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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on June 6, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, June 6, 2003

Message on the Great American Cleanup, 2003

May 30, 2003

I send greetings to the participants of the 2003 Great American Cleanup. I am honored to serve as Honorary Chair of this event. America is a land of majestic beauty, and Americans can be proud of the remarkable progress we have made in protecting our environment and natural resources. Today, our air is cleaner, our waters are less polluted, and our lands are better protected, better managed, and more accessible to the American people. Through volunteer service programs such as the Great American Cleanup, we continue to preserve our natural heritage for future generations and make our communities more vibrant places to visit and live.

I have called on every American to dedicate at least 4,000 hours over the rest of their lives to the service of others. Through the USA Freedom Corps initiative, my Administration is mobilizing individuals and organizations and providing opportunities for citizens to give back to their communities. Americans have responded with an outpouring of acts of kindness and volunteer service that is transforming our Nation, one heart and one soul at a time.

I commend those involved with the Great American Cleanup for answering the call to serve. I also applaud Keep America Beautiful for 50 years of encouraging Americans to take responsibility for improving the environment.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Interview With RTR TV of Russia

May 29, 2003

Strength of the Dollar

Q. Let me start with the people's question. In my country, for many people, America is associated first and foremost with the U.S. dollar. You bring the muscle. What's going on? Is it going to stay as weak as it is now? And what's your forecast?

The President. The policy of my administration is for there to be a strong U.S. dollar.

Q. Which is not at the moment.

The President. Well, I understand that. And the marketplace is making decisions as to whether the dollar should be strong or not. Our policy is a strong dollar. And we believe that good fiscal and monetary policy will cause our economy to grow and that the marketplace will see a growing economy and therefore strengthen the dollar.

But you're right, the market, at this point in time, has devalued the dollar, which is contrary to our policy.

Q. You're not going to launch a separate dollar for the vendor states and a separate dollar internationally, because there was a rumor like that. [*Laughter*]

The President. No, forget that. No, we're not going to do that.

Speculation on the War on Terror

Q. Tell me about rumors. Is there any seriousness behind today's press reports that America's next target is Iran and that your Armed Forces are going to use bases in the former Soviet republics Azerbaijan and Armenia?

The President. We've had all kinds of reports that we're going to use force in Syria. And now some on the left, I guess, are saying force in Iran or force here and force there. You know, it's pure speculation. And we used

force in Iraq after a long, long period of diplomacy. Remember, I was a person that went to the United Nations on September the 12th in 2002 and said, "Let's work together." And we got a resolution out of the United Nations.

Q. The 1441.

The President. Fourteen-forty-one. Then we tried to get a second resolution, which obviously was a stalemate. We never had a vote. And then—but the point was, is that I tried everything we could do diplomatically to bring about a common solution in dealing with Saddam Hussein and his weapons of mass destruction.

And so, you know, people love to speculate about U.S. intentions and our military. And I'm just telling you it's idle speculation.

Iraq

Q. Coming back to the U.S. role, now that the war in Iraq is over, there is still a new twist in this discussion about America's role, a natural leader or a self-proclaimed leader which enforces its——

The President. A natural leader.

Q. Natural leader.

The President. Emerging in Iraq, you're talking about the leadership of Iraq? Yes, the Iraqi people are plenty capable of picking their own leadership. There's a lot of work to do to create the conditions necessary for a smooth political process.

And the first thing is to improve the lives of the Iraqi people. I mean, make sure they've got food and electricity and water and sewer. And in many parts of the country, life is improving. Baghdad is difficult. Baghdad—the security is tough in Baghdad because——

Q. Did you expect anything like that?

The President. Sure. I mean, this is a country that had been enslaved for years by Saddam Hussein. And as we're discovering through the mass graves all around the countryside, he used torture and killing to stay in power. And therefore, it's not surprising that after—I forget how many days we've been there, 70 or 80 days—that democracy hasn't sprung forth yet. It's going to take a while to improve conditions, and it's going to take a while to take care of the security issues within Baghdad. But life is improving, and that's what's important.

President's Upcoming Visit to Russia

Q. Now that you're going to Russia, last time, I remember, when you were planning your first trip you read Dostoyevsky. Now you read Dostoyevsky, you've dealt with Mr. Putin, what are your expectations now? Are you going to try anything in Russia, in the sense of a new political initiative or maybe taste something new?

The President. Well, I tell you, I think—first of all, I'm looking forward to going to St. Petersburg for my third time since I've been the President. It's a fantastic city. And Vladimir kindly invited Laura and me to go to the 300th anniversary of the city, and we're looking forward to it.

I think the most important thing that will come out the meetings with Vladimir Putin is the world will see that even though we had some disagreement on Iraq, that we're willing to continue to work together for the good of our respective countries as well as world peace.

Secondly, there will be a strategic—a formal strategic dialog established, not only between Vladimir and me but throughout our bureaucracies, our different agencies, so that the Russian people and the American people know that we're working in concert to work on common opportunities as well as to deal with problems before they become acute.

President's View of Russia

Q. Now that you've dealt with Putin, read Dostoyevsky, have been to St. Petersburg three times, do you think you understand Russia better than you did in the past, or what's your notion?

The President. Well, first of all, Russia is a fantastic country with a great history. And I'm learning—I'm understanding the Russian mentality a little better. I will certainly not be an expert. I fortunately do have experts on my staff, starting with Condoleezza Rice, who has lived in Russia, studied Russia, understands Russia well.

My main focus has been to deal with Vladimir Putin leader to leader. Because I firmly believe that if we can establish trust between each other, then we can see to it that others

in our administration begin to trust each other more. And trust is an important concept.

I never forget my first question I was asked, after having met Vladimir Putin in Slovenia, was from an enterprising U.S. reporter. He said, ''Do you trust Vladimir Putin?'' And I, without hesitating, said, ''Yes.'' And he said, ''How do you know?'' I said, ''I looked in his eyes and saw his soul.''

We had just come from a very long conversation where we talked about family matters and we talked about our own personal lives. And I found in Vladimir a very genuine person, somebody with whom I could place my trust. And that doesn't mean we agree on every issue, don't get me wrong. But it does mean that we have the platform necessary to have good, positive relations so we can move our relations throughout our Government forward.

Q. Mr. President, thank you so much, indeed. Have a nice trip to Russia.

The President. I'm looking forward to it.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 2:36 p.m. on May 29 in the Library at the White House for later broadcast and was embargoed for release by the Office of the Press Secretary until 1:30 p.m., May 31. In his remarks, the President referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Proclamation 7683—National Child's Day, 2003

May 30, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On National Child's Day, we celebrate the future of our Nation and the promise of America's youth. As a Nation, as parents, and as community members, we have a responsibility to build a secure and nurturing society so that our children have the opportunity to grow, learn, work, and succeed.

Creating an environment that instills important values, builds strong character, and provides sound education for our children is a vital national priority. With a firm foundation, children will be better able to face the challenges of the future.

Parents are a child's first teachers, and they can be the most effective instructors. One of the most helpful activities parents can do with their children is read with them. Children who develop a love for reading expand their imaginations and cultivate a thirst for learning that lasts a lifetime. By talking, listening, and reading to our children, we can help them build the confidence they need to succeed in life. Parents' role as educators becomes even more important as schools across the country prepare for summer recess. Summertime is not only a time for children to relax and play, it is also a time for parents to strengthen their ties to their children by spending time with them and helping them to broaden their experiences.

To expand on the important work that parents do, my Administration has taken significant steps to help give our children greater opportunities to learn. By improving our education system and encouraging early reading and language skills, we give our children the tools they will need to succeed in the world they will inherit from us. Children also benefit from the immeasurable care and support of their teachers, and are inspired by the model they set.

Outside the home and the classroom, there are many adults who touch children's lives. Family, mentors, neighbors, and friends can help mold America's next generation through their positive examples, showing children how to help those in need and encouraging them to set high standards for themselves. To help instill the value of volunteer service, the USA Freedom Corps, through the Students in Service to America initiative, is helping to create ways for young people to give back to their communities. By using their time, talents, and compassion to make a difference in the lives of others, America's children are learning to become responsible and engaged leaders in our democratic society.

On this special day, we celebrate the possibility of every boy and girl in America. In their faces, we see the hope of our Nation. America is dedicated to their welfare and the full development of their potential.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America,

by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 1, 2003, as National Child's Day. I urge parents to spend more time with their children, read to them, listen to their concerns, offer guidance and love, and encourage their dreams. I also urge all Americans to set a positive example for our children and to assist parents in setting them on the path to success. And I call upon citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 3, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 31, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 4.

Remarks to Journalists Following a Tour of the World War II Nazi Concentration Camp in Auschwitz, Poland

May 31, 2003

Laura and I have just toured Auschwitz I, and what they call Auschwitz II, a place where millions were murdered. The sites are a sobering reminder that—of the power of evil and the need for people to resist evil. This site is a sobering reminder that when we find anti-Semitism, whether it be in Europe or anywhere else, mankind must come together to fight such dark impulses.

And this site is also a strong reminder that the civilized world must never forget what took place on this site.

May God bless the victims and the families of the victims, and may we always remember.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 9 a.m. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the People of Poland in Krakow, Poland

May 31, 2003

My friend, Mr. President, it's really good to be with you again and, of course, the First Lady. Mr. Prime Minister, Your Eminence, distinguished guests, citizens of Poland. I'm honored to be in the city of Krakow, where so many landmarks give witness to Poland's history and Poland's faith.

From this castle, Polish kings ruled for centuries in a tradition of tolerance. Below this hill lies the market square where Kosciuszko swore loyalty to the first democratic constitution of Europe. And at Wawel Cathedral in 1978, a Polish cardinal began his journey to a conclave in Rome and entered history as Pope John Paul II, one of the greatest moral leaders of our time.

In all the tests and hardship Poland has known, the soul of the Polish people has always been strong. Mrs. Bush and I are pleased to make our second visit to this beautiful country, and we bring with us the friendship and the good wishes of the American people.

In Warsaw 2 years ago, I affirmed the commitment of my country to a united Europe, bound to America by close ties of history, of commerce, and of friendship. I said that Europe must finally overturn the bitter legacy of Yalta and remove the false boundaries and spheres of influence that divided this continent for too long.

We have acted on this commitment. Poland, the United States, and our Allies have agreed to extend NATO eastward and southward, bringing the peace and security of our Alliance to the young democracies of Europe.

As the Atlantic Alliance has expanded, it has also been tested. America and European countries have been called to confront the threat of global terror. Each nation has faced difficult decisions about the use of military force to keep the peace. We have seen unity and common purpose. We have also seen debate, some of it healthy, some of it divisive.

I have come to Krakow to state the intentions of my country. The United States is committed to a strong Atlantic Alliance to

ensure our security, to advance human freedom, and to keep peace in the world. Poland struggled for decades to gain freedom and to fully participate in life in Europe, and soon you will be a member of the European Union.

You also struggled to become a full member of the Atlantic Alliance, yet you have not come all this way, through occupations and tyranny and brave uprisings, only to be told that you must now choose between Europe and America. Poland is a good citizen of Europe and Poland is a close friend of America, and there is no conflict between the two.

America owes our moral heritage of democracy and tolerance and freedom to Europe. We have sacrificed for those ideals together, in the great struggles of the past. In the Second World War, the forces of freedom came together to defeat nazism. In the cold war, our transatlantic Alliance opposed imperial communism. And today, our alliance of freedom faces a new enemy, a lethal combination of terrorist groups, outlaw states seeking weapons of mass destruction, and an ideology of power and domination that targets the innocent and justifies any crime.

This is a time for all of us to unite in the defense of liberty and to step up to the shared duties of free nations. This is no time to stir up divisions in a great Alliance.

For America, our resolve to fight terror was firmly set on a single day of violence and sorrow. The attacks of September the 11th, 2001, changed my country. On that morning, the American people saw the hatred of our enemies and the future of grief they intend for us. The American Government accepted a mission to strike and defeat the terror network and to hold accountable all who harbor it and all who support it.

For my country, the events of September the 11th were as decisive as the attack on Pearl Harbor and the treachery of another September, in 1939. And the lesson of all those events is the same: Aggression and evil intent must not be ignored or appeased; they must be opposed early and decisively.

We are striving for a world in which men and women can live in freedom and peace, instead of fear and chaos. And every civilized nation has a stake in the outcome. By waging this fight together, we will speed the day of final victory.

One of the main fronts in this war is right here in Europe, where Al Qaida used the cities as staging areas for their attacks. Europe's capable police forces and intelligence services are playing essential roles in hunting the terrorists. And Poland has led the effort to increase antiterror cooperation amongst Central and Eastern European nations. And America is grateful.

Some challenges of terrorism, however, cannot be met with law enforcement alone. They must be met with direct military action. The Taliban regime in Afghanistan chose to support and harbor Al Qaida terrorists, and so that regime is no more. The dictator in Iraq pursued weapons of mass murder, cultivated ties to terror, and defied the demands of the United Nations, so his regime has been ended.

In the battles of Afghanistan and Iraq, Polish forces served with skill and honor. America will not forget that Poland rose to the moment. Again you have lived out the words of the Polish motto: ''For your freedom and ours.''

In order to win the war on terror, our Alliances must be strong. Poland and America are proud members of NATO, and NATO must be prepared to meet the challenges of our time. This is a matter of capability and a matter of will. Our common security requires European Governments to invest in modern military capabilities, so our forces can move quickly with a precision that can strike the guilty and spare the innocent. NATO must show resolve and foresight to act beyond Europe, and it has begun to do so. NATO has agreed to lead security forces in Afghanistan and to support our Polish Allies in Iraq. A strong NATO Alliance, with a broad vision of its role, will serve our security and the cause of peace.

