

Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



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**Editor's Note:** The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on June 15, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

## WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

## PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, June 15, 2007

**Statement on the Nomination of  
Admiral Michael G. Mullen To Be  
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff  
and General James E. Cartwright To  
Be Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs  
of Staff**

*June 8, 2007*

General Peter Pace has served our Nation with great distinction for 40 years. He is an outstanding marine, and he made history as the first marine to serve as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

As Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Pete's job has been to help ensure that America's military forces are prepared to meet the threats of this new century. This is a difficult task in a time of peace. Pete Pace has done it in a time of war, and he has done it superbly. As part of our senior military leadership, Pete has helped oversee the liberation of more than 50 million people. I have relied on his unvarnished military judgment, and I value his candor, his integrity, and his friendship.

Pete's life is the story of the American Dream. He grew up in an immigrant family, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, and went on to hold the highest position in our Armed Forces. He is a man of character who leads by example. I thank his wife, Lynne, who knows from long experience that military service is a family commitment. I also thank his son, Peter, and his daughter, Tiffany. America has been blessed by Pete's lifetime of service. And I wish all the best for the Pace family as this good man begins a new chapter in his life.

I am pleased to accept the recommendation of Secretary Gates that I nominate Admiral Michael Mullen to succeed General Pace. Admiral Mullen has performed ably as Chief of Naval Operations. He holds degrees from the U.S. Naval Academy, the Harvard Business School, and the Naval Postgraduate School. He has served ably in both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets—as well as in both Al-

lied and Joint Commands. And when he is confirmed by the United States Senate, he will make a superb Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Admiral Edmund Giambastiani has been a strong and effective Vice Chairman. He is an officer of vision and determination, and he has served at a time of unprecedented danger for America. His time in the Joint Chiefs capped an exemplary military career. As commander of the U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, he helped transform our Nation's military so it could better face the new threats of a new century. And he did the same for NATO while serving as its first Supreme Allied Commander, Transformation. The admiral is a highly decorated officer, but he is most proud of his unit awards and commendations because they represent team accomplishments. I thank his wife, Cindy, his daughter, Cathy, and his son, Pete, for the support they have provided. I salute Admiral G for his long career of distinguished service. He has earned the thanks of a grateful nation.

I am also pleased to announce that I am accepting Secretary Gates's recommendation to nominate General James E. Cartwright as the new Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Cartwright is a Marine Corps pilot who serves as commander, United States Strategic Command—where he has done an outstanding job managing America's global strategic forces. In that role, he is responsible for the global command and control of U.S. Strategic Forces. He is an exceptional officer, and when he is confirmed by the Senate, he will be an outstanding Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

NOTE: In his statement, the President referred to Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Remarks in a Discussion With  
Members of the Community of  
Sant'Egidio in Rome, Italy**

*June 9, 2007*

**The President.** I want to thank the good folks of Sant'Egidio for joining us. Sant'Egidio is one of the great faith-based organizations in the world. And we're here to talk about our common commitment to help the poor, feed the hungry, and help eradicate disease. United States is firmly committed to helping people on the continent of Africa. We have committed in our—and we'll work with our Congress to spend \$30 billion to deal with HIV/AIDS, over a billion to deal with malaria, billions to deal with hunger, money to deal with education.

But these programs cannot be effective without loving people on the ground helping a neighbor in need. I want to thank you for being a part of the international army of compassion. I thank you for hearing the call to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. I'm looking forward to hearing your strategies in dealing with some of the most difficult problems in the world. I'm proud of your organization, and I thank all members of your organization for being such loving souls.

Thank you for having us here.

**Marco Impagliazzo.** Thank you, Mr. President. Before our strategy, some little word about our community, with your permission.

**The President.** Please.

**Mr. Impagliazzo.** The Community of Sant'Egidio was born in Rome, in this city, in 1968. At that time, the West was wondering about its future and the young people were looking for something. Andrea Riccardi, who is the founder of our community, was a student at the time in a high school of Rome. He called some of his fellow students to listen and to live according to the gospel, gospel of Jesus.

In those years, people believed that the revolution would change the world. Andrea understood that there would have been no lasting chance unless the people's hearts were touched by the word of Jesus. This word put into practice, man, first of all, to be friends with the poor.

Today, there are communities of Sant'Egidio in 70 countries, with 60,000 members all over the world. Its spirituality is founded on several pillars—just three pillars, Mr. President. First, prayer, which takes place every day in all our communities—a personal prayer, reading the Scripture every day, but also common prayer. It means that every day, 60,000 people open the Scriptures. They read it and pray to the Lord from the beautiful churches of Rome—like the Basilica of Santa Maria, Trastevere, that you would have visited—to the hearts of Africa, or so many places in the immense lands of Latin America. Mr. President, prayer is our friend.

The second pillar is mission, reaching out to all those who seek and ask for a sense of their rights.

Finally, the third pillar, solidarity with the poor. There's a voluntary service carried out for free because no one is paid for his service to the poor in our community, no one.

Gratuitousness, Mr. President, is what our society is missing today. Everything is there to buy or to sell. But Jesus said, you received without payment, give without payment, Jesus said. This word of Jesus is the serve of our member's work. In our study, one thing has always proved, too, there is no loss for the poor without pay.

Christians must live with the freeness of the heart. One never has the solution to everything, but we must not close our hearts when we do not have a solution. We are all the window of the world. That is why we cannot forget demands of the poor peoples of the world.

So what is striking in our thought is that these signs, signs of resurrection, to praise in those very places where it seems there is no hope left, like Africa. With your permission, Mr. President, I would like to pass now the floor to my friends who work every day in Africa.

Thank you.

**The President.** Thank you very much. Thank you all.

*[At this point, the public portion of the event concluded; however, the discussion continued, and no transcript was provided.]*

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:01 p.m. at the U.S. Embassy. Participating in the discussion were Andrea Riccardi, founder, Marco Impagliazzo, president, Mario Giro, director for international affairs, and members Cristina Marazzi, Leonardo Palombi, Elard Sadimba Allumando, Beatrice Kun Adon, and Claudio Betti, Community of Sant'Egidio. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

### **The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy in Rome**

*June 9, 2007*

**Prime Minister Prodi.** Good afternoon everyone. I am delighted to have received President Bush today, and I thank President Bush for having chosen to spend a couple of days in Rome for his European mission—a rather long European mission, I would say. And this is the first in his second term.

Our talks today have been very, very interesting, indeed, very friendly talks. And I must say that we took the opportunity, in fact, to pursue some issues that we already began discussing in Heiligendamm, and in fact, we had a bilateral meeting today and discussed some of the issues, as I said, that we already went over in Germany.

We talked about climate change, energy, our fight against poverty, our Africa policies. These are all very, very important decisions and choices that we have to make and, of course, that are going to be important for the future, the next generation as well.

We briefly went over some bilateral issues. Fortunately, we don't have any bilateral problems, I would say, no serious problems that have created any divisions between our two countries. And in particular, in fact, we do share the same views with regard to many issues, many matters. And we basically agree on how the future of the world should look, should be.

Now, I thanked President Bush for some symbolic gestures that he has shown. Our countries are becoming closer and closer. And, in fact, Italian, the Italian language is one of the language that can be freely chosen in American schools. All high schools in America offer Italian as a language of study. And I think that this is a wonderful step, a

wonderful way to bring two countries closer, especially when we consider that the flow of immigration between our two countries has stopped; it stopped a long time ago.

Now, going on to other issues, of course, we agree that we need some new major players, new major world players, and we have to, in fact, work together with China, India, Brazil, Mexico. And we agree on that approach.

We also talked about some meetings that we had with Mr. Lula and President Hu Jintao after the end of the G-8 summit. And we realize, as I've said, that we've got to work more and more together. And I think that the progress that has been made by the United States in reaching an agreement, a broad agreement on climate change has been a wonderful step forward, and I think that this is taking us in the right direction. In other words, we have to work together on these issues.

We haven't yet finalized just about the quantitative details of this agreement, but obviously, the underlying message is to work together, to cooperate. And I would say that maybe just a few months ago that seemed to be unlikely.

Now, we also had a good discussion on other issues of common concern. We talked about Kosovo, for example, Lebanon, Afghanistan, and we spoke about some responsibilities that we should take on together. So both our countries should work together in order to restore peace and stability in these different areas of the world.

We need to do more. We need to keep working together, especially when it comes to Middle Eastern issues. We know, of course, that we have not yet been able to put an end to the crisis which has been ongoing now for a number of years. And in Lebanon, in fact, the peace mission has certainly led to some positive outcomes, yet there are still tensions, there are still many difficulties. And that's an open-ended issue, therefore, that we have to continue being concerned about.

Now, that's what we discussed today. I don't wish to add any further remarks. I would like to give the floor right over to President Bush. And I thank you so very much for having come today, and I thank

you for making it possible to cooperate together and, of course, for enabling this cooperation with success in the future. Thank you.

**President Bush.** *Buongiorno.* Mr. Prime Minister, thank you. Laura and I are glad to be back in your beautiful country. Rome is a spectacular city. And I'm sorry we're disrupting traffic, but nevertheless, it is great to be back here. Thank you for the wonderful meal, and thank you for our friendship. I think it's important for the people of your country to know, relations between our countries are strong, and we intend to keep them that way. And I appreciate that; I appreciate the good conversation we had.

I thank you for your commitment to the people of Afghanistan. Your country has been an integral part of the NATO mission. You provided a lot of important troops for NATO, you're involved with the PRTs in Afghanistan. I thank you, but no more so than the Afghan people thank the people of Italy. These people are desperate to live in a free society, and you ought to take great pride, Romano, and I know you do, in making a significant contribution to their freedom. I also appreciate your very—your strong advice in making sure that we all understand this is not just a military operation, that there has to be a political track and a reconstruction track in order for this democracy to survive. And so I'm looking forward to continuing to work on this important issue.

I thank you, as well, for your leadership in Lebanon. It was a year ago when we were at the G-8—you remember the attacks came on Israel, and then all of a sudden, the situation began to look like it needed some help. And there was a lot of doubt in the world's mind until Italy stepped up and said, "We will provide troops, and we'll be the military leader in Lebanon." And then the world followed. And I want to thank you for your leadership on that important issue.

And now we've just got to make sure the Siniora Government survives. One of the best ways to do so is to insist that we proceed forward with the Hariri trial, to make sure that there are consequences for behavior that may affect the stability of a democracy. I don't want to prejudge the outcome of the trial, but I do think it's an important measure

for all of us to see the truth in that part of the world. And I know we can continue to work together. It's very important that foreign influences, like that of Syria, not be continually disrupting the Siniora Government.

I want to thank you very much for our discussions on Kosovo. This is a part of the world you know a lot about, and Romano made some very significant contributions during the roundtable discussions at the G-8 and was, again, very eloquent today about two things: one, obviously, a deep concern about the Kosovars, their desire to be independent, coupled with making sure there is a avenue forward for Serbs through the EU and maybe NATO. And I appreciate you leading on this issue. It's important that the United States and Italy work together on common problems. After all, we share common values. And today's discussion just goes, at least, to show me how much we can do when we work in a collaborative way.

As Romano said, the bilateral relations are pretty darn solid, and I appreciate that. There's a lot of Italian Americans who have got great pride for their homeland. They're watching this press conference—well, they may not be watching all of it, Romano, but they'll be watching some of it, and they're going to want to know, are we doing well? And the answer is, we are. And I'm grateful.

Answer a couple of questions, or what do you think?

