

June 26, 2001, has not been resolved. Subsequent to the declaration of the national emergency, acts obstructing implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, have also become a concern. All of these actions are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national

emergency declared with respect to the Western Balkans and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
June 24, 2004.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Interview With Radio and Television Ireland June 24, 2004

Irish Public Opinion

Q. Mr. President, you're going to arrive in Ireland in about 24 hours' time, and no doubt you will be welcomed by our political leaders. Unfortunately, the majority of our public do not welcome your visit because they're angry over Iraq; they're angry over Abu Ghraib. Are you bothered by what Irish people think?

The President. Listen, I hope the Irish people understand the great values of our country. And if they think that a few soldiers represents the entirety of America, they don't really understand America then.

There have been great ties between Ireland and America, and we've got a lot of Irish Americans here that are very proud of their heritage and their country. But you know, they must not understand if they're angry over Abu Ghraib—if they say, "This is what America represents," they don't understand our country, because we don't represent that. We are a compassionate country. We're a strong country, and we'll defend ourselves, but we help people. And we've helped the Irish, and we'll continue to do so. We've got a good relationship with Ireland.

Iraq/Terrorism

Q. And they're angry over Iraq as well and particularly the continuing death toll there.

The President. Well, I can understand that. People don't like war. But what they should be angry about is the fact that there was a brutal dictator there that had destroyed lives and put them in mass graves and had torture rooms. Listen, I wish they could have seen the seven men that came to see me in the Oval Office. They had their right hands cut off by Saddam Hussein because the currency had devalued when he was the leader. And guess what happened? An American saw the fact that they had had their hands cut off and crosses or Xs carved in their forehead, and he flew them to America. And they came to my office with a new hand, grateful for the generosity of America and with Saddam Hussein's brutality in their mind.

Look, Saddam Hussein had used weapons of mass destruction against his own people, against the neighborhood. He was a brutal dictator who posed a threat—such a threat that the United Nations voted unanimously to say, "Mr. Saddam Hussein"——

Q. Indeed, Mr. President, but you didn't find the weapons of mass destruction.

The President. Let me finish. Let me finish. May I finish?

He said—the United Nations said, “Disarm, or face serious consequences.” That's what the United Nations said. And guess what? He didn't disarm. He didn't disclose his arms. And therefore, he faced serious consequences. But we have found a capacity for him to make a weapon. See, he had the capacity to make weapons. He was dangerous, and no one can argue that the world is better off with Saddam—if Saddam Hussein were in power.

Q. But Mr. President, the world is a more dangerous place today. I don't know whether you can see that or not.

The President. Why do you say that?

Q. There are terrorist bombings every single day. It's now a daily event. It wasn't like that 2 years ago.

The President. What was it like September the 11th, 2001? It was a—there was a relative calm, we—

Q. But it's your response to Iraq that's considered—

The President. Let me finish. Let me finish, please. Please. You ask the questions, and I'll answer them, if you don't mind.

On September the 11th, 2001, we were attacked in an unprovoked fashion. Everybody thought the world was calm, and then there have been bombings since then—not because of my response to Iraq. There were bombings in Madrid. There were bombings in Istanbul. There were bombings in Bali. There were killings in Pakistan.

Q. Indeed, Mr. President, and I think Irish people understand that. But I think there is a feeling that the world has become a more dangerous place because you have taken the focus off Al Qaida and diverted into Iraq. Do you not see that the world is a more dangerous place? I saw four of your soldiers lying dead on the television the other day, a picture of four soldiers just lying there without their flight jackets.

The President. Listen, nobody cares more about the death than I do—

Q. Is there a point or place—

The President. Let me finish, please. Please. Let me finish, and then you can follow up, if you don't mind.

