charities like the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and the United Way. We've got folks here in the nation's Rose Garden who represent the community-based programs and faith-based programs, firefighter and police associations, local businesses, nonprofits. Large and small, these important charitable efforts are saving lives and, as importantly, are restoring hope.

I'm also joined by Libby Pataki, the better half of the Governor of New York. (Applause.) Tony Carbonetti, the Chief of Staff to Rudy Giuliani -- (applause) -- and my friends and former fellow Governors -- actually, they're Governors, I was a former governor -- Jim Gilmore and Tom Ridge. (Applause.) These Governors and their wives and the Mayor of New York have shown impressive leadership -- impressive leadership -- in the face of the challenges that faced their cities and their states.

They put public agencies on full alert to provide immediate assistance to victims and their families; and for all those who helped, our nation is most grateful. They've called on the men and women of the National Guard to help maintain calm and order. And we thank those who wear the uniform as well. And they've led and supported valiant rescue workers in New York City and northern Virginia, whose bravery is seared into our national consciousness.

I was honored to be able to stand amidst the rescue workers and looked in their eyes and saw the determination that would make all Americans proud. In spite of their exhaustion, in spite of the fact that they had worked themselves into a state of total fatigue, they still wanted to keep fighting on for their fellow brothers and sisters trapped in the rubble.

Mayor Giuliani, and Pataki, have led New York City through its most difficult of all days, and they have done so with class and bravery and distinction. And we owe them a debt of gratitude. (Applause.) The Mayor, the Governors, all New Yorkers, have demonstrated the very best American values to a world that has been watching to see how our nation would react.

The world watches the great country called America, and they say: What will they do? What will Americans do? And what they've seen is the best of America. They've seen leadership, they've seen courage, and as importantly, they've seen compassion.

Last evening marked the start of Rosh Hashana. In Jewish teaching, this holy day is the anniversary of the creation of the world. It is a season of renewal and of hope, and people of every faith, all across America, embraced that spirit of renewal and hope.

Funds in New York and Washington are providing food, clothing and financial help to husbands and wives and sons and

daughters who suffer mightily. Citizens near Ground Zero in New York have provided sandwiches, drinks and clean clothes to the tired and hungry rescue workers.

And in one of America's greatest traditions, a handful of entrepreneurs from Springfield, Virginia collected \$600 by selling lemonade, and gave it to the Red Cross.

These acts of generosity and kindness are spreading all across America. There are challenges that remain for those who suffer today; make no mistake about it. We've got a lot of work to do as a nation. And these good efforts, these good, charitable, compassionate efforts need the full support of Americans everywhere.

People all across the country are asking how they can help. What can they do to provide hope. What can they do to help heal the wounds by helping their fellow Americans. Well, there are many ways to contribute. Local stores and businesses on Main Street America are collecting money to send to appropriate relief and help agencies. National media organizations are helping collect. Internet portals providing an interesting opportunity for people to contribute and provide their help.

Many of the charities, themselves, welcome donations through web sites. So I urge my fellow Americans to continue contributing through web sites. If you're interested in helping, call up one of the great charities of America and contribute.

Thus far, I'm proud to report through the web sites of our charities, Americans have donated \$55 million in seven short days. Some of America's high-tech leaders, AOL/Time Warner and Microsoft, Amazon, Ebay, Cisco Systems and Yahoo have joined together in a private effort to encourage on-line giving so that we can funnel resources to help our citizens in need.

They have formed what's called "The American Liberty Partnership." It has a web site called "LIBERTYUNITES.ORG." And this will help Americans find out how to help. If a concerned American wants to help a neighbor in need, even though the neighborhood might not be right next to each other, they can get on "LIBERTYUNITES.ORG," and find out how to help. And I urge my fellow Americans to do so.

Americans can not only make on-line donations, they can figure out where to send food, where to donate blood, where to give clothes. They can find out how best to donate their time.

Now, it's important to realize that at this moment, many of our charities are overwhelmed by the public response. That's the kind of problem we like in America. But because the portals may be jammed, because the phones may be busy, is not an excuse for Americans not to continue to fight to help their neighbors.

And so, I ask my fellow Americans to be patient with those charities that want their help, to keep trying to give, to not lose sight of the mission. And that is, we'll fight terrorism on all fronts. We will not be terrorized so that their hearts are hardened.

Nobody can threaten this country. Oh, they may be able to bomb buildings and obviously disrupt lives. But we're too great a nation to allow the evil-doers to affect our soul and our spirit.

Today, I herald the soul and spirit of America with live examples of people who have made a huge difference, and those who suffer and those who hurt. This is a great land. It's a great land, because our people are so decent and strong and compassionate.

God bless. (Applause.)

END

11:58 A.M. EDT

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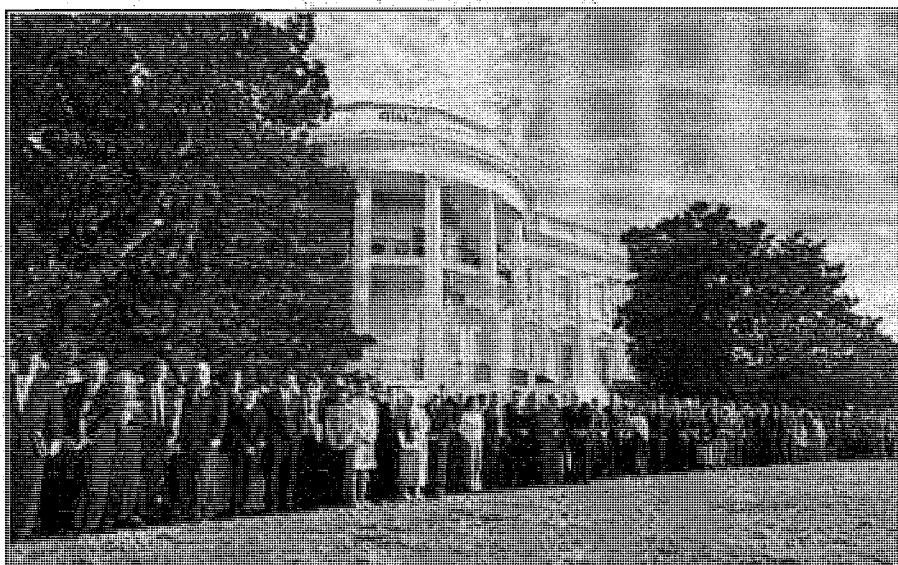
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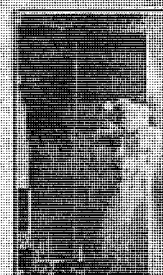
White House employees gather outside the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2001, to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. President Bush joined his staff at 8:45 a.m., to mark the time when the attacks began one week ago. (AP Photo/Doug Mills)