The greatest threat to peace is the spread of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. And we must work together to stop proliferation. The countries of the G–8 committed last year to aiding Russia and others in securing and eliminating deadly weapons that remain from the Soviet era. I welcome Poland's decision to join this effort. And I call on America's G–8 partners to follow through on

their financial commitments so that we can stop proliferation at one of its sources.

When weapons of mass destruction or their components are in transit, we must have the means and authority to seize them. So today I announce a new effort to fight proliferation called the Proliferation Security Initiative. The United States and a number of our close allies, including Poland, have begun working on new agreements to search planes and ships carrying suspect cargo and to seize illegal weapons or missile technologies. Over time, we will extend this partnership as broadly as possible to keep the world's most destructive weapons away from our shores and out of the hands of our common enemies.

In the last 20 months, the world has seen the determination of my country and many others to fight terror. Yet, armed force is always the last resort. And Americans know that terrorism is not defeated by military power alone. We believe that the ultimate answer to hatred is hope. And as we fight the forces of terror, we must also change the conditions in which terror can take root.

Terrorism is often bred in failing states, so we must help nations in crisis to build a civil society of free institutions. The ideology of terror takes hold in an atmosphere of resentment and hopelessness, so we must help men and women around the world to build lives of purpose and dignity.

In the long term, we add to our security by helping to spread freedom and alleviate suffering. And this sets a broad agenda for nations on both sides of the Atlantic. In Africa, the spread of HIV/AIDS threatens millions and the stability of an entire continent. The United States has undertaken a comprehensive, $15-billion effort to prevent AIDS and to treat AIDS and provide humane care for its victims. I urge our partners in Europe to make a similar commitment, so we can work together in turning the tide against AIDS.

Global hunger is a chronic challenge, and we have a crisis in Africa. The United States is establishing an emergency fund so we can rush help to countries where the first signs of famine appear. The nations of Europe can greatly help in this effort with emergency funds of their own. I hope European Governments will reconsider policies that discourage farmers in developing countries from using safe biotechnology to feed their own people.

Wealthy nations have the responsibility to help the developing world and to make certain our help is effective. Through the Millennium Challenge Account, I have proposed a 50-percent increase in America's core development assistance. This aid will go to where it will do the most good, not to corrupt elites but to nations that are ruled justly, nations that invest in the health and education of their people, and nations that encourage economic freedom.

If European Governments will adopt the same standards, we can work side by side in providing the kind of development aid that helps transform entire societies. One of the greatest sources of development and growth in any society is trade. America and Europe should lead the effort to bring down global trade barriers. A world that trades in freedom can bring millions of people into a growing circle of prosperity. And America and Europe must work closely to develop and apply new technologies that will improve our air and water quality and protect the health of the world's people.

America and Europe are called to advance the cause of freedom and peace, and these two commitments are inseparable. It is human rights and private property, the rule of law and free trade, and political openness that undermine the appeal of extremism and create the stable environment that peace requires. We are determined to demonstrate the power of these ideals in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and Iraq. And these ideals will provide the foundation for a reformed and peaceful and independent Palestinian state.

Today in the Middle East, the emergence of new Palestinian leadership, which has condemned terror, is a hopeful sign that the parties can agree to two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

Early next week, I will go to the Middle East to meet with the Palestinian and Israeli Prime Ministers and other leaders in the region. I will remind them that the work ahead will require difficult decisions. I will remind them that for peace to prevail, all leaders

must fight terrorism and shake off old arguments and old ways. No leader of conscience can accept more months and years of humiliation and killing and mourning. I will do all that I can to help the parties reach an agreement and then to see that that agreement is enforced.

To meet these goals of security and peace and a hopeful future for the developing world, we welcome, we need the help, the advice, and the wisdom of our European friends and allies.

New theories of rivalry should not be permitted to undermine the great principles and obligations that we share. The enemies of freedom have always preferred a divided Alliance because when Europe and America are united, no problem and no enemy can stand against us.

Within an hour's journey of this castle lies a monument to the darkest impulses of man. Today I saw Auschwitz, the sites of the Holocaust and Polish martyrdom, a place where evil found its willing servants and its innocent victims. One boy imprisoned there was branded with the number A70713. Returning to Auschwitz a lifetime later, Elie Wiesel recalled his first night in the camp: "I asked myself, 'God, is this the end of your people, the end of mankind, the end of the world?' "

With every murder, a world was ended. And the death camps still bear witness. They remind us that evil is real and must be called by name and must be opposed. All the good that has come to this continent, all the progress, the prosperity, the peace, came because beyond the barbed wire, there were people willing to take up arms against evil.

And history asks more than memory, because hatred and aggression and murderous ambitions are still alive in the world. Having seen the works of evil firsthand on this continent, we must never lose the courage to oppose it everywhere.

Through the years of the Second World War, another legacy of the 20th century was unfolding here in this city of Krakow. A young seminarian, Karol Wojtyla, saw the swastika flag flying over the ramparts of Wawel Castle. He shared the suffering of his people and was put into forced labor. From this priest's experience and faith came a vision, that every person must be treated with dignity, because every person is known and loved by God. In time, this man's vision and this man's courage would bring fear to tyrants and freedom to his beloved country and liberation to half a continent. To this very hour, Pope John Paul II speaks for the dignity of every life and expresses the highest aspirations of the culture we share.

Europe and America will always be joined by more than our interests. Ours is a union of ideals and convictions. We believe in human rights and justice under law and self-government and economic freedom tempered by compassion. We do not own these beliefs, but we have carried them through the centuries. We will advance them further, and we will defend them together.

Thank you for your hospitality. Thank you for your friendship. May God bless this great nation, and may God bless the Polish people.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:18 p.m. in the courtyard of the Wawel Royal Castle. In his remarks, he referred to President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland and his wife, Jolanta Kwasniewska; Prime Minister Leszek Miller of Poland; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; and Nobel prize winner and author Elie Wiesel. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

The President's Radio Address

May 31, 2003

Good morning. This weekend I am beginning a journey to Europe and the Middle East. My first stop is Poland, the home of a proud people who have known both the horror of tyranny and the hope of liberty.

On a visit to Warsaw 2 years ago, I affirmed our Nation's commitment to a united Europe, bound to America by close ties of history, commerce, and friendship. Today, we are striving for a world in which men and women can live in freedom and peace instead of in fear and chaos, and every civilized nation has a stake in the outcome.

Poland and America are proud members of NATO, and our military Alliance must be prepared to meet the challenges of our time.

Our common security requires European Governments to invest in modern military capabilities so our forces can move quickly with a precision that can strike the guilty and spare the innocent.

NATO must show resolve and foresight to act beyond Europe, and it has begun to do so. NATO has agreed to lead security forces in Afghanistan and to support Polish allies in Iraq. A strong NATO Alliance, with a broad vision of its role, will serve our security and the cause of peace.

In the last 20 months, the world has seen the determination of our Nation and many others to fight the forces of terror. Yet armed force is always a last resort, and Americans know that terrorism is not defeated by military power alone. We believe that the ultimate answer to hatred is hope. The ideology of terror takes hold in an atmosphere of resentment and despair, so we help men and women around the world to build lives of purpose and dignity.

In Africa and elsewhere, America is committed to a comprehensive, $15-billion effort to prevent and treat AIDS and provide humane care for its victims. I urge our partners in Europe to make a similar commitment, so we can work together in turning the tide against AIDS in Africa. My administration has proposed an emergency famine fund, so we can rush help to countries where the first signs of famine appear. The nations of Europe can greatly help in this effort with emergency funds of their own. I urge European Governments to reconsider policies that discourage African farmers from using safe biotechnology to feed their own people.

I have also proposed a 50-percent increase in America's core development assistance to help spur economic growth and alleviate poverty. This aid will go where it will do the most good, not to corrupt elites but to nations with leaders that respect the rule of law, invest in the health and education of their people, and encourage economic freedom. If European Governments will adopt these same standards, we can work side by side in providing the kind of development aid that helps transform entire societies.

America and Europe are called to advance the cause of freedom and peace. Next week in the Middle East, I will meet with the Palestinian and Israeli Prime Ministers and other leaders in the region. The work ahead will require difficult decisions and leadership, but there is no other choice. No leader of conscience can accept more months and years of humiliation and killing and mourning. For peace to prevail, terrorism must end. All concerned must shake off the old arguments and the old ways and act in the cause of peace. And I will do all I can to help the parties reach an agreement and to see that agreement is enforced.

This is America's agenda in the world. From the defeat of terror to the alleviation of disease and hunger to the spread of human liberty, we welcome and we need the help, advice, and wisdom of friends and allies. When Europe and America are united, no problem and no enemy can stand against us.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 4:05 p.m. on May 29 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m., eastern daylight time, on May 31. Due to the 6-hour time difference, the radio address was broadcast after the completion of all other Presidential remarks for May 31. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 30 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority; and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

The President's News Conference With President Vladimir Putin of Russia in St. Petersburg, Russia

June 1, 2003

President Putin. We've just signed and exchanged instruments of ratification of the Russian-U.S. treaty on strategic reductions. The treaty has come into force. Yet again, we've demonstrated that the United States and Russia are true champions of the mutually advantageous cooperation on the basis of partnership, openness, and transparency.

Such a declaration is also conducive to greater strategic stability and international security. Having committed themselves to reduce their strategic capabilities by a factor

of three, our two countries reiterated that they continue on the course of strategic reduction and improvement of stability.

The strategic reduction treaty also improves the regime of nonproliferation. And this is all the more appropriate in the context of the fight against international terrorism, the terrorists who are trying to acquire all kinds of weapons security, including weapons of mass destruction, to pursue their goals. We now must work on the implementation of that treaty.

The bilateral implementation commission will be established. The already existing bilateral mechanism between Russia and the United States will continue their work on the widest possible agenda of interaction, including strategic weapons, nonproliferation, and missile defense. The relevant instructions have been made to our experts of the two countries in accordance with the joint statements reached between the two countries on new and continued strategic partnership.

Our meeting between the President of the United States and myself is taking place at a very crucial juncture of the development of the world, where very dangerous and complex events develop. This current summit meeting yet again confirmed the fact that there is no alternative for the cooperation between Russia and the United States, both in terms of ensuring our domestic national agendas and in terms of cooperation for the sake of enhanced international strategic stability.

We agreed with the President to continue our efforts in terms of enhancing international stability, fight against terrorism, and ensuring better strategic stability. We also agreed to continue our bilateral cooperation in the area of economy and other fields.

Of course, we are aware of the questions being raised as to whether the relations between the United States and Russia will withstand the test of time. Today we reiterated, together with President Bush, our resolve to continue with our strategic partnership for the benefit of our nations and the entire world. I must say that the fundamentals of the relations between the United States and Russia turned out to be stronger than the forces and events that tested it.

President Bush and I formulated instructions that cover the specific and practical aspects of furtherance of the dialog in all areas of our comprehensive agenda. We agreed to expand our communication channels, including through our Presidential administrations and other agencies. We also discussed economic issues. Our experts are in contact while discussing these issues, and we will facilitate such contacts and discussions.

The task here is quite clear. What we want is to create a solid economic basis for the continued political dialog and cooperation. We discussed the need to improve and establish an appropriate investment climate and improve our cooperation in the international organizations, including economic organizations. Space remains the vital part of our cooperation, and we have confirmed this fact in our joint statement.

Summing up, I would like to stress that the relations between the United States and Russia is not an isolated but global political event and phenomenon. It is important that this cooperation serves bringing together the world community in the face of global threats. And in conclusion, I would like to say that the nature of our conversation was quite frank and quite informative and comprehensive.

I would like to thank President Bush for coming to Russia and to St. Petersburg, especially in these festive days in St. Petersburg. For me personally, this is a special sign, and I am very appreciative of that. Thank you.

President Bush. I'm honored to be here, Mr. President. I'm honored to be with my good friend Vladimir Putin. This is the third time I've been to this beautiful city, and I want to congratulate you on a successful 300th anniversary celebration. Last night's celebrations were fantastic. It was a beautiful evening.

Today we mark an important achievement in the relations between the United States and Russia. President Putin and I have just exchanged instruments of the ratification for the Treaty of Moscow, which will reduce both our nuclear arsenals to the lowest level in decades. This treaty reflects the new strategic relationship that is emerging between

our nations. This treaty was founded on mutual respect and a common commitment to a more secure world.

We are working closely to confront the challenges of our time. Both of our countries have suffered greatly at the hands of terror, and our Governments are taking action against this threat.

We are going to win the war on terror by cooperation as well as providing security and hope for innocent people. That's why I support the goals of ending the fighting and suffering in Chechnya and reaching a lasting political settlement in that region.

The United States and Russia are also determined to meet the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them. We strongly urge North Korea to visibly, verifiably, and irreversibly dismantle its nuclear weapons program. We are concerned about Iran's advanced nuclear program and urge Iran to comply in full with its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. President Putin and I intend to strengthen our own cooperation on missile defense, which is essential to the security of both our nations.

The United States appreciates Russia's recent support for lifting U.N. sanctions on Iraq, and we both agreed that the United Nations must play a vital role in Iraq's reconstruction. We discussed ways we can work together to help build a better future for the people of Iraq.

President Putin and I also discussed the growing economic relationship between our countries. And these ties will expand significantly as Russia opens to the world economy and qualifies for membership in the World Trade Organization. I assured the President that I will continue to work with Congress and firmly committed to remove Russia from the provisions of the Jackson-Vanik amendment. The United States and Russia are working together to ensure that Russia's energy sector can fulfill its potential in world energy markets.

Our relationship is broad. We greatly appreciate Russia's support of the International Space Station following the loss of our Space Shuttle *Columbia.* We are committed to continue to work together for the good of the world.

President Putin and I have agreed to expand and strengthen high-level contacts and communications between our two Governments. I invited the President to come to the United States for a visit in September to visit at Camp David.