Nobody cares more about the deaths than I do. I care about it a lot. But I do believe the world is a safer place and becoming a safer place. I know that a free Iraq is going to be a necessary part of changing the world. Listen, people join terrorist organizations because there's no hope and there's no chance to raise their families in a peaceful world, where there is not freedom. And so the idea is to promote freedom and at the same time protect our security. And I do believe the world is becoming a better place, absolutely.

President's Faith

Q. Mr. President, you are a man who has a great faith in God. I've heard you say many times that you strive to serve somebody greater than yourself.

The President. Right.

Q. Do you believe that the hand of God is guiding you in this war on terror?

The President. Listen, I think that God—that my relationship with God is a very personal relationship. And I turn to the Good Lord for strength. And I turn to the Good Lord for guidance. I turn to the Good Lord for forgiveness. But the God I know is not one that—the God I know is one that promotes peace and freedom. But I get great sustenance from my personal relationship. That doesn't make me think I'm a better person than you are, by the way, because one of the great admonitions in the Good Book is, don't try to take a speck out of your eye if I've got a log in my own.

President's Upcoming Meeting With Prime Minister Ahern of Ireland

Q. You're going to meet Bertie Ahern when you arrive in Shannon Airport tomorrow. I guess he went out on a limb for

you, presumably because of the great friendship between our two countries. Can you look him in the eye when you get there and say it will be worth it—it will work out?

The President. Absolutely. I wouldn't be doing this, I wouldn't have made the decisions I did if I didn't think the world would be better. Of course. I'm not going to put people in harm's way, our young, if I didn't think the world would be better. And—

Q. Why is it that others—

The President. Let me finish.

And so, yes, I can turn to my friend Bertie Ahern and say, "Thank you. Thanks for helping, and I appreciate it very much." And there will be other challenges, by the way.

Public Opinion/U.S. Compassion

Q. Why is it that others don't understand what you're about?

The President. I don't know. History will judge what I'm about. But I'm the kind of person, I don't really try to chase popular polls or popularity polls. My job is to do my job and make the decisions that I think are important for our country and for the world. And I argue strongly that the world is better off because of the decisions I have made, along with others. America is not in this alone. One of our greatest allies of—in the world is your neighbor Great Britain. Tony Blair has been a strong advocate for not only battling terrorists but promoting freedom, for which I am grateful.

Let me say one other thing about America that your viewers must know—is that not only are we working hard to promote security and peace, we're also working to eradicate famine and disease. There is no more generous country on the face of the Earth than the United States of America when it comes to fighting HIV/AIDS. As a matter of fact, it was my initiative—

Q. Indeed, that's understood—

The President. —my initiative that asked Congress to spend \$15 billion over

5 years to battle this pandemic. And we're following through on it. And no other country in the world feeds more of the hungry than the United States. We're a compassionate nation.

France and Iraq

Q. Mr. President, I know your time is tight. Can I move you on to Europe? Are you satisfied that you are getting enough help in Iraq from European countries? You have come together. You are more friendly now—but they're not really stepping up to the plate with help, are they?

The President. Well, I think, first of all, most of Europe supported the decision in Iraq. And really, what you're talking about is France, isn't it? And they didn't agree with my decision. They did vote for the U.N. Security Council resolution that said, "Disclose; disarm; or face serious consequences." We just had a difference of opinion about when you say something, do you mean it.

But nevertheless, there's no doubt in my mind President Chirac would like to see a free and democratic and whole Iraq emerge—and same in Afghanistan. They've been very helpful in Afghanistan. They're willing to forgive debt in Iraq, but most European countries are very supportive and are participating in the reconstruction of Iraq.

Transfer of Sovereignty in Iraq

Q. And how do you see the handover going? The next few weeks are going to be crucial. Can democracy really flourish with the violence that's going on? A hundred Iraqis dead today, Mr. President.

The President. I don't like death either. I mean, you keep emphasizing the death, and I don't blame you. But all that goes to show is the nature of the enemy. These people are willing to kill innocent people. They're willing to slaughter innocent people to stop the advance of freedom. And so the free world has to make a choice: Do

we cower in the face of terror, or do we lead in the face of terror?

