

And so to the graduates of Ohio State University: Congratulations on your achievement. I want to thank you for this honorary degree. I leave here a proud member of the class of 2002. I leave here confident that you will serve our country and a cause greater than self. May God bless you and your families, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:17 a.m. in Ohio Stadium, after receiving an honorary doctorate in public administration. In his remarks, he referred to William E. Kirwan, president, James F. Patterson, chairman of the board of trustees, and Jim Tressel, head football coach, Ohio State University; Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio; and George Steinbrenner III, principal owner, New York Yankees.

Statement on Signing the Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2002

June 14, 2002

I have today signed into law S. 1372, the Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2002. This legislation will ensure the continued effective operation of the Export-Import Bank, which helps advance U.S. trade policy, facilitate the sale of U.S. goods and services abroad, and create jobs here at home.

The executive branch shall carry out section 7(b) of the bill, which relates to certain small businesses, in a manner consistent with the requirements of equal protection under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

Subsections 10(a) and 10(b)(2) of the bill purport to require the Secretary of the Treasury to negotiate with foreign countries and international organizations to achieve particular purposes and to require the Secretary to submit a report to congressional committees on the contents of negotiations and certain related executive deliberations. These provisions interfere with the President's constitutional authority to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs, supervise the unitary executive branch, and withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the executive, or the performance of the executive's constitutional duties.

Accordingly, the executive branch shall construe these provisions as precatory rather than mandatory.

The executive branch shall construe the reference to the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948," added to section 2(b)(1)(B) of the Export-Import Bank Act by section 15 of the bill, as only providing examples of types of human rights that the President may wish to consider in making a determination under section 2(b)(1)(B) and not as giving the Universal Declaration the force of U.S. law.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 14, 2002.

NOTE: S. 1372, approved June 14, was assigned Public Law No. 107-189. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 9

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

June 10

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

June 11

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Gracia Burnham to express his condolences concerning the death of her husband, Martin Burnham, an American missionary who had been held hostage in the Philippines by the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group and was killed June 7 during a rescue attempt.