

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 7 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 online 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 online 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 na-

tion to allow the evildoers 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.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:46 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Elizabeth Pataki, wife of Gov. George E. Pataki, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City; Gov. James S. Gilmore III of Virginia and his wife, Roxane; and Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania and his wife, Michele.

Statement on Signing the Authorization for Use of Military Force

September 18, 2001

Today I am signing Senate Joint Resolution 23, the "Authorization for Use of Military Force."

On September 11, 2001, terrorists committed treacherous and horrific acts of violence against innocent Americans and individuals from other countries. Civilized nations and people around the world have expressed outrage at, and have unequivocally condemned, these attacks. Those who plan, authorize, commit, or aid terrorist attacks against the United States and its interests—including those who harbor terrorists—threaten the national security of the United States. It is, therefore, necessary and appropriate that the United States exercise its rights to defend itself and protect United States citizens both at home and abroad.

In adopting this resolution in response to the latest terrorist acts committed against the United States and the continuing threat to the United States and its citizens from terrorist activities, both Houses of Congress have acted wisely, decisively, and in the finest traditions of our country. I thank the leadership of both Houses for their role in expeditiously passing this historic joint resolution. I have had the benefit of meaningful consultations with members of the Congress since the attacks of September 11, 2001, and

I will continue to consult closely with them as our Nation responds to this threat to our peace and security.

Senate Joint Resolution 23 recognizes the seriousness of the terrorist threat to our Nation and the authority of the President under the Constitution to take action to deter and prevent acts of terrorism against the United States. In signing this resolution, I maintain the longstanding position of the executive branch regarding the President's constitutional authority to use force, including the Armed Forces of the United States and regarding the constitutionality of the War Powers Resolution.

Our whole Nation is unalterably committed to a direct, forceful, and comprehensive response to these terrorist attacks and the scourge of terrorism directed against the United States and its interests.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 18, 2001.

NOTE: S.J. Res. 23, approved September 18, was assigned Public Law No. 107-40.

Memorandum on FY 2002 Refugee Admissions Consultations

September 18, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: FY 2002 Refugee Admissions Consultations

In accordance with section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), you are authorized to consult with the appropriate committees of the Congress concerning refugee admissions as follows:

1. The authorization of 70,000 refugee admissions during FY 2002, to be allocated by specific region as follows:

Africa	22,000
East Asia (including Amerasians) ...	4,000
Latin America/Caribbean	3,000
Near East/South Asia	15,000
Former Soviet Union	17,000
Former Yugoslavia	9,000

2. The authorization of an additional 10,000 refugee admissions numbers to be made available for the adjust-

ment to permanent resident status of persons who have been granted asylum in the United States;

3. The designation, pursuant to section 101(a)(42)(B) of the INA, of persons in Cuba, Vietnam, and the former Soviet Union, who, if they otherwise qualify for admission as refugees, may be considered refugees under the INA even though they are still within their country of nationality or habitual residence.

George W. Bush

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Jacques Chirac of France and an Exchange With Reporters

September 18, 2001

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, of 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.