**Prime Minister Prodi.** Yes.

**President Bush.** Okay, yes.

### **Italy-U.S. Relations**

**Q.** Mr. President, you just said that you had lunch with Prodi today. Then later you'll have a coffee break with Mr. Berlusconi. What do you enjoy most, the lunch or the coffee break? [*Laughter*] Or would you have preferred to be on a diet today? [*Laughter*]

And to Prime Minister Prodi, now, I'm perhaps not going to be so ironic in my question. Now, the friendship is wonderful. You've made progress. But I know that there have been some differences between the U.S. and Italy over the months, even though the friendship is solid and progress has been made. So President Bush is asking you to perhaps change your rules of engagement in Afghanistan, and even with regard to Iran that

there are some differences of opinion and, in general, in the Middle East. So have you managed to close that gap a bit, or how do you think you might be doing that in the future?

**President Bush.** Yes, I'm going to have coffee with the former Prime Minister, Prime Minister Berlusconi. I'm doing so for a couple of reasons. One, he is the opposition leader; two, he is a friend. And I mentioned this to Romano, and his attitude was, I don't blame you—it's the kind of thing he does when he goes to other countries. And I'm looking forward to seeing Silvio. One shouldn't read anything into it other than, we made some decisions together; we've known each other for a while—just like I've known Romano—actually, I've known Romano a long time too. He was President of the EU early on in my Presidency. And so I consider it an honor to have friends with two important leaders here in Italy.

**Prime Minister Prodi.** We spoke very frankly about many of the issues that you've just raised in your question. And, yes, there certainly is an active cooperation between us. And this is with regard to problems we've had in Afghanistan and, of course, the very difficult situation in Iran. And we both share the same position, the same views with regard to the danger that we are running if we allow the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and we also agree on the course of action that should be followed.

So I think that in the future we'll certainly be able to work together, and we'll be able to exert pressure, both of us, on the Iranian Government. We don't want them to exceed the limits, as it were, of a peaceful and monitored or controlled use of nuclear technology. So this is our position, and, as I said, we share the same view.

Now, of course, we also discussed other issues on our common agenda, and we were able to reiterate the fact that there is an interdependence here and a need to work together, not only because it is helpful or useful, but it is a strong need that we have to focus on to restore peace in the world.

Now, we spoke about climate change, about global warming in our meetings over the past few days. And I think that this has somehow set out a course of action for the

future—how we can perhaps harmonize our production systems; how we can make sure that our political decisions are, in fact, in conformity with these needs. And I think, again, that we'll definitely be able to make huge progress together.

#### **Pope Benedict XVI**

**Q.** Thank you, sir. Can you talk about your conversation with Pope Benedict earlier? Did you have a fundamental disagreement over whether Iraq was a just war? And what of his concerns about Iraq did you take to heart?

And, if I could, to the Prime Minister, what did you tell the President today about the trials going on here involving Americans?

**President Bush.** Jennifer [Jennifer Loven, Associated Press], I'll be glad to share some of the private conversation with His Holy Father. First, I'll give you an impression. I was talking to a very smart, loving man. And, you know, after 6½ years of being the President, I've seen some unusual—I've been to some unusual places, and I've met some interesting people. And I was in awe, and it was a moving experience for me.

We didn't talk about "just war." He did express deep concern about the Christians inside Iraq, that he was concerned that the society that was evolving would not tolerate the Christian religion. And I assured him we're working hard to make sure that people lived up to the Constitution, the modern Constitution voted on by the people that would honor people from different walks of life and different attitudes.

We talked about a lot of other subjects. We talked about our attempts to help the people in Africa deal with HIV/AIDS and malaria and hunger. I reminded him that we made a significant commitment to that end; that about 3 years ago, 50,000 people were getting antiretroviral drugs; now over 1,100,000 people are getting them, as a result of our initiative on HIV/AIDS, and that I'm going to double that commitment—or ask Congress to double the commitment from 15 billion to 30 billion.

I talked to him about our malaria program, about how we intend to reduce malaria by 50 percent in certain countries, and that I'd continue to remind the world of our duty

to work together to achieve a major goal, which is to try to eradicate malaria throughout Africa.

And I talked to him about our attempts to feed the hungry, and I also reminded him that we've got poor people in our own neighborhood that need to be affected.

He talked about immigration. He's watching the immigration debate very closely in America. And I told him I was a person who strongly supports comprehensive immigration reform, that, on the one hand, we'll enforce our law, on the other hand, we need to treat people with dignity. And we had a good discussion.

**Q.** —Pope has said—

**President Bush.** What?

**Q.** The Pope has said Iraq was worrisome.

**President Bush.** Yes, he's worrisome about the Christians inside Iraq being mistreated by the Muslim majority. He's deeply concerned about that, and we spent a lot—spent a fair amount of time talking about it.

**Prime Minister Prodi.** We did not discuss the issue that you raised in your question just a moment ago. And I've already clarified many times that Italy, of course, is a democratic country. We have very clear-cut rules that we follow, and we, therefore, enforce our rules. And I am confident that there is no conflict here, in terms of our friendship and our cooperation with the United States.

#### **Italy-U.S. Relations/Kosovo/G-8 Summit in Heiligendamm, Germany**

**Q.** Thank you. You've just told us that you and President Bush have just returned from your G-8 summit. Now, the outcomes that have been stated on the many issues that you discussed—climate, development, and the missile shield—now, are those real—is that real progress, or not? And the deadline for the Kosovo independence—

**President Bush.** What? Say that again?

**Q.** Deadline for the Kosovo independence?

**President Bush.** A decline?

**Q.** Deadline, deadline.

**President Bush.** Oh, a deadline. Beg your pardon. My English isn't very good. [*Laughter*]

**Q.** Sorry. And do you wish that President Prodi will pay a visit to you in Washington in the next months?

**President Bush.** Yes, and yes.

**Q.** And on the deadline?

**President Bush.** I'd love to welcome the Prime Minister. We're just going to have to work through our schedules, but he's invited any time. Listen, Italy is a great friend. There are millions of people in our country who love Italy because that's where their heritage is from. My Ambassador's grandfather was from Italy. I'm sure you know this, but the heritage—the Italian heritage is a powerful part of our country and its culture. And the Prime Minister is welcome.

In terms of the deadline, there needs to be one. This needs to come—this needs to happen. Now it's time, in our judgment, to move the Ahtisaari plan. There's been a series of delays. You might remember, there was a moment when something was happening, and they said, no, we need a little more time to try to work through a U.N. Security Council resolution. And our view is that time is up.

And so we're working with our friends and allies, and I had a long discussion with Vladimir Putin on the subject. To share with you my thoughts, what I told him there at the table was, "It's time; it's time to bring this issue to a head." And obviously, there's deep concern about what that would mean, whether he'd accept it, or not. I understand that. But the Kosovars are eagerly anticipating a decision by the world.

And at the same time, Romano is right, we need to make sure that the Serbs see a way forward. And one good way forward is through potentially EU membership. I don't have that much to say in it, but I can talk to the Serbs about economic development and can talk about a better relationship with the United States. And therefore, we will.

**Prime Minister Prodi.** Going back to the summit, I can say that it has been an actual success, real progress, in other words. I mean, just think, people were expecting a rift, problems, arguments, and instead we did reach some important conclusions. Now, even the issue of global warming, for example, we realize that there is a predominant, a prevalent principle, and that is that global

issues have to be dealt with globally. In fact, we all talk about the Kyoto Protocol, for example, and we said that this was the first step towards international cooperation in this field, in this sector.

Now, again, we still have some technicalities to work out; some little pieces there are missing, as it were. But definitely there is a clear-cut will to move forward. We have a resolve there—India, China, Brazil, Mexico, everyone has shown the same resolve. There were other countries in addition to these; even though they're not G-8 members, they're all there to work on global solutions because this is the only way we can possibly reach some kind of equilibrium in the future.

Now, with regard to the other issues—Kosovo, for example, and our relations with Russia—well, I would say that during our meeting, there was a certain ambiance. We talked about interdependence. I think that's a good way of putting it. We didn't feel any tensions, but rather we were all seeking a way to strengthen our interdependence. And I think that this is something that should be guiding us in our relations with Russia, and this is how we can build up a peaceful system for the future.

Those are the goals of the G-8. In fact, G-8 summits don't always have technical agendas that are predefined, predetermined. That's not how it works. We need to meet and to freely discuss some of these long-term issues. So we were able to do that very freely, very openly. And I must say that we all agreed on our future course of action, and I think that we couldn't have hoped for any better than that.

Now, with regard to Kosovo, again, now we know how to move forward, after our discussions there. And I think that that, basically—I mean, we couldn't have hoped for any better outcome than that there.

#### **Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**

**Q.** Thank you, sir. Mr. President, General Pace, an Italian American, Pace, as you know, is leaving—a distinguished marine, with a lengthy career, somebody that all indications are, you and Secretary Gates enjoyed working with a great deal—is on his way out. And I wonder what this says about the political

climate in Washington, that it was decided that maybe it would be better to have a new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, rather than have a bruising battle on Capitol Hill.

**President Bush.** Pete Pace is a fine man and a great general. And I think the fact that Secretary Gates made the recommendation not to move forward with a renomination speaks to the U.S. Congress and the climate in the U.S. Congress.

Pete Pace always gave me candid advice. Pete Pace is an excellent strategic thinker. And the interesting thing about Pete Pace—even though he had four stars on his shoulder, always talked about the private. He speculated out loud about Private Pace, what would Private Pace think of this decision, what would Private Pace's family think about a decision that he was recommending to me.

And so the decision has been made, and I'm going to miss him. And the country owes him a great debt of gratitude for years of service, first at Vice Chairman and then as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Thank you all.

**Prime Minister Prodi.** Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 3:48 p.m. at Chigi Palace. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Fuad Siniora of Lebanon; former President Martti Ahtisaari of Finland, United Nations Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Future Status Process of Kosovo; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates. Prime Minister Prodi referred to President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil; and President Hu Jintao of China. Prime Minister Prodi spoke in Italian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

#### **The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Sali Berisha of Albania in Tirana, Albania**

*June 10, 2007*

**Prime Minister Berisha.** Honorable Mr. President Bush, honorable close collaborators of Mr. President Bush, ladies and gentlemen: Today is a beautiful day. Today is a great day, historic for all Albanians. Among us is the greatest and most distinguished guest we have ever had in all times, the President of the United States—[inaudible]—

George W. Bush, his lady, Mrs. Laura Bush, and their close aides. For me, it's a great honor and a special pleasure to thank them with gratitude and extend the most heartfelt welcome in this historic visit, the first visit ever of a United States President in Albania.

Thank you heartily, Mr. President, from the bottom of our hearts, fulfilling ardent and long-awaited wish of all Albanians to have a special guest in their home. *Tungjatjeta*, an Albanian word, means "May you have a long life." This is a most traditional greeting of Albanians that I chose to greet you on their behalf, on behalf of Albanians. Welcome to Albania, President Bush.

Mr. President, you are, today, an honorable guest and friend of a nation whose gratefulness and friendship towards your great Nation and your country have been deeply embodied in the historic memory and in the conscience of its citizens. No other nation in the region or in Europe has ever gone through so much suffering, ethnic cleansing, racism, partitions, occupations, and severe dictatorships as we Albanians have. History was unjust and very severe to us.

We have been blessed, however. We have won in all our efforts to defend our identity in Western-oriented national vocation to emerge from the age of oppression to the age of dignity, from the age of darkness to the age of freedom. We have won because our just cause has always had the powerful support of the U.S.A., the greatest and the most precious friend of Albanian nation. God bless your great Nation.

At the beginning of last century, President Wilson did not allow the partition of the newly proclaimed Albanian independent state. The U.S.A. recognized Albania 85 years ago. Your visit on this anniversary is its most beautiful crown, is the climax of excellent, friendly relations between our two countries.

Afterwards, President Truman made big efforts to free Albanians from their Orwellian dictatorship. At the outset of the nineties, President George Herbert Bush and his administration provided an exceptional contribution to the fall of Berlin Wall, but the fall of this wall in Tirana as well, opening the doors of freedom for Albanians.

