

I was also very pleased to hear—and that was why I said that to the President as well—that it was so helpful that he said he very much would hope to see a strong, united Europe.

Well, as you can see, we have covered a range of international topics here together. I have very much pointed out to the President what Germany does do around the world, what Germany does do in Afghanistan, for example, what Germany does contribute towards the stabilization of the situation in Iraq. I have mentioned our training schemes in the Emirates, et cetera, et cetera. I've talked about the work, the stabilizing work that Germany is doing in the Balkans, for example. And I have mentioned that since we're doing all these things internationally, we would very much hope that at some point in time, we could also have a right to representation on the Security Council if there were the space. So I said very much we're doing lots of things, so hopefully, we'll be involved with deciding things as well.

President Bush. We'll answer some questions here. First, starting with the American side. Excuse me for a minute. Nedra [Nedra Pickler, Associated Press], there you are, hiding in there. Nedra, excuse me, I mispronounced pronounced her name.

*U.N. Security Council Seat for Germany/
U.N. Reform*

Q. Hi. Thank you, Mr. President. Do you oppose Germany's bid for a Security Council seat?

President Bush. We oppose no country's bid for the Security Council. We agree that there needs to be U.N. Security Council reform. The U.N. also needs broader reform than just the Security Council. There needs to be management reform; there needs to be reform of the Human Rights Commission; there needs to be broad reform. And part of that reform is the U.N. Security Council, and I want to thank Gerhard's frank discussion about Security Council reform. But we oppose no country.

Do you want to call on somebody?

Chancellor Schroeder. We are very much in agreement that this reform is duly and urgently needed, and it's always been clear that it is first the reform and then the candidacies to potential seats. And, obviously, then the process will have to continue.

And if you ask me about whether I see differences, then I'd possibly say there are differences in the timing. We were pushing to have things happening very quickly. But I was very pleased, indeed, to hear that there was no opposition vis-a-vis Germany, as such, from the President.

German Elections

Q. Mr. President, Chancellor Schroeder is seeking for early elections in Germany. And what is your position? Have you wished him luck for this election? [*Laughter*]

President Bush. He's lucky he's got short elections. [*Laughter*] I still remember my election—month after month after month of campaigning.

We haven't talked about the elections yet. The Chancellor is—you know, he's a seasoned political campaigner, and if there's elections, I'm confident he knows what he's going to do out there. But we have not talked about the elections yet. As we say in Texas, this won't be his first rodeo. [*Laughter*]

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Chancellor Schroeder. We just have to add at this point, it is important that our national German President hasn't even yet decided whether we are going to have these elections. So by that very rule, we shouldn't be discussing them here as a topic.

But when it comes to elections, I think there's this wonderful saying from back home in Lower Saxony where I come from, which says, "Ducks are fat at the bottom end." [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Steve.

Iran

Q. Iran has a new leader. Do you think this will alter the climate of the nuclear talks? And what's your message to the new leader?

Interpreter. I'm sorry; I couldn't hear you.

President Bush. Iran has a new leader—my message is—to the Chancellor is that we continue working with Great Britain, France, and Germany to send a focused, concerted, unified message that says, the development of a nuclear weapon is unacceptable, and a process which would enable Iran to develop a nuclear weapon is unacceptable. And I want to again appreciate the EU-3's strong unification and message. The message hasn't changed.

Q. Was the election free and fair?

President Bush. It's never free and fair when a group of people, unelected people, get to decide who's on the ballot.

Chancellor Schroeder. Well, firstly, I couldn't agree more with this message. We are going to continue being tough and firm on all of that. The message must stay very crystal clear, and it is.

And secondly, the new President has emphasized that he wants the talks to continue, so here we are.

President Bush. Final question.

Germany's Role in Iraq

Q. Mr. President—[inaudible]—sometimes you praise what Germany is doing in Afghanistan to help that country. How would you qualify what it is doing in Iraq to help the reconstruction? Maybe you even could be so free to label it as a part of a reconstruction coalition of the willing?

President Bush. I think that Germany's contribution in Iraq—

Chancellor Schroeder. I understand. It's okay.

President Bush. Oh, sorry, do you want—

Chancellor Schroeder. No, it's okay.

President Bush. You understand? Okay. Very good English, by the way. [Laughter]

Germany's contribution in Iraq is important. The key to success in Iraq is a—is for the Iraqis to be able and capable of defending their democracy against terrorists. And the training mission that the Chancellor referred to is an important part of helping the Iraqis defend themselves.

Parallel with the security track is a political track. Obviously, the political track has made progress this year when 8 million people went to the polls and voted. And now they must write a constitution and have the constitution approved, then have elections later on this year for a Government elected under the new constitution.

And part of the political process is not only the elections and the constitution, but part of the political process is the reconstruction programs, of which Germany is an important part. And I want to thank the Chancellor and his Government.

A free and democratic Iraq in the heart of the Middle East will help the United States and help Germany, because we have been—we will have laid a foundation of peace for generations to come. And I appreciate the—appreciate your focus.

Chancellor Schroeder. There can be no question a stable and democratic Iraq is in the vested interest of not just Germany but also Europe. And that is why we have committed ourselves to that topic right from the start, actually very much from the beginning. We were the ones that jumped at the idea of having a debt relief initiative right at the start, and we are also the ones who have gone in with practical hands-on help. We've gone in and started training of homegrown Iraqi security forces and admin people right away. By now, we've trained a good 1,200 people, about 50 percent of them security staff, and the other 50 percent admin advisers that help with the reconstruction of institutions from within. And this training happens in the Emirates.

