

Balkans, group terrorists, groups in all the Balkan countries, and we think that this must be controlled.

Thank you also for your appreciation for our effort concerning the Greek-Turkish relations. We make—we want more peace and stability in the region, and this is our main principle, how—apply international laws that we have a southeastern Europe that is really peaceful.

As you know, I showed you the coins of the new euro.

President Bush. Yes.

Prime Minister Simitis. This means—this means a big banking change for Europe, because the whole environment will change. There will be a new feeling about the possibilities of Europe, and there will be new discussions on the new European

structures, on the necessity of new cooperation, and also of the necessity, I hope, of a closer cooperation with the United States in order to solve the common problems.

So this is a new year, and I'm very glad to be here at the beginning of the new year.

President Bush. Well, thank you, sir. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. Welcome.

Thank you, all.

Q. You don't want to take a question?

President Bush. I took them all this morning; you just were in the wrong pool.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:17 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Prior to the President's remarks, Prime Minister Simitis presented him with an Athens 2004 Olympic sweatshirt.

Statement on Signing the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002 January 10, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2506, the "Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002." The Act provides the funds needed to support U.S. foreign policy objectives abroad and reflects the restraint on spending that has been a key goal of my Administration.

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. It abides by the agreed upon aggregate funding level for Fiscal Year 2002 of \$686 billion. The Act will provide \$15.4 billion, largely along the lines of my request, and includes essential funding to support America's war on terrorism. The Act supports such key Administration initiatives as the campaign against HIV/AIDS, with up to \$100 million available for the global fund to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis and an additional \$100 million is also provided by the Departments of Labor, Health and

Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

I also welcome the additional flexibility that the Act provides through the reduction in earmarks and added waiver authorities, including the changes to the annual counternarcotics certification process and the waiver provision allowing me the flexibility to provide additional assistance to Azerbaijan. This flexibility will allow my Administration to meet the diplomatic requirements stemming from the September 11th attacks, as well as to continue to address the ever-changing foreign policy challenges we face.

The Act does not interfere with our policies regarding bilateral international family planning assistance, and ensures that U.S. funds are not made available to organizations supporting or participating in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization. The Act