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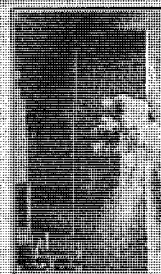
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President Bush and his advisers walk to the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2001, to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of the terrorist attacks. President Bush joined his staff at 8:45am, to mark the time when the attacks began one week ago. From left are: White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card, FBI Director Robert Mueller, Attorney General John Ashcroft, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, Vice President Dick Cheney, and President Bush. (AP Photo/Doug Mills)

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DINNER
in honor of
His Excellency Jacques Chirac
President of the French Republic
Tuesday, September 18, 2001 7:00 P.M.
Old Family Dining Room

Mr. Fried

Mr. Fleischer

Dr. Rice

Secretary Powell

THE PRESIDENT

The Vice President

Mr. Card

Mr. Hadley

The American Ambassador

Mr. Thierry Dana
Technical Adviser

Mrs. Catherine Colonna
Spokesperson

General Henri Bentegeat
Military Chief of Staff

HE Hubert Vedrine
Minister for Foreign Affairs

The President of the French Republic

HE Francois Bujon de L'Estant
Ambassador of France to the United States

Mr. Jean-Marc de La Sabliere
Diplomatic Adviser

Mr. Jean-Francois Girault
Technical Adviser

Mr. Gerard Errera
Political Director

Fireplace

Ms. Carol Wolter, Interpreter for the President
Mrs. Claire Keefe, Interpreter for the President of the French Republic

09/24/01 2:22 PM

Entrance

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 17, 2001

MEETING WITH

PRINCE BANDAR OF SAUDI ARABIA

DATE: September 18, 2001

LOCATION: Oval Office

TIME: 5:15 - 5:30 p.m.

FROM: CONDOLEEZZA RICE *SeB fr*

III. PARTICIPANTS

United States

The Vice President
Condoleezza Rice, National
Security Advisor
Bruce Riedel, NSC Senior
Director (Notetaker)

Saudi Arabia

Prince Bandar bin Sultan,
Saudi Ambassador to the
United States
Rihab Massoud, Counselor

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 18, 2001

9:30-10:30 a.m.

Situation Room via
Secure Video TeleconferencePARTICIPANTS LIST

The President

The Vice President

Colin Powell, Secretary of State

Paul O'Neill, Secretary of Treasury

Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense

John Ashcroft, Attorney General

Andrew Card, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff

George Tenet, Director of Central Intelligence

Condoleezza Rice, Assistant to the President for National
Security AffairsAlberto Gonzales, Assistant to the President and White House
CounselSteve Hadley, Assistant to the President and Deputy National
Security Advisor (notetaker)Lewis Libby, Assistant to the President, Chief of Staff to the
Vice President and Assistant to the Vice President for National
Security Affairs

Paul Wolfowitz, Deputy Secretary of Defense

General Hugh Shelton, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

General Richard Myers, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Robert Mueller, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

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Rachael L. Sunbarger

09/18/2001 04:49 PM

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Subject: PRESS BRIEFING BY ARI FLEISCHER

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 18, 2001

PRESS BRIEFING
BY ARI FLEISCHER
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PRESS BRIEFING
BY
ARI FLEISCHER

The James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

2:12 P.M. EDT

MR. FLEISCHER: The President made three phone calls today I want to fill you in on, and then I'll give you a walk-through on the President's schedule. He spoke with United Nations -- Kofi Annan, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, this morning. The Secretary General condemned the terrorist attacks of September 11th unequivocally, expressed his condolences to the American people.

The President and the Secretary General agreed that the attacks were against all freedom-loving people and that all nations should join in the fight against terrorism. The Secretary General also expressed appreciation to the President for his message of tolerance which the President conveyed yesterday at Washington's Islamic Cultural Center.

The President also spoke with President Cardoso of Brazil this morning. President Cardoso expressed his condolences and solidarity and said that this has been an attack against Western civilization, against all of humanity.

The President thanked President Cardoso for his statements on behalf of the American people, and he said that we are facing a different kind of war that will require patience and cooperation.

And, finally, the President spoke again today with Prime Minister Chretien of Canada. The President expressed heartfelt appreciation for Canada's solidarity with the United States and for everything that Canada has done to assist.

Let me just recap the President's day and fill you in a little bit about what he's going to do this afternoon. In addition to the phone calls to world leaders, the President convened a meeting of his National Security Council to continue the planning.

The President met earlier today, as you know, with a group of charitable organizations that are doing everything they can to make it easier for the American people's outpouring of generosity to be easily met. They have set up a special web site, LIBERTYUNITES.ORG, and the President urges all Americans who want to help to give to the charity of their choice, or to log on. It will contain information where they can go to volunteer, to help, as well as to give financially, if any individual Americans seek to do so.

On the personnel front, the President has a meeting today with his personnel team. These are part of the regular routine meetings of the White House. The President will have another one today as he continues to focus on the personnel appointments to the government.

He will have a meeting later this afternoon with his economic team to discuss other types of action that may or may not be required to help the economy. And then this evening he will meet with and have dinner with President Chirac of France.

One update on the schedule: General Ashcroft -- Attorney General Ashcroft will brief at 2:30 p.m. The head of FEMA will brief at 3:00 p.m. And Treasury Secretary O'Neill will brief at 4:00 p.m., as we continue to fill the American people in on all events that are going on.

I'm sorry? That will be a closed meeting.

Let me give you an update, too, on some of the activities around the administration, and then I'll be happy to take questions. Secretary Paige will be holding an interactive satellite town meeting from the Newseum to discuss talking with children about last week's disasters, as well as parental involvement in their children's education.

At the Environmental Protection Agency, Administrator Whitman announced today that results from the Agency's air and drinking water monitored near the World Trade Center and the Pentagon disaster sites indicate that vital resources are safe. The Administrator also announced that EPA has been given up to \$83 million from FEMA to support EPA's involvement in the clean-up activities and ongoing monitoring of environmental conditions in New York City and the Washington, D.C. areas.

