should not be in a position to enrich uranium. And what they have suggested is that the Iranians take enriched uranium from Russia, use it in a civilian nuclear power-plant to develop power, and that Russia would then pick up the spent fuel rods. To me, that’s very constructive, and I thought it was a constructive suggestion. It just goes to show that Russia is a player in the world scene and was willing to make a constructive suggestion on a very difficult issue that we’re all working to try to achieve in a peaceful way, through diplomatic means.

Listen, thank you all for coming. I’m looking forward to the trip. I hope you got that sense, at least, from the conversation. I’m enthusiastic about traveling to countries. I look forward to, as best as a President is able to do, getting a sense of the people. And again, I look forward to meeting the leaders. I’m really looking forward to meeting—seeing Her Majesty as well. Thanks.

NOTE: The interview began at 10:23 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House and was embargoed for release by the Office of the Press Secretary until 10 p.m. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia; President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia; President Aleksandr Lukashenko of Belarus; Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, former Prime Minister of Poland; President Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia; movie producer Theo van Gogh, who was murdered in Amsterdam on November 2, 2004; Abu Faraj al-Libbi, senior Al Qaida associate arrested in Pakistan on April 30; and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. He also referred to FARC, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.
Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments  
May 5, 2005

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2006 budget amendments for the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Health and Human Services, Justice, and the Treasury; and the United States-Canada Alaska Rail Commission. Overall, the discretionary budget authority proposed in my FY 2006 Budget would not be increased by these requests.

This transmittal also contains FY 2006 budget amendments and an FY 2005 proposal for the legislative branch. As a matter of comity, appropriations requests of the legislative branch are commonly transmitted without change.

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

Interview With Latvian Television  
May 4, 2005

Latvia-U.S. Relations

Q. So there is no secret that you were a jet pilot, so how would you describe, in a couple of sentences, where is Latvia on your radar?

The President. That’s very interesting. Latvia is a close friend. Latvia is a country that has made a big difference in important alliances to the United States, like NATO. I remember when the moment came when the countries—the new countries admitted to NATO came into the room that I was sitting in, and I turned to the person I was sitting next to and said, “It’s going to be so important for NATO to have these fresh—these new countries, because they bring a fresh outlook to freedom. These are people that have recently lived under, in this case, communism and realized what it means to be free, and it’s going to be very important.”

And so Latvia is very high on my radar screen. Plus, I’m very close to the President.

Q. How come you’ve become such good friends?

The President. Well, first of all, she’s a straightforward person. I like straightforward people. You know, sometimes in politics you get people who say one thing and don’t mean it. When she tells me something, she means it. She’s very engaging and—very intelligent woman, and I admire her courage. And so I’m fond of her.