President Bill Clinton led the North Atlantic Alliance in the fight for Kosovo liberation

from the barbarian occupation. And today, Kosovo citizens find in you and your administration, Mr. President, the greatest hope and support for their project of a free, independent, and integrated state in Europe.

Centuries ago, until our present days, hundreds and thousands of Albanians migrated to your great country. They are loyal and honorable citizens of the United States who have always loved and still love the nation and the country of origin. They have—[inaudible]—a lot; they have kept a life of hope and freedom for Albanians always on.

In your presence, I'd like, today, to extend the most cordial greetings and my deepest gratitude. The friendly feelings towards the—your Nation and your great country, the proud Americanism of Albanians are indeed a matter of their national pride. Albanians are very proud about the friendship with the U.S.A. and the cooperation they have with your nation in the war against international terrorism, of their presence on your side in Iraq, Afghanistan. I assure you that they will be on your side wherever their modest, but resolute contribution is needed against international terrorism, this most dangerous enemy of free people.

Above all, Albanians feel proud of their friendship with your nation because we share the values and the principles of freedom and market-oriented democracy. In this road, they have received an exceptional overall political, economic, financial, and technical assistance provided—military—provided by the U.S. and the EU countries and other friendly countries, for which we remain truly, always grateful.

Sixteen years ago, Secretary James Baker brought to Albanians the message from the country of freedom, "Freedom works." Today, after 16 years, I can say that despite the hardships of our country, experienced by our country, freedom for Albanians has worked more than any other nation. Albania, a country of denied freedoms and human rights, banned the Constitution, a country of hypercollectivization and true human slavery and the most extreme isolation, today is the country of political, economic, consolidated pluralism, of excellent religious centers, of functioning, working democracy. It is the country with a fast economic growth, with

the private sector accounting for 80 percent of GDP. And the income per capita have increased 20 times more.

Albania is the country that signed and is implementing successfully their stabilization association agreement with the EU and received the message from Riga summit on the possibility of receiving an invitation for NATO membership. It is a country that welcomes today the President of the United States of America, George W. Bush. God bless Albanians.

Ladies and gentlemen, in our talks with President Bush, we have discussed our excellent, friendly bilateral relations and their further development. I informed him of other reforms launched by my Government and their results in strengthening the rule of law, the zero tolerance fight against organized crime, the valuable assistance that law enforcement agencies from the United States and other friendly countries are providing to this end. We talked about the fight against corruption and the much expected assistance that a series of projects funded by the Millennium Challenge Account related to e-taxes, e-procurement, and one-stop shop offer in this regard and other reforms in the judicial system, police, education, et cetera.

I briefed President Bush on the significant reforms that we are undertaking in the view of turning Albania into a very attractive country for U.S.A. and the foreign investors—other foreign investors. We hope that this visit will encourage others.

A special place was the question of Albania's membership into NATO as the main priority of Albania. In this regard, we have decided to increase our defense budget to 2 percent of GDP, to triple our presence in Afghanistan, and implement with seriousness the requirements of the ninth MAP cycle. In addition, let me mention that 90 percent of Albanians support Albania's membership to NATO. The support of President Bush and his administration is of a vital importance to Albania for membership into NATO as the most secure future.

We discussed about the situation in the region. After this press conference, we'll continue the discussion in the framework of Adriatic Charter, A-3, with the very good friends of Albania, the Prime Minister of

Croatia, Ivo Sanader, and Prime Minister of Macedonia, Nikola Gruevski.

Special attention in our discussion was given to solution of the final status of Kosovo in compliance with the proposal of President Ahtisaari for its independence as a—gradual independence as a precondition for stability and peace in the region.

Ladies and gentlemen, in December 1990, students and citizens in Tirana took to the streets and the squares with—shouting, “U.S.A.” “Long live President Bush.” We want Albania like the rest of Europe. President Bush visit Albania in 1994—2004 and 2006, and Mr. Jimmy Carter before. And after this visit, Mr. President, our country will be visited by other Presidents of the United States. But in their memory of Albanian citizens, the great honor that you made to them with your first visit of a United States President in office in Albania.

Thank you very much, Mr. President Bush, great friend of Albanian nation, of my nation.

**President Bush.** *Miredita.* [Laughter] Thank you for having me. Prime Minister, thank you for your hospitality. I thank the President for his hospitality as well.

I am proud to be the first American sitting President to visit Albania. It's a great honor to represent my country here. I've really been looking forward to this trip, and so has my wife, Laura. The reason being is that I love to come to countries that are working hard to establish the institutions necessary for a democracy to survive. I'm particularly pleased to be here in Albania, in a country that has casted off the shackles of a very repressive society and is now showing the world what's possible. And I congratulate the people of Albania, and I thank you for the warm welcome we received on your streets.

We had a very good discussion. I learned a lot about your country. I learned the fact that this is a country that embraces the markets, is willing to do necessary reforms to make sure that the small-business person survives, that the entrepreneur is strong, that the tax code is fair. I'm impressed with the desire of the government to fight corruption, to make it clear that the government is of the people, that the government can be trusted by the people, by routing out those who would use their exalted positions to steal

from the taxpayers. I appreciate that kind of commitment, Mr. Prime Minister.

I appreciate the fact that Albania is a model of religious tolerance. And I appreciate the fact that Albania is a trusted friend and a strong ally. And this visit today hopefully will send the signal to the people of Albania, you can count on America, just like America can count on you, to do hard work necessary to spread freedom and, therefore, peace.

We discussed a lot of issues. We discussed Iraq and Afghanistan. I thank the Prime Minister and his Government for putting troops in harm's way. Albanians know the horror of tyranny, and so they're working to bring the hope of freedom to people who haven't known it. And that's a noble effort and a sacrifice, and I appreciate your sacrifice.

Albania now has 120 of its elite commandos stationed in Iraq. I had the privilege of meeting some of the Albanian soldiers. Here's what I told them, I said, "First of all, you are respected by our military." Your soldiers are good at what they do. They're well-trained; they're disciplined; they're courageous. I told them that the United States appreciates their contribution. So do the Iraqi citizens. And also told them, when they went home, to make sure that they told their wives and their children thanks on behalf of the United States of America as well. The families are just as much a part of a soldier's life as the soldier himself.

And so, Mr. Prime Minister, we thank you very much for your commitment to freedom in Iraq as well as Afghanistan. The Prime Minister has announced that Albania will deploy 120 additional troops to Afghanistan this summer. These are two vital fronts on the war on terror, and the United States has a strong friend in Albania in this war. And I thank you.

We also talked about NATO and Albania's aspirations to join the NATO alliance. I commended the Prime Minister for the progress that Albania has made in defense reform. In other words, part of becoming a member of NATO requires a reformation of the defense forces. And Albania is working hard to do that, as well as to meet performance-based standards for membership. In other words, you're just not accepted into membership;

you just can't say, I want to join. There are certain standards that are expected to be met.

And so I talked to the Prime Minister, first of all, about my deep desire for Albania to join NATO. I support it. I also told him that there needs to be additional political and military reforms, progress against organized crime and corruption. And he understands that. He said, "We're committed." That's what the Prime Minister said—Albania is committed to meeting those standards. And I said, "We're committed to help you."

And it's very important for the political figures here in this country to understand what's at stake. The politicians have got to work together now to meet the standards. They've got to set aside political differences and focus on what's right for Albania. If the Albanian people want to join NATO, then the politicians have got to work to meet the standards.

And so I call upon all in the Government and the opposition to do what is necessary to join NATO, and we'll support you and help you. I think it's best that Albania be a NATO ally. I look forward to welcoming you someday into NATO.

We also talked about Kosovo. I'm a strong supporter of the Ahtisaari plan. I said yesterday in Rome, the time is now. A fellow asked me a question, "Well, when does this end? When does the process end?" I said, "The time is now." In other words, I put a sense of—I made it clear that—two things: One, that we need to get moving; and two, that the end result is independence. And we spent a lot of time talking about this issue here. The Prime Minister was anxious to hear my views. He wanted to make sure that what I said was clear for everybody, and what I said was, independence is the result; let's get the process moving.

Now, we want to make sure that Serbia hears that the United States supports their aspirations for closer integration with the West. That means working with the United States in a bilateral fashion. It also means potential membership of NATO, for example. I urged the Prime Minister to work with the leaders in Kosovo to maintain calm during these final stages of Kosovo final status process. He assured me he would. He's got good contacts there, and Kosovars look to the

Prime Minister of Albania and the President for Albania for leadership, and they're willing to provide it.

And so we discussed a lot of issues, and I must say, I was very impressed by the conversations, impressed with the vision, and want to help. The United States wants to be a good ally and friend.

And again, I thank you all for the hospitality, and I know you're proud of the historic progress that you have made. May God bless the people of Albania and, of course, the people of the United States.

Thank you, sir.

**Prime Minister Berisha.** Thank you.

**President Bush.** A couple of questions here. He's calling on you.

#### **International Support for Kosovo**

**Q.** You guaranteed President Bush that you will talk with the Kosovo leaders concerning the proposal of President Sarkozy that may lead to the—[inaudible]—of the Kosovars, that they may self-proclaim independence. And what would the attitude of Albania be in this case? And did you touch this factor, this opposition with President Bush?

**Prime Minister Berisha.** We discussed at large about Kosovo with President Bush. What I may publicly transmit to the leadership and the citizens of Kosovo is that their project has the full understanding, good understanding and support, full support, of President Bush. And in this context, as before—now, as well—I don't expect and I don't advise any movement. On the contrary, I suggest persistence and calmness, coolbloodedness. This is in the heart of—Kosovo is in the heart of President Bush.

**President Bush.** What's important is for the people of Kosovo to know that the United States and Albania strongly supports independence, as did most of the people in the G-8.

President Sarkozy's recommendation was to try to provide some time for people to possibly work out differences. However, what would be acceptable to the United States and, I think, most people in the G-8 was that at the end of any process, there be certain independence. That's what's important to know.

And that's—the issue is whether independence or not. We strongly believe in independence. And then the question is, the diplomatic moves necessary to achieve that. I happen to believe it's important to push the process along; the time is now. And by that I meant that Secretary Rice will be moving hard to see if we can't reach an agreement. And if not, we're going to have to move because independence is the goal, and that's what the people of Kosovo need to know.

Thank you for your question.

Toby [Tabassum Zakaria, Reuters].

#### **Kosovo/Missile Defense System**

**Q.** Thank you, Mr. President. Yesterday you called for a deadline for U.N. action on Kosovo. When would you like that deadline set? And are you at all concerned that taking that type of a stance is going to further inflame U.S. relations with Russia?

And is there any chance that you're going to sign on to the Russian missile defense proposal?

**President Bush.** No, thanks. A couple of points on that. First of all, I don't think I called for a deadline. I thought I said, time—I did? What exactly did I say? I said "deadline"? Okay, yes, then I meant what I said. [Laughter] The question is whether or not there is going to be endless dialog on a subject that we have made up our mind about. We believe Kosovo ought to be independent.

The G-8 discussions were all aimed at determining whether or not there is a way to make this acceptable to Russia. The ideal would be for Russia to say, "Okay, we understand, and we accept this conclusion as well." And obviously, they're not there yet. And therefore, the reason why I said there needs to be movement is that there just cannot be continued drift, because I'm worried about expectations not being met in Kosovo. That's what I meant. And therefore, we'll push the process.

President Putin made an interesting proposal on missile defense for Europe. I suggested—and I've made an interesting proposal for missile defense in Europe, by the way, all aimed at protecting Europe, not aimed at Russia. The reason I did is because the true threats we'll be facing will be from

rogue nations that may end up with a deliverable weapon. So I thought it was in the interest of peace that we have the capacity to intercept such a missile, and therefore, need to proceed.

