

countries targeted measures directed at the Tiraspol regime.

We recognize the progress that Moldova has made in transforming its economy in a free market direction, most notably in the agricultural sector. At the same time, we are cognizant of the economic challenges currently facing Moldova, including Moldova's particularly difficult debt situation. We are in complete accord that Moldova must strengthen its reform efforts, especially in the areas of privatization and the energy sector, and improve its investment climate. We agreed that with strong and clearly demonstrated performance under Moldova's IMF program, the United States would consider participating in a comprehensive plan to stabilize Moldova's debt outlook in the medium term.

We note and welcome Moldova's positive record since independence in conducting free and fair elections and in implementing democratic reforms. We pledge our commitment to upholding the principles of democracy and human rights and to observing them in practice. To this end, we underscore the vital importance of further progress in meeting OSCE election standards and in strengthening free and independent media in Moldova.

Finally, we reaffirm the importance of continued cooperation between the United States and Moldova in promoting regional security, including through our common efforts at combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; transnational crime; and trafficking in persons. We will deepen our cooperation to combat international terrorist threats to world peace both in our own countries and internationally. The United States appreciates Moldova's support in the global war on terrorism.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on Signing the E-Government Act of 2002

December 17, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2458, the "E-Government Act of 2002." This legislation builds upon my Administration's ex-

panding E-Government initiative by ensuring strong leadership of the information technology activities of Federal agencies, a comprehensive framework for information security standards and programs, and uniform safeguards to protect the confidentiality of information provided by the public for statistical purposes. The Act will also assist in expanding the use of the Internet and computer resources in order to deliver Government services, consistent with the reform principles I outlined on July 10, 2002, for a citizen-centered, results-oriented, and market-based Government.

Title II of this Act authorizes agencies to award "share-in-savings" contracts under which contractors share in the savings achieved by agencies through the provision of technologies that improve or accelerate their work. The executive branch shall ensure, consistent with applicable law, that these contracts are operated according to sound fiscal policy and limit authorized waivers for funding of potential termination costs to appropriate circumstances, so as to minimize the financial risk to the Government.

Title III of this Act is the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002. It is very similar to title X of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, which also bears the name Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 and which I signed into law on November 25, 2002. I am signing into law the E-Government Act after the enactment of the Homeland Security Act, and there is no indication that the Congress intended the E-Government Act to provide interim provisions that would apply only until the Homeland Security Act took effect. Thus, notwithstanding the delayed effective dates applicable to the Homeland Security Act, the executive branch will construe the E-Government Act as permanently superseding the Homeland Security Act in those instances where both Acts prescribe different amendments to the same provisions of the United States Code.

Finally, the executive branch shall construe and implement the Act in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authorities to supervise the unitary executive branch and to protect sensitive national security, law enforcement, and foreign relations

information. In particular, consistent with my constitutional authorities and section 301(c) of this Act, the executive branch shall construe the Act in a manner that preserves the authorities of the Secretary of Defense, the Director of Central Intelligence, and other agency heads with regard to the operation, control, and management of national security systems.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 17, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 2458, approved December 17, was assigned Public Law No. 107-347. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on World
Intellectual Property Rights**

December 17, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

As required by the second proviso of the text of the resolution of advise and consent to ratification of the World Intellectual Property Organization Copyright Treaty and the World Intellectual Property Organization Performances and Phonograms Treaty, passed by the Senate on October 21, 1998, I transmit herewith a report prepared by my Administration on the status of the ratification of those treaties and related materials.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation
Created by the Accumulation of
Weapons-Usable Fissile Material in
the Territory of the Russian
Federation**

December 17, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am transmitting a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation that was declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

**Remarks Prior to Discussions With
President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain**

December 18, 2002

President Bush. Welcome. I'll make a statement; the President will make a statement. That will be all we'll be doing today.

It is my great honor to welcome my good personal friend and a friend of the United States Jose Maria Aznar to the *Casa Blanca*. He is one of the world's strongest leaders when it comes to our mutual concerns about keeping the peace and fighting terror. He understands the first—he understands firsthand the consequences of terror activity. And today, Mr. President, we join you in the mourning of loss of life for a policeman in your country who was killed.

I also want to take a moment to express our deepest sympathy for the people of Galicia. We understand the concern and the