On September 12, 2003, the United Nations

Security Council adopted Resolution

1506 (UNSCR 1506), ending the U.N. sanctions

against Libya. These U.N. sanctions

were imposed in 1992 and 1993 as a result

of Libyan involvement in the terrorist bombings

of Pan Am 103 and UTA 772, and included

travel restrictions, an arms embargo,

and financial sanctions. The UNSCR 1506

lifted these sanctions after Libya addressed

the requirements of the relevant UNSC Resolutions,

including making arrangements to

compensate the families of the victims and

accepting responsibility for the acts of its officials

in the bombing of Pan Am 103. The

United States abstained from voting on the

lifting of the U.N. sanctions, and it made

clear that it continued to have serious concerns

about other Libyan policies and actions,

including Libya’s pursuit of weapons

of mass destruction, Libya’s role with regard

to terrorism, and Libya’s poor human rights

record.

On December 19, 2003, Prime Minister

Blair and I announced separately that Libya’s

leader, Colonel Muammar Qadhafi, had

agreed to eliminate all elements of Libya’s

chemical and nuclear weapons program, declare

all nuclear activities to the International

Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), accept international

inspections to ensure Libya’s complete

adherence to the Nuclear Nonproliferation

Treaty and sign the IAEA Additional

Protocol, accede to the Chemical

Weapons Convention, eliminate ballistic missiles

beyond 300 kilometer range, and immediately

and unconditionally allow inspectors

from international organizations to enter

Libya. Libya’s agreement marks the beginning

of a process that can lead to Libya rejoining

the international community, but its

declaration of December 19, 2003, must be

followed by verification of concrete steps.

Despite the positive developments, the crisis

with respect to Libya has not been fully

resolved, and I have therefore determined

that it is necessary to continue the national

emergency declared with respect to Libya

and maintain in force the comprehensive

sanctions against Libya.