And President Putin said, “Well, I think I’ve got an idea that makes sense.” And this is the joint use of radar in Azerbaijan. I said, “Well, why don’t we look at it?” But during the discussions, it became apparent that he also had doubts about the proposal I made as to its effectiveness or necessity. And I said, “Well, you put out an idea, and I put an idea. Why don’t we both get a group together to discuss our relative ideas in a transparent fashion; get people from your Foreign Ministry and we’ll get people from the State Department and our respective defense departments and militaries to sit at the table and to share different ideas, to share ideas about technologies on how to intercept a missile and radar positioning to make sure that there’s effective coverage?”

I thought his statement was an important statement to make. In other words, he recognized that there’s an opportunity to work together. That’s what friends do, by the way. Russia is not our enemy. As I said repeatedly, the cold war is over, and now we’re dealing with threats in the 21st century. And I appreciated his recognition that there could be an opportunity to work together to deal with those threats. I viewed it as a very positive gesture, and looking forward to continuing discussions on this very subject in July when he comes to Maine.

**Prime Minister Berisha.** I would like to add for the citizens of Kosovo and its leadership, in my discussions, I found out consciousness and awareness of President Bush for the consequences of prolongation on—unacceptable prolongation around justifiable—prolongation of the process. And in this context, they should be clear that the President is aware of these consequences and is not willing them to be.

#### **Albania’s NATO Membership**

**Q.** In your meeting with President Bush, what important place was occupied by NATO membership—Albania being made a member of NATO? Do you assure us that you have won the support of President Bush for

quick integration of membership into NATO? And further, do you observe differences in speed of Adriatic 3 countries—A-3 countries?

**Prime Minister Berisha.** I can assure you totally that President Bush and his administration support powerfully Albania’s project for full membership into NATO. In this framework, I would say that this help and support has been of extraordinary importance in all reforms of democratic institutions, of the armed forces, and in cooperation in the framework of NATO during these years.

Of course, the invitation is defined to be given on the basis of performance. We are determined to take any decision, adopt any law, undertake any reform that would make Albania suitable to receive the invitation.

I think that the cooperation with Adriatic Charter, A-3, was fruitful—and very fruitful and very successful. Our three countries have common things in specifics. If we take the level where from which Albania started and it’s progress, it is one of the most evaluated, appreciated.

Second, Albania has a loyal cooperation with NATO for 15 years. I have to stress, one moment, that in ’99, when Milosevic cleansed 1 million Albanians from their homes, thousands of the area’s homes, the friendly countries built camps to receive the refugees. But about 500,000 Albanian families turned their houses into tents of welcome for NATO. You may say, they did it for Albanians. Absolutely, yes. But no one can prove that Albanians wouldn’t do that for every citizen of another ethnicity who would be in need, like the Kosovo people were at that time. Ninety-three percent of Albanians support membership into NATO. We have our own advantages.

#### **International Support for Kosovo**

**Q.** Thank you, Mr. President. You’ve said that it’s time to move the Kosovo—the Ahtisaari plan forward. What specifically are you going to do to accomplish that, and at what point do you say, it’s not working? And then what?

**President Bush.** What you do is, you get your diplomats working with Russian diplomats, as well as EU diplomats, to see if

there is not common ground. In other words, there has to be an effort to see if we can't find a way for everybody to say, well, it's a good idea. And if you end up being in a position where you don't, at some point in time, sooner rather than later, you've got to say enough is enough; Kosovo is independent. And that's the position we've taken.

The people of Kosovo need to know that it is a solid, firm position. And even though there's diplomacy and talks hopefully trying to find a way forward to accommodate Russia and Serbia and the EU—by the way, most people in the EU are very much in favor. The EU position is for the Ahtisaari plan. They just hope that there is some way that we can reach an accommodation with a variety of interests so that the transition to independence will be as smooth and easy as possible. But if that becomes—is apparent that that's not going to happen in a relatively quick period of time, in my judgment, we need to put forward the resolution. Hence, deadline.

Thank you all for your attention. Mr. Prime Minister, it was a great press conference. Proud to be the first American sitting President to actually hold a press conference on Albanian soil as well. Thank you very much.

**Prime Minister Berisha.** Thank you, President.

**President Bush.** Thank you all.

**Prime Minister Berisha.** Thank you.

**President Bush.** Good job. Thank you.

**Prime Minister Berisha.** Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 12:40 p.m. in the Courtyard at the Council of Ministers. In his remarks, he referred to President Alfred Moisiu of Albania; President Nicolas Sarkozy of France; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Prime Minister Berisha referred to former President Martti Ahtisaari of Finland, United Nations Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Future Status Process of Kosovo. Prime Minister Berisha and some reporters spoke in Albanian, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter.

### **Remarks at a Luncheon Hosted by Prime Minister Sali Berisha of Albania in Tirana**

*June 10, 2007*

Mr. Prime Minister, if I might offer a toast. Thank you for your hospitality. I'm honored to be in the presence of the leaders of three important allies and friends of the United States—Croatia, Macedonia, and, of course, our host, Albania.

We thank you for your strong leadership. We join you in your aspirations to join Euro-Atlantic institutions. We appreciate you working for peace. Thank you for the Adriatic Charter. May God bless your nations. May God bless you all.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:54 p.m. at the Prime Minister's villa. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ivo Sanader of Croatia; and Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski of Macedonia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Small-Business Owners in Fushe-Kruje, Albania**

*June 10, 2007*

One of the exciting moments for our trip to Albania is to meet with small-business owners. Laura and I thank the mayor. We thank the owner of the restaurant, and we thank these entrepreneurs for joining us to talk about your story, about your dreams, and about the opportunities a microloan program, provided by the taxpayers of the United States, is giving you to create jobs.

And so we're excited to be here. Thank you for coming. And we're looking forward to hearing your stories.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:50 p.m. at Cafe Cela. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Ismet Mavriqi of Fushe-Kruje, Albania. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments**

*June 8, 2007*

*Dear Madam Speaker:*

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2008 Budget amendments for the Departments of Commerce, Energy, Homeland Security, Justice, and Transportation, as well as the Legal Services Corporation. Overall, the discretionary budget authority proposed in my FY 2008 Budget would not be increased by these requests.

This transmittal also contains FY 2007 proposals and FY 2008 Budget amendments for the Legislative Branch. As a matter of comity between branches, appropriations requests of the Legislative Branch are transmitted without change.

The details of these amended requests and proposals are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 11.

### **The President's News Conference With President Georgi Parvanov of Bulgaria in Sofia, Bulgaria**

*June 11, 2007*

**President Parvanov.** Distinguished members of the delegation, ladies and gentlemen: I would like briefly to outline the results of the discussions we just had and just closed with the President of the United States, George Bush. I must say, this is a very significant visit. It is another proof, a very cogent proof of the fact that our two countries' relations are in their best state now in more than a hundred years of their establishment.

I am happy we had a chance today to draw the balance sheet of what has happened in the interim since the meeting, our visit there in Washington in October 2005. And indeed, the balance sheet is definitely positive. The United States and Bulgaria continue to be

good, reliable partners within NATO, within the peacekeeping missions in different parts of the world. This is a firm, long-term commitment. It is not affected by the changes and setup of the political situations in both countries.

The second thing that strikes about it is the new dynamics in the development of our economic relations. We have either new or updated treaties, bilateral treaties, which give the framework of our business contacts. There has been a sharp trend of improving the term over—and the American investments in Bulgaria, and the number of U.S. tourists to Bulgaria also is on the increase. However, this is not the ceiling. We believe there is a much greater potential, and this is why we should seek and explore the avenues of promoting these trends in several directions: A, by presenting a better, fuller, and more adequate image of Bulgaria in the United States, with an emphasis on the business information, addressed to the businesspeople. And I hope that the newly setup foundation, America for Bulgaria, will promote these efforts.

Second, in the foreseeable future, very soon we will hopefully have a positive solution on the visa regime, on facilitating, lifting the visa barriers. And we do appreciate everything that President Bush has personally been doing in the light of the negotiations within the United States and the European Union. And we, in turn, pledge to do our best to meet our commitments on the security, which is one of the major criteria in addressing this issue.

I believe we should make an effort to improve the structure of trade and investment. And I did lay down to my guest, President Bush, the possibility for a more significant involvement of American businesses in the major energy projects, both in Bulgaria and the Balkans, in the infrastructure, in the defense industry. A better cooperation in this area, in the defense industry, could be an important incentive for the development of our economy as a whole. I do hope we will have President Bush—the support of President Bush and the United States in our effort to modernize our armed forces at a faster

pace, so that we could be effective and efficient in performing—discharging our commitments as allies.

And next, I would like to thank President Bush for the support we've always enjoyed from the United States to our efforts to find a fair, a just solution to the crisis with the Bulgarian medics in Libya and for their release. And I was happy to hear from him this repeated support.

At the same time, we discussed the two countries' possibilities, both within the—our interaction with the European Union and otherwise, to support and help for the treatment of the AIDS-infected children and their families as a longer-term commitment through involvement in the International Fund, which is meant to streamline this process. And I did point out to President Bush that there are expectations both among the public and in the media in this country, an expectation from the major companies to get involved and to donate to this fund.

We also discussed a wide range of international issues related to the situation in the Balkans, to our desire to play a stabilizing role in the Balkans, to be a factor of stability here. We also commented on some of the issues that are on both countries' agenda and on the agendas of the European Union and NATO.

Thank you.

**President Bush.** President Parvanov, thank you very much. I call him George. He calls me George. It's good to be here in your beautiful country. Laura and I are looking forward to our lunches together. Thank you very much.

We are allies; we share values; and we believe in freedom. And I appreciate the progress your country has made toward a free society. And I thank you for being an ally in helping others realize the blessings of liberty. We have accepted our responsibilities to help defend freedom against terrorists and extremists, and it's hard work. And I thank the people of Bulgaria for understanding the stakes, the true challenges of the 21st century.

We had a great discussion, and that's what you'd expect among friends. I am impressed by the transition that Bulgaria has made to a free market economy. Success is evidenced

by results, by the results of attracting more capital. I know U.S. companies are seriously looking at Bulgaria, and that's because there is transparency and fairness in taxes. In other words, when somebody invests in a country, they expect to get a reasonable rate of return, and they expect government to not interfere but, in fact, to expedite the flow of capital. And so therefore, when the President talks about more capital coming to your country from the United States, it means that the government has made reforms necessary to attract capital.

My call, of course, is to continue to make reforms, and if you find corruption, rout it out. People of Bulgaria expect their government to be open and honest, and so do those who spend capital in countries. And the President is committed to that, I know.

We talked about the energy diversification program for Bulgaria. America has got to diversify its energy too. We're too dependent on foreign sources of energy. So we share a common goal about diversification of energy supply. We're in the process of spending a lot of money on new technologies that will enable us to diversify our energy supply and, at the same time, be good stewards of the environment. And I look forward to sharing those technologies with countries, once they become fully developed.

I appreciate very much the reforms you made so that the EU is comfortable in accepting Bulgaria as a member state, and I congratulate you on those accomplishments. And of course, we're proud to stand with you in NATO. These are big achievements for this country, and the people of Bulgaria ought to be proud of the achievements that they have achieved.

We discussed, of course, Iraq. And I thank the President and I thank the people of Bulgaria for supporting those in Iraq who long to live in a free society. The fight is tough in Iraq, and I know some of your families have suffered. And on behalf of our Nation, I extend our condolences and prayers to the families who have lost a loved one against these extremists and murderers.

I thank you for your commitment to Afghanistan. And I appreciate so very much

your willingness to do the hard work necessary to enable young democracies to survive in the face of significant opposition from ideologues who use murder as a weapon to achieve their objectives. Mr. President, I firmly believe the commitments that we're making are laying the foundations of peace for generations to come.

