

Sometimes, Iraqi officials would express doubts that the day would ever come. Jerry would pick up a photo of his granddaughter and say, "This is your guarantee I'm leaving." [Laughter]

Jerry, I know your wife, Francie, and your children, Paul and Leila, and your granddaughter, Sophia, are really glad to have you back.

When Jerry Bremer greeted visitors at his office in Baghdad, he always began, "Welcome to free Iraq." Jerry, Iraq is free today, and you helped make it so. And a free Iraq will help make generations of Americans more secure. Our Nation will always be grateful to Ambassador Jerry Bremer and his good work.

These three men symbolize the nobility of public service, the good character of our country, and the good influence of America on the world.

Now it is my honor to present the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and I ask the military aide to read the citations.

[At this point, Maj. Steven T. Fischer, USA, Army Military Aide to the President, read the citations, and the President presented the medals.]

The President. Thank you all for coming. Laura and I now invite you for a reception here to honor our honorees.

Congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Memorandum on Waiver of Restrictions on Assistance to the Republic of Uzbekistan Under the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 and Title V of the FREEDOM Support Act

December 14, 2004

Presidential Determination No. 2005-13

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver of Restrictions on Assistance to the Republic of Uzbekistan under the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 and Title V of the FREEDOM Support Act

Consistent with the authority vested in me by section 1306 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-314), I hereby certify that waiving the restrictions contained in subsection (d) of section 1203 of the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 (22 U.S.C. 5952), as amended, and the requirements contained in section 502 of the FREEDOM Support Act (22 U.S.C. 5852) during Fiscal Year 2005 with respect to the Republic of Uzbekistan is important to the national security interests of the United States.

You are authorized and directed to transmit to the Congress this certification and the associated report (including its classified annex) that has been prepared by my Administration consistent with section 1306(b) of Public Law 107-314. You are further authorized and directed to arrange for the publication of this certification in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy and an Exchange With Reporters

December 15, 2004

President Bush. There will be two opening statements, and then we'll take two questions per side. Thank you for coming.

Silvio, it's great to welcome you back to our country. I think it's fitting that one of