At the Small Business Administration, the Administrator is in New York City today to talk about SBA's plans to assist those in need through its disaster loan program. The SBA offers low-interest long-term financial assistance to help victims with their disaster-related losses.

Two more agencies, and then I'll be pleased for questions. At Treasury the IRS released new information to help the people use charitable organizations and announced it will speed processing of requests for tax-exempt status from the new charities formed to assist the victims of the attacks. And the IRS is also compiling a publication called, "Disaster Relief: Providing Assistance Through Charitable Organizations," which will explain how to make contributions through existing charitable organizations and how new organizations can apply for tax-exempt status.

And finally, as you know, the Secretary of Transportation met with airline executives to discuss the safety, the security and the stabilization of the American airline industry.

And with that, I'm happy to take your questions.

Q Ari, on the airline industry, is the administration moving toward the \$24 billion figure that the airline is talking about? And on another point, are you confident that the current financial woes of the airline industry are wholly owing to last week's attacks? They've been having a bad year up until now. I'm just wondering if there's any concern by the administration that you may be picking up the tab for what had been a bad year up until last Tuesday?

MR. FLEISCHER: The Secretary of Transportation, as well as senior White House officials, met with executives of the airline industry today. This was after their meeting with the President -- after the staff and the Secretary met with the President yesterday.

His charge to them was to come up with the specifics of a plan to help the airlines deal with the consequences of the attack on the United States and its implications for the airlines. That was the President's charge. And the plan that Secretary Mineta alluded to earlier that he is working on and will consult with the Congress on deals with helping the airlines so they can be secure, so they can be safe and they can be stable in the wake of this attack.

Q But Ari, on the two questions about the \$24 billion, and are you confident that you're not picking up the tab for the first nine months of this year as well as what's happened since --

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, I thought I addressed that second question when I said the President's charge was to do so in the wake of the attack. On the first question, it's premature to

know what the exact dollar amount will be. Clearly, the airlines have a dollar amount in mind, and that will be something that the government -- the administration, working with the Congress, considers.

Q Ari, on the economy, the President and Congress are now discussing, we understand, seven or eight different options, some of which I gather include another tax cut to stimulate the economy. And I know the President is interested in having the administration consult with Congress and it's sort of in that today. But where is his head, at this time, about what would best stimulate the economy now? He certainly knows about this, he's thought about it, he's thought about his first tax cut. So where's his head now? Capital gains? Is that a good idea?

MR. FLEISCHER: The President is actually -- I've heard him say, these are no ordinary times. And he said, this is an economy that's going to get a dose of both supply side and Keynesian economics, meaning the advantages of tax cuts that stimulate the economy, and of course Congress just approved \$40 billion in spending as an immediate -- which has an immediate impact as the money is spent. That's not \$40 billion over a long period of time, that's \$40 billion over a relatively short time, but also which is to address some of the human suffering that has taken place.

So the President recognizes that this is not an era of normal economics, normal responses, and he is going to continue to be very open-minded as he works with the Congress and with Democrats and Republicans about what comes next. But it's premature to know exactly what comes next.

Yesterday's meeting that the President led about the economy and the airlines is the first of many meetings he's going to hold. I just indicated there is another one this afternoon. And so this is the beginning of a process where the President is going to consider what exact actions.

Q But is he more than open-minded, is he actually committed to further tax relief? Does he believe that's what the economy needs right now?

MR. FLEISCHER: Premature. It's premature to say. He'll have another meeting this afternoon and he'll listen to various thoughts from various advisers. But he has not come to any determinations yet.

Q What's first on the agenda tonight for Chirac? Discussions?

MR. FLEISCHER: I haven't seen the agenda specifically for the meeting, but I anticipate it's going to be about, obviously, the reaction to the terrorist attack on the United States, ways of cooperating to combat terrorism. I don't rule out other important bilateral issues will be discussed; anytime two heads of state are together, that can happen. So that's a summary of the agenda.

Q Specifically, what did the President want from Chirac?

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, again, I think it gets back into the same list of specificity that I'm not going to go into if you're asking in the context of the attack, but it's going to be ways to combat terrorism and ways the Western world can unite.

Q Ari, Britain has said that it, too, wants to aid its airline industry which is suffering, and said other countries may want to help their national carriers. Is this opening the door to a lot of economically distorting government subsidies for the industry, and could it be harmful in the long run if we provide this aid?

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, clearly, if it's harmful in the long run, the President won't opt for it. But what the President does recognize is that this attack has had consequences, not only on the lives lost, people missing and on the psyche of our country, but on American commerce, on American industry, on Americans' ability to travel, one of the most specific examples. And he is not going to adhere to any one rigid ideology in the wake of this. He's going to explore what the government needs to do with an open mind to deal with this.

These are not ordinary times. Now, having said that, he's also cognizant of the fact -- and John Roberts pointed up -- that there are existing economic conditions that predated this attack on the United States. And he's tasked his policy makers to consider those factors in determining what the best next steps should be.

Q Following that idea of the disruption of ordinary life and so forth, what does the President expect of the American public as he conducts this war against terrorism? What kind of sacrifices, efforts, work does he want nonmilitary Americans to do?

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, I think, number one, the President is very heartened by the resolve of the American people. This patriotic rally is in the finest traditions of our nation. And it's one reason that, as the President said, any act -- anytime anybody attacks America, it's an act of self-destruction, and

that's because of the strength of our people.

Two, he's asked for patience. Three, he's asked the American people to go back to work. The President thinks it's very important that people resume their lives. Every time somebody shows back up at their office, every time somebody is able to enjoy entertainment once more, every time people travel, it strengthens our economy, it strengthens our country and makes it easier for the government to do what needs to be done to fight terrorism.

So those are -- it's a short list of what the President is asking for.

Q You mentioned the Secretary General had expressed appreciation for the President's comments yesterday at the Islamic Center. Have you been able to gauge any other impact that that appearance and those words might have had across the world?

MR. FLEISCHER: The only way to gauge it is just to hope that acts of violence don't exist. And the President continues to remind leaders of their job around this country in calling out to people and urging that no acts of violence exist.

Q I'm talking about internationally. Has he heard from any Arab country or Muslim country leaders about this?

MR. FLEISCHER: You may want to check with State. I've got the read on the three calls the President made today, but I would not be surprised, but State would have a better read.

Q On the scope of this response to these attacks, while the immediate focus is on these perpetrators, all administration officials have said is it's to eliminate the scourge of terrorism around the world. There's terrorism in Ireland, Colombia, the Philippines, Russia. Is that what the administration is after?

