

Office of Management and Budget. I thank you for your service to the country. And I'm looking forward to you getting to know Jim Nussle. He, like me, will appreciate what you're doing for the United States.

And so, Jim, I congratulate you on assuming this important position. I appreciate

your family supporting you. And now I ask the Vice President to swear you in.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:11 p.m. in Room 450 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director Nussle.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders *September 11, 2007*

I thank the leadership of the Congress for joining us here to discuss the testimonies delivered by General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker. For some, this isn't the first moment they've been in the White House today, and I want to thank the leaders for joining Laura and me and the Vice President and his wife Lynne as we commemorated the—a day that really helped—or it did define our Nation, which is 9/11/2001. We also had a church service earlier, and I thank particularly the Speaker and the leader for being there as well.

Secondly, all of us around this table are saddened by the loss of Congressman Paul Gillmor. Congressman Blunt has just come from his memorial service. All of us offer our prayers to the Gillmor family during this difficult time.

And finally, I've asked the leadership to come and share their thoughts about Iraq.

As I mentioned, we've had a series of hearings where our commander on the ground and Ambassador in Iraq have talked about a way forward. I think it's very important before I make up my mind that I consult with the leaders of the House and the Senate. I thank the Members for coming and giving me their honest appraisal of whether they think we can find common ground or not and how they think we ought to proceed.

So thank you for coming; appreciate you being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq.

Statement on the Death of Prime Minister John Compton of Saint Lucia *September 11, 2007*

Laura and I offer our condolences to the people of Saint Lucia on the death of Prime Minister John Compton. The father of Saint Lucia's independence, Sir John was

an elder statesman of the Caribbean. We will miss his vision and leadership, and we extend our deepest sympathies to his family.

Message on the Observance of Ramadan September 7, 2007

I send greetings to Muslims observing Ramadan in America and around the world.

Ramadan, the holiest days of the Islamic faith, begins with the first light of dawn and commemorates the revelation of the Qur'an to the prophet Muhammad. During the days of fasting, prayer, and worship, Muslims reflect and remember their dependence on God. Ramadan is also an occasion for Muslims to strengthen family and community ties and share God's gifts with those in need.

America is a land of many faiths, and our society is enriched by our Muslim citizens. May the holy days of Ramadan remind us all to seek a culture of compassion and serve others in charity.

Laura and I send our best wishes. Ramadan Mubarak.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 12. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Memorandum on Measures Regarding Certain Liberians in the United States September 12, 2007

Memorandum for the Secretary of Homeland Security

Subject: Measures Regarding Certain Liberians in the United States

Since 1991, the United States has provided safe haven for Liberians who were forced to flee their country as a result of armed conflict and widespread civil strife. Eventually, many Liberians were granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and permitted to remain and obtain work eligibility in the United States temporarily. Although the armed conflict in Liberia ended in 2003 and conditions have improved, I have found that the political and economic situation in Liberia continues to be fragile.

While acknowledging the progress ongoing in Liberia under that country's current administration, I have determined that there are compelling foreign policy reasons not to enforce the removal of Liberians presently residing in the United States under TPS. In particular, Liberia is strug-

gling to implement reconstruction and economic stabilization programs for the population, including the thousands of former Liberian refugees who have returned from the West African region and elsewhere.

Pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct the foreign relations of the United States, I have determined that it is in the foreign policy interest of the United States to defer for 18 months the removal of any Liberian national (or person without nationality who last habitually resided in Liberia) who is present in the United States and who is under a grant of TPS as of September 30, 2007, and who has continuously resided in the United States since October 1, 2002, except for the categories of individuals listed below.

Accordingly, I now direct you to take the necessary steps to implement for these Liberians:

1. deferral of enforced departure from the United States for 18 months from October 1, 2007; and