

Agreement, my Administration was guided by the negotiating objectives set out in the Trade Act of 2002. The Agreement will expand Morocco's market for U.S. manufactured goods, agricultural products, services, and investment. As soon as this Agreement enters into force, tariffs will be eliminated on virtually all manufactured goods traded between our countries.

The Agreement provides U.S. producers of beef, poultry, wheat, corn, soybeans, and other agriculture products with increased access to Morocco's market, while complementing Morocco's agriculture reform program. In addition, the Agreement provides the opportunity for U.S. producers to adjust to increased imports from Morocco, if necessary.

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.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa). Votes on H.R. 1587, S. Con. Res 114 and S. 2264 will be taken on Monday.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my special order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

STATEMENT ON SMART SECURITY AND LETTER TO SECRETARY TOM RIDGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week Deforest Soaries, chairman of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, asked Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge to consider seeking the authority to postpone a Federal election.

In response, I have composed a letter to Secretary Ridge expressing dismay at the very possibility of postponing an election. The letter has been signed by 90 other Members of Congress. Ninety percent of the Democrats have signed this letter and one Republican.

Mr. Speaker, the leader reads, "Dear Secretary Ridge, we are deeply troubled by reports that the Department of Homeland Security has asked the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel to analyze what steps would need to be taken to postpone the Presidential election in November of this year.

"We are also concerned that this important issue was not raised last week when Homeland Security Under Secretary Asa Hutchinson, FBI Director Robert Mueller and Terrorist Threat and Interrogation Center Director John Brennan briefed Members of the Congress on the possibility of terrorist attacks affecting the upcoming elections.

"Any action taken by the Department of Homeland Security to postpone a Federal election, including requesting an informal review by the Justice Department, would present the greatest threat to date of our democratic process and would invite terrorists to disrupt the selection of our highest leader.

"The mere consideration of postponing an election, the very basis upon which our American democracy is founded, is a capitulation to terrorism. Wars, droughts, floods and hurricanes

have not stopped elections, and the possibility of a terrorist attack must not stop one either.

"This move would be unprecedented for a Presidential election. Not even the Civil War stopped the 1864 Presidential election. In 1864, President Lincoln stated," and I quote President Lincoln in my letter, "We cannot have free government without elections, and if the rebellion could force us to forego or postpone a national election, it might already fairly claim to have conquered or ruined us."

The letter continues, "Moreover, such a proposal suggests that State officials responsible for elections in their region are incapable of deciding for themselves what steps to take in the event of a catastrophe. The legislative branch of the government has always held the authority to regulate elections. Now is not the time to transfer this authority to the executive branch. In the event of a terrorist attack, we trust that the respective legislatures across the Nation will make the right decisions to ensure that our democratic process remains intact.

"Fighting terrorism and preventing terrorists from changing our democratic process is the greatest fight we face in America today, but postponing an election due to the possibility of a terrorist attack, or even in the event of an actual terrorist attack, would represent the greatest possible loss for democracy and victory for terrorism.

"Let us make sure that in the fight against terrorism we do not sacrifice the very values we are fighting for in the first place. We urge you to take no further steps to postpone this year's Presidential election."

Mr. Speaker, this letter is signed by 190 other Members of Congress. Each of these Members realizes there must be a way to both fight terrorism and hold onto the democratic ideals that make our country great. And there is.

I have introduced H. Con. Res. 392, the SMART Security Resolution, which provides a better way to address the threat of terrorism. SMART stands for Sensible, Multilateral, American Response to Terrorism.

SMART would prevent future acts of terrorism. It is more vigilant than the President on fighting terror. Instead of emphasizing military force, SMART focuses on multilateral partnerships and stronger intelligence capabilities to track and detain terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, after hearing about our letter in the House, Deforest Soaries revised his previous remarks. He claimed he could not conceive of any circumstances under which a Presidential election could be postponed or cancelled. Apparently, our message has gotten through. We must be smart about how we react to terrorist threats, and that means never sacrificing the democratic principles that make this country great.