

views this evening and maybe see if we can find a roadmap to have America's support to bring Israelis and Palestinians the peace that they deserve.

President Bush. Jim [Jim Gerstenzang, Los Angeles Times].

Reform of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Mr. President, do you see any role at all for Arafat in any kind of peace conference at this point, or does that have to wait until there's been a reform in the Palestinian Authority?

President Bush. Well, first of all, I was pleased to read the transcripts of his call against terror in Arabic. I didn't read the transcripts in Arabic; I read the English translation. But I was most pleased that he did that. I thought that was an incredibly positive sign.

As you know, I've been one who—he has disappointed in the past, and therefore, I hope that his actions now match his words. It's very important for us, and I'm going to explain this to His Majesty why I think us—all of us involved must work hard to put a—the infrastructure in place or the structures in place for a Palestinian Authority that respects rule of law, that has its own constitution, that is able to fight corruption, that is able to spend money properly when it gets it from foreign sources, so that there is hope, there is hope for the Palestinian people.

One of the things I'm deeply concerned about, and I know His Majesty is as well, is that there is a lot of people—Palestinians who don't believe there is any hope; there's no future. And we've got to make sure they have a better future by putting an economic plan in place. But that can't happen unless there is a Palestinian Authority that's backed by a true government; I mean a true sense of the ability to run itself. And that, in turn, will help Israel be more comfortable with her neighbor.

And so we're going to talk about the way forward. And the way forward is to—and step one is to make sure there's a unified Palestinian security force, a force that is responsible, a force that reports to a certain authority figure, a force that we can hold accountable, a force that's not fractured and fights each other. And to that end, as you know,

the other day I announced that George Tenet is going to go to the region to help this reform.

Upcoming Arab Summit

Q. Your Majesty, you are the fourth leader now that's met with President Bush in the last 2 or 3 weeks. Where do you see the Arab nations right now? One of the things that the President called for was that the Arab nations need to take responsibility, need to take a leadership role. What do you see the Arab nations as doing, and what is the message that you're bringing now from the Arab leaders that you have met before coming here?

King Abdullah. Well, one of the things that we will discuss with the President this evening is that after this meeting our Foreign Minister goes to Cairo, to be there at a summit that is going to be convened by President Mubarak and Crown Prince Abdullah with a group of Arab countries, that will articulate the vision of Beirut—in other words, the olive branch towards Israel in practical terms—and at the same time, having to deal with the issues of security and terrorism.

And I hope that there is a lot of success in that meeting, that it allows the Arab countries to really step up to the plate and move forward with the responsibility that we need from them.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. King Abdullah referred to Minister of Foreign Affairs Marwan Muasher of Jordan; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Department of Health and Human Services

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of Health and Human Services

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Department of Health and Human Services

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the

Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when the Secretary of Health and Human Services (Secretary), the Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the officers designated by Executive Order 13250 of December 28, 2001, to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the following officers of the Department of Health and Human Services, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary:

Director, Centers for Disease Control; and
Secretary's Regional Representative, Atlanta, Georgia.

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Secretary.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Department of Housing and Urban Development

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Department of Housing and Urban Development

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (Secretary), the Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the officers designated by Executive Order 13243 of December 18, 2001, to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the following officers of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary:

President, Government National Mortgage Association;
Regional Director, Southeast/Caribbean (Atlanta, Georgia);
Regional Director, Midwest (Chicago, Illinois);
Regional Director, Southwest (Fort Worth, Texas);
Regional Director, Rocky Mountains (Denver, Colorado);
Regional Director, Mid-Atlantic (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania);