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The treaty follows generally the form and content of other extradition treaties recently concluded by the United States. It would replace an outmoded list of extraditable offenses with a modern "dual criminality" approach, which would enable extradition for such offenses as money laundering and other newer offenses not appearing on the list. The treaty also contains a modernized "political offense" clause. It further provides that extradition shall not be refused based on the nationality of a person sought for any of a comprehensive list of serious offenses; in the past, Malta has declined to extradite its nationals to the United States. Finally, the new treaty incorporates a series of procedural improvements to streamline and speed the extradition process.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the treaty.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 29, 2006.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 2.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Special Envoy for Sudan Andrew S. Natsios

October 2, 2006

The President. Recently I named my friend Andrew Natsios to be the Presidential Special Envoy to Sudan to help us deal with the issue in Darfur. The reason I named Andrew is, one, he knows the area well—he's been involved in this area for a long period of time. Secondly, he, like me, shares a deep concern about the suffering in Darfur.

We believe the world has a responsibility to respond to what this Government has called genocide. And Andrew Natsios is going to help rally the world to solve the problem. The United Nations can play an important role in helping us achieve our objective, which is to end human suffering and deprivation. In my view, the United Nations should not wait any longer to approve a blue-helmeted force, a U.N. force of peacekeepers to protect the innocent people.

And Andrew knows my opinion and knows my beliefs. And I appreciate him very much implementing the strategy that our Government will develop to save lives. And I thank you for your efforts again, and thank you for your commitment.

Mr. Natsios. Thank you. I've been going to Sudan now for 17 years; I know leaders in all regions of the country; and I'm going to use those contacts and that history to move this process along. I have a great affection, personally, for the Sudanese people, north and south. My first trip to Darfur was 17 years ago, during the first Darfur war—this is the third war in Darfur in 17 years.

And I think what our objective is, is not just to have a temporary fix for 2 months but to try to deal with the root causes of this so we don't have another fourth war in 5 years—should we end this one successfully.

So I'm going to work on that. I think with the President's strong support, both of us are committed to this, and we're going to see what we can do.

The President. Thank you, Andrew. Appreciate it.

Mr. Natsios. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:50 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey

October 2, 2006

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome back to Washington. We just had a extensive and important dialog about how Turkey and the United States can and must work together to achieve peace. We talked about our determined efforts to fight terror and extremism. We talked about our common efforts to bring stability to the Middle East. We had an important discussion about both Iraq and Iran. Our desire is for—to help people who care about a peaceful future to reject radicalism and extremism.

I made it very clear to the Prime Minister, I think it's in the United States' interests that