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May this be a blessed Ramadan for Muslims in the United States and around the world. Ramadan mubarak.

**George W. Bush**

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

## Message to the Congress Extending the Period of Production of the Naval Petroleum Reserve

*October 4, 2005*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Consistent with section 7422(c)(2) of title 10, United States Code, I am informing you of my decision to extend the period of production of the Naval Petroleum Reserves for a period of 3 years from April 5, 2006, the expiration date of the currently authorized period of production.

Attached is a copy of the report prepared by my Administration investigating the necessity of continued production of the reserves consistent with section 7422(c)(2)(B) of title 10. In light of the findings contained in the report, I certify that continued production from the Naval Petroleum Reserves is in the national interest.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,
October 4, 2005.

## Memorandum on the African Burial Ground in New York City

*October 4, 2005*

*Memorandum for the Secretary of the Interior*

*Subject:* African Burial Ground, New York City

The African Burial Ground, located in New York City, is a National Historic Landmark administered by the General Services Administration (GSA). This site includes objects of historic and scientific significance that may be appropriate for Federal protection through designation as a National Monument under the Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 U.S.C. 431).

The GSA's archaeological research has identified over 400 human remains, along with associated artifacts dating back to the 18th century. Further exploration at the discovered site may provide research on the experience of the African population in Colonial New York.

Accordingly, please provide me with an assessment of the historic and scientific significance of the African Burial Ground and whether it may warrant permanent Federal protection through designation as a National Monument.

**George W. Bush**

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

## Remarks Following a Meeting With Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld

*October 5, 2005*

***The President.*** I just had a briefing from Secretary Rumsfeld and General Pace on our ongoing operations in the western part of Iraq. As you know, we're on the offense against insurgents and terrorists. We fully understand they intend to disrupt the constitutional process, or will try to do so, as well as stop the progress of democracy. And part of the way the Pentagon and the folks on the ground are going to deal with it is to stay on the offense, and that's what's taking place.

I was also pleased to hear there are 3,000 Iraqi forces in the fight, that they're doing a fine job out there, that they're—they make a difference on the battlefield.

We also have General Petraeus with us, who has served incredibly well in Iraq. His job was to help U.S. forces and coalition forces train the Iraqis so they can take the fight to the enemy. He briefed me and will be briefing the country at the Pentagon here a little later on, about the strong progress that we're making, that we've recruited a lot of folks, but we've got more than just recruitment going on. We've got a quality control program in place to make sure that the troops we train are capable of taking the fight to the enemy. Over 30 percent of the Iraqi

troops are in the lead on these offensive operations. We've got troops embedded with them, and it's important for the training mission. But, nevertheless, the Iraqis are showing more and more capability to take the fight to the enemy. And that's how we're going to succeed in helping democracy become established in Iraq.

I've told the American people all along, our troops will stay there as long as necessary. We'll do the job. We'll train these folks, and as they become more capable, we will be able to bring folks home with the honor they've earned.

And we're seeing progress on the ground, and we're also seeing political progress on the ground. The constitution has been written. Folks will have a chance to vote it up or down here this month. And then there will be elections, if the constitution is approved, for a permanent government.

So on the one hand, we're making progress when it comes to training Iraqis to take the fight to the enemy. We're bringing the enemy to justice. We're on the offense. On the other hand, democracy is moving forward in a part of the world that is so desperate for democracy and so desperate for freedom.

And so, General, I want to thank you for your service—General Petraeus.

***Lt. Gen. Petraeus.*** Thank you, sir.

***The President.*** Thank you for your service too. But thank you for your service. You've done a fine job.

***Lt. Gen. Petraeus.*** Thank you, sir.

***The President.*** I'm proud of you. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:43 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. Peter Pace, USMC, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, former commander, Multi-National Security Transition Command—Iraq.

## Remarks to Reporters Following a Visit With Wounded Troops at Walter Reed Army Medical Center

*October 5, 2005*

Once again, I had the honor of thanking the docs and nurses that provide such incredible care to our wounded soldiers. Every time I come here, I'm amazed by the courage and decency and strength of those who wear the Nation's uniform. It is such an honor to be the Commander in Chief of such fine men and women.

I ask for God's blessings on them and their families as they recover from their sacrifice and service.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:32 p.m. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## Remarks to the National Endowment for Democracy

*October 6, 2005*

Thank you all. Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you for the warm welcome. I'm honored once again to be with the supporters of the National Endowment for Democracy. Since the day President Ronald Reagan set out the vision for this endowment, the world has seen the swiftest advance of democratic institutions in history. And Americans are proud to have played our role in this great story.

Our Nation stood guard on tense borders. We spoke for the rights of dissidents and the hopes of exiles. We aided the rise of new democracies on the ruins of tyranny. And all the cost and sacrifice of that struggle has been worth it, because from Latin America to Europe to Asia, we've gained the peace that freedom brings.

In this new century, freedom is once again assaulted by enemies determined to rollback generations of democratic progress. Once again, we're responding to a global campaign of fear with a global campaign of freedom. And once again, we will see freedom's victory.

Vin, I want to thank you for inviting me back. And thank you for the short introduction. [*Laughter*] I appreciate Carl Gershman. I want to welcome former Congressman Dick Gephardt, who is a board member of the National Endowment for Democracy. It's good to see you, Dick. And I appreciate Chris Cox, who is the Chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and a board