I thank you for your advice on Kosovo. We spent some time talking about Kosovo. The time is now to move the Ahtisaari plan. We—America believes that Kosovo ought to be independent, and I sought the President's advice. One of the things he made clear is something I agree with, and that is, is that as we seek independence for Kosovo, we've also got to make it clear to the—Serbia that there's a way forward, maybe in NATO, maybe in the EU, and definitely in better relations with the United States. So I thank you for your sound judgment and your solid advice.

We talked about the Bulgarian nurses. This is not the first conversation I've had with the President on this subject. He's deeply concerned about the fate of the nurses. We spoke in person about it at the White House; we have had phone calls on the subject; and of course, today, again, he emphasized his deep concern for the nurses and their families. And I appreciate your compassion, Mr. President.

We strongly support the release of the Bulgarian nurses in Libya. That's the position of the United States. They should be released, and they should be allowed to be returned to their families. We will continue to make clear to Libya that the release of these nurses is a high priority for our country.

Our hearts also go out to the children who have been infected by HIV/AIDS. Together with the EU, the United States is contributing to a fund to provide assistance to the Libyan children suffering from this disease and to their families. My hope is that this issue gets resolved quickly.

We talked about visa reform. I assured the President what I said in the past is what I still believe, and that is, we need to reform our visa system. The system is stuck in the past. It can be reformed to work better for the citizens of this country. And I'm working with Congress to get it done. We're in the

middle of an immigration debate, as well, in America. I hope that my country understands that it's in our interest to treat people with respect and to treat people fairly. And so I told the President that we'll continue to work with Congress to resolve this issue in a satisfactory way. I've laid out a way forward, and I'm committed to seeing it through.

And so, George, thanks for having me. It's been a good visit. I'm looking forward to lunch. And I guess we'll answer some questions.

#### **Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales/ Immigration Reform**

**Q.** Good morning, Mr. President. You've had quite a week in Europe, and I wonder, as we head home, if I could ask you to turn to some domestic issues. Your Attorney General is under fire in the Senate. General Pace has had a setback. The immigration reform bill seems not to be moving very quickly. And I won't even mention the latest polls. So I'm just wondering, sir, as you head home, to what extent do you still have the political clout and capital to get some of these issues done? Do you have any left? If you do, how do you intend to use it?

**President Bush.** First of all, we've had a great trip, Ed [Ed Chen, Los Angeles Times]. It's a chance for America to talk about a liberty agenda and a chance to talk to our allies about how we can advance it and what we can do together to make our respective countries better off.

Listen, the immigration debate is a tough debate. I'm under no illusions about how hard it is. There are people in my party that don't want a comprehensive bill; there are people in the Democrat Party that don't seem to want a comprehensive bill. I was disappointed that the bill was temporarily derailed.

I, frankly, find it a little interesting that a so-called important subject they need to get to would be to pass a political resolution on my Attorney General that's going to have no bearing on whether he serves in office or not.

I believe we can get an immigration bill. Now, it's going to require leadership from the Democrat leaders in the Senate, and it's

going to require me to stay engaged and work with Republicans who want a bill.

Last—earlier in this trip, I called three members of the Senate from the Republican Party and said, what can we do together to get the bill back up? What do we need to do to work with Senators like Senator Ted Kennedy, who is strongly committed to a comprehensive bill? And tomorrow I'll be going to the Senate to talk about a way forward on the piece of legislation.

It's important that we address this issue now. And I believe we can get it done. Listen, there was—a lot of progress was made between people in both parties making hard decisions necessary to move a comprehensive plan. It's in the Nation's interest to get a comprehensive bill done. So the political process sometimes isn't pretty to look at it. There's two steps forward, one step back. We made two steps forward on immigration; we took a step back; and now I'm going to work with those who are focused on getting an immigration bill done and start taking some steps forward again. I believe we can get it done. I'll see you at the bill signing.

#### **Bulgarian Nurses Held in Libya**

**Q.** President Bush, you have already voiced your support in favor of our medics and their release. We appreciate that. Although—despite the fact that our fellow country people are still in prison, absolutely innocent, as you well know, I would like to ask you, as a part of the general effort to solve this drama, which has been going on for more than 8 years now, my question is, would you commit yourself to lobbying in front of the U.S. Congress and doing so that some of the funds under your 5-year program for fighting HIV/AIDS can go to supporting the children infected with AIDS and their families?

And, President Parvanov, I would be happy to hear your view on the Libya issue, and notably, how would you comment the fact, or rather the Bulgarian media's idea, who are covering the trial in Libya, to send a letter to the hundred most influential representatives of the economy and business, according to the Forbes ratings, and call on them to donate to the building of modern, up-to-date medical center where children, or

where people with HIV/AIDS could be treated?

**President Bush.** There's a fund into which we're contributing money. And I don't think you ought to be concerned about the source of the funding. What you ought to be focused on is whether or not the U.S. is willing to commit funds, along with the EU. And we are. And at the same time, we're willing to send messages to the Libya Government that we expect the release of the nurses. We've been very much in concert with your Government. This is an issue that we care about. And so—but we do agree with the strategy that there ought to be some compensation for the Libyan children and their families.

**President Parvanov.** Ladies and gentlemen, many of you know that I have visited Libya; I have visited the hospital in Benghazi. I've spoken with the parents and the infected children, and I'm clearly aware of the great drama they're suffering, they're going through, and how much needs to be done in order to invest in this hospital and in order to relieve the pain and suffering of both the children and their kin—and their families and friends.

This is a Bulgarian, this is a European, this is a commitment of the entire democratic public, worldwide. By all means, Bulgaria and, I believe, our friends from the United States and the European Union consider this not a one-off, not a temporary—an attempt to release the nurses and then we quit. For us—and I'm happy that this was—we went along with George on this. For us, this is a long-term commitment. This is a commitment we take in respect of both those suffering in Benghazi, but also everyone suffering of AIDS, not just in Benghazi, but in the whole of Africa. Let's remember G-8 and their decision: \$60 billion were allocated to this policy by the world democratic community a few days ago.

I, for one, 6 months ago, in addressing the European Parliament, I said—and I appealed to the big players, so to speak, worldwide, in the businesses worldwide, to take a more—a firmer commitment to this fund, to donate more, contribute more to this fund. In this sense, I join my voice and I welcome

and I do support the appeal which the Bulgarian media have issued. I hope their voice will be heard. I know, whenever the media speak, their voice is heard more clearly than that of politicians.

**Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales/  
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**

**Q.** Mr. President, I want to take you back to domestic issues again. You say the no-confidence vote has no bearing as to whether Alberto Gonzales remains as Attorney General. How can he continue to be effective? And it seems like you're not listening to Congress when it comes to Gonzales, but you are listening to Congress when it comes to Peter Pace.

**President Bush.** Yes, it's an interesting comment about Congress, isn't it, that, on the one hand, they say that a good general shouldn't be reconfirmed, and on the other hand, they say that my Attorney General shouldn't stay. And I find it interesting. I guess it reflects the political atmosphere of Washington. And they can try to have their votes of no confidence, but it's not going to determine—make the determination who serves in my Government.

Pete Pace was going to go up for confirmation. That's the difference. I have—I had confidence in Pete Pace. But people view this as an opportunity to make statements, and upon the recommendation of Secretary of Defense Gates, I agreed to send up another nominee.

And as to Al Gonzales—first of all, this process has been drug out a long time, which says to me it's political. There's no wrongdoing. You know, he—they haven't said, "Here's—you've done something wrong, Attorney General Gonzales." And therefore, I ascribe this lengthy series of news stories and hearings as political. And I'll make the determination if I think he's effective or not, not those who are using an opportunity to make a political statement on a meaningless resolution.

**Missile Defense System/Energy**

**Q.** President, clearly the relations between our two countries, politically, have been very good. How could we achieve the same in the area of security, in the context of the anti-

missile shield, our common—our cooperation in using common sites, and also in respect of the trade investment?

**President Bush.** Do you want me to start on the missiles? The proposed missile shield is aimed at long-range missiles, missiles that would fly over Bulgaria. There are missile systems and defense systems available that would deal with intermediate-range missiles. And so just because Bulgaria is not a part of the longer-range missile shield doesn't mean that there won't be equipment and help available for intermediate range. That's how I can answer that question.

I know this creates some concerns around Europe, this missile shield, because of Russian objections. And so I had a meeting with President Putin in Germany at the G-8 and explained to him what I've been saying publicly, is, the missile shield would be developed to deal with a rogue regime that would try to hold a free nation hostage, or free nations hostage, that it's not aimed at Russia.

I talked to Vladimir Putin a lot about our relations and made it clear that I simply do not view Russia as an enemy. I view Russia as a country with whom we should have and can have good relations to solve common problems.

One such problem is Iran. Another problem is proliferation. There are areas we can work together, and he brought an interesting proposal. He said, "I have an idea. Why don't we jointly use a radar in Azerbaijan to help deal with a potential threat?" And I said, "That's a good idea. I don't know how—whether it's technologically feasible; I'm not an expert. I've got experts in my Government, however, who could analyze your proposal, and I'd like for you to maybe—not maybe—I'd like for you to assign some experts in your Government to analyze my proposal."

And that's where we left it in Germany. So we're going to have a group of people come together from the State Department, Defense Department, and the military to discuss how to deal with the true threats of the 21st century.

And I would hope that would help explain some of the rhetoric that people in your country have seen coming out of the G-8,

that there's a process where we can collaborate and share information in a very transparent way, which I think will be beneficial. And I would hope that the Russians would see the meetings as beneficial and out of the meetings realize our true intent, and hopefully design systems that protect us all.

**President Parvanov.** I would like to begin by saying that we welcome the strategic dialog, and it was described as a strategic dialog by both leaders, both by President Bush and by Putin, a dialog which started within the framework of G-8. We Bulgarians would accept any solution that would provide more guarantees, more security guarantees, more guarantees of the indivisibility of the security of the Euro-Atlantic space—any solution that has been achieved, hammered out through dialog and in transparency, and any solution that is not directed against a third country, notably Russia in this case.

I would take the liberty of paraphrasing something that was said in Prague—hopefully my source was reliable; the President would correct me if I'm wrong or imprecise—the Bulgarians must not choose between their friendship with the United States and that with Russia. The Bulgarians should and can maintain friendly relations with both countries. Just as I am a friend with George and a friend with Vladimir, we could maintain, within the context of our Euro-Atlantic orientation, friendly relations with both without diluting the things, without losing sight of our strategic priorities. We should maintain relations with everyone who thinks likewise.

This means the same approach would apply to the energy, the infrastructure sphere. This is why Bulgaria maintains—has maintained active relations with Russia on the major infrastructure, or rather energy projects.

I myself, earlier today, offered to President Bush a clearer, firmer commitment by American companies to the energy project. Chevron, in respect of Bourgas-Alexandroupolis, or AMBO—I'm not going to list them all here—this is an investment in peace and the security of the region. This is a geostrategic contribution. And I'm saying this both as the President of Bulgaria, but also as a citizen

of the Balkans, a region for whose fate and future I feel responsible.

**President Bush.** Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 10:35 a.m. at the National Museum of Archaeology. In his remarks, he referred to former President Martti Ahtisaari of Finland, United Nations Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Future Status Process of Kosovo. President Parvanov and some reporters spoke in Bulgarian, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter.

### Remarks at a Luncheon Hosted by President Georgi Parvanov of Bulgaria in Sofia

*June 11, 2007*

Mrs. Parvanova, Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, members of the Government, and distinguished guests: Laura and I are thrilled to be with you, and we're really happy to be in your country.

