

Telephone Remarks to the Crew of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*

August 2, 2005

The President. Commander Collins, can you hear me?

Commander Eileen M. Collins. Yes, sir, we hear you loud and clear. Good morning.

The President. Good morning. Thank you for taking my phone call. I just wanted to tell you all how proud the American people are of our astronauts. I want to thank you for being risktakers for the sake of exploration. I want to welcome our Japanese and Australian and Russian friends. And I wish you Godspeed in your mission. I know you've got very important work to do ahead of you. We look forward to seeing the successful completion of this mission. And obviously, as you prepare to come back, a lot of Americans will be praying for a safe return.

So it's great talking to you. Thanks for being such great examples of courage for a lot of our fellow citizens.

Commander Collins. Thank you very much, Mr. President. We want to tell you that we really enjoy what we're doing. We really believe in our mission, and we believe in space exploration and getting people off the planet and seeing what's out there. So the steps that we're taking right now are really worth it, and we want everybody to know that. And thank you very much for taking the time out of your busy schedule to talk to us.

The President. Well, listen, I want to thank you, Commander, and thank your fellow astronauts there. I agree with you. I think what you're doing is really important. And you've got a strong supporter for your mission, here in the White House. I will tell you Laura went down and watched the launch in Florida with my little brother Jeb and came back all excited about the energy that—there on the east coast of Florida. But we're with you and wish you all the very best. Thanks for taking my phone call. Now get back to work.

Commander Collins. Thank you very much, sir. We did fly over Texas today and had a good look at it. It was beautiful. Have a good day.

The President. Thank you. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:23 a.m. from the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida.

Remarks on Signing the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act

August 2, 2005

Thanks for the warm welcome. Welcome to the White House. Last week, Congress passed the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement. I want to thank the Republicans and Democrats who came together to support this important agreement. The bill I'm about to sign is good for America. I'm pleased that Congress has taken a step to eliminate the barriers to America's goods and crops to 44 million customers.

I welcome the opportunity to make our Nation more secure by strengthening our ties with democracies that share our belief in free markets and free government. I appreciate the vision and leadership of Bob Zoellick and Rob Portman and the many others who worked hard to get this agreement passed. I want to thank the Secretary of State, Condi Rice, for the outstanding job she's doing on behalf of the American people. I want to thank Secretary Mike Johanns from the Department of Agriculture for joining us. And Stephanie, thank you for being here. I appreciate Secretary Carlos Gutierrez of the Department of Commerce for his good work.

We're honored to be joined by the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Dick Lugar. I appreciate you coming, Senator. I'm honored you're here. Senator Norm Coleman, who is the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Western Hemisphere Subcommittee. I appreciate Congressman Clay Shaw, who is the chairman of the House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee. I'm honored that these three Members of Congress are standing with us today.

I appreciate *los Embajadores* from the Central American countries, Ambassador

Duenas, Ambassador Stadthagen, Ambassador Espinal, Ambassador Castillo de Guatemala. By the way, Espinal is Dominican Republic; Ambassador Stadthagen is from Nicaragua; Duenas is from Costa Rica. I appreciate Ambassador Leon from El Salvador, who is with us. I want to thank the Special Envoy Garcia from Honduras. I appreciate Ana Escobar, who is the Vice President of El Salvador, for joining us. *Bienvenidos*. And I want to thank Jose Insulza, who is the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, for joining us. Welcome.

All of us in this room understand that to keep our economy growing and creating jobs, we need to open markets for American products overseas. All of us understand that strengthening our economic ties with our democratic neighbors is vital to America's economic and national security interests. And all of us understand that by strengthening ties with democracies in our hemisphere, we are advancing the stability that comes from freedom.

Right now Central American goods face almost no tariffs when they enter the United States. By contrast, U.S. exports to Central America still face hefty tariffs there. CAFTA will end these unfair tariffs against American products and help ensure that free trade is fair trade.

By leveling the playing field for our products, CAFTA will help create jobs and opportunities for our citizens. As CAFTA helps create jobs and opportunity in the United States, it will help the democracies of Central America and the Dominican Republic deliver a better life for their citizens. By further opening up their markets, CAFTA will help those democracies attract the trade and investment needed for economic growth.

This economic growth will boost demand for U.S. goods and reduce poverty and contribute to the rise of a vibrant middle class. This economic growth will raise working standards and will deliver hope and opportunity to people who have made the choice for freedom. The more opportunity that Central Americans have at home to provide for themselves and their families means it's less likely that someone looking for a job will try to come to this country illegally.