In a recent address to the Russian Duma, President Putin committed to working for a sustainable democracy in Russia where human, political, and civil rights will be fully ensured. That is the vision of a strong leader. With that vision, there's no question in my mind that Russia will fulfill its potential for greatness. And as you do so, Mr. President, you'll have the friendship of the United States.

Thank you.

Moderator. Two questions on each side. The first question goes to the U.S. side.

Moderator. Terry Hunt of the Associated Press.

Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction

Q. Thank you. Mr. President, are there any new developments in the search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq? Have any actual weapons been found? And to both of you leaders, can you say, do you see eye-to-eye on Iraq now and its oil?

President Bush. The first part of your question is that—is whether or not—the weapons of mass destruction question. Here's what—we've discovered a weapons system, biological labs, that Iraq denied she had, and labs that were prohibited under the U.N. resolutions.

Vladimir can speak to the issue of the future of Iraq, at least his opinion of the future. But my opinion is, is that we must work together to improve the lives of the Iraqi citizens, that we must cooperate closely to make sure that the Iraqi infrastructure is in place so that the Iraqi citizens can live decently.

And as to the energy sector, the Iraqi people will make the decision which is in their best interest. Russia has had a long history of involvement in Iraq, and the Iraqi authorities, when they are firmly in place, will make the decision based upon that experience and based upon their country's best interests.

President Putin. As you are aware, Russia has voted in favor of the latest U.N. resolution on Iraq. It didn't abstain. It didn't vote

against it. We view it as a serious step forward in working in practical terms on these issues, including within the United Nations and also, of course, together with the United States.

I must admit, our experts worked quite well and arrived at a solution acceptable to all. I do believe that the cooperation will continue to expand and develop, including in the area of disarmament. But we also believe that we must go on in our relationship. And we must also continue thinking in these terms, also including as regards Iraq. I am in absolute solidarity with what President Bush has said in terms of letting the people of Iraq decide their own destiny and assisting them in achieving better and more honorable conditions of living.

Incidentally, the resolution also contains language devoted to the future development within Iraq. Indeed, Russian companies have a wealth of experience operating in Iraq. And we intend to continue our cooperation in this area with Iraq and in Iraq, and including with international community, making available to the international community all our expertise, experience, and resources. We cannot exclude that our companies will be operational in Iraq; it will all depend on its internal development, including within the framework of oil-for-food program.

As for the future and the future development of investment projects, well, indeed, this is a matter for the future and for our future cooperation with all the international community, with our U.S. friends, and of course, with the future authorities in Iraq.

Russia-U.S. Relations

Q. First question is for two Presidents. Did the difference between Russia and United States weaken the relationship and cooperation between the two countries? And the question to President Bush is whether the United States will continue to act in such a manner as it acted in Iraq, by going around the United Nations?

President Bush. Well, first of all, I don't think we went around the United Nations. I remind you we had what's called Resolution 1441. We worked through the United Nations. As a matter of fact, I think this experience will make our relationship stronger, not weaker. As we go forward, we will show the world that friends can disagree, move beyond disagreement, and work in a very constructive and important way to maintain the peace.

President Putin. Strange as it may sound, but during—despite all the differences between our two countries around Iraq, we did not only manage to preserve and maintain our personal relationship but also to preserve our mutual cooperation and interaction between our two countries and even strengthen it.

Given all the difficulty of the situation, we were trying to tread very carefully and to cherish and preserve both international aspect to our cooperation and personal aspect to our interaction and contacts. I saw it done by President Bush in a very extremely professional manner with great respect of the opinion of the others and of myself. I was trying to do the same. And today's meeting is a proof of the fact that we have succeeded in that.

Moderator. Steve Holland, Reuters.

Iran

Q. Mr. President, you mentioned the Iranian nuclear program. Were you able to persuade President Putin to stop assistance to Iran's nuclear program, and how big a threat is Iran?

President Bush. Russia and the United States have mutual concerns about the advanced Iranian nuclear program. We understand the consequences of Iran having a nuclear weapon. And therefore, we want to work together as well as with the IAEA to insist that they not have a nuclear weapon. And I appreciate Vladimir Putin's understanding of the issue and his willingness to work with me and others to solve this potential problem.

President Putin. I'll add a few words if I may.

President Bush. Sure.

President Putin. The positions of Russia and the United States on the issue are much closer than they seem. We need no convincing about the fact that the weapons of mass destruction proliferation should be checked and prevented throughout the world. It is true not only with regard to Iran but also with regard to other regions of the

world. We have full understanding on this with President Bush, similar to our mutual understanding of many other international development problems.

We have many points of coincidence of our views on many issues. And it is precisely these things that enable me to call President Bush my friend, not only personally—because personally I do like him a lot—but as my counterpart and the President of a friendly nation.

To repeat, we have many points on which we see eye-to-eye on many aspects of international development. As for Iran—and I repeated that during today's meeting and discussion—we are against using the pretext of nuclear weapon program of Iran as a leverage in—as an instrument of unfair competition against us. And we will continue working together with all, including the United States, with the view to preventing proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction anywhere in the world, including of course in Iran.

Moderator. And the final question.

War on Terrorism

Q. First of all, this is a question directed to President Putin. Do you believe that there are any questions that remain that are irresolvable? And what can we do more together, more cooperatively, in international way, to combat terrorism?

President Putin. I don't even think that we have ever had any insurmountable problems that cannot be overcome. There are always problems. They become more or less visible or obvious; much depends on us as to how do we address those problems and issues. The most important thing is the presence or absence of a will to address those. President Bush and I do have such a will. And we will do our best to achieve such a state where the points of coincidence would grow in number, and we will have fewer points of divergence and problems and issues of content. And this trend will become even more efficient and effective should we have assistance and a helping hand from the mass media. [*Laughter*]

Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 10:07 a.m. at Konstantin Palace. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin on U.S.- Russian Cooperation in Space

June 1, 2003

The loss of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* has underscored the historic role of the United States and Russia as partners in space exploration, who have persevered despite tragedy and adversity. During this challenging time, our partnership has deepened and the International Space Station (ISS) program remains strong. The extraordinary efforts of our countries continue. The United States is committed to safely returning the Space Shuttle to flight, and the Russian Federation is committed to meeting the ISS crew transport and logistics resupply requirements necessary to maintain our joint American astronaut and Russian cosmonaut teams on board the ISS until the Space Shuttle returns to flight.

We confirm our mutual aspiration to ensure the continued assembly and viability of the International Space Station as a world-class research facility, relying on our unprecedented experience of bilateral and multilateral interaction in space. We reaffirm our commitment to the mission of human space flight and are prepared to take energetic steps to enhance our cooperation in the application of space technology and techniques.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin on the New Strategic Relationship

June 1, 2003

On May 24, 2002, we pledged to build a new strategic relationship between the United States of America and the Russian Federation. We declared our partnership, and our commitment to work together to advance stability, security, and prosperity for

our peoples, and to work jointly to counter global challenges and help resolve regional conflicts. We also declared that where we had differences, we would work to resolve them in a spirit of mutual respect.

We have met again to reaffirm our Nations' partnership and our commitment to meet together the challenges of the 21st century.

With the completion of the ratification procedures by the United States Senate, and the two houses of the Russian Federal Assembly, we have been able to exchange instruments of ratification for the Moscow Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions. The Treaty takes effect immediately. The deep reductions of strategic nuclear warheads that it codifies are another indication of the transformed relationship between our two countries.

We will intensify efforts to confront the global threats of terrorism, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, that threaten our peoples and freedom-loving peoples around the world.

In this regard, we declare our intention to advance concrete joint projects in the area of missile defense which will help deepen relations between the United States and Russia.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting Designations Under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Act

May 29, 2003

Dear `llllll` *:*

I transmit herewith my designation of the following four foreign persons and three foreign entities as appropriate for sanctions under section 804(b) of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Act, 21 U.S.C. 1901–1908, and report my direction of sanctions against them under that Act:

Juan Jose Esparragoza Moreno
Jose Albino Quintero Meraz
Hector Luis Palma Salazar
United Wa State Army
Leonardo Dias Mendonca
Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia, "FARC")
United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia, "AUC")

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Richard G. Lugar, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; John W. Warner, chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Charles E. Grassley, chairman, Senate Committee on Finance; Pat Roberts, chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; Orrin G. Hatch, chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, House Committee on International Relations; Duncan Hunter, chairman, House Committee on Armed Services; Christopher Cox, chairman, House Select Committee on Homeland Security; Porter J. Goss, chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary; and William M. Thomas, chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 2.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Jacques Chirac and an Exchange With Reporters in Evian-les-Bains, France

June 2, 2003

President Bush. First of all, I want to thank Jacques for his warm hospitality. We've had a really good meeting. This morning we talked about our common desires to grow our economies. I thought it was a very interesting and fantastic meeting; I really did.

Today I'm going to meet with Jacques here in a little bit and ask his advice on the Middle East. He's a man who knows a lot about the Middle East, he has got good judgment about the Middle East, and we will spend some time discussing that.

I know there's a lot of—a lot of people in both our countries wondering whether or not we could actually sit down and have a comfortable conversation. And the answer is: Absolutely. We can have disagreements, but that doesn't mean we have to be disagreeable to each other. And so I'm very glad I came

and would say absolutely that this has been a very helpful and a positive meeting. Thank you, sir, for your hospitality.

[*At this point, President Chirac spoke in French, and no translation was provided.*]

President Bush. We've agreed to take one question apiece. Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News], do you want to ask a question?

President's Upcoming Visit to Egypt

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us your expectations for the summit in Sharm el-Sheikh? And what are you hearing from the region?

President Bush. Well, first let me talk about my expectations for the G–8. They have been met. I was hoping to come to Europe and to say that a united Europe working with America can do a lot of good; it can do a lot of good on issues such as fighting terror or working on matters such as proliferation. We can do a lot of good to help those who suffer in the world. And so the expectations—at least as far as I'm concerned—have been met here.

My expectations in the Middle East are to call all the respective parties to their responsibility to achieve peace, and to make it very clear that my country and I will put in as much time as necessary to achieve the vision of two states living side by side in peace.

I fully understand this is going to be a difficult process. I fully understand we need to work with our friends, such as France, to achieve the process. I know we won't make progress unless people assume their responsibilities. The first message is, I will dedicate the time and energy to move the process forward. And I think we'll make some progress. I know we're making progress.

[*A question was asked and answered in French, and no translation was provided.*]

France-U.S. Relations

President Bush. Yes, and I want to thank President Chirac's support in the latest resolution in the United Nations. Listen, we must be frank, we went through a difficult period. I understand his position. He made it very clear to me in the very beginning. There was no question where Jacques Chirac stood, and I made it—I made it clear where I stood. And that's why I can say we've got good relations, because we're able to be very honest with each other.

But when it came time to focus on a free Iraq, a healthy Iraq, a prosperous Iraq, we're in agreement, and we will move together to ensure that the Iraqi people have now got the capacity to run their own country. It's going to take them time to get there. It's a difficult situation in Iraq, but we are committed to a free Iraq, and together we can make that happen more quickly than if we were still at odds on the issue.

Thank you, Jacques, appreciate it.

[*A question was asked and answered in French, and no translation was provided.*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:42 a.m. at the Hotel Royal. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Detention of Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma

June 2, 2003

I am deeply concerned by reports from Burma of the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi and members of her political party as well as reports that military authorities have closed her party headquarters in Rangoon. The military authorities should release Aung San Suu Kyi and her supporters immediately and permit her party headquarters to reopen.

The situation in Burma has long been of concern to the United States. We have urged Burmese officials to release all political prisoners and to offer their people a better way of life, a life offering freedom and economic progress. We welcomed the release of Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest more than a year ago. This step gave the military regime an opportunity to enter into a substantive dialog with Aung San Suu Kyi and all political groups to promote national reconciliation and democracy. This is still the only path to peace and prosperity for all of Burma's people.

Remarks at a Multilateral Meeting With Arab Leaders in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt

June 3, 2003

Well, Mr. President, thank you very much for hosting this important meeting. I want to thank the leaders for coming, Your Majesties and His Royal Highness. Prime Minister Abbas, I want to thank you and your delegation for coming as well.

I'm the kind of person who, when I say something, I mean it. I mean that the world needs to have a Palestinian state that is free and at peace. And therefore, my Government will work with all parties concerned to achieve that vision.

I believe now is the time to work to achieve the vision. All of us have responsibilities to achieve the vision.

You, sir, have got a responsibility, and you've assumed it. I want to work with you, as do the other leaders here.

We must not allow few people, a few killers, a few terrorists to destroy the dreams and the hopes of the many. Israel has got responsibilities. Israel must deal with the settlements. Israel must make sure there's a contiguous* territory that the Palestinians can call home.

The leaders at the table have got a responsibility. The biggest responsibility that they have, it seems like to me, is to fight off any source of funding to terror, is to prevent the terrorists from gaining a foothold. I know that is the commitment of the leaders here; I have talked to them about that. It's in their own self-interests to fight off terror. It's in their own self-interests to enable the Palestinian state to emerge.

So this is an historic meeting. It's the beginning of a long process and a tough process. But no matter how difficult it is, you have my commitment that I will expend the energy and effort necessary to move the process forward.

I believe that, as I told the Crown Prince, the Almighty God has endowed each individual on the face of the Earth with—that expects each person to be treated with dignity. This is a universal call. It's the call of all religions, that each person must be free and treated with respect. And it is with that call that I feel passionate about the need to move forward, so that the world can be more peaceful, more free, and more hopeful.

Mr. President, thank you for convening this meeting. Tomorrow we've got important meetings as well. This is the beginning of a process where all of us must not allow the few to destroy the hopes of the many.

May God bless our work.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:50 p.m. at the Movenpick Conference Center. Participating in the meeting with the President were: President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; King Abdullah II of Jordan; King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain; and Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

* White House correction.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in Sharm el-Sheikh

June 3, 2003

President Mubarak. Today we have met with the President of the United States, President George Bush, to affirm our common commitment to seize this historic moment to advance the peace cause forward.