You know, sitting here in this beautiful museum reminds me of the great history of Bulgaria. And it was important for me to be with leaders who are still writing a history of this important country. And for a person who was raised in the deserts of Texas, this is a magnificent view. It reminds me of the beauty of your country. I was telling the President, my only regret is that we didn't have this meeting on the beaches.

I congratulate you on your admission into the EU. A lot of people said, there is no way that Bulgaria can do the necessary things to join the EU. And you proved the critics wrong. We're proud to be a member of NATO with you. Bulgaria is a valued ally of all of us in NATO and a valued ally of the United States.

I thank you for your strong stand for freedom. I thank you for helping spread liberty into places like Iraq and Afghanistan, where people want to live a peaceful and free life. I appreciate the sacrifices the people of this country have made to support the troops and their families. I firmly believe that the actions we're taking are laying the foundation of peace for generations to come. I think people will look back at this moment in history and say, thank God there were people who still

stood strong for liberty and freedom as the alternative to tyranny and oppression.

We discussed a lot of issues. I appreciated your leader's advice on Kosovo. It's important advice, and I took it seriously. Kosovo must be independent. And I thank them for their advice as to how to best achieve that.

I made it clear the visa policy needs to be changed. And I care deeply about the Bulgarian nurses. We're working on a strategy to make sure that these nurses come home as quickly as possible.

We had a constructive, candid, important conversations today. Our friendship is strong, and we intend to keep it that way.

So I'd like to propose a toast to the President, his good wife, to the people of Bulgaria, and to the friendship between the United States and Bulgaria.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 12:36 p.m. in Sunny Hall at the National Museum of History. In his remarks, he referred to Zorka Petrova Parvanova, wife of President Parvanov; Prime Minister Sergei Stanishev of Bulgaria; and Georgi Georgiev Pirinski, chairman, Bulgarian National Assembly. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Parvanov.

### Remarks at the American University in Bulgaria in Sofia

June 11, 2007

**The President.** Well, listen, thank you all for introducing yourselves. I want to thank you very much, Olga, for giving me a chance to visit with these students.

First of all, I'm looking forward to hearing about your stories and your dreams. There's no question that education is what's going to help change the world; it certainly change your personal lives. But it also has the opportunity to change regions in the world. And I am excited that all of you have had a chance to go to higher education and that you aspire beyond your current education to achieve new things, new dreams—Michigan State Law School—I mean, Michigan Law School, excuse me, or mathematics. I mean, it's uplifting for me to be with you.

America strongly supports education initiatives at home and abroad. I think the best

thing we can do is to invite students to come to our country. You'll see what America is really like when you come. But you don't have to, you know, just come to America to study. You can study all over the world, and then go back to your countries and become productive citizens and apply what you've learned and help your countries grow, because the potential in this part of the world is wide open. We kind of have to do a little political work in some places, but it's wide open. And we wish you all the very best. I'm honored to be with you.

Stanko, why don't you share some thoughts with us.

**Stanko Stankov.** Well, I have to—I mean, I agree with the point about education. There are many challenges here in the region, especially after Bulgaria now entered European Union. And this period of transition, I think, is going to be best dealt with by having a good education and having competent people who can stand up to the challenge and just face it the proper way.

**The President.** So, Stanko, what was your major?

**Mr. Stankov.** My major was business administration.

**The President.** Oh, that's right. Yeah. And so what are you going to do?

**Mr. Stankov.** Oh, first I'm going to do some work here in Bulgaria, because I need some work experience before I apply to a grad school in the United States—that's where I hope to apply. And after I do this work for 2 or 3 years, I'm going to go probably to the States and study, do my masters there. And after that, well, we'll see.

**The President.** And have you found a job?

**Mr. Stankov.** Yes, I'm being interviewed still. And tomorrow I have a very important interview. [*Laughter*] My next job interview. [*Laughter*]

**The President.** Well, if the interviewer is listening—[*laughter*]—Stanko is looking for a little work. [*Laughter*] It'll make your mother happy when you find a job, won't it?

**Mr. Stankov.** Yes, she will be happy.

**The President.** That's good. Well, thank you very much, Stanko. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:57 p.m. at the Eleiff Center for Education and Culture. In his remarks, he referred to Olga Borissova, director, Centre for European Programmes, American University in Bulgaria. Participating in the event were Stanko Stankov, Katya Georgieva, Hristina Jordanova, Nita Gojani, and Filjor Broka, recent graduates, and Nemanja Gruicic, student, American University in Bulgaria; Dilyana Mincheva and Bilyana Hristova, students, University of Sofia; and Hawa Ansary and Stanislav Andreev, recent graduates, American College of Sofia.

### **Proclamation 8156—Father’s Day, 2007**

*June 11, 2007*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

On Father’s Day, we reflect on the many ways that fathers contribute to the lives of their children with spoken words and unspoken kindness.

Fathers are one of the most important influences in the lives of children, and their unconditional love is an indispensable anchor of certainty and strength. By placing their family’s well-being above their own, fathers provide children with an example of what it means to be a responsible person. Through unwavering devotion and daily sacrifice, fathers work to create an environment where children are protected and encouraged. Fathers instill in their children an understanding of right and wrong and help them to grow in confidence and character. These dedicated men strive to give their sons and daughters the necessary foundation to make good choices and lead lives of purpose.

On Father’s Day and throughout the year, we honor the men who have taken on the great joy and responsibility of fatherhood, and we celebrate their extraordinary impact and influence. All Americans are especially grateful to the many fathers who are serving their country as members of the Armed Forces, and we lift them and their loved ones up in prayer.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, 1972, as amend-

ed (36 U.S.C. 109), do hereby proclaim June 17, 2007, as Father’s Day. I encourage all Americans to express admiration and appreciation to fathers for their many contributions to our Nation’s children. I direct the appropriate officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on this day. I also call upon State and local governments and citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:47 a.m., June 12, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 13.

### **Remarks at the Victims of Communism Memorial Dedication**

*June 12, 2007*

Thank you all for coming. Please be seated. Dr. Edwards, thanks for your kind words. Congressman Lantos—no better friend to freedom, by the way; Congressman Rohrabacher, the same. Members of the Czech and Hungarian Parliaments; Ambassadors; distinguished guests; and more importantly, the survivors of Communist oppression, I’m honored to join you on this historic day.

And here in the company of men and women who resisted evil and helped bring down an empire, I proudly accept the Victims of Communism Memorial on behalf of the American people.

The 20th century will be remembered as the deadliest century in human history. And the record of this brutal era is commemorated in memorials across this city. Yet, until now, our Nation’s Capital had no monument to the victims of imperial communism, an ideology that took the lives of an estimated 100 million innocent men, women, and children. So it’s fitting that we gather to remember those who perished at communism’s hands and dedicate this memorial that will

enshrine their suffering and sacrifice in the conscience of the world.

Building this memorial took more than a decade of effort, and its presence in our Capital is a testament to the passion and determination of two distinguished Americans: Lev Dobriensky, whose daughter Paula is here—give your dad our best—and Dr. Lee Edwards. They faced setbacks and challenges along the way, yet they never gave up, because in their hearts, they heard the voices of the fallen crying out: “Remember us.”

These voices cry out to all, and they’re legion. The sheer numbers of those killed in communism’s name are staggering, so large that a precise count is impossible. According to the best scholarly estimate, communism took the lives of tens of millions of people in China and the Soviet Union and millions more in North Korea, Cambodia, Africa, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Eastern Europe, and other parts of the globe.

Behind these numbers are human stories of individuals with families and dreams whose lives were cut short by men in pursuit of totalitarian power. Some of communism’s victims are well-known. They include a Swedish diplomat named Raoul Wallenberg, who saved 100,000 Jews from the Nazis, only to be arrested on Stalin’s orders and sent to Moscow’s Lubyanka Prison, where he disappeared without a trace. They include a Polish priest named Father Popieluszko, who made his Warsaw church a sanctuary for the Solidarity underground, and was kidnapped and beaten and drowned in the Vistula by the secret police.

The sacrifices of these individuals haunt history, and behind them are millions more who were killed in anonymity by communism’s brutal hand. They include innocent Ukrainians starved to death in Stalin’s Great Famine; or Russians killed in Stalin’s purges; Lithuanians and Latvians and Estonians loaded onto cattle cars and deported to Arctic death camps of Soviet communism. They include Chinese killed in the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution; Cambodians slain in Pol Pot’s Killing Fields; East Germans shot attempting to scale the Berlin Wall in order to make it to freedom; Poles massacred in the Katyn Forest; and Ethiopians slaughtered in the “Red Terror”;

Miskito Indians murdered by Nicaragua’s Sandinista dictatorship; and Cuban *balseros* who drowned escaping tyranny. We’ll never know the names of all who perished, but at this sacred place, communism’s unknown victims will be consecrated to history and remembered forever.

We dedicate this memorial because we have an obligation to those who died to acknowledge their lives and honor their memory. The Czech writer Milan Kundera once described the struggle against communism as “the struggle of memory against forgetting.” Communist regimes did more than take their victims’ lives; they sought to steal their humanity and erase their memory. With this memorial, we restore their humanity and we reclaim their memory. With this memorial, we say of communism’s innocent and anonymous victims, “These men and women lived, and they shall not be forgotten.”

We dedicate this memorial because we have an obligation to future generations to record the crimes of the 20th century and ensure they’re never repeated. In this hallowed place we recall the great lessons of the cold war: that freedom is precious and cannot be taken for granted; that evil is real and must be confronted; and that given the chance, men commanded by harsh and hateful ideologies will commit unspeakable crimes and take the lives of millions.

It’s important that we recall these lessons because the evil and hatred that inspired the death of tens of millions of people in the 20th century is still at work in the world. We saw its face on September the 11th, 2001. Like the Communists, the terrorists and radicals who attacked our Nation are followers of a murderous ideology that despises freedom, crushes all dissent, has expansionist ambitions, and pursues totalitarian aims. Like the Communists, our new enemies believe the innocent can be murdered to serve a radical vision. Like the Communists, our new enemies are dismissive of free peoples, claiming that those of us who live in liberty are weak and lack the resolve to defend our free way of life. And like the Communists, the followers of violent Islamic radicalism are doomed to fail. By remaining steadfast in freedom’s cause, we will ensure that a future American President does not have to stand

in a place like this and dedicate a memorial to the millions killed by the radicals and extremists of the 21st century.

We can have confidence in the power of freedom because we've seen freedom overcome tyranny and terror before. Dr. Edwards said President Reagan went to Berlin. He was clear in his statement. He said, "Tear down the wall," and 2 years later the wall fell. And millions across Central and Eastern Europe were liberated from unspeakable oppression. It's appropriate that on the anniversary of that speech, that we dedicate a monument that reflects our confidence in freedom's power.

The men and women who designed this memorial could have chosen an image of repression for this space, a replica of the wall that once divided Berlin, or the frozen barracks of the Gulag, or a killing field littered with skulls. Instead, they chose an image of hope, a woman holding a lamp of liberty. She reminds us of the victims of communism and also of the power that overcame communism.

Like our Statue of Liberty, she reminds us that the flame for freedom burns in every human heart, and that it is a light that cannot be extinguished by the brutality of terrorists or tyrants. And she reminds us that when an ideology kills tens of millions of people and still ends up being vanquished, it is contending with a power greater than death. She reminds us that freedom is the gift of our Creator, freedom is the birthright of all humanity, and in the end, freedom will prevail.

I thank each of you who made this memorial possible for your service in freedom's cause. I thank you for your devotion to the memory of those who lost their lives to Communist terror. May the victims of communism rest in peace. May those who continue to suffer under communism find their freedom. And may the God who gave us liberty bless this great memorial and all who come to visit her.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Lee Edwards, vice chairman, and Lev E. Dobriansky, chairman emeritus, Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation.