MR. FLEISCHER: The President has made it clear that this will be broad and this will be sweeping, and that anybody who is part of the worldwide network that exists to foster terrorism anywhere will be included in this. Make no mistake: That is the charge that the President has set.

Q Does he believe it's all linked to one network?

MR. FLEISCHER: Wherever it is. That will be the actions the President takes.

Q Ari, did he ask Kofi Annan to do anything? Have you

heard from the Taliban? Have you heard from Pakistan?

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, first of all, the United Nations has already done something. The United Nations Security Council passed a resolution on September 12th condemning this.

Q Does he want anything concrete?

MR. FLEISCHER: Beyond that, there's nothing to report today. If there is any additional with the United Nations, I'll keep you informed. There's nothing beyond that from today with the U.N.

Q How about Pakistan and the Taliban? What do you hear?

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, as you know, we are not indicating with specificity what actions we have asked Pakistan to take. Nevertheless, the status of our reaction to what Pakistan has done remains unchanged. In other words, the President continues to be very satisfied with the steps that Pakistan has taken to help the United States at this time.

Q Ari, in light of what's happened --

Q And what do you hear from Afghanistan?

MR. FLEISCHER: Afghanistan, at least the ruling Taliban, have been all over the lot. They've been giving a series of messages to the United States government, one seemingly contradictory from the other. So the message to Afghanistan remains loud and remains clear: Those nations who harbor terrorists will not be spared.

Q Ari, a couple things. Yesterday I asked if the President had specifically decided whether or not to seek U.N. Security Council endorsement for any military act that would fall under the umbrella of this crusade against -- war against terrorism. Do you have an answer to that?

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, there's no specificity yet on whether or not anything else will be asked of the United Nations. But, of course, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, all nations have the right to act in self-defense. But whether or not there will be any additional requests made to the U.N., I can't give you an indication yet, Major.

Q Okay. Back on the airline legislation, the industry has been giving the Hill for several days now a very specific list of things it would like to see done. You have now talked, and the Transportation Secretary talked about coming up with your

own plan. Does that suggest that what the air industry has put before Congress does not meet with entire administration approval, and you want to go in a different direction?

MR. FLEISCHER: No, I think what it suggests is that even at this time, the administration, the Congress are going to exercise their discretion and their judgment. They will of course work with affected constituencies. But in all times, war and peace, constituencies come to the United States government with requests, and those requests get considered. That doesn't mean they get considered and everyone of them approved just exactly as proposed. That's how our government works, in all times.

Q Ari, National Airport -- Reagan National Airport is a vital transportation center. It is also the main airport of the capital of the United States. It's a symbol. The President wants the United States to get back to normality as quickly as possible. I know there are security problems, and they're trying to be addressed. Does the President have any sense or any feeling that he would like Reagan National open, or is he willing to wait?

MR. FLEISCHER: That will be a decision that's made by the appropriate security authorities and by the Department of Transportation. That's not going to be a decision made by the President. The President is of course aware of the inconvenience that this has caused to people in the Washington D.C. area. He wishes there were no inconveniences to travelers or to residents anywhere in the United States. But it's a recognition of what happens when you have an airport so extraordinarily close to so many major governmental and important facilities.

Q Not just inconvenience to travelers, it happens to be one of the most vital industries of the capital and the metropolitan area, the state of Virginia.

MR. FLEISCHER: Sure, it is. And again, many economies, many industries have been affected by this. But as the government reacts to all of this, security will always be an important concern. And I think that people recognize that.

Q Ari, what about the Middle East and the President's reaction to talk of a cease-fire, and will he address this, do you think, in his meeting with Chirac for the cameras?

MR. FLEISCHER: I think there is an open event with Chirac -- is it a pool event? Pool at the top on Chirac.

Q I just wondered if he had a specific intention to address it -- I mean, I know he'll take questions.

MR. FLEISCHER: I have not seen his remarks for tonight with Chirac yet, so --

Q But, nevertheless, his reaction -- can you tell us his reaction?

MR. FLEISCHER: His reaction to --

Q To talk of cease-fire now in the Middle East?

MR. FLEISCHER: Oh, yes. Thank you. The President welcomes the positive statements by Chairman Arafat, including a call for a complete cease-fire for the exercise of maximum self-restraint and for a resumption of direct contacts between the parties.

The President hopes to see these steps implemented immediately on the ground. The President also welcomes the Israeli government statement that it has called a halt to its offensive military operations.

The President has called on all parties, and he reiterates it today, to seize this moment and do everything possible in the wake of this attack on the United States, to move forward with the peace process in the Middle East. So, the President welcomes today's remarks.

David, go ahead.

Q Let me just --

Q There's a guy in the back that has had his hand up for 20 minutes.

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, Mr. Kinsolving, when you're the press secretary, you will be able to call on anybody in any order.

Q No, no, I'm just suggesting, because he's had his hand up for 20 minutes, Ari.

MR. FLEISCHER: As far as I can tell, everybody in this room has had their hand up since I got here.

Q Does the President have some indication now whether Israel will be a willing partner or a hindrance to this coalition that's being assembled?

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, the President hopes that all nations around the world will help to resolve this matter. And he's going to have continued conversations with Israel and with the

government of Israel. But it's also important for Israel and for the Palestinian Authority to do all they can to seize this opportunity to move forward on peace in the Middle East which will, in and of itself, be a major contribution to reducing terrorism and violence around the world.

Q Ari, I just want to make it clear when we asked before about the President's statements about eradicating terrorism around the world, how -- and not being specific to Osama bin Laden and his organization -- how do we then work with Iran, which there's been talk of doing in spite of the fact that they harbor terrorists and fund Hezbollah? I mean, do we make their cooperation contingent upon serving Hezbollah to us?

MR. FLEISCHER: I think it's going to be a very complicated matter. With different states it's going to be more complicated. And I think the basic approach that we can look at is -- as I indicated yesterday, some nations are going to be able to do more, some nations are going to be able to do an awful lot. Other nations may be only able to do a little. But if that little is constructive, that little will proceed.

The approach of the government will involve both a carrot and a stick. And in different nations, the carrot may be bigger, in other nations the stick may be bigger.

Q Ari, isn't it likely that in order to get Iran's cooperation, we would have to essentially give them implicit, if not explicit, promise that we're not going to go after their own operations?