President Bush gave impetus to the peace process by his vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living in peace and security. This vision means that, alongside the existing state of Israel, a new state for the Palestinians will emerge.

We welcome the roadmap rising from this vision and adopted by the Quartet, especially since it has been accepted by both the Israeli and Palestinian Governments. We particularly express our appreciation for President Bush's strong personal commitment for its full implementation.

The roadmap provides for ending the occupation that began in 1967 and resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by 2005, through fulfillment of all sides to their own obligations. Peace obligations are built on the foundations of the Madrid Conference, the

principles of land for peace, and U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 1397, and the initiative of Saudi Crown Prince Saud Abdullah Aziz, which was unanimously endorsed by the Arab League Summit in Beirut.

We support the determination of the Palestinian Authority to fulfill its responsibility to end violence and to maintain law and order, as announced by Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas. We will continue to support the Palestinian Authority's efforts to uphold these commitments in order to allow it to consolidate its authority in democratic and accountable institutions. We will ensure that our assistance to the Palestinians goes solely to the Palestinian Authority, and we will continue to support efforts to improve the quality of life of the Palestinian people.

We call on Israel to simultaneously fulfill its own responsibilities to rebuild trust and restore normal Palestinian life and to carry out its other obligations under the roadmap, thus promoting progress toward the President's vision.

We affirm our position again against terror and violence. We will continue to fight the scourge of terrorism against humanity and reject the culture of extremism and violence in any form or shape, from whatever source or place, regardless of justifications or motives, being fully aware of their danger as a plague that threatens the peace and stability of the whole world. We will use all the power of the law to prevent support reaching illegal organizations, including terrorist groups.

We reiterate our support for the Iraqi people as they rebuild their country. We affirm our commitment once more, the independence and the territorial integrity of Iraq under a Government that represents the Iraqi people and emanating from its free will, where Iraqi people living in peace and harmony with its neighbors. And in this regard, we consider U.N. Security Council Resolution 1483 as a useful means to achieve these goals.

As the countries of this region continue their important endeavors to promote political, economic, and social reforms, we welcome the initiative by the United States to open new economic opportunities for all the people in the Middle East. We shall continue to work for a Middle East that is free of strife and violence, living in harmony, without the threat of terrorism or dangers of weapons of mass destruction.

Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you, Hosni. Very good job.

Mr. President, thank you for your hospitality and for the invitation to this spectacular location.

We meet in Sinai at a moment of promise for the cause of peace in the Middle East. We see the potential for unity against terror. We see the potential for the birth of a new and Palestinian state. We see the potential for broader peace among the peoples of this region.

Achieving these goals will require courage and moral vision on every side, from every leader. America is committed and I am committed to helping all the parties to reach the hard and heroic decisions that will lead to peace.

I want to thank Crown Prince Abdullah, King Hamad, King Abdullah, Prime Minister Abbas for joining us today. I particularly want to thank President Mubarak. The United States values its strong ties with Egypt. By hosting this gathering, President Mubarak is acting in Egypt's best traditions. His predecessor, Anwar Sadat, was a leader for peace who had the vision to see opportunities and the bold heart to seize them. In this spirit, we meet today.

Last year on June 24th, I put forth a proposal for two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace. I called on Israel to respect the rights of Palestinians, including the right to live in dignity in a free and peaceful Palestine. I urged the Palestinian people to embrace new leaders who stand for reform, democracy, and for fighting terror.

I also said that progress toward peace would require the active commitment and support of neighboring states. And today I'm pleased to stand with leaders of the Arab world who are committed to these principles.

All progress towards peace requires the rejection of terror. The leaders here today have declared their firm rejection of terror, regardless of its justifications or motives. They've also committed to practical actions

to use all means to cut off assistance, including arms and financing, to any terror group and to aid the Palestinian Authority in their own fight against terror.

Terror threatens my Nation. Terror threatens Arab states. Terror threatens the state of Israel. Terror threatens the emergence of a Palestinian state. Terror must be opposed, and it must be defeated.

Tomorrow, I will go to Aqaba for a meeting with Prime Minister Sharon, Prime Minister Abbas to discuss the responsibilities of the Israelis and the Palestinians. And if all sides fulfill their obligations, we can make steady progress on the road toward Palestinian statehood, a secure Israel, and a just and comprehensive peace.

We seek true peace, not just a pause between more wars and intifadas but a permanent reconciliation among the peoples of the Middle East.

In our meeting today we also discussed the future of Iraq. I reaffirmed America's commitment to helping the Iraqi people achieve freedom and democracy in a unified country, its borders intact, a country free of weapons of mass destruction and at peace with its neighbors and the world.

America is fully committed to restoring security to Iraqi cities and helping the Iraqi people rebuild their nation after decades of cruel and corrupt dictatorship. I welcome the support of all the nations represented here for these important goals and hope they will contribute to helping the good people of Iraq.

There's a hopeful direction to recent events in the Middle East. In Iraq, a tyrant in support of terror has been removed. Reform is taking hold in many societies that are eager to join in the progress and prosperity of our times. I urge nations throughout the region open their markets, to seek broader trade in the world, and to join us in creating a U.S.-Middle East free trade area within a decade.

The leaders here today recognize the importance of representative, democratic institutions to fulfilling the hopes of the Iraqi and Palestinian people. And free institutions are critical to the hopes of people everywhere. Allowing peaceful avenues for the expression of different views and broader political participation will unleash the talents of each nation. All Middle East countries that travel this challenging path will have the support and the friendship of the United States.

In this meeting we've made progress on a broad agenda, and we're determined to keep moving forward. I thank all the leaders here today, and may God bless our important work.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

NOTE: President Mubarak spoke at 3:50 p.m. at the Four Seasons Resort. In his remarks, President Bush referred to Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain; King Abdullah II of Jordan; Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority; and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Remarks at the Red Sea Summit in Aqaba, Jordan

June 4, 2003

King Abdullah. President Bush, Prime Minister Sharon, Prime Minister Abbas, distinguished guests: We gather today in Aqaba, this small city that symbolizes the immeasurable potential of bringing different peoples together. Not far from here, Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty in 1994. Nine years later, what brings us here is the same dream, the dream of peace, prosperity, coexistence, and reconciliation. But dreams alone cannot fulfill hopes. It is thanks to the efforts of President Bush and the commitments of Prime Minister Sharon and Prime Minister Abbas that we meet here today to transform these dreams into real achievements on the ground.

Mr. President, Prime Ministers, let us have ambitions, ambitions to move beyond the violence and occupation, to the day when two states, Palestine and Israel, can live together, side by side in peace and security.

And in our hands today, we hold the mechanism that can translate these ambitions into realities on the ground. It is a plan, the roadmap, that addresses the needs of both Palestinians and Israelis. To the Israelis, this plan offers collective security guarantees by

all Arabs, a peace treaty, and normal relations with Arab states, and an end to the conflict. To the Palestinians, it offers an end to the occupation, a viable state, and the promise to live as a free and prosperous people.

To be sure, the road to realizing this vision will not be straightforward or without obstacles. I'm aware that many in our region and around the world view our gathering today through a lens marred with skepticism and suspicion. The failures and frustrations of the past have left many disbelievers in their wake.

Today we have an opportunity and obligation to reinstate faith in the process and to reinvigorate hopes for a better tomorrow. We simply cannot afford the alternative. The road to confrontation has shown its consequences: loss of innocent lives, destruction, and fear. Most costly, however, was the loss of hope. The most precious gift that you can present to your peoples over the coming weeks is renewed hope born out of tangible progress on the ground. And it's not only your people who will be watching and waiting. The eyes of the entire world will be upon you.

The nature of our new borderless world means that we all have a stake in what happens here today. Jordanians, Americans, Europeans, and many around the world stand ready and willing to lend all their support to ensure your success. But at the end of the day, it is you, the Palestinians and the Israelis, who have to come together to resolve the many outstanding issues that divide you.

Many will view the compromises that will be made during your negotiations as painful concessions. But why not view them as peace offerings, ones that will provide in return the priceless gifts of hope, security, and freedom for our children and our children's children. It is only by putting yourselves in each other's shoes that we can hope to achieve real progress.

Thus, we reaffirm today our strong position against violence in any form and from whatever source. Blowing up buses will not induce the Israelis to move forward, and neither will the killing of Palestinians or the demolition of their homes and their future. All this needs to stop. And we pledge that Jordan will do its utmost to help achieve it.

Mr. President, you have stayed the course. Your presence here today to witness the two leaders meeting together, agreeing on common grounds to solve this conflict, provides a great impetus to move forward and a clear answer to all the skeptics. I thank you, sir, for your leadership and your courage.

Prime Minister Sharon, Prime Minister Abbas, I urge you today to end the designs of those who seek destruction, annihilation, and occupation. And I urge you to have the will and the courage to begin to realize our dreams of peace, prosperity, and coexistence. And remember that in the pursuit of these noble goals, Jordan will always remain a true friend.

Thank you very much. And it is with great pleasure, if I may introduce Prime Minister Abbas to say a few words.

Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas. I would like to thank King Abdullah for hosting our meeting here today. I would like also to thank President Mubarak and King Abdullah, King Hamad, and Crown Prince Abdullah, who met in Egypt yesterday. I thank them for their statements supporting our efforts. I also would like to thank the Israeli Prime Minister Sharon for joining us here in Jordan. And many thanks especially to President Bush, who took the longest journey for peace of all of us.

As we all realize, this is an important moment. A new opportunity for peace exists, an opportunity based upon President Bush's vision and the Quartet's roadmap, which we have accepted without any reservations.

Our goal is two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. The process is the one of direct negotiations to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to resolve all the permanent status issues and end the occupation that began in 1967, under which Palestinians have suffered so much.

At the same time, we do not ignore the suffering of the Jews throughout history. It is time to bring all this suffering to an end.

Just as Israel must meet its responsibilities, we, the Palestinians, will fulfill our obligations for this endeavor to succeed. We are ready to do our part.

Let me be very clear: There will be no military solution to this conflict, so we repeat our denunciation and renunciation of terrorism against the Israelis, wherever they might be. Such methods are inconsistent with our religious and moral traditions and are dangerous obstacles to the achievement of an independent sovereign state we seek. These methods also conflict with the kinds of state we wish to build, based on human rights and the rule of law.

We will exert all of our efforts, using all our resources, to end the militarization of the *intifada*, and we will succeed. The armed *intifada* must end, and we must use and resort to peaceful means in our quest to end the occupation and the suffering of Palestinians and Israelis. And to establish the Palestinian state, we emphasize our determination to implement our pledges which we have made for our people and the international community. And that is a rule of law, single political authority, weapons only in the hands of those who are in charge of upholding the law and order, and political diversity within the framework of democracy.

Our goal is clear, and we will implement it firmly and without compromise: a complete end to violence and terrorism. And we will be full partners in the international war against occupation and terrorism. And we will call upon our partners in this war to prevent financial and military assistance to those who oppose this position. We do this as a part of our commitment to the interests of the Palestinian people and as members of the large family of humanity.

We will also act vigorously against incitement and violence and hatred, whatever their form or forum may be. We will take measures to ensure that there is no incitement—[*inaudible*]—from Palestinian institutions. We must also reactivate and invigorate the U.S.-Palestinian-Israeli Anti-Incitement Committee. We will continue our work to establish the rule of law and to consolidate government authority in accountable Palestinian institutions. We seek to build the kind of a democratic state that will be a qualitative addition to the international community.

All the PA security forces will be part of these efforts and will work together toward the achievement of these goals. Our national future is at stake, and no one will be allowed to jeopardize it.

We are committed to these steps because they are in our national interest. In order to succeed, there must be a clear improvement in the lives of Palestinians. Palestinians must live in dignity. Palestinians must be able to move, go to their jobs and schools, visit their families, and conduct a normal life. Palestinians must not be afraid for their lives, property, or livelihood.

We welcome and stress the need for the assistance of the international community and, in particular, the Arab states to help us. And we also welcome and stress the need for a U.S.-led monitoring mechanism.

Together, we can achieve the goal of an independent Palestinian state, sovereign, viable, in the framework of good neighbors with all states in the region, including Israel.

Thank you very much.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Thank you. I would like to thank His Majesty King Abdullah for arranging this meeting and express Israel's appreciation to President Bush for coming here to be with Prime Minister Abbas and me. Thank you.

As the Prime Minister of Israel, the land which is the cradle of the Jewish people, my paramount responsibility is the security of the people of Israel and of the state of Israel. There can be no compromise with terror. And Israel, together with all free nations, will continue fighting terrorism until its final defeat.

Ultimately, permanent security requires peace, and permanent peace can only be obtained through security. And there is now hope of a new opportunity for peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Israel, like others, has lent its strong support for President Bush's vision expressed on June 24, 2002, of two states, Israel and a Palestinian state, living side by side in peace and security. The Government and people of Israel welcome the opportunity to renew direct negotiations according to the steps of the roadmap, as adopted by the Israeli Government, to achieve this vision.

It is in Israel's interest not to govern the Palestinians but for the Palestinians to govern themselves in their own state. A democratic Palestinian state fully at peace with Israel will

promote the long-term security and well-being of Israel as the Jewish state.

There can be no peace, however, without the abandonment and elimination of terrorism, violence, and incitement. We will work alongside the Palestinians and other states to fight terrorism, violence, and incitement of all kinds. As all parties perform their obligations, we will seek to restore normal Palestinian life, improve the humanitarian situation, rebuild trust, and promote progress toward the President's vision. We will act in a manner that respects the dignity as well as the human rights of all people.