President Bush. Well, thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President-elect

Mahmud Ahmadi-nejad of Iran. Chancellor Schroeder spoke in German, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on Senate Passage of Energy Legislation

June 28, 2005

The American people expect their leaders to work together to help provide economic and energy security. I applaud the Senate for working in a bipartisan way to pass comprehensive energy legislation consistent with what I proposed in 2001. This bill will help our economic growth by addressing the root causes of high energy prices and reducing our dependence on foreign sources of energy. It will encourage

the use of technology to improve energy conservation and efficiency, help increase domestic energy supplies, support alternative and renewable sources, and enhance reliability. I urge the House and Senate to resolve their differences quickly and get a good bill to my desk before the August recess.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 6.

Address to the Nation on the War on Terror From Fort Bragg, North Carolina

June 28, 2005

Thank you. Please be seated. Good evening. I'm pleased to visit Fort Bragg, "Home of the Airborne and Special Operations Forces." It's an honor to speak before you tonight.

My greatest responsibility as President is to protect the American people, and that's your calling as well. I thank you for your service, your courage, and your sacrifice. I thank your families who support you in your vital work. The soldiers and families of Fort Bragg have contributed mightily to our efforts to secure our country and promote peace. America is grateful, and so is your Commander in Chief.

The troops here and across the world are fighting a global war on terror. The war reached our shores on September the 11th, 2001. The terrorists who attacked us and the terrorists we face murder in the name of a totalitarian ideology that hates

freedom, rejects tolerance, and despises all dissent. Their aim is to remake the Middle East in their own grim image of tyranny and oppression by toppling governments, by driving us out of the region, and by exporting terror.

To achieve these aims, they have continued to kill in Madrid, Istanbul, Jakarta, Casablanca, Riyadh, Bali, and elsewhere. The terrorists believe that free societies are essentially corrupt and decadent and with a few hard blows, they can force us to retreat. They are mistaken. After September the 11th, I made a commitment to the American people: This Nation will not wait to be attacked again. We will defend our freedom. We will take the fight to the enemy.

Iraq is the latest battlefield in this war. Many terrorists who kill innocent men, women, and children on the streets of

Baghdad are followers of the same murderous ideology that took the lives of our citizens in New York, in Washington, and Pennsylvania. There is only one course of action against them, to defeat them abroad before they attack us at home. The commander in charge of coalition operations in Iraq, who is also senior commander at this base, General John Vines, put it well the other day. He said, "We either deal with terrorism and this extremism abroad, or we deal with it when it comes to us."

Our mission in Iraq is clear. We're hunting down the terrorists. We're helping Iraqis build a free nation that is an ally in the war on terror. We're advancing freedom in the broader Middle East. We are removing a source of violence and instability and laying the foundation of peace for our children and our grandchildren.

The work in Iraq is difficult, and it is dangerous. Like most Americans, I see the images of violence and bloodshed. Every picture is horrifying, and the suffering is real. Amid all this violence, I know Americans ask the question: Is the sacrifice worth it? It is worth it, and it is vital to the future security of our country. And tonight I will explain the reasons why.

Some of the violence you see in Iraq is being carried out by ruthless killers who are converging on Iraq to fight the advance of peace and freedom. Our military reports that we've killed or captured hundreds of foreign fighters in Iraq who have come from Saudi Arabia and Syria, Iran, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Libya, and others. They are making common cause with criminal elements, Iraqi insurgents, and remnants of Saddam Hussein's regime who want to restore the old order. They fight because they know that the survival of their hateful ideology is at stake. They know that as freedom takes root in Iraq, it will inspire millions across the Middle East to claim their liberty as well. And when the Middle East grows in democracy and prosperity and hope, the terrorists will lose their sponsors, lose their recruits, and lose their hopes for

turning that region into a base for attacks on America and our allies around the world.

Some wonder whether Iraq is a central front in the war on terror. Among the terrorists, there is no debate. Hear the words of Usama bin Laden: "This third world war is raging" in Iraq. "The whole world is watching this war." He says it will end in "victory and glory, or misery and humiliation."

The terrorists know that the outcome will leave them emboldened or defeated. So they are waging a campaign of murder and destruction. And there is no limit to the innocent lives they are willing to take.

We see the nature of the enemy in terrorists who exploded car bombs along a busy shopping street in Baghdad, including one outside a mosque. We see the nature of the enemy in terrorists who sent a suicide bomber to a teaching hospital in Mosul. We see the nature of the enemy in terrorists who behead civilian hostages and broadcast their atrocities for the world to see.

These are savage acts of violence, but they have not brought the terrorists any closer to achieving their strategic objectives. The terrorists, both foreign and Iraqi, failed to stop the transfer of sovereignty. They failed to break our coalition and force a mass withdrawal by our allies. They failed to incite an Iraqi civil war. They failed to prevent free elections. They failed to stop the formation of a democratic Iraqi Government that represents all of Iraq's diverse population. And they failed to stop Iraqis from signing up in large number with the police forces and the army to defend their new democracy.

The lesson of this experience is clear: The terrorists can kill the innocent, but they cannot stop the advance of freedom. The only way our enemies can succeed is if we forget the lessons of September the 11th, if we abandon the Iraqi people to men like Zarqawi, and if we yield the future of the Middle East to men like bin