

they give the President the veto. I'm looking forward to vetoing excessive spending, and I'm looking forward to having the United States Congress support my veto.

My point to you is: We got a solid record when it comes to protecting the United States of America, and we got a solid record when it comes to growing this economy. And in most elections, you can win elections based upon strong national defense and good economic policy. And that's precisely what we're going to bring to the voters in 2008.

We also bring one other thing to the voters: We understand that many of our Nation's problems cannot be solved by government but can be solved by loving citizens who have heard the call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. We believe strongly in the power of individuals to help improve our society

one heart, one soul at a time. We believe strongly that we ought not fear faith in our society, but we ought to welcome faith-based organizations into solving some of the difficult problems our society faces.

We believe in human life and human dignity. We believe to whom much is given, much is required. We believe in principles, not polls or focus groups. We believe in doing what's right for America. We believe that the best days lay ahead for our country. And I believe that we're going to succeed in 2008, and I want to thank you for your support.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:14 p.m. at the Washington Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Kim Jong Il of North Korea.

## Memorandum on Maritime Security (Piracy) Policy June 13, 2007

*Memorandum for the Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Homeland Security, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Director of National Intelligence, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, Counsel to the President, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Director, National Counterterrorism Center*

*Subject: Maritime Security (Piracy) Policy*

The attached Policy for the Repression of Piracy and Other Criminal Acts of Vio-

lence at Sea (Piracy Policy) is approved for immediate implementation, consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations. The policy shall be appended to the National Strategy for Maritime Security as Annex B.

This policy responds to the emergence of high-risk maritime areas that threaten U.S. interests. Recent instances of piracy have highlighted the need for this policy in order to coordinate U.S. Government response and to promote international solutions. This policy advances our commitment to cooperate with other states, regional and international organizations, and the maritime industry in order to counter this threat. The United States has long been a leader in the protection of navigational rights and freedoms. Our objectives consistently have been to promote and facilitate peaceful international uses of the oceans.

We recognize that all nations have an interest and responsibility in protecting those rights and freedoms.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: This memorandum and its attached annex were released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 14.

## Remarks Following a Meeting With Military Leaders *June 14, 2007*

It's been my honor to receive General Dempsey and his wife here to the Oval Office to thank both of them for their service to the country. General Dempsey has just come out of Iraq, where he is working with the Iraqi troops to prepare for—to prepare them for the day when they will be responsible for the security of their country. He explained to me the progress that has been made over the years that he has been there. Obviously, we have still more work to do.

But I—my main purpose of inviting the general here is to hear his summary, but to thank him. It's an extraordinary country where people volunteer to go into combat zones to protect the security of the United States of America. No more important mis-

sion for our military than Iraq and Afghanistan.

And General Dempsey and his family have been very much involved in this war on terror. And we appreciate you and thank you and wish you all the best in your next assignment.

Thanks for being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:22 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Participating in the meeting were Vice President Dick Cheney; Gen. Peter Pace, USMC, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Lt. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, USA, former commander, Multi-National Security Transition Command—Iraq, and his wife Deanie.

## Remarks to the Associated Builders and Contractors *June 14, 2007*

Thank you all. Thank you. Thanks for coming. I'm proud to be with you, glad to be back with the Associated Builders and Contractors. I appreciate your organization. I didn't realize you were founded in 1950, about the same time a piano nearly fell through the roof at the White House—[laughter]—thereby causing Harry Truman to decide to renovate it. And for that, Laura and I are very grateful. [Laughter]

I am grateful for your organization as well. I thank you for being builders, doers,

and dreamers. I thank you for being people who are willing to take a risk to help build our Nation and, at the same time, employ people. I want to talk to you today about how to keep the entrepreneurial spirit strong, how to keep this economy growing, and our need to protect the American people from harm. And I appreciate you giving me a chance to come and do so.

David Meyer, thank you, and I thank your board for inviting me. Joining us today is one of my finest Secretaries, Secretary