We can also reassure our Palestinian partners that we understand the importance of territorial contiguity in the West Bank for a viable Palestinian state. Israeli policy in the territories that are subject to direct negotiations with the Palestinians will reflect this fact. We accept the principle that no unilateral actions by any party can prejudge the outcome of our negotiations.

In regard to the unauthorized outposts, I want to reiterate that Israel is a society governed by the rule of law. Thus, we will immediately begin to remove unauthorized outposts.

Israel seeks peace with all its Arab neighbors. Israel is prepared to negotiate in good faith wherever there are partners. As normal relations are established, I am confident that they will find in Israel a neighbor and a people committed to comprehensive peace and prosperity for all the peoples of the region.

Thank you all.

President Bush. King Abdullah, thank you for hosting this event. Her Majesty, thank you for your hospitality. It is fitting that we gather today in Jordan. King Abdullah is a leader on behalf of peace and is carrying forward the tradition of his father, King Hussein.

I'm pleased to be here with Prime Minister Sharon. The friendship between our countries began at the time of Israel's creation. Today, America is strongly committed, and I am strongly committed, to Israel's security as a vibrant Jewish state.

I'm also pleased to be with Prime Minister Abbas. He represents the cause of freedom and statehood for the Palestinian people. I strongly support that cause as well.

Each of us is here because we understand that all people have the right to live in peace. We believe that with hard work and good faith and courage, it is possible to bring peace to the Middle East. And today we mark important progress toward that goal.

Great and hopeful change is coming to the Middle East. In Iraq, a dictator who funded terror and sowed conflict has been removed, and a more just and democratic society is emerging. Prime Minister Abbas now leads the Palestinian Cabinet. By his strong leadership, by building the institutions of Palestinian democracy, and by rejecting terror, he is serving the deepest hopes of his people.

All here today now share a goal: The Holy Land must be shared between the state of Palestine and the state of Israel, living at peace with each other and with every nation of the Middle East.

All sides will benefit from this achievement, and all sides have responsibilities to meet. As the roadmap accepted by the party makes clear, both must make tangible, immediate steps toward this two-state vision.

I welcome Prime Minister Sharon's pledge to improve the humanitarian situation in the Palestinian areas and to begin removing unauthorized outposts immediately. I appreciate his gestures of reconciliation on behalf of prisoners and their families and his frank statements about the need for territorial contiguity. As I said yesterday, the issue of settlements must be addressed for peace to be achieved. In addition, Prime Minister Sharon has stated that no unilateral actions by either side can or should prejudge the outcome of future negotiations. The Prime Minister also recognizes that it is in Israel's own interest for Palestinians to govern themselves in their own state. These are meaningful signs of respect for the rights of the Palestinians and their hopes for a viable, democratic, peaceful Palestinian state.

Prime Minister Abbas recognizes that terrorist crimes are a dangerous obstacle to the independent state his people seek. He agrees that the process for achieving that state is through peaceful negotiations. He has pledged to consolidate Palestinian institutions, including the security forces, and to make them more accountable and more democratic. He has promised his full efforts

and resources to end the armed *intifada.* He has promised to work without compromise for a complete end of violence and terror. In all these efforts, the Prime Minister is demonstrating his leadership and commitment to building a better future for the Palestinian people.

Both Prime Ministers here agree that progress toward peace also requires an end to violence and the elimination of all forms of hatred and prejudice and official incitement in schoolbooks, in broadcasts, and in the words used by political leaders. Both leaders understand that a future of peace cannot be founded on hatred and falsehood and bitterness.

Yet, these two leaders cannot bring about peace if they must act alone. True peace requires the support of other nations in the region. Yesterday, in Sharm el-Sheikh, we made a strong beginning. Arab leaders stated that they share our goal of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and in security. And they have promised to cut off assistance and the flow of money and weapons to terrorist groups and to help Prime Minister Abbas rid Palestinian areas of terrorism.

All sides have made important commitments, and the United States will strive to see these commitments fulfilled. My Government will provide training and support for a new, restructured Palestinian security service. And we'll place a mission on the ground, led by Ambassador John Wolf. This mission will be charged with helping the parties to move towards peace, monitoring their progress, and stating clearly who was fulfilling their responsibilities. And we expect both parties to keep their promises.

I've also asked Secretary of State Colin Powell and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to make this cause a matter of the highest priority. Secretary Powell and Dr. Rice, as my personal representative, will work closely with the parties, helping them move toward true peace as quickly as possible.

The journey we're taking is difficult, but there is no other choice. No leader of conscience can accept more months and years of humiliation, killing, and mourning. And these leaders of conscience have made their declarations today in the cause of peace.

The United States is committed to that cause. If all sides fulfill their obligation, I know that peace can finally come.

Thank you very much, and may God bless our work.

NOTE: King Abdullah spoke at 3:30 p.m. at Beit al Bahar. Prime Minister Abbas spoke in Arabic, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, the President referred to Queen Rania of Jordan; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Assistant Secretary of State for Nonproliferation John S. Wolf. Prime Minister Abbas referred to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain; and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Interview With Members of the White House Press Pool

June 4, 2003

The President. First of all, it's progress. Great success happens when there's two states, living side by side in peace. And this is progress. I thought I would—since this is an historic trip, I thought I would just have you up and share thoughts and answer questions. We'll go around for a while.

First, I'm pleased with what happened yesterday and today. The first signs of peace happen when people make up their mind to work toward peace. And that's what you saw. You heard some pretty firm statements yesterday. The statements yesterday by the Arab leaders were very strong in public, and they were strong in private. One of the things that we have made clear to all parties is that there are terrorists who have to blow up the process—you all know that; it's been an historic fact—and that these countries in the neighborhood have the capacity to work to cut off money to the terrorist groups and access and arms deals. And they committed themselves to do that, which was a positive sign.

It was also important for Prime Minister Abbas to hear that. This is a man who is a newly elected Prime Minister, new to office. He gets sworn in, and the roadmap gets released. All of a sudden now he finds himself

in a serious effort, the creation of a Palestinian state, which puts enormous responsibilities on him.

And one of the things we're saying is, you're now responsible. But it helped a lot to have the Arab leaders support him, and not only support him but to support him through pledges of activity and action. The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia was particularly strong yesterday in private about the need to chase down terrorists. They've had some recent experience with terrorism. And I was really pleased with the strong commitment and the strong desire to not only deal with terrorists inside his country but to work to prevent arms being smuggled from—out of Iraq and into the territories.

We also spent a lot of time talking about Syria and the mutual concern about Syria and the desire to convince Syria to shut down terrorist offices inside—in Damascus. So there was a very helpful discussion. I think it was very helpful for Prime Minister Abbas to hear that.

Then we come to today. The way the day worked, is that I met with the King of Jordan. He is a wonderful man. He is obviously desirous of Palestinian statehood, which would be very helpful to him. We talked about bilateral relations, economic—matters of economic development, and it was a good conversation.

And then I sat down with Prime Minister Sharon. I assured him that security was at the top of our agenda, like security is at the top of his agenda. One, we're in a war against terror or a war against terror on the homefront; we're chasing down these people around. But we also recognize that there are some who would like to blow up the process and that we want to work to create the conditions for a Palestinian state to emerge, which means jointly working with all parties to work on the security issue.

I also told him, though, he's got responsibilities. The fact that he showed up meant that he believes Prime Minister Abbas can deliver. And therefore, we've got to work together to help the Prime Minister achieve his stated objectives, which, one, he had a very clear statement on terror.

The other thing that was very interesting was his statement on incitement. And it was a fact statement, for those who follow the process. He needs time to get his security forces set up. And I reminded the Prime Minister—I also reminded him that I wasn't caught by surprise by his statement on the outposts, the issue of the outposts. He said he would dismantle them; we expect him now to dismantle them.

People say, "Well, what's the first step?" Well, you just heard the first step today in the speeches. And the—you also heard me say that we would help the Palestinian Authority develop a security force. Minister Dahlan will be in charge of that security force. We intend to work with them. We assured the Israelis we intend to work with them. We want this man to be successful.

The Prime Minister absolutely rejected terror. In order for him to be effective in rejecting terror, he's got to have an effective security force. And so that's what we discussed. And then we met, all of us together, our delegations. It was good. We had a—the discussion was very interesting is the Prime Minister asked members of his Knesset to speak, Minister of Defense, the Deputy Prime Minister, the equivalent of the Attorney General, Minister of Justice. And then Prime Minister Abbas spoke; I spoke.

And then I suggested that the three of us just go outside and visit, rather than having the formal settings of the old roundtable discussion. And so we went out and sat on the lawn there for about 30 minutes and discussed a lot of matters. What I wanted to do is to observe the interplay between the two; did they have the capacity to relax in each other's presence, for starters? And I felt they did. In other words, it was—the body language was positive. There wasn't a lot of hostility or suspicion.

There was a—it seemed like to me, from the conversation, that there was a mutual desire to work toward the vision. And obviously I'm not going to betray confidences, but it was a very interesting and positive conversation is the best way to say it. I didn't need, for example, to be Mr. Chatty. You know, kind of, "Hey, fellows." [*Laughter*] There was a natural tendency to want to talk about common matters and common desires.

And then after that we gave our speeches, and here we sit. I will tell you that I'm pleased with the last 2 days. We have made

a good beginning. And I emphasize beginning, because there's a lot of work to do. Let me just review some of the work that must take place. Obviously, there needs—there needs to be a focused, complete, 100-percent effort to fight off the terrorists. I believe the Palestinian—I know the Palestinian leadership wants that, has got that desire. And so, he must help them put the institutions in place to do that.

On the Palestinian side, there needs to be an emergence of a state, the institutions of which are larger than the participants. And that is essential. I assured the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority—and this was when we were sitting out on the lawn—that there is plenty of help coming. At the G–8 meeting in Evian, there was a lot of discussion about how we can help, ''What can we do?'' I said, ''Well, when the time is right, there's going to be need for money and commercial development and enhancement of the entrepreneurial spirit.''

There's just a lot of things to be done—better education systems. Israel has got to recognize that Prime Minister Abbas is desirous for peace and, without compromising security, must make decisions necessary to help the Palestinian people. And they're doing that. Money is—more money is now in circulation. They collect revenues, Israel does, and now they're—they've got great trust in the Finance Minister of the Palestinian Authority, a guy who went to the University of Texas, by the way, for a while.

He came to Washington as an intermediary on behalf of Prime Minister Abbas, and Condi and I met with him in the Oval Office. I spent a lot of the time on Palestinian finances, cashflow matters, making sure that aid and money actually end up helping the people and not either bank accounts of individuals that—where it doesn't belong. I'm absolutely convinced he's an honest and upright man who believes in the future of the Palestinian people, believes that a democratic Palestinian state is possible.

It's important for Prime Minister Sharon to recognize that. I think he does. I'm confident he recognizes that. The $100 million that had been held in arrears was released, and the process of talking about more money going through, which—25,000 workers now that were not allowed in Israel now allowed in Israel. In other words, what I'm telling you is, is that it's important for the life of the Palestinians to improve in measurable ways.

And as confidence is built, as institutions are in place, I assured Prime Minister Abbas—and this was important for Prime Minister Sharon to hear as well—that there is going to be a lot of help, financial help, from around the world. People want this effort to succeed.

And so it's—it's a bit of—2 good days, but there's a lot to happen. Let me just go around the table.

President's Cautious Optimism

Q. You sound cautious still.

The President. I am cautious, because—and I'm cautious because history tells you to be cautious. I don't know where you were in 2000. I guess it was—they were close. There are killers lurking in the neighborhood. There are people who have declared their—openly declared their hostility to Israel and their desire to destroy Israeli citizens. There are people that, you know, would rather have chaos than a state. And so long as you know they're there, you've got to be cautious.

And on the other hand, we've now got a partner in peace, Prime Minister Abbas, who is—wants the tools necessary to chase them down. It's going to be one of the accountability measures, by the way. That's one of reasons why we put Wolf.

The news today, of course, from our side was, besides having the meeting was, Ambassador John Wolf and his team. It's not just Wolf. It is not Wolf and one administrative assistant. It's Wolf and a team of people that the Secretary will be glad to explain to you. We have a security team there to help the Dahlan. Their job is to find out what's needed and to also hold people to account, both sides to account, reminding people of promises made in meetings and insisting them that in order for progress to be made, people have got to deliver it.

And so, yes, I've cautious, but optimistic. Perhaps we should say, cautiously optimistic. [*Laughter*]

Prospects for Peace/War on Terror

Q. Mr. President, previous efforts at making peace in the Middle East did not succeed. You believe you now have a chance. Did you—and you also mentioned that it's historic—this was an historic meeting. Could you try to put this in history? What do you think has changed since you took office, and how did we get to this point?

The President. I think a couple of things have changed. One, I think there is—I think Prime Minister Abbas is willing to make the necessary decisions and take the necessary steps to fight terror and to develop institutions necessary for a state to emerge, a genuine effort. I believe he is, and that's a change.

Secondly, there is a universal recognition that the war on terror is just that, a war on terror and not empty words, that September the 11th or bombings in Riyadh or the terror that has plagued Israel, these are terrorist acts that must be defeated, and they must be defeated at its source as well.

So there's a different—frankly, a different attitude toward terrorism. It's no longer isolated terrorism, it is terrorism that is beginning to affect a lot of people and can affect a lot of people. So in other words, the meeting yesterday, for example, with the Arab nations, it seemed like to me the new reality was reflected in their statements, which will make it easier for a Palestinian state to emerge. There's a vested interest to fight terror. It's people's self-interest now.

And so I think that's been one of the changes. I'm sure this is—other Presidents have said this; other leaders have—but there is now battle fatigue. People are sick and tired of it. People are sick and tired of the death, suffering, of the humiliation. In other words, there's—hopefully history will show whether or not I'm right, but hopefully we have reached the point where a lot of good people have begun to realize that the immediate past will lead to nothing but more suffering and humiliation and death. And people are beginning to change their attitudes on the ground.

