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No, part of patriotism is not just to put a hand over our heart, but part of being a patriot is to serve the ideals of this country by serving something greater than yourself. I want the students here to understand that this great Nation of ours longs for peace, but we also want to practice compassion. And you can be a part of the compassionate future by helping somebody in need.

It is an honor to be here at this fine school, in this fine city, in this great State, to celebrate with millions of students all across the country the Pledge of Allegiance, the Pledge across America. It is my honor to be here to remind people of the great ideals of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:05 p.m. in the school's auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Pedro Garcia, director of schools, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools; Mayor Bill Purcell of Nashville; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Telecommunications Payments to Cuba
September 17, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), I transmit herewith a semiannual report prepared by my Administration detailing payments made to Cuba by United States persons as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
September 17, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 18.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters
September 18, 2002

The President. Listen, I want to thank the Vice President and the leadership of the Congress for coming down for breakfast today. We had a really good discussion about our common concerns. The leadership is committed to moving important legislation forward, legislation that will help expand our job base. We talked about the energy bill. We talked about terrorism insurance. We talked about the defense appropriations. We talked about the appropriations process.

We also talked about Iraq. We talked about the fact that Saddam Hussein has stiffed the United Nations for 11 long years and that, once again, he said—made some kind of statement, trying to take the pressure off of himself. This statement about

unconditional inspections was something he's made in the past. He deceives. He delays. He denies. And the United States and, I'm convinced, the world community, aren't going to fall for that kind of rhetoric on—by him again.

We talked about a resolution out of Congress and how it was important for us to work with Congress to pass a strong resolution. I told the Members that within the next couple of days this administration will develop language as—that we think is necessary. And we look forward to working with both Republicans and Democrats to get a resolution passed.

I want to thank the leadership for its commitment to get a resolution done before Members go home for the election break. I think it's an important signal. It's an important signal for the country, but as importantly, it's an important signal for the world to see that this country is united in our resolve to deal with threats that we face.

And so, thank you all for coming. I'll take a couple of questions: Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], Keil [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

Iraqi Acceptance of U.N. Inspections

Q. Like it or not, is it accurate to say that Saddam playing his move has made the allies go wobbly——

The President. Do what now?

Q. Has Saddam's latest move helped make the allies go wobbly on it?

The President. Oh, all they've got to do is look at the record. It's his latest ploy, his latest attempt not to be held accountable for defying the United Nations. He's not going to fool anybody. I mean, he is—we've seen him before. And we'll remind the world that by defying the United Nations he is becoming more and more threat to world peace. And I'm convinced that the world understands the ploy. And one of the jobs the United States has is to remind people about not only the threat but the fact that his defiance has weakened the United Nations. And the United Nations, in order for the world to be a more peaceful place, must rise up and deal with this threat and hold him to account. And that's what we expect out of the Security Council.

Dick.

U.N. Security Council

Q. Mr. President, a follow on Ron's question. Do you think that you'll be able to persuade France and Russia to go along with us on whatever it is you and the Congress decide to do? And frankly, sir, is that necessary? Are you prepared to go it alone?

The President. Listen, we're speculating about what nations are going to do. I'm convinced that when we continue to make the case about his defiance, his deception, his—the fact that time and time again, dozens of times, he has told the world, "Oh, I will comply," and he never does—that the nations which long for peace and care about the validity of the United Nations will join us.

And so we're going to work hard to continue to make the case. I think reasonable people understand this man is unreasonable. And reasonable people understand that this is just a ploy; this is a tactic; this is a way to try to say to the world, "Oh, I'm a wonderful, peaceful fellow," when, in fact, he not only kills his own people, he's terrorized his neighborhood, and he's developing weapons of mass destruction. We must deal with him.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:03 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.