## Remarks Following a Meeting With the Republican Senate Policy Committee

June 12, 2007

I just had a good exchange with my fellow Republicans. We talked about a lot of issues. I briefed them on my trip to Europe. We talked about—they were very interested in the Ahtisaari plan for Kosovo. They were interested in my conversations with Vladimir Putin on missile defense. We talked about the energy bill. We talked about the appropriations process

And we talked about immigration. Some Members in there believe that we need to move a comprehensive bill; some don't. I understand that. This is a highly emotional issue, but those of us standing here believe now is the time to move a comprehensive bill that enforces our borders and has good workplace enforcement, that doesn't grant automatic citizenship, that addresses this problem in a comprehensive way.

I would hope that the Senate majority leader has that same sense of desire to move the product that I do—or the bill that I do and these Senators do because now is the time to get it done. It's going to take a lot of hard work, a lot of effort. We've got to convince the American people that this bill is the best way to enforce our border. I believe without the bill, that it's going to be harder to enforce the border. The status quo was unacceptable. And I want to thank those Senators on both sides of the aisle who understand the time is now to move a comprehensive piece of legislation. The White House will stay engaged.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:54 p.m. at the U.S. Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to former President Martti Ahtisaari of Finland, United Nations Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Future Status Process of Kosovo; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Memorandum on Assignment of Certain Reporting Functions of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007**

June 12, 2007

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and the Director of National Intelligence*

*Subject:* Assignment of Certain Reporting Functions of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby assign to the Secretary of State the functions of the President under sections 1211(b), 1213(b), and 1226(c) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364).

In the performance of such functions, the Secretary of State should coordinate with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence, and the heads of other departments and agencies, as appropriate.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 13.

**Satellite Remarks to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting**

June 13, 2007

Thank you all very much. Thanks for the warm welcome, Frank, and thanks for your kind introduction. I really appreciate you giving me a chance to speak to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, right there in my home State of Texas. I appreciate the fact that messengers from all over the Nation have gathered in San Antonio this week. You could have chosen a cooler time of the year to visit, but I'm sure you'll still experience our famous Texas hospitality.

I appreciate the fact that you're meeting to join in prayer and to seek a common direction for the ministry of Southern Baptist churches. I thank you for your Christian witness; I thank you for your defense of religious liberty; and I appreciate your many good works that make our Nation a stronger and more hopeful place. See, every day Southern Baptists are giving back to their communities and ministering to those in need. And you made our Nation stronger as a result.

You have contributed millions of dollars to fight world hunger and logged countless hours in disaster relief and rebuilding. You've provided training to lift people out of poverty and dependency, and you've spread the Gospel. You've loved your neighbors as yourselves. In other words, you've made a great contribution to our country. And I appreciate that.

I also appreciate the fact that Southern Baptists are supporting our brave men and women in uniform and their families. I know you pray for their safety as they defend our people and extend the hope of freedom to the oppressed across the globe. I appreciate the fact you've sent care packages and tend to the spiritual needs as military chaplains or kneel in prayer. I thank you as you support those who volunteer to serve our Nation.

Just like our troops, you have the gratitude of the Commander in Chief as we do the hard work necessary to defend our country and, at the same time, lay the foundation of peace.

I appreciate the fact that Southern Baptists understand the importance of fair-minded and impartial judges to our democracy. I was proud to nominate John Roberts and Sam Alito to the Supreme Court. And I will continue to nominate good judges who will interpret the law and not legislate from the bench.

Southern Baptists have committed to building a culture of life, and my administration shares that great goal. Since taking office, I've signed the Born Alive Infants Protection Act and the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, also known as Lacy and Connor's Law. I've refused to fund programs overseas that promote or perform abortions. I used my first veto on a bill that would have compelled American taxpayers to support the deliberate destruction of human embryos. And

I will veto any bill Congress sends me that violates the sanctity of human life.

I worked with Congress to pass the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act, and since I spoke to you last year, the Supreme Court upheld this vital law.

I believe building a culture of life in our country also means promoting adoption and teaching teen abstinence, funding crisis pregnancy programs, and supporting the work of faith-based groups. In defending the lives of the weakest and the most vulnerable members of our society, we reflect the compassion and humanity of America. And we will continue to work toward the day when every child is welcomed in life and protected in law.

I thank the Southern Baptists who are working to promote a culture of life abroad by helping lead the fight against malaria and HIV/AIDS. Southern Baptists run hospitals and provide medical care to many suffering from malaria and HIV/AIDS across Africa. In Uganda, Southern Baptists sponsor an abstinence program called True Love Waits. And thanks to efforts like yours, Uganda has made progress against HIV/AIDS. And now you're building on the success by expanding this important program to six more countries in Africa.

My administration shares your sense of urgency in the fight against these terrible diseases. And that's why we created a \$1.2 billion malaria initiative to provide protection to people in some of the most heavily affected countries in Africa. So far we have helped more than 10 million Africans, and we expect to reach a total of 30 million people by the end of 2007.

We're also combating the spread of HIV/AIDS. In 2003, my administration launched a \$15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. And thanks to the generosity of the American people and support in Congress, we have supported lifesaving treatment for 1.1 million people infected with HIV in some of the poorest nations on Earth.

This program makes a huge difference in saving lives. And so, last month, I asked Congress to double our initial commitment and provide an additional \$30 billion for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care over the next 5 years. And the reason why is, is

because I firmly believe, like Southern Baptists believe who are working to raise awareness about the suffering that takes place in the world, that to whom much is given much is required. And by dealing with disease, infectious diseases, we can make the world a better place, and that helps us here at home.

I also believe it helps lift our soul and lifts our spirits when we help those who suffer among us. And that's why I strongly support what you're doing and helping to do in the Darfur region of Sudan. I appreciate the fact that my friend Richard Land is working tirelessly to help those suffering in that troubled nation.

For too long, the people of Darfur have suffered at the hands of a government that is complicit in the bombing, rape, and murder of innocent civilians. The world has a responsibility to end this genocide and to hold accountable those perpetuating the violence. And America has taken the lead. So 2 weeks ago, I announced new actions to address this persecution. The Department of Treasury is tightening existing economic sanctions against Sudan, and we're imposing additional ones. Secretary Rice is working with our allies to draft a new U.N. Security Council resolution that will seek to impose new sanctions, expand an arms embargo, and prohibit Sudan's Government from conducting offensive military flights over Darfur.

The people of Darfur are crying out for our help, and the Southern Baptists and the United States will not turn away because we believe that what matters overseas matters here at home.

God has blessed our Nation with prosperity and great abundance. And I firmly believe, like you, that we should use our resources to help those that need here at home, and help those who need abroad.

And this is a central part of the work of the Southern Baptist Convention. You're rising to meet the challenges of broken souls in a broken world with compassion and courage. You're living out the call to spread the Gospel and proclaim the Kingdom of God. And I thank you for your leadership, and I thank you for the prayers that you offer to Laura and me. And I thank you for your strong voice in the public square.

May God bless you, and may God bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke by satellite at 11:43 a.m. from the Map Room at the White House to the convention meeting in San Antonio, TX. In his remarks, he referred to Frank S. Page, president, Southern Baptist Convention; and Richard Land, president, Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

**Remarks Announcing the Appointment of Edward W. Gillespie as White House Counselor to the President**

*June 13, 2007*

When Dan told me that he was going to leave the White House so he could spend more time with his three young children and his wife, I never thought I'd be able to find somebody that could possibly do as good a job as he has done. I'm fortunate that Ed Gillespie has agreed to join the administration. He is a seasoned hand who has got excellent judgment. He's a good strategic thinker that I know will do a fine job.

We're going to miss Dan. He's been a friend of mine for—gosh, since 1993, but I fully understand why a young dad needs to be with his family. And I admire the fact that he has set such an important priority. And I also—thank you for your service.

And I also thank Ed for agreeing to come over here to the White House. We've got a lot to do. We've got to continue laying the foundation for peace. We've got an immigration bill that will help enforce our borders. We've got an energy bill that we need to get out that will make us less dependent on foreign oil. And we've got to remind the Congress that they need to be fiscally wise with the people's money; that we can balance this budget of ours without raising taxes.

And so, Ed, I'm looking forward to working with you. I thank you for your service. And, Bartlett, good luck to you, brother. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:43 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

**Statement on the Bombing of the Al-Askari Mosque in Samarra, Iraq**

*June 13, 2007*

I condemn in the strongest terms today's terrorist attack on the Al-Askari Mosque in Samarra. This barbarous act was clearly aimed at inflaming sectarian tensions among the peoples of Iraq and defeating their aspirations for a secure, democratic, and prosperous country. I join Iraq's leaders in calling on all Iraqis to refrain from acts of vengeance and reject Al Qaida's scheme to sow hatred among the Iraqi people and to instead join together in fighting Al Qaida as the true enemy of a free and secure Iraq.

At the Prime Minister's request, the coalition has dispatched a rapid reaction force to Samarra to assist Iraqi forces in guarding the mosque and restoring calm and security to the area. The United States also stands ready to help the Iraqi people rebuild and restore this holy shrine. I call upon the international community and Iraq's neighbors to do everything in their power to help Iraq's Government and people combat the terrorists, especially in stopping the flow of foreign terrorists into Iraq. Those responsible for this outrage must be found and brought to justice. The United States stands by the Iraqi people in this difficult moment and remains fully committed to helping all Iraqis realize their dreams of a peaceful future.

NOTE: In his statement, the President referred to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq.

**Statement on the Death of Parliament Member Walid Eido of Lebanon**

*June 13, 2007*

I strongly condemn today's assassination of Lebanese Member of Parliament Walid Eido, who was murdered along with his son, two bodyguards, and a number of others.

There has been a clear pattern of assassinations and attempted assassinations in Lebanon since October 2004. Those working for a sovereign and democratic Lebanon have always been the ones targeted. The victims have always been those who sought an end

to Syrian President Asad's interference in Lebanon's internal affairs.

The United States will continue to stand up for Lebanon, its people, and its legitimate Government as they face these attacks. The special tribunal for Lebanon must be allowed to do its work so that those behind the assassination of former Prime Minister Hariri and related crimes can be brought to justice. The assault on Lebanese state institutions by terrorists and armed extremists, cross-border arms trafficking, and efforts by the regimes in Damascus and Tehran to foment instability in Lebanon must stop now.

We ask for the international community to support the Lebanese Government as it investigates this latest assault on its democracy. The perpetrators of these political assassinations must be brought to justice, and we all have an obligation to help the Government of Lebanon identify, investigate, and prosecute these killers.

### **Statement on the "Report to the President on Issues Raised by the Virginia Tech Tragedy"**

*June 13, 2007*

Shortly after the tragic shootings at Virginia Tech, I directed Secretary Michael Leavitt, Secretary Margaret Spellings, and Attorney General Alberto Gonzales to examine the broad and complex issues raised by this tragedy. I asked them to determine how the Federal Government could best help to support State and local efforts to ensure that our communities, including college campuses, are safe. They responded quickly, traveling to a dozen States to hear from Governors, law enforcement officials, mental health professionals, educators, and other State and local officials.

They learned a great deal and today presented me with their key findings. I look forward to reviewing their recommendations in more detail, but a few points are immediately clear: Information sharing among the health care, law enforcement, and education communities must improve; those groups must better understand the Federal laws related to information sharing; and accurate, complete information sharing between States and

the Federal Government is essential in helping to keep guns out of the wrong hands and to punish those who break the law.

I thank Secretaries Leavitt and Spellings and Attorney General Gonzales for their fine work on this important report.

With the findings in this report in mind, I am closely following legislative efforts to strengthen the instant background check system. I look forward to working with Congress on this effort.