Impact of Terrorist Acts

Q. Do you think September 11th had an impact in the region, as well, in helping—did it just galvanize American views about terrorism, or did it also carry through into——

The President. I think it—the terror attacks shocked the world. And it frightened a lot of people, because they realized that if America can be hit, they could be hit. And then terror began to—I just said, the attacks in Riyadh or the attacks in Indonesia, Bali, a nice secure resort community. The next thing is, people wake up the next day and realize—around the world realize that there's no such thing as a nice, secure resort when we have terrorists willing to kill innocent lives in the numbers they did.

So not just September the 11th. September the 11th made the world aware of the new war. And then the other acts of terror that have taken place since, made the issue come even closer to home for many countries. And then the combination of that, plus the terrorist activities in the Palestinian territories and in Israel made people realize the effects of terror. It kind of brought it all home, I think. So, yes, I think September the 11th mattered. But it wasn't the only event that was—helped galvanize thought.

People are frightened about terror in the Middle East, not just in Israel. And they've got to get after it. And we're going to help them get after it. It's a part of this war. One of the hardest things I knew that I would have to do as the President is to remind the American people, and for that matter, people around the world, the nature of the war in which we find ourselves.

And it's different. There's a couple battlefronts that are noticeable, Afghanistan and Iraq, but this war goes on. I mean, today, as we speak, we've got intelligence sharing going on, we've got people on the hunt trying to find them, one at a time. It's that same effort that will take place in the Palestinian territories, but it requires the desire by all leaders to want to fight it. I think that's changed some. I think it's changed a lot mentality.

President's Personal Diplomacy

Q. Mr. President, you seem to value and even enjoy the spontaneity and informality that you brought in your meetings with these leaders. Could you dwell for a moment on

your personal style of diplomacy and how you see it working?

The President. I try to tell the truth, put it right out there on the table for everybody to understand what's expected. I do; I like people. You know, I remember, I think it was—Ron Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press] asked me the question, do you trust Vladimir Putin? It was one of the really interesting questions, to fire up the President standing next to Vladimir Putin.

Well, the answer is yes, I didn't hesitate, because during my meeting with him, I had developed an interesting rapport. My instincts were such that, this is a guy I can trust. History will prove me right. It doesn't necessarily mean he has to agree with everything that I say, but trust his word. I've spent enough time with Ariel Sharon to know he's the kind of guy when he says something, he means it. I'm getting the same sense about Prime Minister Abbas.

And therefore much of the conversations, particularly as I get to know somebody, is to figure out whether or not you can—whether or not, when they say something, they mean it. You can tell that, pretty much, during a conversation, which means trying to get people off their script, and as you discuss things, make it as informal as possible, because I think people in an informal setting tend to show their heart and/or their conscience in a lot better way.

I'm not a very formal guy to begin with. Condi and the Secretary of State, Colin, can give you a better sense of what my style is like. I'm also not very analytical. You know I don't spend a lot of time thinking about myself, about why I do things. The meetings are informal; they're kind of relaxed. I think one of my styles is trying to relax people.

National Security Adviser Rice. Direct, I would say.

The President. Yes, I am a direct person. I mean, there's no—we don't have a lot of time, and therefore I like to get to the point. I like to ask people—I can challenge people. I believe I can do so in a way that's not offensive to them. It's about as encouraging as it was discouraging. And I hope they sense my sense of optimism. I mean, I'm an enthusiastic person when I believe that something is possible.

I believe peace is possible. I know it's going to be hard, but I think the fact that I'm representing a great country and am willing to sit down with these leaders and give them a sense, ''We're all in this together,'' is helpful. The best way to do that is in a more informal type setting where there's not a lot of prepared notes. I've been in meetings where people read speeches. It's not as productive as a meeting in which people can sit down and actually—one of my jobs is to try to help relax people in a setting. I hope I'm pretty good at that. How do you feel? Do you feel relaxed right now?

Q. More relaxed than I should.

The President. It worked.

Meeting With Arab Leaders

Q. Is that what happened when you were in the the anteroom with the Arab leaders, you just decided that it was a more relaxed setting and that you prefer to keep talking——

The President. Exactly, yes.

Q. Could you tell us a little bit about that meeting and what went on in that meeting?

The President. Sure, I'd love to. First of all, I understand that there was a little bit of hard feelings. I was told last night about certain press wasn't in. We had no idea. I'm available for any photo op. [*Laughter*] But it was not an intention, if that's—that's the meeting I think you're talking about, the informal meeting.

Q. Multilateral. But we'd like to know what happened in the private meeting that you had with the heads of state before you came out.

The President. Before we came out, the thing that was not supposed to be on TV, that one. It was just a roundtable discussion about—let me make sure I get it right here. I told them, I said, look—all four of those leaders, except for Prime Minister Abbas, were—Prime Minister Abbas was there. The other four leaders are leaders who I obviously talked to during the Iraq war. Before the Iraq war and after the Iraq war I assured them that I was going to be involved in moving the Middle East peace process forward, particularly after the emergence of the Prime Minister, Abbas.

This was my chance to go around the table and look him in the eye and say, ''I'm here to make it happen, but I need your help.'' The first thing was to—is to let them know about the intent of this administration. I shared with them—well, you know Colin's involvement and Condi's involvement. I didn't share with them the Wolf—I knew they would read about it today. There wasn't any great secret. On the other hand, you occasionally try to hold back some news—you've probably learned it before I did, anyway.

And then we listened to them, and Crown Prince Abdullah. And they had a lot of interesting thoughts about different issues. Oh, and by the way, it wasn't just—the discussion wasn't just on the Middle East peace process. The other thing I told them, I asked them, was to help Prime Minister Abbas. I directly said, ''We need your help on this fellow. If he is to succeed, if peace is to succeed, he needs your help.'' And they were willing, they expressed their desire to help. And I went to Iraq and talked about what was happening there.

Then I encouraged them to continue on their paths to reform and about how that would make a significant difference in the lives of their citizens. So it was more than—and they commented on all that, different aspects. I'm not going to tell you what they told me. If they want to tell you what—if they want to say what is theirs, they'll put it in their own press. It was a long discussion. It took a lot longer than we thought.

And part of it had to do because a lot of it needed to be translated. Therefore, a normal conversation—all of it had to be translated. The Crown Prince does not speak English very well, so therefore every word that was spoken had to volleyed. And so that's—we had a good conversation, again, not structured. People said what they felt like, and there was no—it wasn't just, ''Okay, you speak; you speak; you speak, and then we're through.'' There was a lot of interchange. That's positive.

And I met bilaterally with them as well. I met with—Colin and Condi and I went over to President Mubarak's house that night. We had a bilateral with him in the morning, and afterwards we ate. I had a bilateral with the Crown Prince at the hotel after the sauna bath.

It was very hot outside when I spoke. [*Laughter*] Thank you for clarification. It was hot. I'm sweating. I was really hot.

Q. I know, I know there was one place where you were talking about it, figuratively——

The President. Figuratively, that's right. Just to see if you were paying attention. And it's very useful to have those kind of conversations.

Palestinian Authority Leadership

Q. Mr. President, a big part of why you were here, and you made clear, is because Mahmoud Abbas is the person who is Palestinian Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat is not the person who you chose to negotiate. But Palestinian leaders, some of their senior officials, made clear that they still think Yasser Arafat—they made clear that they still think Yasser Arafat is somebody who needs to be dealt with, who needs to negotiate. I'm wondering what kinds of conversations you had with the Arab leaders and maybe with Mahmoud Abbas about Arafat's role?

The President. Well, it's clear that I'm going to deal with Prime Minister Abbas, so there wasn't much conversation.

Q. Do you think it will come up?

The President. Not really. The Secretary of State is——

Secretary Powell. It didn't come up in any of the conversations with the President that I'm aware of. And they know our views on this.

Q. Do you have any concern that he might be a hindrance to the process at all?

The President. Not if he has the Palestinian people's interests at heart. We'll see. I certainly hope not.

Secretary Powell. Can I just——

The President. Yes, please.

Secretary Powell. In conversations with the Arab leaders, particularly the Foreign Ministers, we made it clear to them that one of the things we expected them to help with was to make sure that Mr. Arafat does not become an obstacle to the execution of the roadmap.

Q. Did they seem to say that they were willing to do that?

Secretary Powell. They understood. They will help.

The President. I think they understand.

Secretary Powell's Role

Q. [*Inaudible*]

The President. It really didn't—I mean, he's handled most of that. It did not come up during my conversations with the Arab leaders. What came up was, how do we help Prime Minister Abbas? Now, Colin may have had different—with the Foreign Ministers, since they have some frank discussions. A lot of times you'll find out that the underbrush has been cleared by the—and by the time the President arrives, everybody kind of understands. And one of his jobs is to clear out underbrush. That's an old ranch term. [*Laughter*] In other words—I don't know what he told the Foreign Ministers, but I just heard what he told the Foreign Ministers.

Q. He's watching the calluses on his hands.

The President. Yes, that's it. [*Laughter*]

Q. Can I ask you, just a followup?

The President. Sure.

Red Sea Summit

Q. What do you consider sort of the importance of the role of the President in this kind of process? For example, this is the first time—it's been 2½ years since you've been President. It's the first time you've had this kind of summit, where some of your predecessors had multiple summits by this time.

The President. Well, you know, first of all, we've had a lot of meetings but not summits. I've had a lot of discussions with every one of the parties that have been around the table, with the exception of Prime Minister Abbas, and he's just showed up. He just emerged as a leader. I called him immediately upon—I think immediately or soon after he became Prime Minister.

I mean, so—let me—just because we haven't had the summit doesn't mean this administration hasn't been working toward achieving the conditions necessary to move forward. And that's really an important—there has to be—I can remember saying this to the press corps early on in my administration. People want to have to—peace, want peace. In order to move the process forward requires a—there's no need to spend capital and energy and time if there is not a commitment to peace. And the conditions are such now that there is a commitment to peace by a lot of people that are ready to see if we can't make it happen. That's what's changed.

And therefore the timing of this summit was really based upon the attitudes of the decisionmakers. We're not the decisionmaker. Oh, the American President or the American Secretary of State is—I wish we were the decisionmakers. You know, ''Okay, this is it.'' That's not the way it works. There's terrorists to deal with. If we could, we'd say, ''All the terrorists, put down your arms and become useful citizens, peaceful citizens.'' But that's not, unfortunately, reality.

Banding together, though, we can deal with the ticket—you know, build up the will necessary to deal with the terrorists. And so what the role of the United States is, is to lay out the vision, encourage people to accept the vision, and then help implement the vision. In this case, we call it a roadmap to achieve the vision. And that's exactly what we're going to do. We can be stewards of accountability. And we can say to somebody, ''You said you'd do this. You haven't done it. You say you want to do this, and what do you need to get it done?''

So today we asked Dahlan, what is it you need, how can we help you? This is a security matter. What exactly can we do to help?

Secretary Powell. Mr. President, can I give four data points to show the President's involvement? Just a couple of quick data points to show you how we got here and how the President caused us to be here. Twenty-four June speech you're very familiar with. On the 18th of July, the President had Arab Foreign Ministers in the Oval Office—Muasher of Jordan, Saud of Saudi Arabia, Maher of Egypt. And at that meeting, the President said to them, we will now structure a way to go from my vision to reality. And that was the beginning of the work on the roadmap.

Work went on all summer, all fall. And then on the 20th of December, the European—the Quartet came together to finalize it. The President met with the Quartet, finalized it, and then we waited for the Israeli

elections to be over, which were just about finished at that time, and then we said, with the appointment of new leadership in the Palestinian Authority, the President is ready to act, and he did.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Mr. President, in the events of the last 2 days, have they exceeded what you expected coming over here?

The President. That's a good question. I'm supposed to say—that's an interesting question. [*Laughter*]

Q. You're supposed to say what you think.

The President. I'm the master of low expectations. I think they—we did what we wanted to—I think we—we accomplished what I hoped we would accomplish, but I don't think we necessarily exceeded expectations. I think ''met expectations'' is a better way to put it.

I was hoping to have honest dialogs. The statements that came out—I think when you analyze the statements, you'll find them to be historic, I guess is the right word to use. Amazing things were said. The Palestinian—the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority talked about the suffering of Jewish people. It's a strong statement. The Prime Minister of Israel talked about a Palestinian state which was free. The statements were strong. It's hard to answer, exceeded expectations. I had a little bit of an understanding of what might take place, because we worked hard. These trips, obviously, don't just happen. The statement just doesn't show up out of the blue. It requires—[*laughter*]——

National Security Adviser Rice. Oh, no, they just appeared magically.

The President. I'm a great delegator; I'm a great delegator. And so they met expectations. However, the cordial atmosphere—I'll tell you what else was interesting, that I would say met expectations or was pleasing to see, was the interface between the Palestinian cabinet and the Israeli cabinet, when we went out to sit on the grounds, and I witnessed some of it but not all of it. Since I was actually on the grounds, Colin and Condi told me that there was very interesting discussions and dialog going on. There was—people were frank with each other. They were able to joke with each other. They were able to kind of bring up a little history with each other.

But the main thing that came out of it, at least to our delegation, appeared to be the desire to work together. You two witnesses, maybe you want to——

National Security Adviser Rice. That's absolutely the case.

Preparations for the Red Sea Summit

Q. If I could follow up, Mr. President, were there any time going into this that you were hearing things, that you were thinking to yourself, uh-oh——

The President. Look, I wasn't going if we weren't going to make progress. I mean, there's no need to go and stand up there by myself and say, ''Let's work for peace,'' and look around, and nobody would be there with you. So I was—I think there were some times where—we've had some—in the runup to the process, there was some—there was a lot of work. Let me put it to you that way, and a lot of frank discussion and a lot of convincing of parties that we need to get on this path. And we need to work hard, and we need to make commitments. The speeches that—there were some commitments made in those speeches, which now put people on the record, not only on the record, all across the world. I mean, a lot of people were watching this today. And I guess it was live in America.