MR. FLEISCHER: I think it all depends on what the definition of cooperation is by various nations around the world. And that's why I indicated it's a complicated measure. There will be different actions taken with different governments. And I'm not going to say specifically what it would be with Iran, but --

Q I don't think it's been over 19 minutes, actually.
(Laughter.)

MR. FLEISCHER: Very effective way to get a question to the back.

Q Tag team. Given the events of the last week and given the direction that we were headed before last Tuesday, how confident is the President that we can avoid a recession?

MR. FLEISCHER: That will be a simple matter of judging the economics as the data comes out. The second quarter, as you

know, grew at a rate of 0.2 percent, and the third quarter's preliminary data will be released, I believe, on September 24th. So that's next week. And we'll know at that time how close to recession the country is or is not. And of course although that data will -- substantially, if not all, preceded the attack on the country.

But the President understands that the fundamental underpinnings of the economy are strong -- that even with the attack, the combined effect of the Federal Reserve rate cuts and the stimulative affect of the tax cut will have an impact on the economy. We'll see precisely, in the wake of the attack, what level of impact they will have. And the President will gauge all that as he meets with his economic team to decide whether or not anything else needs to be done.

Q Ari, you said that the United States has received mixed and conflicting messages from the Taliban. How are those messages being communicated? Is the Taliban communicating with this government through an intermediary?

MR. FLEISCHER: You might want to ask the State Department for the exact ways of the conversations. I know that in Islamabad, for example, there can be contacts between our embassy and Taliban officials in Pakistan. There are also press accounts of what the Taliban are saying. So there are various ways.

Q Are you trying to open a channel to that government that hasn't existed before because of this crisis?

MR. FLEISCHER: I think you may want to check with the State Department on that. This is a real legal, diplomatic matter of exactly what form of communication there is with that government. And State could explain it to you better than I can.

Q Ari, now the Indian-American community, especially with turbans and beards are under attack in this area, in Virginia. And this morning the members held a press conference at the National Press Club, and they're calling on the administration, President Bush, they wrote letters, and also that he should take steps and call on the Attorney General to take immediate steps today. And same -- from the Indian Ambassador, in which also he said that they are with the U.S., but at the same time, our community who are citizens of this country should be protected as any other citizens; they are the same.

MR. FLEISCHER: Absolutely. The head of the FBI yesterday made that message clear, and this government will not tolerate any such intolerance. And the President is committed to doing everything he can. You know, 99.999 percent of the American

people would never even think or do anything like this. To the degree there is a teeny minority, this government will get them. That is wrong, and the laws must be enforced, and they will be. And that's a commitment from the President at the highest level.

Q At the stakeout here, Mineta seemed to say that though it's premature to talk about the specific details in the airline bailout, that the airlines should be made whole from the losses they suffered while they were forced out of the skies last week. That would suggest there is a floor on what the administration is considering for the airlines.

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, I think what he's indicating is that we have to help the airlines to become safe, secure and stable. There's no question that when the order from the FAA went out, ordering all the airlines to put their planes down wherever was the closest location where the FAA could land them, as opposed to their destinations, that has a cost to the airlines, of course. It also was what enabled the United States to know exactly how many flights could be hijacked that were up in the air. That's how the United States was able to quickly gain information.

So this is all part of what the President has tasked his advisors and the Secretary of Transportation to look at, as they consider what steps to take.

Q Mineta indicated, though, that at a minimum, the airlines should be made whole for the losses they suffered, which he described as \$250 to \$300 million a day for those days when they weren't allowed to fly. So it makes it sound as if there is a minimum that the administration has already agreed to, and it's just thinking about the rest of the --

MR. FLEISCHER: I was in synagogue this morning, and so I did not participate in the meeting with the airline people, and in yesterday's meeting, there was no discussion with the President about minimums. There was a discussion of taking those steps to help the airlines to deal with the consequences of the attack.

Q Ari, the AP reports that they have filed a protest to Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority about threats to a cameraman who filmed crowds of Palestinians celebrating the attacks on the United States. And the Palestinian Authority ordered material not to be aired, and there were threats to the lives of cameramen. And this was also protested by the Foreign Press Association in Jerusalem.

And my two-part question. The first is, the President surely supports the AP and the Foreign Press Association in this

protest, doesn't he, Ari?

MR. FLEISCHER: The President always supports the right of a free press to operate around the world.

Q Good. Now, since it was -- (laughter) -- since it was so many thousands of Arafat's Palestinians who, in Nablus, Ramallah, East Jerusalem and Gaza publicly celebrated the mass murder of nearly 6,000 of our fellow Americans and I understand 60 other countries -- and they also carried photos of bin Laden. Why does the President want anything to do with the leader of these creatures?

MR. FLEISCHER: When I indicated earlier, Les, that the President welcomed the steps or the announcements that were taken in the Middle East, it's because through this tragedy, the President hopes that others in the Middle East would seize an opportunity to finally get serious about the peace process and implementation of the Mitchell talks. Anyone, anywhere in the world who reacted with any level of joy to the tragedy in New York needs to be denounced.

But there still is a fundamental issue in the Middle East about how to achieve peace with Israel and her neighbors, and this President will remain committed to that process.

Let me go to the back.

Q On the airline bailout, I think \$24 billion may sound like a large sum to a lot of people, and you said earlier that many industries are hurting. Is there any thought being given to helping other industries, and can you explain more about why the airline industry should be bailed out? Does the President feel it's a matter of national security to keep all the airlines that currently exist flying?

MR. FLEISCHER: Number one, when I said the President is confident in the fundamentals of the economy, it's always important to keep in mind that our nation has gone through war before. And the American people, the American commerce, American industry adjusts. It does figure out how to get back on its footing. And that's part of the reason our nation is so resilient and strong for more than 200 years.

In the case of the airline industry, they have been particularly harmed by what has taken place in the wake of the attack up in New York. And so the President has directed his staff to take a look at any potential proposals that can come together to help the airline industry. I indicated the President is going to have other meetings today on the overall status of

the economy, and to the degree that the President authorizes any actions to help the economy, it helps all those who, of course, participate in the economy. Beyond that, I have nothing else to offer on it.

Q Is there any concern that one industry after another might, as this effort goes on, especially if we go to a full-scale war situation, come to the White House with a hand out, saying we need some bailout for us -- and the money has to come from somewhere at some point.

MR. FLEISCHER: I don't think the President looks at this as a bailout. This is a reasoned reaction to what has taken place to the airline industry in the wake of the attack.

