

DEC 13 2001



THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

To the U.S.-Thailand Business Council and the Thailand-U.S. Business Council on the occasion of the Sixth Joint Annual Meeting:

I am pleased to send warm greetings to all those attending the Sixth Joint Annual Meeting of the U.S.-Thailand and the Thailand-U.S. Business Councils held in conjunction with the official visit to Washington of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

The Kingdom of Thailand has long welcomed investment from U.S. firms, bringing capital, technology, and more opportunities for the Thai people. This long-standing partnership with U.S. companies has promoted Thai economic development and today is helping to play an important role in our broader campaign to return the world to a path of growth and prosperity.

This meeting provides America's business leaders with an opportunity to convene and meet Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his delegation. I welcome the Prime Minister's commitment to free and fair trade and an open investment climate. I am confident that as Thailand moves forward on economic reforms, the Thai economy will regain its strength and vitality. I am also confident that opportunities to broaden our bilateral economic ties will soon expand.

The world is currently joined in a great war against the forces of terror and evil. Winning this war will require all freedom-loving nations to pool their strength and their determination. America is leading this global struggle and we need the support of all our friends and allies. I am pleased to say with confidence that the United States has both a friend and ally in Prime Minister Thaksin.

Best wishes to you all for an enjoyable and fruitful day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald L. Evans".

Donald L. Evans