By strengthening the democracies in the region, CAFTA will enhance our Nation's security. Two decades ago, many of the CAFTA nations struggled with poverty and dictatorship and civil strife. Today, they're working democracies, and we must not take these gains for granted. These nations still face forces that oppose democracy, seek to limit economic freedom, and want to drive a wedge between the United States and the rest of the Americas. The small nations of CAFTA are making big and brave commitments, and CAFTA is a signal that the United States will stand with them and support them. By helping the CAFTA nations build free societies, we'll help them eliminate the lawlessness and instability that terrorists and criminals and drug traffickers feed on. And this will make our country safer.

CAFTA is more than a trade bill; it is a commitment among freedom-loving nations to advance peace and prosperity throughout the region. As the oldest democracy in the Western Hemisphere, the United States has a moral obligation and a vital national security interest in helping democracies in our neighborhood succeed, and CAFTA advances this goal.

And to ensure that the 21st century is one of prosperity and freedom and security, my administration will continue to work to strengthen democracy and open markets for American exports all across the world.

And now it's my honor to invite the Members of the Congress to join me as I sign the legislation that will implement the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick; U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman; Stephanie Johanns, wife of Secretary of Agriculture Johanns; Ambassador Tomas Duenas of Costa Rica; Ambassador Salvador Stadthagen of Nicaragua; Ambassador Flavio Dario Espinal Jacobo of the Dominican Republic; Ambassador Guillermo Castillo of Guatemala; Ambassador Rene Antonio Leon Rodriguez of El Salvador; and Special Envoy Norman Garcia of Honduras. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Statement on Signing the
Department of the Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
Appropriations Act, 2006**

August 2, 2005

Today, I have signed into law H.R. 2361, the “Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006.” This bill appropriates funds for FY 2006 for the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, the Indian Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Environmental Protection Agency, and several smaller agencies.

Provisions of the Act that purport to require congressional committee or individual leaders’ approval prior to execution of the law shall be construed as calling solely for notification, as any other construction would be inconsistent with the principles enunciated by the Supreme Court of the United States in *INS vs. Chadha*. These provisions include language under the headings “United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Administrative Provisions,” “National Park Service, Construction,” “Departmental Management, Salaries and Expenses,” “Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration, Administrative Provisions,” “Forest Service, Wildland Fire Management,” “Administrative Provisions, Forest Service,” “Administrative Provisions, Indian Health Service,” and “Administrative Provisions, Smithsonian Institution,” as well as sections 130, 405, 421, 422, and 435 of the Act.

Provisions of the Act, such as language under the headings “National Park Service, Historic Preservation Fund,” “Environmental Protection Agency, State and Tribal Assistance Grants,” and “Administrative Provisions, Smithsonian Institution,” purport to require execution of the Act in consultation with congressional committees. The executive branch shall construe this requirement in a manner consistent with the Constitution’s grant to the President of exclusive authority to faithfully execute the laws and supervise the unitary executive branch. Further, sections 101 and 102 purport to require the President to submit supplemental appropriations requests. The executive branch

shall construe these sections in a manner consistent with the President’s constitutional authority to recommend for congressional consideration such measures, including requests for appropriations, as he judges necessary and expedient.

Finally, in language under the headings “State and Tribal Assistance Grants,” “Environmental Protection Agency,” and “Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Services,” the Act purports to require that certain funds be spent consistent with the joint explanatory statement of managers and an instruction in a Senate report. These documents do not satisfy the constitutional requirements of bicameral approval and presentment to the President needed to give them the force of law.

George W. Bush

The White House,
August 2, 2005.

NOTE: H.R. 2361, approved August 2, was assigned Public Law No. 109–54. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

**Memorandum Waiving Prohibition
on U.S. Military Assistance With
Respect to Cambodia**

August 2, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005–31

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiving Prohibition on U.S. Military Assistance with respect to Cambodia

Consistent with the authority vested in me by section 2007 of the American Servicemembers’ Protection Act of 2002 (the “Act”), title II of Public Law 107–206 (22 U.S.C. 7421 *et seq.*),

I hereby:

- Determine that Cambodia has entered into an agreement with the United States pursuant to Article 98 of the Rome Statute preventing the International Criminal Court from proceeding against U.S. personnel present in such country; and