Statement on the Doha Development Agenda

November 14, 2005

Prime Minister Blair has challenged World Trade Organization members to ensure that the Doha Development Agenda fulfills its market-opening potential that would help lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. I welcome and endorse his call for action to ensure a successful outcome to the Doha round.

To achieve this ambitious agenda, all WTO members will have to do their part. To give impetus to Doha, I called for the reduction and then elimination of trade-distorting agricultural subsidies and tariffs. If the EU offers similar real cuts to agricultural subsidies and tariffs, others will also have to come forward with significant proposals to cut tariffs and reduce barriers on manufactured goods and services.

The Doha Development Agenda is vital to promoting development. Through the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals and the G–8 agreement to cancel 100 percent of the debt of the world’s most heavily indebted nations, we have made good progress on aid and debt relief. However, trade is the engine for a sustained expansion of prosperity around the world. Through a successful Doha round, we can realize that opportunity.

Statement on Signing the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2006

November 14, 2005

Today, I have signed into law H.R. 3057, the “Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2006.” The Act provides funds in support of United States foreign policy objectives abroad.

The Executive Branch shall construe as advisory certain provisions of the Act that purport to direct or burden the President’s constitutional authority to conduct foreign relations, either by purporting to direct the content of certain international negotiations and communications or by directing the Executive Branch to collaborate with other entities in the development of foreign policy. These provisions include sections 506(a), 514, 551, 561(a) and (d), 562, 575(a), 590(b) and 593.

The Executive Branch shall also construe certain provisions of the Act that purport to make consultation with the Congress a precondition to the execution of the law as calling for, but not mandating, such consultation, as is consistent with the Constitution’s provisions concerning the separate powers of the Congress to legislate and of the President to execute the laws. Such provisions include sections 506(e), 509(b), 512, 534(k), 543(b), 564(b), 576(c), 595, and provisions under the headings “Transition Initiatives,” USAID; “Andean Counterdrug Initiative,” Department of State; and “Debt Restructuring,” Department of the Treasury.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 14, 2005.

NOTE: H.R. 3057, approved November 14, was assigned Public Law No. 109–102.