

security and stability in Iraq. We will focus our discussion on current developments in Iraq, progress made to date in the deliberations of the high-level Joint Committee on Transferring Security Responsibility, and the role of the region in supporting Iraq. We would like to express our gratitude to His Majesty King Abdullah II of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who has graciously offered to host our consultations. We look forward to meeting with His Majesty in Amman.

We reiterate our common commitment to building the foundations of a peaceful, democratic, secure, and unified Iraq, and to strengthening the partnership between our two nations.

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

Remarks at the Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation Ceremony

November 22, 2006

Good morning. Thanks for coming. Welcome to the Rose Garden. I appreciate being up here with Mike Briggs and Alice Johnson of the National Turkey Federation, and I thank you for bringing along our feathery guest. *[Laughter]* We're glad you're here. Mike, thanks for bringing your family as well.

The name of the National Thanksgiving Turkey has been chosen by online voting at the White House web site. By the decision of the voters, this turkey is going to be called Flyer. And there's always a backup bird, just in case the guest of honor can't perform his duties, and the backup bird's name is Fryer. *[Laughter]* Probably better to be called Flyer than Fryer.

These birds were hatched on a farm in Missouri and raised there by Matthew Nutt and his mom and dad, Carol *[Donna]*^{*} and Lynn, and we're glad you all are here. Thanks for coming. They did a fine job of raising these birds.

I also welcome the Girl Scouts who've joined us. Thanks for coming—yes, I'm glad you're here. These are troops from Virginia and Maryland and Washington, DC. And we thank you for being in scouting, and we thank

your scout masters and your parents for setting such a good example for you.

We're here in the Rose Garden. This is a place where Barney likes to hang out. Barney is my dog. And he likes to chase a soccer ball here. He came out a little early, as did Flyer, and instead of chasing the soccer ball, he chased the bird. *[Laughter]* And it kind of made the turkey nervous. See, the turkey was already nervous to begin with. Nobody has told him yet about the pardon I'm about to give him. *[Laughter]*

Tomorrow is our day of thanksgiving. It's a national observance first proclaimed by George Washington. In our journey across the centuries from a few tiny settlements to a prosperous and powerful nation, Americans have always been a grateful people, and we are this year as well. We're grateful for our beautiful land. We're grateful for a harvest big enough to feed us all, plus much of the world. We're grateful for our freedom. We're grateful for our families, and we're grateful for life itself.

So on Thanksgiving Day, we gather with loved ones and we lift our hearts toward heaven in humility and gratitude. As we count our blessings, Americans also share our blessings. We're a generous country. We're filled with caring citizens who reach out to others, people who've heard the universal call to love a neighbor as we want to be loved ourself. On Thanksgiving and every day of the year, Americans live out of a spirit of compassion and care, and I thank you for that. It's the spirit that moves men and women to be mentors to the young, to be scout leaders, to be helpers of the elderly, to be comforters of the lonely and those who are left out.

We love our country, and the greatest example of that devotion is the citizen who steps forward to defend our Nation from harm. The members of our military have set aside their own comfort and convenience and safety to protect the rest of us. Their courage keeps us free. Their sacrifice makes us grateful, and their character makes us proud. Especially during the holidays, our whole Nation keeps them and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

And now to the ceremonial task of the day. Why don't we have a look at Flyer? There

^{*} White House correction.

you go. I think Flyer heard Barney barking over there. [*Laughter*] It's a fine looking bird, isn't it? Flyer is probably wondering where he's going to wind up tomorrow. He's probably thinking he's going to end up on somebody's table. Well, I'm happy to report that he and Fryer both have many tomorrows ahead of them. This morning I am grateful—I am granting a full Presidential pardon so they can live out their lives as safe as can be.

In fact, it gets even better. Later today Flyer and Fryer will be on a plane to Disneyland—[*laughter*—where they're going to achieve further celebrity as the honorary grand marshal of the Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Thank you all for coming. God bless, and happy Thanksgiving.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:22 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mike Briggs, chairman, and Alice L. Johnson, president, National Turkey Federation.

**Presidential Determination on
Waiving Prohibition on United States
Military Assistance With Respect to
Comoros and Saint Kitts and Nevis**
November 22, 2006

Presidential Determination No. 2007-04

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination on
Waiving Prohibition on United States
Military Assistance With Respect to Comoros
and Saint Kitts and Nevis

Consistent with the authority vested in me by section 2007 of the American Servicemembers' Protection Act of 2002 (the "Act"), title II of Public Law 107-206 (22 U.S.C. 7421 et seq.), I hereby:

- Determine that Comoros and Saint Kitts and Nevis have each entered into an agreement with the United States pursuant to Article 98 of the Rome Statute preventing the International Criminal Court from proceeding against U.S. personnel present in such countries; and

- Waive the prohibition of section 2007(a) of the Act with respect to these countries for as long as such agreements remain in force.

You are authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress, and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

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

**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.

November 18

In the morning, at the Sheraton Hanoi in Hanoi, Vietnam, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the International Convention Center, he met with leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Later in the morning, the President visited the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. Then, at the Sheraton Hanoi, he greeted U.S. Embassy personnel and their families.

In the afternoon, at the National Conference Center, the President participated in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Retreat I. Later, he participated in the APEC Leaders' Dialogue with the APEC Business Advisory Council.

In the evening, at the National Convention Center, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a gala dinner and cultural performance.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael W. Tankersley to be Inspector-General of the Export-Import Bank.

November 19

In the morning, at the National Conference Center, the President participated in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Retreat II.