

New opportunities for U.S. services firms will be opened, U.S. investment will be protected, and U.S. companies will be able to participate in government procurement opportunities on the same basis as Moroccan firms. This Agreement has some of the strongest intellectual property protections ever contained in a U.S. trade agreement with a developing country.

The United States and Morocco have agreed to cooperate on environment and labor issues and to establish mechanisms supporting those efforts. Negotiation of this Agreement has promoted adoption of a new labor law in Morocco. This Agreement has also helped lead to improved domestic environmental laws in Morocco, and a number of additional cooperative projects have been identified for future work.

The approval of this Agreement will be another important step in implementing our plan for a broader Middle East Free Trade Area. Indeed, this Agreement offers the United States an opportunity to encourage economic reform in a moderate Muslim nation, as we have done with the Jordan FTA and the recently concluded Bahrain FTA. Leaders in Morocco support a reformist and tolerant vision that includes free parliamentary elections, the sale of state-owned businesses, the encouragement of foreign investment that can be connected to broad-based development, and better protection of the rights of women and workers. It is strongly in the interests of the United States to embrace these reforms and do what we can to encourage them. Passing this Agreement is a critical step in that direction.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 15, 2004.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 15. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide protections and countermeasures against chemical, radiological, or nuclear agents that may be used in a terrorist attack against the United States by giving the National Institutes of Health contracting flexibility, infrastructure improvements, and expediting the scientific peer review process, and streamlining the Food and Drug Administration approval process of countermeasures.

The message also announced that the House passed the following bills in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3463. An act to amend titles III and IV of the Social Security Act to improve the administration of unemployment taxes and benefits.

H.R. 4418. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2005 and 2006 for the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the Department of Homeland Security, for the Office of the United States Trade Representative, for the United States International Trade Commission, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the Speaker of the House of Representatives has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1167. An act to resolve the boundary conflicts in Barry and Stone Counties in the State of Missouri.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:50 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 15. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide protections and countermeasures against chemical, radiological, or nuclear agents that may be used in a terrorist attack against the United States by giving the National Institutes of Health contracting flexibility, infrastructure improvements, and expediting the scientific peer review process, and streamlining the Food and Drug Administration approval process of countermeasures.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the Vice President.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4418. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2005 and 2006 for the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the Department of Homeland Security, for the Office of the United States Trade Representative, for the United States International Trade Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2652. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to deliver a meaningful benefit and lower prescription drug prices under the medicare program.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-8530. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) Regional Grants; Notice of Funds Availability" (FRL#7361-8) received on July 15, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8531. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Siroxamine; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL#7367-1) received on July 15, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8532. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acequinocyl; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL#7364-1) received on July 15, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8533. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to chemical agent destruction operations at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (MCCDF) in Hermiston, Oregon; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-8534. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting, the report of a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-8535. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a transaction involving U.S. exports to Taiwan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8536. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a transaction involving U.S. exports to Hungary, The Netherlands, Mexico, China, The United Arab Emirates and various other countries; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8537. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Market Regulation, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Covered Securities Pursuant to Section 18 of the Securities Act of 1933" (RIN3225-AJ03) received on July 15, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8538. A communication from the Legal Counsel, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Interim Rule, Community Development Financial Institutions Program" (RIN1505-AA92) received on July 15, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8539. A communication from the Attorney, Office of Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, Office of the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Penalties" (RIN2105-AD40) received on July 15, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8540. A communication from the Attorney, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dealer Notification of Defect or Noncompliance Determination" (RIN2127-AG27) received on July 15, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8541. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to asphalt; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8542. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Office of the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled the "George Washington Memorial Parkway Boundary Revision Act"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-8543. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Office of the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled the "Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve Boundary"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.