Q As the administration puts together all the various pieces of the economic puzzle, with the data coming in next week, how much weight, how much significance, how concerned is the administration about one particular part of that picture, which would be consumer confidence, which, arguably, has taken a big hit from what's happened here beyond what was already -- the trend that was already evident?

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, the answer to that really is contained in what I talked about before, that America has gone through war before, and our people and our industries, our commerce has proven its resiliency and strength. And an amazing thing is happening right now, if you take a look at consumer confidence, if you take a look at people who think the country is on the right track. There has been in many circles a patriotic rally where the American people have expressed their confidence and their belief that the United States is on the right track, that the United States economy will be strong.

And it's that American spirit that has always kept us free, and has enabled us to deal with any adversaries that have ever crossed our paths before. So there's that spirit of the country that will get matched by the real policies of this President that will lead to the growth and the continuation of our strength.

Q Ari, can I ask about the President's view of his own role over the next few days, or however long it takes to come up with the first of likely military reaction? Is he going to be holding daily events to rally the American people and highlight various aspects of what he believes to be this sort of comprehensive war on terror that he has in mind?

MR. FLEISCHER: There's no rule. This is new for -- fortunately, this is new for all of us. I think the President will continue to speak out as he sees fit. He will continue to

say and answer things as he feels is right for the country. And that's really what you've been seeing.

Q The reason I ask is because, obviously, to the extent that the American people are angry and are looking for action, there are sort of two graphs going -- one is going down as their attention span may begin to slip. Does he feel the need to sort of keep up a certain level of concentration on this issue?

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, I think the President -- I know the President believes his first need is to put together a war plan that will work, over whatever period of time it requires. That is his first priority. And he has asked the American people for patience, as you've heard him say, as Secretary Rumsfeld has said, as the Vice President has said, as that process continues. He's aware that the American people are very focused on this right now, but it doesn't matter the degree of focus, the President will do what he believes is the right option. He will not rush it, he will not delay it, he will act as he has said, at a time and a moment and a way of America's choosing. That's his first thought.

Beyond that, the President does understand that he has an important role to play in speaking for the nation. The American people want to know what he is doing, what he is thinking and why he is thinking it, so people continue to speak out and answer those questions.

Q Thank you, Ari. On the international terrorism, I understand the President wants to change international tolerance for terrorism, but you listed a disparate group of terrorists in Northern Ireland, everywhere else. Does the President have any proof that these different terrorist groups are linked together in any way?

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, the al Qaeda organization is present in, as you've heard from the President, more than 60 countries, and its links are -- its links are amorphous, and that's one of the ways that terrorism has so successfully operated around the world. It's hard to tell where one group begins and another group ends often. But the President is making clear that as he approaches this, he's approaching it from a very broad and total sense. I think it's his judgment and the judgment of the planners that is the way to be most effective.

Q Are you leaving the impression that this campaign against terrorism will be against the IRA as well as all of these -- I mean, it's going to be that massive? This is what you're telling us.

MR. FLEISCHER: The President has indicated he will go after terrorism wherever terrorism threatens the United States. And --

Q Oh, threatens the United States.

Q I'll yield the floor to Ron.

Q Actually, I wanted to follow up on that and then ask you something else. Have you just now declared war on the IRA?

MR. FLEISCHER: I said that the links for one group begins and the other group ends are often amorphous, and the President has said we will go after terrorism in a way that is most effective.

Q But we only go to war against terrorist groups that threaten the United States? Was that a distinction you intended to make?

MR. FLEISCHER: That's correct.

Q Let me follow up with something more nebulous. Small point. But have the Bushes had a chance to make a donation to the rescue groups, any of these charities, themselves?

MR. FLEISCHER: I'll ask.

Q Please.

Q We carried word of an intelligence report believed to be credible that Mohammed Atta, who was taken to be the ringleader of the 19 that were involved in the last Tuesday's attack, was seen meeting with the head of Iraqi intelligence in Europe earlier this year. Do you have any knowledge of that report? Do you have any knowledge of a connection to Iraq?

MR. FLEISCHER: I'll have to take a look at that.

Q The other question was, the President used the word crusade last Sunday, which has caused some consternation in a lot of Muslim countries. Can you explain his usage of that word, given the connotation to Muslims?

MR. FLEISCHER: I think what the President was saying was -- had no intended consequences for anybody, Muslim or otherwise, other than to say that this is a broad cause that he is calling on America and the nations around the world to join. That was the point -- purpose of what he said.

Q Does he regret having used that word, Ari, and will he

not use it again in the context of talking about this effort?

MR. FLEISCHER: I think to the degree that that word has any connotations that would upset any of our partners, or anybody else in the world, the President would regret if anything like that was conveyed. But the purpose of his conveying it is in the traditional English sense of the word. It's a broad cause.

Q You mentioned the President's pleasure with the developments in the Middle East. What role did the administration play in all of its ongoing diplomatic conversations the past week to achieve what appears to be the beginnings of a breakthrough in the Middle East on the peace question?

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, it's been a constant process. It's something that the President spoke with Prime Minister Sharon about when they spoke on the phone earlier. And it's been something that the Secretary of State has been very involved in in his conversations. And it's also based on good sense that from this there is an opportunity.

Q Carry on with that. An opportunity because it's necessary for the United States as it builds a coalition to make sure this -- there is also progress shown in that part of the world?

MR. FLEISCHER: Because I think it's a reminder to the parties in the Middle East that they can choose a path that leads to further violence, or they can choose a path that leads to peace. And it wasn't so long ago that the two were making progress on the path that led to peace. And the President hopes that in the wake of witnessing such an act of terrifying violence that it will send a wakeup to the Palestinian authority and to Israel and to all in the Middle East, don't let this path of violence be the path that guides you. Choose another path, and that is the path that you committed yourselves to, to engage in dialogue, to engage in confidence-building steps, to engage in security talks, so that you can have a lasting cease-fire, which allows you to address the broader political problems in the Middle East.

Q There are reports that an aviation official contacted Senator Kerrey and warned that Boston Logan airport was vulnerable to a hijacking, that the plane could be then used to crash into a building. There are also reports that FBI agents were at one of these flights schools.

Looking back and looking forward to securing the safety of the American people, is the President concerned about the

information flow -- one hand knowing what the other hand is doing, the head knowing nothing within the federal government? That, one of the -- what went wrong last Tuesday?