So you had these leaders stand up and say, ''I commit, not just commit to''—I mean, the Prime Minister of Israel saying, ''I commit to knock down or get rid of illegal outposts.'' That is a strong commitment. So the process was really to work hard to get people to make commitments toward peace. And Condi's staff and Colin's staff worked very closely together. And Colin went out to the region, as you may remember. Part of what you saw today was his hard work. They always look at the President, but the truth of the matter is that there have been a lot of people working hard to work with all parties to get to where we got today. I just happen to attract more cameras than most of them. So I stand up there, and everybody watches.

National Security Adviser Rice. We actually had a team in the region for almost

a week, Bill Burns and Elliot Abrams for almost a week.

The President. Elliot Abrams is her staff. Bill, of course, is an Under Secretary.

Secretary Powell. Assistant Secretary.

The President. Runs the NEA, is very capable. And then of course we—we had to make the decision on the man who is going to run the deal on the ground and how his team was going to be formed. Again, the Secretary had to move him in his Department and had to come up with the right structure and the right people so that when the Palestinians and Israelis see who was sitting out there and what they represent, they realize that it's serious business. All that took a while to get to where we are.

To answer your question, I'm pleased with the start, is the best way to put it. I mean, this—we are going to go through a tough process, because we're dealing with a lot of history. And you're right, a lot of Presidents have tried. Every President should try. We ought to use the prestige of America to try for peace. I fault no President of the United States for trying to achieve peace. Maybe history is such that now we can achieve it. I'm optimistic.

Israeli Security/War on Terror

Q. You were pretty blunt yesterday that Israel must deal with the settlements.

The President. Yes.

Q. Sharon made—I don't think we were supposed to hear that. Sharon made his pledge today. If there's a suicide bombing, does he reserve the right to move back into those settlements?

The President. Look, I think the operative statement from the Israeli Prime Minister, not necessarily in this speech but recently, was he wants to see a complete effort to fight off terror. In other words, he wants an equal partner. He wants a partner in the battle on terror, not somebody who will say they're going to fight terror and then turn a blind eye to terror, somebody who wants to join him. And that's one of the things that came clear. It should have been clear in my speech, too, that we will fight terror.

And security is—we'll never compromise on Israel's security. That's one of the reasons why I believe the Israeli Knesset members over there, the Prime Minister, wants to follow us, work with us, because they know I will never compromise Israel's security. And I've made that clear. As Condi said, one of the things about our discussions, they're frank. There's no question in the Palestinian Authority's mind, either, I can assure you.

Now having—so therefore—what the Prime Minister of Israel has said is, he expects to see a complete effort by the Palestinian Authority to fight off terror. Prime Minister Abbas said today in his statement, there is no place for terror. And he is going to put together a security forces necessary fight off the terrorists, because he knows that there will be no state if terror prevails. And he knows his people will suffer. The terrorists think they're hurting Israel, and they are when they kill Israelis. But they're also hurting their own people, and Prime Minister Abbas understands that.

Plus the people in the region know what terror now means. They've lived with terror in the region, but they've now begun to put it in context. And that's—I'm trying to put it as clearly as I can. The context of terror now has changed. The death hasn't changed, but it's now—it's easier for everybody to see how it fits into a larger scheme of things. And the larger scheme of things is the war on terror, because it's beginning to strike in lethal ways in unexpected places, which therefore means that your place could be next, I guess is one way to put it.

President's Role in the Peace Process

Q. What's your role? What do you do? You talked about giving the Secretary and Dr. Rice specific obligations. What's your obligation?

The President. I show up when they need me to call people to account, to praise, or to say, "Wait a minute. You told me in Jordan that you would do this. You haven't done it, why? How come? What is it?" It's to keep the thing moving, keep the processes moving. They've got the man on the ground that is going to—he's just going to—I used the expression "ride herd." I don't know if anybody understood the meaning. It's a little informal in diplomatic terms. I said, "We're going to

put a guy on the ground to ride herd on the process.'' See them all scratching their heads.

Q. Meanwhile, in Arabic and Hebrew, exactly how does that translate?

The President. Listen, I've got to make a phone call, but I want to thank you all for your interest. It's been a great trip. Have a good day tomorrow, and then we'll get to go home. I'm looking forward to it, looking forward to getting to see my family.

Summit Photograph

Q. What happened when you—the three of you walked out for the photograph, and did you hear the Israeli photographer screaming, ''Are you going to shake hands?'' Did you hear that?

The President. No. Where was it?

Q. It was the photographer screaming——

The President. Oh, yes. How do you shake hands with three people? I couldn't understand—first of all, I had a little trouble hearing. My hearing is not as good as it used to be, and then sometimes I don't want to hear anything to begin with, like the questions you yell. [*Laughter*]

Q. Well, it was a pleasure to talk to you.

The President. Yes, thanks for coming over.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:40 p.m. aboard Air Force One en route to Doha, Qatar. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), Minister of State for Security Affairs Mohammed Dahlan, and Finance Minister Salam Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz, Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, and Justice Minister Tommy Lapid of Israel; Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; King Abdullah II of Jordan; Assistant Secretary of State for Nonproliferation John S. Wolf; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell referred to Foreign Minister Marwan Muasher of Jordan; Foreign Minister Saud al-Faysal al Saud of Saudi Arabia; and Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher of Egypt. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice referred to William J. Burns, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs; and Elliot Abrams, National Security Council Senior Director for Near East, Southwest Asian, and North African Affairs. A reporter referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Partial-Birth Abortion Legislation

June 4, 2003

I applaud the House for passing legislation banning partial-birth abortions. Passage of this important legislation is a shared priority that will help build a culture of life in America. I urge Congress to quickly resolve any differences and send me the final bill as soon as possible so that I can sign it into law.

Memorandum on the Spectrum Policy for the 21st Century

May 29, 2003

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Spectrum Policy for the 21st Century

The radio frequency spectrum is a vital and limited national resource. Spectrum contributes to significant technological innovation, job creation, and economic growth, and it enables military operations, communications among first responders to natural disasters and terrorist attacks, and scientific discovery.

Recent years have witnessed an explosion of spectrum-based technologies and uses of wireless voice and data communications systems by businesses, consumers, and Government. Today there are over 140 million wireless phone customers and, increasingly, businesses and consumers are installing systems that use unlicensed spectrum to allow wireless data, called Wireless Fidelity (WiFi), on their premises. The Federal Government makes extensive use of spectrum for radars, communications, geolocation/navigation, space operations, and other national and homeland security needs. We must unlock the economic value and entrepreneurial potential of U.S. spectrum assets while ensuring that sufficient spectrum is available to support critical Government functions.

The existing legal and policy framework for spectrum management has not kept pace with the dramatic changes in technology and spectrum use. Under the existing framework, the Government generally reviews every change in spectrum use, a process that is often slow and inflexible, and can discourage the introduction of new technology. Some spectrum users, including Government agencies, maintain that the existing spectrum process is insufficiently responsive to the need to protect current critical uses.

My Administration is committed to promoting the development and implementation of a U.S. spectrum policy for the 21st century that will: (a) foster economic growth; (b) ensure our national and homeland security; (c) maintain U.S. global leadership in communications technology development and services; and (d) satisfy other vital U.S. needs in areas such as public safety, scientific research, Federal transportation infrastructure, and law enforcement. My Administration has already proposed several legislative changes or program initiatives to improve elements of the spectrum management process. These proposals would greatly enhance the Government's ability to efficiently manage spectrum. To further promote the development and implementation of a U.S. spectrum policy for the 21st century, I hereby direct the following:

Section 1. *Establishment.* There is established the "Spectrum Policy Initiative" (the "Initiative") that shall consist of activities to develop recommendations for improving spectrum management policies and procedures for the Federal Government and to address State, local, and private spectrum use. The Secretary of Commerce shall chair and direct the work of the Initiative. The Initiative shall consist of two courses of spectrum-related activity: (a) an interagency task force that is created by section 3 of this memorandum; and (b) a series of public meetings consistent with section 4 of this memorandum. The interagency task force and the public meetings shall be convened under the auspices of the Department of Commerce and used by the Department to develop spectrum management reform proposals.

Sec. 2. *Mission and Goals.* The Initiative shall undertake a comprehensive review of spectrum management policies (including any relevant recommendations and findings of the study conducted pursuant to section 214 of the E-Government Act of 2002) with the objective of identifying recommendations for revising policies and procedures to promote more efficient and beneficial use of spectrum without harmful interference to critical incumbent users. The Department of Commerce shall prepare legislative and other recommendations to:

(a) facilitate a modernized and improved spectrum management system;

(b) facilitate policy changes to create incentives for more efficient and beneficial use of spectrum and to provide a higher degree of predictability and certainty in the spectrum management process as it applies to incumbent users;

(c) develop policy tools to streamline the deployment of new and expanded services and technologies, while preserving national security, homeland security, and public safety, and encouraging scientific research; and

(d) develop means to address the critical spectrum needs of national security, homeland security, public safety, Federal transportation infrastructure, and science.

Sec. 3. *Federal Government Spectrum Task Force.* There is hereby established the Federal Government Spectrum Task Force (the "Task Force") to focus on improving spectrum management policies and procedures to stimulate more efficient and beneficial use of Government spectrum. The Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee under this section, shall serve as Chairman of the Task Force.

(a) *Membership of the Task Force.* The Task Force shall consist exclusively of the heads of the executive branch departments, agencies, and offices listed below:

(1) the Department of State;

(2) the Department of the Treasury;

(3) the Department of Defense;

(4) the Department of Justice;

(5) the Department of the Interior;

(6) the Department of Agriculture;

(7) the Department of Commerce;

(8) the Department of Transportation;
(9) the Department of Energy;
(10) the Department of Homeland Security;
(11) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
(12) the Office of Management and Budget;
(13) the Office of Science and Technology Policy;
(14) such other executive branch departments, agencies, or offices as the Chairman of the Task Force may designate; and
(15) subject to the authority of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of Project SAFECOM.

A member of the Task Force may designate, to perform the Task Force functions of the member, any person who is a part of the member's department, agency, or office, and who is a full-time officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(b) *Functions of the Task Force.* The functions of the Task Force are advisory and shall include, but are not limited to, producing a detailed set of recommendations for improving spectrum management policies and procedures to stimulate more efficient and beneficial use of spectrum by the Federal Government. The recommendations shall be consistent with the objectives set out in section 2 of this memorandum. The Task Force may hold meetings to obtain information and advice concerning spectrum policy from individuals in a manner that seeks their individual advice and does not involve collective judgment or consensus advice or deliberation. At the direction of the Chairman, the Task Force may establish subgroups consisting exclusively of Task Force members or their designees under this section, as appropriate.

Sec. 4. *Recommendations to Address State, Local, and Private Spectrum Use.* Consistent with the objectives set out in section 2 of this memorandum, the Department of Commerce, separately from the Task Force process, shall, in accordance with applicable law, conduct public meetings that will assist with that Department's development of a detailed set of recommendations for improving policies and procedures for use of spectrum by State and local governments and the private sector, as well as the spectrum management process as a whole. These meetings will involve public events to provide an opportunity for the input of the communications industry and other interested parties. Participants may include spectrum users, wireless equipment vendors, financial and industry analysts, economists, technologists, and consumer groups. Interested Federal, State, and local government agencies will be welcome to attend and participate. The Federal Communications Commission is also encouraged to participate in these activities and to provide input to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration at the Department of Commerce on these issues.

Sec. 5. *Reports.* The Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee, shall present to me, through the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, in consultation with the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, two separate reports no later than 1 year from the date of this memorandum, one of which shall contain recommendations developed under section 3 of this memorandum by the Task Force and the other containing recommendations developed under section 4.

Sec. 6. *General Provisions.*

(a) The heads of Federal Government departments and agencies shall assist the Chairman of the Task Force established by section 3 and provide information to the Task Force consistent with applicable law as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Task Force. Each Federal department and agency shall bear its own expense for participating in the Task Force. To the extent permitted by law and within existing appropriations, the Department of Commerce shall provide funding and administrative support for the Task Force.

(b) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

Sec. 7. *Judicial Review.* This memorandum is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

Sec. 8. *Publication.* The Secretary of Commerce is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 5.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Amir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar in Doha, Qatar

June 5, 2003

Amir Hamad. I would like to welcome His Excellency the President in Qatar. We are delighted to have him here with us in Qatar. The President is the first sitting U.S. President ever to visit Qatar. However, his father, President Bush, was actually here in Qatar in 1960, but perhaps the President does not remember. He was young then. [*Laughter*]

So we are delighted to continue our dialog with the President and continue the issues that we have discussed recently in Washington during my visit regarding the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

President Bush. Your Highness, thank you so much for your grand hospitality. You have been a steadfast friend of the United States, and for that we are very grateful. You and your wife have been a leader in education reform and reforms leading to freedom, and for that we are very grateful as well and are impressed by your leadership. And it is my honor to be the first sitting United States President to have visited this important country, and I want to thank you for your hospitality.

NOTE: The Amir spoke at 8:59 a.m. at Amiri Diwan. In his remarks, the President referred to Sheikha Mouza Al-Misnad, consort of the Amir. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the Troops at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar

June 5, 2003

Thanks for coming out to say hello. Thanks for your introduction, Tommy. I appreciate this warm welcome. I have a question for you: Can you hear me now? [*Applause*]

I've been on the road for a while, and I hope you didn't mind us stopping by. We've seen a lot of fine sights, but there's no finer sight than to see the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States of America.

I am happy to see you, and so are the long-suffering people of Iraq. America sent you on a mission to remove a grave threat and to liberate an oppressed people, and that mission has been accomplished.