And I'm going to lead in the face of terror. We will not let these terrorists dash the hopes and ambitions of the people of Iraq. There's some kind of attitude that says, "Oh, gosh, the terrorists attacked. Let's let the Iraqis suffer more." We're not going to let them suffer more. We're going to work with them, and I'm most proud of this fellow, Prime Minister Allawi. He's strong, and he's tough. He says to me, "Mr. President, don't leave our country. Help us secure our country so we can be free."

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Indeed, Mr. President, just to get back to that. Can I just turn to the Middle East—

The President. Sure.

Q. —and you will be discussing at the EU summit and the idea of bringing democracy to the broader Middle East.

The President. Right.

Q. Is that something that really should start, though, with the solving of the Israeli-Palestinian crisis?

The President. Well, I think, first of all, you've got a democracy in Turkey. And you've got a democracy emerging in Afghanistan. You've got a democracy in Pakistan. In other words—

Q. But shouldn't that be on the top of the list—

The President. Please. Please. Please, for a minute, okay. It'll be better if you let me finish my answers, and then you can follow up, if you don't mind.

What I'm telling you is democracy can emerge at the same time that a democracy can emerge in the Palestinian state. I'm

the first American President to have called for the establishment of a Palestinian state, the first one to do so, because I believe it is in the Palestinian people's interest; I believe it's in Israel's interest. And yes, we're working. But we can do more than, you know, one thing at a time. And we are working on the roadmap with the Quartet to advance the process down the road. Like Iraq, the Palestinian and the Israeli issue is going to require good security measures. And—

Q. And a bit more evenhandedness from America?

The President. —and we're working on security measures. And America—I'm the first President to ever have called for a Palestinian state. That's, to me, sounds like a reasonable, balanced approach. But I will not allow terrorists to determine the fate—as best I can—determine the fate of people who want to be free.

Q. Mr. President, thank you very much for talking to us.

The President. You're welcome.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 4:08 p.m. in the Library at the White House for later broadcast, and the transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 25. In his remarks, the President referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Marvin Zindler, member, board of directors, Agris-Zindler Children's Fund; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; President Jacques Chirac of France; and Prime Minister Ayad Allawi of the Iraqi interim government. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Statement on Resolution of Issues Affecting the Missouri River Basin
June 25, 2004

My administration is committed to working to preserve for America's farming families their way of life in the Missouri River basin, to provide more predictability to the many users of the river, and to protect threatened and endangered species that depend on the river for habitat.

The Army Corps of Engineers and Department of the Interior have succeeded in achieving a balance among interests on the river and resolving a key element of a 15-year-old conflict. Today the agencies are announcing the restoration of the habitat of an endangered species, which is an

important milestone in ensuring that the river can remain an affordable avenue of commerce while meeting the habitat needs of the river's many species.

In addition, I am pleased that earlier this week the Federal court approved my administration's operating plan for the river, resolving years of litigation in multiple courts. The citizens who call the Missouri River home can now better plan for their future as they enjoy the many benefits and abundant wildlife that this extraordinary natural resource provides.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Amendments
June 25, 2004

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2005 budget amendments for the Departments of Commerce, Health and Human Services, Justice, State, and Transportation; as well as the General Services Administration, the Election Assistance Commission, and the Federal Communications Commission. In total, these amend-

ments would not increase the discretionary budget authority proposed in my FY 2005 Budget.

The details of these proposals are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

The President's Radio Address
June 26, 2004

Good morning. This week I'm traveling to the U.S.-EU summit in Ireland, homeland to so many Irish Americans and one of the fastest growing and modern economies in the European Union. I will also be attending the NATO summit in Turkey, a proud nation that successfully blends a

European identity with secular democracy and Islamic traditions.

I will discuss with our European Allies our common struggle to defeat the forces of global terror, our common interest in the spread of prosperity, and our common