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, I think that any time you have a nation as open as ours, where you have so many hundreds of millions of people who come to visit this country, and you have so many crossings into this nation, we have a security system that is set up that is really among the best, if not the best in the world. I think in the wake of this, obviously, changes are being made to tighten up. But there was no credible -- there was no specific evidence that this attack was coming. And we remain an open nation, which has been one of our greatest strengths and assets, and will always be. But it does expose us to vulnerabilities.

Q Does the President want to get a better system in place where information can be processed quickly to the people who are securing the country's safety?

MR. FLEISCHER: I think you may want to direct that directly at the operational side. If you want to talk to the FAA, if you want to talk to the Department of Justice, if you want to talk to the Pentagon --

Q Isn't that a White House priority?

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, the President's priority is to take all steps necessary to secure the safety of the American people. And he'll continue to do so.

Q In limiting this battle against terrorism to groups which threaten the United States, what incentive is there for the international coalition the President is trying to assemble to join in? And in particular, with Britain, which has its own issues with fighting the IRA?

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, when I say that, the President has made it clear to his allies on the phone that these attacks were aimed at Western civilization; they were aimed at those who cherish liberty. And that does include nations outside the United States. And when I indicate -- the question about the IRA, for example, you should not interpret that to mean that the IRA is or is not a part of this.

What I've said -- because I'm not going to be specific about any one organization -- what I have said is when the President commits this nation and others to fight terrorism, it's hard to tell where the bounds of one group begins and one groups ends, and in that, it goes beyond the United States; all nations have a

reason to protect themselves. And as this coalition is formed, nations will have those reasons to protect themselves as part of this.

So that broadens my earlier answer a little bit.

Q A follow-up to this one. You're asking for different contributions from different countries. Are you going to ask any European countries for any military contribution? And what do you make out of countries which are neutral, like Austria?

MR. FLEISCHER: This is going to be the longstanding policy of this White House in this matter: Until the President chooses to announce what concrete actions and steps are being taken, I won't get into the specificity of what we are asking.

The requests fall into a broad series of categories, involving things that could be military, political, financial, economic, diplomatic. And as I explained yesterday, the reason that I'm not going to get into those specifics is, to say from this podium what we're asking somebody to do to help us would give information to those who want to hurt us -- they could change their habits, they could change their behavior, they could change the way they do things if they knew what we were specifically going after. So, of course, I can't answer that in specificity.

Q You're including military needs, you're including military, political, financial and so on?

MR. FLEISCHER: I just answered that in the affirmative.

Q What is the White House position on the Justice Department's proposal to the Hill on counterterrorism and changing the laws? And I understand people on the Hill are waiting to get word from the White House on whether or not they support it, and are just waiting to hear from you guys.

MR. FLEISCHER: As I indicated yesterday, the President supports Attorney General Ashcroft's efforts in this matter. He's briefing, as a matter of fact, as we speak, and so you'll be able to get additional information from the General.

Thank you. Thank you.

END

2:53 P.M. EDT

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09/18/2001 09:15 AM

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Subject: EVENT BACKGROUNDER: MEETING WITH CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

**THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary**

**EVENT BACKGROUNDER
Meeting with Charitable Organizations
11:20 AM**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Preset will be at 10:30 am and final access will be at 11:10 am
The President, Governor Ridge, Governor Gilmore, Mrs. Libby Pataki, Dr. Healy, Commissioner John Busby, Christopher Amundsen, Arthur Penn, and Michael O'Neil will walk onstage
The President will deliver brief remarks

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The President will highlight those charitable organizations and Americans helping support the efforts in New York, Pennsylvania, and Northern Virginia as well as encourage more charitable giving to organizations in disaster relief and recovery areas.

The American Red Cross, Salvation Army, United Way and numerous other local charities have rallied the armies of compassion in response to this national tragedy.

The online industry has been active in responding to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and directing assistance to the charities mentioned above as well as others. In the first week alone, over \$50 million has been raised through online contributions at web-sites supporting charities involved in the relief efforts, much of it in small donations of \$30-50 each.

One example of this effort is the American Liberty Partnership, a web-site "WWW.LIBERTYUNITES.ORG" that makes it easier for a person to help a relief organization. Online donations can be made directly to charitable organizations, both national and local, with a credit card. The goal is to provide Americans with easy access to the best information and most effective philanthropic organizations.

The web-site is run by a consortium of technology leaders - AOL/Time Warner, Microsoft, Amazon, eBay, Cisco and Yahoo - who have each donated the funds to run the site and cover all transaction costs of online donations to charities through the site. AOL/Time Warner developed the site in the last 72 hours and reached out to the other companies to join as partners.

Event Attendees

Governor Thomas Ridge, Pennsylvania
Governor Jim Gilmore, Virginia
Mrs. Libby Pataki, First Lady of New York
Christopher Amundsen, Interim President, United Way of America
Richard Belluzzo, President and Chief Operating Officer, Microsoft
Bob Bender, Chapter Executive New York City Red Cross
Commissioner John Busby, National Commander, Salvation Army
Anthony Carbonetti, Mayor of New York Chief of Staff
Steve Case, Chairman of the Board, AOL Time Warner
Gerald Collins, Catholic Charities USA Director, Disaster Response
John Connell, Americares
Pamela Delaney, New York City Police Foundation
Lt. Colonel Joseph DeMichael, Divisional Commander Western Pennsylvania
Ralph Dickerson, President, United Way of New York City
Kevin Gallagher, Widow's and Children's Fund of the Uniformed Firefighters Association of New York
Michael Golden, *The New York Times* Company Foundation
Dr. Bernadine Healy, President and CEO, American Red Cross
Gerald Lynch, New York City Fire Foundation
Robert MacAlloway, Children's Aid Society (New York)
Dr. Megan McLaughlin, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
William Nuti, Senior Vice President, Senior Provider Operations, Cisco Systems, Inc.
Donna Santarsiero, Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service
Major Carl Schoch, Divisional Commander Greater New York Division
Dixie Scovel, Newsday Charities, Director of Public Affairs
Lorie Slutsky, New York Community Trust
Daniel "Rusty" Staub, Chairman of the Board New York Police & Fire Widows' & Children's Benefit Fund
Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, Catholic Charities of New York Executive Director

Rescue Workers

Arthur Penn, Protective Unit, Department of Defense

Arthur Rosati, Protective Unit, Department of Defense

Harold Schaitberger, General President, International Association of Fire Fighters

Kevin B. O'Connor, Assistant to the General President, International Association of Fire Fighters

Michael P. O'Neill, Firefighter/EMT, Fort Belvoir Fire and Emergency Services

Joseph D. Merritt, Jr., Firefighter/Paramedic, Fairfax County Fire and Emergency Services, FEMA USAR VA Task Force 1

Jeffrey A. Affolder, Firefighter EMT, Fort Myer Fire and Emergency Services

Thomas K. McEachin, Firefighter/Paramedic, Prince George's County Fire and EMS

Note: Employees from Amazon.com, Yahoo.com, AOL/Time Warner, Cisco will be present as well as Red Cross and United Way volunteers for the Rose Garden remarks.