Each one of you is a credit to the uniform you wear, and I bring a message from home: Your families are proud of you, and so is America.

I want to thank Tommy for his leadership. I don't know if you know this, but First Lady Laura Bush and Tommy Franks went to high school together, Midland Lee High School. She didn't think he'd amount to much. [*Laughter*] He has done a fantastic job.

I'm also honored to be traveling with a fantastic Secretary of State.

I want to thank the allied forces. I want to thank the Brits, the Australians, and I want to thank our friends from Poland for your service to your countries and to the cause of freedom and for your courage.

I want to thank the members of the Armed Forces of Qatar, and I want to thank the Amir of Qatar, with whom I just met, for his hospitality and for his friendship to the United States of America.

But most of all, I'm here to thank you. We are in a war on global terror, and because

of you, we're winning the war on global terror. When we've sent you into combat, you've performed brilliantly. In Afghanistan, forces directed from here—from Qatar—and headquartered in Tampa, you delivered decisive blows against the Taliban and against Al Qaida. And now the people of Afghanistan are free.

We have made it clear that we'll hunt the terrorists down. There's no place they can hide from the justice of the United States of America and our friends. And right now we've got—we're on the hunt in the Horn of Africa. And of course, in the battle of Iraq, you set an example of skill and daring that will stand for all time. The very first strike in the liberation of Iraq started from right here, and many others followed. Missions of mercy are directed from here.

Our actions sent along clear message that our Nation is strong and our Nation is compassionate. And we also sent another clear message: Dictators can no longer shield themselves behind innocent people. Those who threaten the security of others now need to worry about their own.

As you know, in the battle of Iraq, we had some fine, fine soldiers at our side. Great Britain, Poland, and Australia sent some of their finest to work with ours. America will always remember their service and their important role in our victory, and we're grateful.

Neighbors in this neighborhood—nations in this neighborhood also gave critical assistance to this coalition, for which we're grateful: Of course, Qatar, the host to CENTCOM, a great friend to the United States, and Kuwait always said yes when we asked. They also kept their oil flowing when it looked like there wasn't going to be enough. Our friends in Bahrain and the UAE and the rest of the Gulf contributed valuable assistance to our cause, for which we're thankful.

It was from this place that our commanders executed one of the most innovative war plans in the history of armed conflict. And the man who designed those plans was Tommy Franks. I want to thank Tommy and his staff. I also want to thank Command Sergeant Major Dwight Brown. I was going to say, ''and his staff,'' but you're his staff.

Under Tommy's leadership, CENTCOM forces have shown the true might of America, the strength of our country. You've also shown the humanity and decency of your country as well. You see, this country, our country, does not seek the expansion of territory. We're not interested in more territory. Our goal is to enlarge the realm of liberty. We believe that liberty is God's gift to every individual on the face of the Earth. We believe people have the right to think and speak and worship in freedom. That's what we believe in America, and that's what you showed the world.

No, our military fights for the security, American people. And we fight for freedom. And we sacrifice for freedom, and we have lost some of our finest. And this Nation will never forget and will always honor their memories for the sacrifices they made. And it's not only serving our Nation but serving a cause greater than themselves. May God rest their souls.

Not only does the war on terror go on, but we've got a lot of work to do in Iraq. And we're going to stay the course until the job gets done. We will stand with them as they build a stable democracy and a peaceful future.

Our forces are taking aggressive steps to increase order throughout the country. We are moving those Ba'athist officials that are trying to hang onto power. There are still pockets of criminality. Remember, the former leader of Iraq emptied the jail cells of common criminals right before the action took place, and they haven't changed their habits and their ways. They like to rob, like to loot. We'll find them. Criminal courts are now reopening. Day by day, the United States and our coalition partners are making the streets safer for the Iraqi citizens.

We also understand that a more just political system will develop when people have food in their stomachs and their lights work and they can turn on a faucet and they can find some clean water, things that Saddam Hussein did not do for them. See, he spent more time building luxurious palaces than he did in building an infrastructure to take care of the Iraqi citizens. And the United States and our friends and allies will first take care of the Iraqi citizens. And they'll have some

money to help themselves. After all, oil is now flowing, but this time the revenues are not going to be used and skimmed off by greedy gangsters. It's going to be used in a special account on behalf of the people who own the oil, the citizens of Iraq.

One thing else we've done is we made sure that Iraq's not going to serve as an arsenal for terrorist—for terrorist groups. We recently found two mobile biological weapons facilities which were capable of producing biological agents. This is a man who spent decades hiding tools of mass murder. He knew the inspectors were looking for them. You know better than me; he's got a big country in which to hide them. We're on the look. We'll reveal the truth.

But one thing is certain: No terrorist network will gain weapons of mass destruction from the Iraqi regime, because the Iraqi regime is no more.

As people who liberated Iraq, I know you're proud of what you have done. You see, the world is now learning what many of you have seen. They're learning about the mass graves, thousands of people just summarily executed. They're learning about the torture chambers. Because of you, a great evil has been ended. Because of you, the dignity of a great nation is being restored. Because of you, America and our friends and allies, those of us who love freedom are now more secure. You have justified the confidence that your country has placed in you. You've served your country well. Your Commander in Chief is grateful. And as importantly, more importantly, millions of American citizens are grateful for what you have done. You believe in America, and America believes in you.

It is our tremendous honor to be here today with you. Keep doing what you're doing. You're making a huge difference in the peace and security and freedom in this world. May God bless you. May God bless your families, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. Tommy R. Franks, USA, combatant commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Dwight Brown, USA, U.S. Central Command; Amir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso of Portugal

June 6, 2003

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome back. It's such an honor to have you here.

I have been most impressed by Jose's leadership style, his candor, and his honesty. And I appreciate very much his friendship. We have had a lot of dialogs over the past months. Of course, he welcomed me and others to the Azores. And I value his advice. He's a good, honest fellow who cares deeply about basic values. He cares deeply about peace and freedom. And I treasure my relationship with the Prime Minister.

I'm really glad you came. I want to thank you for being here. I look forward to a good, candid discussion today and a good lunch and, on behalf of the American people, welcome you back to the Oval Office.

Prime Minister Durao Barroso. Thank you very much, Mr. President, for this warm welcome. I believe that recent trials put our nations even closer. It was a great European that once said that no noble things can be done without risks. You were able to take great risks in Iraq; we supported you.

Now you are taking great risks in the Middle East peace process. Let me congratulate you for that initiative, for reenergizing the peace process. I think the United States of America and Europe—Portugal being a European country—we have a lot to do together, and I am very much looking forward to this opportunity to discuss with you and, always with the spirit of friendship that exists between the Portuguese and the American people, discuss all these ideas.

And we'll stand by you, because I think that what you have been doing is really great achievement. We have won the war. Now we all have to win the peace. And I think that we are going to reach that goal.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:22 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7684—Flag Day and National Flag Week, 2003

June 6, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Each year, we set aside June 14 to commemorate the day in 1777 when the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of our Republic. With this act, the Congress declared that we were one Nation, under one flag, united for the cause of liberty and justice for all.

As a symbol of our patriotism, the American flag continues to invoke pride and resolve among our people, especially when we see it next to a headstone, on the masts of our military ships, worn by the generations of Americans who have proudly served our country, or emerging from the wreckage caused by a natural or manmade disaster. Flying over public buildings, monuments, schools, and homes, our flag is testament to the ideals of American democracy.

Through the years, millions of immigrants have come to our shores seeking to share in the promise of freedom represented by our flag. From war-torn Europe, to the mountains of Afghanistan, to the deserts of Iraq, the flag and those who carry it are universally recognized as harbingers of liberation, justice, and peace. Regardless of circumstance, our flag endures as a sign of hope.

On Flag Day, we look to the red, white, and blue as a symbol of our commitment to advancing the universal hope of liberty and justice for all. Old Glory abounds in the landscape of our daily lives, reminding us of the freedom we share. The 50 stars and 13 stripes are not just a random pattern, they symbolize the blessings of liberty we enjoy as Americans.

To commemorate the adoption of our flag, the Congress, by joint resolution approved August 3, 1949, as amended (63 Stat. 492), designated June 14 of each year as ''Flag Day'' and requested that the President issue an annual proclamation calling for its observance and for the display of the Flag of the United States on all Federal Government buildings. The Congress also requested, by joint resolution approved June 9, 1966, as amended (80 Stat. 194), that the President issue annually a proclamation designating the week in which June 14 occurs as ''National Flag Week'' and calling upon all citizens of the United States to display the flag during that week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 14, 2003, as Flag Day and the week beginning June 8, 2003, as National Flag Week. I direct the appropriate officials to display the flag on all Federal Government buildings during that week, and I urge all Americans to observe Flag Day and National Flag Week by flying the Stars and Stripes from their homes and other suitable places. I also call upon the people of the United States to observe with pride and all due ceremony those days from Flag Day through Independence Day, also set aside by the Congress (89 Stat. 211), as a time to honor America, to celebrate our heritage in public gatherings and activities, and to publicly recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 10, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 11.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 31

In the morning, in Krakow, Poland, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later,

he and Mrs. Bush visited the Auschwitz-Birkenau World War II death camp complex near Oswiecim, Poland. They then returned to Krakow.

Later in the morning, the President met with President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland at Wawel Royal Castle.

In the afternoon, the President met with Prime Minister Leszek Miller of Poland at Wawel Royal Castle.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia.

In the evening, at Peterhof Palace, the President and Mrs. Bush had dinner and watched an outdoor ballet performance and fireworks show with President Vladimir Putin of Russia and his wife, Lyudmila.

June 1

In the morning, the President traveled to Evian-les-Bains, France, to attend the Group of Eight (G–8) Summit at the Hotel Royal.

In the afternoon, the President participated in meetings and photo opportunities with leaders from G–8 and non-G–8 countries and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD).

Also in the afternoon, the President met with President Hu Jintao of China to discuss the situation in North Korea, efforts to eradicate the SARS virus, and the war on terror.

In the evening, the President attended a NEPAD/African Action Plan dinner with other leaders.

June 2

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he participated in a working lunch and photo opportunities with G–8 leaders.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Lerner to be Commissioner of Education Statistics, Department of Education.

June 3

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Movenpick Conference Center in Sharm el-Sheikh, the President had bilateral meetings with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. He also participated in multilateral meetings with President Mubarak, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain, King Abdullah II of Jordan, Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, and Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority. In the afternoon, the leaders had a working lunch at the Four Seasons Resort.

Later in the afternoon, the President met with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia.

In the evening, the President had dinner with President Mubarak at President Mubarak's residence.

The President announced his intention to nominate Daniel J. Bryant to be Assistant Attorney General (Legal Policy) and to designate him as Acting Assistant Attorney General (Legal Policy).

The President declared a major disaster in Kentucky and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, mud and rock slides, and tornadoes on May 4–27.

June 4

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He also had a telephone conversation with the Deputy Prime Minister of Kuwait to express his regret that he could not visit Kuwait during his Middle East trip and his appreciation for Kuwait's support in efforts to liberate Iraq.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Aqaba, Jordan, where he met with King Abdullah II of Jordan and later with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

In the afternoon, the President met with Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority. Later, the President had trilateral meetings with Prime Minister Sharon and Prime Minister Abbas.

In the evening, the President traveled to Doha, Qatar.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission: Brad T. Barber, Kevin K. Conway, Dallin W. Jensen, and Jody L. Williams.

June 5

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Also, at the Ritz-Carlton Doha Hotel, he met with Gen. Tommy R. Franks, USA, combatant commander, U.S. Central Command, and L. Paul Bremer III, Presidential Envoy to Iraq.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Camp As Sayliyah near Doha.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

June 6

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy to discuss his trip to Europe and the Middle East.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda to the White House on June 10.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat of Thailand to Washington, DC, on June 10.

The President announced his intention to nominate Paul S. DeGregorio and Deforest B. Soaries, Jr., to be members of the Election Assistance Commission.

The President declared a major disaster in Arkansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on May 2 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in American Samoa and ordered Federal aid to supplement Territory and local recovery efforts in the area struck by flooding and mudslides on May 19–21.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted June 2

Josette Sheeran Shiner,
of Virginia, to be a Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.

Karen P. Tandy,
of Virginia, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement, vice Asa Hutchinson.

Withdrawn June 2

Dee Ann McWilliams,
of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Human Resources and Administration), which was sent to the Senate on March 24, 2003.

Submitted June 3

Joshua B. Bolten,
of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, vice Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., resigned.

Robert Lerner,
of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Education Statistics for a term expiring June 21, 2009, vice Pascal D. Forgione, Jr., term expired.

Submitted June 5

Karin J. Immergut,
of Oregon, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon for the term of 4 years, vice Michael W. Mosman.

Lance Robert Olson,
of Iowa, to be U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of 4 years, vice John Edward Quinn.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as

items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released May 31

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of an interview by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice with foreign print journalists

Released June 2

Statement by the Press Secretary: Presidential Designation of Foreign Narcotics Kingpins

Fact sheet: Action on Science and Technology

Fact sheet: Countering the ''Dirty Bomb'' Threat

Fact sheet: Enhancing Commercial Aviation Security

Fact sheet: Broadening the Partnership To Stop the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Fact sheet: Action To Enhance Global Capacity To Combat Terror

Fact sheet: U.S. Actions at the G–8 Summit: Day One

Fact sheet: U.S. Actions at the G–8 Summit: Day Two

Released June 3

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's meetings with Arab leaders

Transcript of an interview by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice with John King, Cable News Network

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Kentucky

Released June 4

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to the press pool

Transcript of an interview by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice with Peter Jennings, ABC News

Released June 5

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Medicare agreement between Senator Charles E. Grassley and Senator Max Baucus

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon and U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa

Released June 6

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Thaksin of Thailand

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Arkansas

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to American Samoa

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Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.