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Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting

September 6, 2006

I want to thank my Cabinet for what has been a very fruitful discussion. I thank you for your continued service to our country. Congress is coming back into town, and we welcome them back, and we look forward to working with them on a variety of matters.

One of the most important tasks is for Congress to recognize that we need the tools necessary to win this war on terror, and we'll continue to discuss with Congress ways to make sure that this Nation is capable of defending herself.

Secondly, I recognize this is a political season; there's elections coming down the road, but I made sure the Cabinet understands that we'll continue to address the concerns of the American people. That's what the people expect us to do. And those concerns include being fiscally wise with the people's money. So when Congress starts appropriating money, we will continue to urge them to be wise with the people's money.

We talked about the economy; we talked about energy; we talked about health care and a variety of other matters. I'm looking forward to working with Congress, Members of both political parties, to do the job that the American people expect us to do.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:17 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Remarks on the War on Terror

September 6, 2006

Thank you. Thanks for the warm welcome. Welcome to the White House. Mr. Vice President, Secretary Rice, Attorney General Gonzales, Ambassador Negroponte, General Hayden, Members of the United States Congress, families who lost loved ones in the terrorist attacks on our Nation, and my fellow citizens: Thanks for coming.

On the morning of September the 11th, 2001, our Nation awoke to a nightmare attack. Nineteen men armed with box cutters took control of airplanes and turned them into missiles. They used them to kill nearly 3,000 innocent people. We watched the Twin Towers collapse before our eyes, and it became instantly clear that we'd entered a new world and a dangerous new war.

The attacks of September the 11th horrified our Nation. And amid the grief came new fears and urgent questions: Who had attacked us? What did they want? And what else were they planning? Americans saw the destruction the terrorists had caused in New York and Washington and Pennsylvania, and they wondered if there were other terrorist cells in our midst poised to strike; they wondered if there was a second wave of attacks still to come.

With the Twin Towers and the Pentagon still smoldering, our country on edge, and a stream of intelligence coming in about potential new attacks, my administration faced immediate challenges. We had to respond to the attack on our country. We had to wage an unprecedented war against an enemy unlike any we had fought before. We had to find the terrorists hiding in America and across the world, before they were able to strike our country again. So in the early days and weeks after 9/11, I directed our Government's senior national security officials to do everything in their power, within our laws, to prevent another attack.

Nearly 5 years have passed since these—those initial days of shock and sadness, and we are thankful that the terrorists have not succeeded in launching another attack on our soil. This is not for the lack of desire or determination on the part of the enemy. As the recently foiled plot in London shows, the terrorists are still active, and they're still trying to strike America, and they're still trying to kill our people. One reason the terrorists have not succeeded is because of the hard work of thousands of dedicated men and women in our Government, who have toiled day and night, along with our allies, to stop the enemy from carrying out their plans. And we are grateful for these hard-working citizens of ours. Another reason the terrorists have not succeeded is because our Government has changed its policies and given our military, intelligence, and law enforcement personnel the tools they need to fight this enemy and protect our people and preserve our freedoms.