###

Rachael L. Sunbarger

09/18/2001 09:23 AM

Record Type: Record

To:

cc:

Subject: POOL REPORT 9-18-01 #1

**Tuesday, Sept. 18.
Pool report #1**

By 8:45 a.m. the White House staff lined up in the South Lawn for a moment of silence.

POTUS and Vice President Cheney showed up a few moments later. Also in attendance: Rice and Ashcroft. POTUS wore a gray suit, a light blue shirt and a dark blue tie. Cheney was dressed in a dark suit, a white shirt and a red tie. They walked to the middle of the line of staff and bowed their heads. POTUS said, "May God continue to bless America." He and Cheney then returned to work and the staff dispersed.

**Raju Chebium
Gannett News Service**

(b)(6)

Rachael L. Sunbarger

09/18/2001 09:50 AM

Record Type: Record

To:

cc:

Subject: MRS. BUSH TO BE A FEATURED GUEST ON THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW

THE WHITE HOUSE

OFFICE OF MRS. BUSH

**For Planning Purposes Only
Contact: 202-456-6313**

September 18, 2001

Mrs. Bush to be Featured Guest on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*

Mrs. Bush will be on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* today, which airs live in Chicago from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. CDT, and airs later in the day throughout the rest of the nation. To check for local listings, go to www.oprah.com. Mrs. Bush and Oprah will discuss coping with the current events and how to talk to children about what happened. Dr. Phil McGraw will join them later in the show.

Today's taping is closed to media.

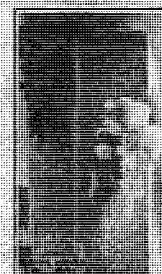
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President George W. Bush signs a document in the oval office at the White House, September 18, 2001. Bush signed a congressional resolution authorizing military action against those behind the attacks on New York and Washington, saying he was 'unalterably committed to a direct, forceful and comprehensive response.' (Tina Hager/Reuters)

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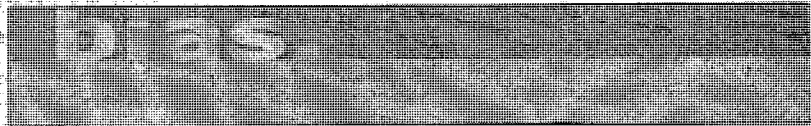
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President George W. Bush joins Vice President Richard Cheney (L), Counselor to the President Karen Hughes, and Deputy Chief of Staff Joe Hagin (R) on the South Lawn of the White House in a moment of silence September 18, 2001 in honor of the thousands of victims of last week's terror attacks on the U.S. (Larry Downing/Reuters)

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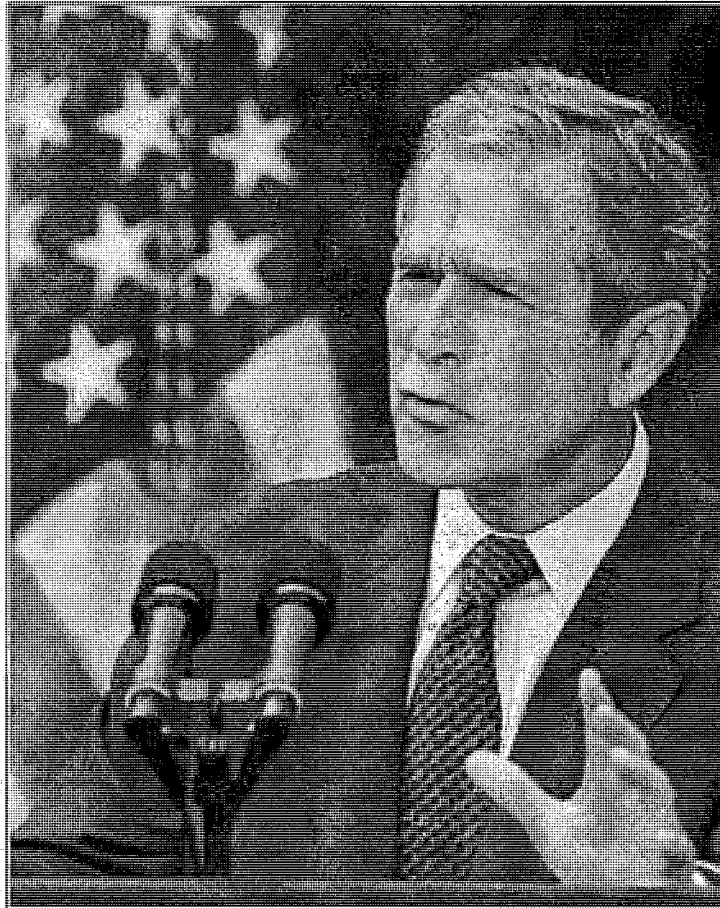


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President George W. Bush, seen in the White House Rose Garden, sought September 18, 2001 to bolster America's spirit in the wake of last week's deadly airborne attacks, vowing the nation would not be cowed and issuing an appeal for disaster relief donations. 'I herald the soul and spirit of America,' Bush said, 'We'll fight terrorism on all fronts. We will not be terrorized so that our hearts are hardened.' (Win McNamee/Reuters)

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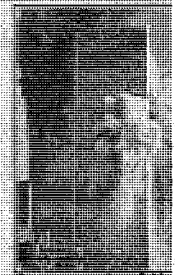
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President George W. Bush joins with French President Jacques Chirac in the Oval Office to discuss the thousands of victims of the brutal attacks on the United States last week, September 18, 2001. Bush, launching a personal campaign for international support in his war on terrorism, won a show of unity from Chirac at the White House. (Larry Downing/Reuters)

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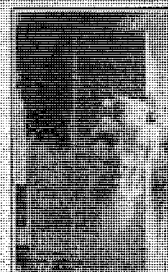
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