### **Remarks at the President's Dinner**

*June 13, 2007*

Thank you all. It's good to be with you. Thank you for your warm welcome. Appreciate it. Thank you. Please be seated. I remember back in 1997, when Corker hosted a deal for me. I was Governor, and he looked at me, and he said, "I don't think you'll ever be President." Of course, I looked at him and said, "I don't think you'll ever be Senator." [*Laughter*] But I appreciate you, Bob. Thank you for your strong friendship, and thanks for running and winning in the great State of Tennessee.

I'm proud to be with you. We have a goal, and that is to retake the House, retake the Senate, and keep the White House in 2008. And I appreciate you joining us tonight to see that that goal becomes reality.

I'm sorry Laura is not here. She is a patient woman. She's also a fabulous First Lady. I appreciate the members of my Cabinet who've joined us tonight.

I want to thank my friend Senator Mitch McConnell. The country will be better off with Mitch McConnell as leader of the United States Senate. And I thank John Boehner, the House Republican leader. And the country would be better off if he's the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

I thank John Ensign—Senator Ensign from Nevada; Tom Cole from Oklahoma. They're the chairmen of the NRSC and NRCC. Their job is to field the candidates that are going to enable us to achieve our goal. Your job has been to make sure they got enough money to run. And I thank you for coming, and so do they.

I want to thank my friend Congressman Roy Blunt, who is the cochairman of this dinner, and he's here tonight with his wife, Abbey. I thank Congressman Joe Wilson from South Carolina. He is the other cochairman. He's here with Roxanne. Thank you all for working hard to make sure this dinner is a tremendous success.

I appreciate the chairman of the Republican Party, the general chairman, Mel Martinez—Senator Mel Martinez from the State of California [Florida]\* and his wife, Kitty. I thank Mike Duncan, chairman of the RNC. Their job is to make sure the Republican Party welcomes people from all walks of life who believe in less government, strong defense, and low taxes.

I thank you all for being up here tonight, and thanks for your leadership on this dinner. The only way to call this dinner is an unqualified success. I appreciate very much the entertainment that's been here. I thank all the Members of the United States Congress who have joined us and the United States Senate.

I want to talk about two subjects tonight. I want to talk about how we keep the peace and defend this country, and I want to talk about prosperity.

First, let me talk about the fact that this Nation is at war. I wish I could report to you we were not at war, but we are. And the most important job of this government is to protect the United States from further attack.

My thinking about the world changed on September the 11th, 2001. After the enemy attacked us and killed nearly 3,000 innocent civilians, I vowed that for however long I was President, I would rally this Nation and use our resources to protect you. And that's exactly what we have done.

The danger has not passed. And it's—our job here in Washington, DC, is to always remember, always remember, the nature of the enemy we face. These people are ideologically driven people. They have a vision as to how government should work. They don't believe in dissent. They don't believe in freedom of religion. They don't believe people should be able to express themselves in the public square. They have a dark vision for

humanity. They have a desire to spread their ideology as far and wide as possible to reestablish what they call a caliphate. And they're willing to use murder as the tool to achieve their objective. You cannot reason with these people; you cannot negotiate with these people. The only way to protect America is, defeat them overseas so we do not have to face them here at home.

And that's exactly the strategy we've been keeping on. We've reformed our intelligence services to make sure we can find the enemy before they strike. We believe we ought to deny safe haven so they can't plan and plot again. We believe that we must take threats seriously before they fully materialize.

This country of ours is now engaged in a global war against these extremists and radicals. It's a war that will define the 21st century. We're fighting them in Afghanistan, and we're fighting them in Iraq, and we're fighting them wherever we can find them.

I had a tough call to make, and that's what Presidents do—they make decisions. In Iraq, I saw a threat to the United States of America. After all, that country was run by an enemy of the United States; the dictator had used weapons of mass destruction; he had been paying families of suicide bombers; they had harbored terrorists. He was a threat.

The President has always got to try diplomacy before the use of military force. That's precisely what I did. I went to the United Nations, where we received a unanimous United Nations Security Council resolution that said clearly to the dictator in Iraq, disarm, or face serious consequences. The choice was his. He chose to ignore the demands of the free world. I decided to remove Saddam Hussein, and the world is better off without Saddam Hussein in power.

And now the task at hand is to help this young democracy stabilize so it can become an ally in the war on terror. And it's hard work, but I believe it's necessary work. I believe it is necessary to the security of the United States that we help the Iraqi Government succeed.

It is interesting that David Petraeus, our commander on the ground, has declared that Al Qaida is the number-one enemy to the people of Iraq. Well, Al Qaida also happens to be the number-one enemy to the people

\* White House correction.

of the United States. And what does that tell you? It tells you that you've got to succeed.

So last fall I had a decision to make: Do we allow the sectarian violence that Al Qaida had started as a result of the bombing of religious sites to get out of control and perhaps spill out across the countryside and the region, or do you do what's necessary to help give this Government a chance to succeed? After listening to the military commanders, I made a tough decision. And the decision was not withdraw, but instead reinforcements. And the reinforcements are headed in. As a matter of fact, I talked to General David Petraeus today. The final troops have just arrived—some progress and some setbacks.

But in the face of this horror on our TV screens, perpetuated by murderous ideologues who are willing to kill the innocent to achieve their objectives, I want you to remember that when given a chance, 12 million Iraqis voted for a free country. This Government of theirs has got to make more progress on benchmarks, but I believe it's in the interest of the United States to help them.

I'm going to tell you what will happen if we don't. This enemy that attacked us on September the 11th will become emboldened. They create chaos in order to confuse the civilized world and to take advantage of security vacuums. That chaos gets spread throughout Iraq and in the region, thereby emboldening countries like Iran. They could gain safe—new safe havens, for which they have announced they're intending to do, from which to attack America.

Fifty years from now, people will look back and say, "How come they couldn't see the impending threat? How come the United States of America forgot the lessons of September the 11th? Why weren't they willing to do the hard work necessary to help this young democracy survive?" I believe the work we're doing is necessary. I believe we will succeed. And I believe generations from now, Americans will realize the cause was just and necessary for our own security. [Applause] Thank you all.

We have done this kind of work before. We have been in ideological struggles. Our strategy is, in the short term, to take the fight

to the enemy and defeat them where we find them. In the long term, the way to defeat an ideology of hate is with an ideology of hope. And there's no more hopeful ideology than an ideology based upon freedom. I believe in the universality of freedom. I believe there's an Almighty, and a great gift of the Almighty to each man and woman and child on the face of the Earth is freedom. And I think it's in the interests of the United States to spread freedom far and wide across the globe.

In the early years of my Presidency, one of my best friends in the diplomatic arena was Prime Minister Koizumi of Japan. I've now established a close working relationship with his successor, Prime Minister Abe. The reason I tell you this is because the lessons of two George Bushes relative to the Japanese gives me great hope in the ability for us to succeed in laying a foundation for peace.

You see, young Ensign Bush was called into action against the Japanese during World War II. They were the bitter enemy of the United States of America. We fought a bloody war with the Japanese. And yet some 60 years later, his son sits at the table talking about how we can—with the Japanese—talking about how we can spread democracy to achieve peace. We sit at the table talking about making sure that the leader of North Korea doesn't get a nuclear weapon. We talk about peace in the world.

Isn't it interesting? My dad fought the Japanese; I'm making peace with the Japanese. Something happened. What happened was, liberty took hold in Japan. Liberty has the capacity to convert enemies into allies. Liberty has the capacity to yield the peace we all want for generations of Americans to come.

And I believe if our candidates take the message of doing what is necessary to protect the American people and take the message, the hopeful message of helping others realize the blessings of liberty, that we will retake the House and retake the Senate and hold the White House in 2008.

Ours is a party that believes that we ought to trust individuals to make the proper decisions for their families. See, we trust you. The other bunch trusts government to make

the decisions for you and your families. And there's no better way to determine that trust than looking at our fiscal policies here in Washington, DC.

It wasn't all that long ago that the country was in a recession. We had corporate scandals which affected our economy, and we had to recover from a September the 11th attack. And yet, because the United States Congress worked closely with the President, we cut taxes on everybody who paid taxes. We're not one of these parties that says, we'll play favorites in the Tax Codes. We said, if you pay taxes, you ought to pay less taxes because we trust you with your money, and we also understand that if you have more money in your pocket to save, spend, or invest, the economy will grow.

And our plan worked. America has created more than 8 million jobs in the past 4 years. The unemployment rate is low. Inflation is low. Real wages are rising. The entrepreneurial spirit is strong. Our economy is strong, thanks to the leadership of the Republicans in the United States Congress.

And now the fundamental question is, are we going to keep taxes low? If you look at the budget carefully that the Democrats proposed, they want to return to the days of spending a lot and taxing you to make sure that they can do so. Oh, they may try to run from that idea, but if you look at the budget they submitted, their blueprint for how we ought to go forward, you can't escape the fact that they're going to run up your taxes. And if our candidates remind the American voter that tax cuts have worked, that the economy is strong as a result of the tax cuts, and instead of raising taxes, we ought to make the tax cuts permanent, we will retake the House, retake the Senate, and hold the White House in 2008.

And here in Washington, you'll hear them say, no, you've got to balance the budget by raising taxes. That's not the way it works here. They'll raise your taxes, but they won't balance the budget. They'll raise the taxes and figure out new ways to spend your money.

Our candidates need to travel the country and remind them about our record when it comes to reducing the deficit. This year, Treasury recently reported that revenues are

up 8 percent. Yet last year, as you might remember, we cut discretionary spending. In other words, we believe the best way to balance the budget is to keep the economy strong by keeping taxes low and by being wise about how we spend your money. The deficit has been reduced ahead of schedule, and I believe that by working together with the Congress, we can totally eliminate the deficit within 5 years.

I met with the leadership of the Congress today. We had a good discussion about spending, and I told them I submitted a top line for the budget that I believe is necessary so we can be fiscally sound here in the United States. And if the Democrats want to test us, that's why they give the President the veto. I'm looking forward to vetoing excessive spending, and I'm looking forward to having the United States Congress support my veto.

My point to you is, we got a solid record when it comes to protecting the United States of America, and we got a solid record when it comes to growing this economy. And in most elections, you can win elections based upon strong national defense and good economic policy. And that's precisely what we're going to bring to the voters in 2008.

We also bring one other thing to the voters: We understand that many of our Nation's problems cannot be solved by government but can be solved by loving citizens who have heard the call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. We believe strongly in the power of individuals to help improve our society one heart, one soul at a time. We believe strongly that we ought not fear faith in our society, but we ought to welcome faith-based organizations into solving some of the difficult problems our society faces.

We believe in human life and human dignity. We believe to whom much is given, much is required. We believe in principles, not polls or focus groups. We believe in doing what's right for America. We believe that the best days lay ahead for our country. And I believe that we're going to succeed in 2008, and I want to thank you for your support.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:14 p.m. at the Washington Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Kim Jong Il of North Korea.

## **Memorandum on Maritime Security (Piracy) Policy**

*June 13, 2007*

*Memorandum for the Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Homeland Security, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Director of National Intelligence, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, Counsel to the President, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Director, National Counterterrorism Center*

*Subject: Maritime Security (Piracy) Policy*

The attached Policy for the Repression of Piracy and Other Criminal Acts of Violence at Sea (Piracy Policy) is approved for immediate implementation, consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations. The policy shall be appended to the National Strategy for Maritime Security as Annex B.

This policy responds to the emergence of high-risk maritime areas that threaten U.S. interests. Recent instances of piracy have highlighted the need for this policy in order to coordinate U.S. Government response and to promote international solutions. This policy advances our commitment to cooperate with other states, regional and international organizations, and the maritime industry in order to counter this threat. The United States has long been a leader in the protection of navigational rights and freedoms. Our objectives consistently have been to promote and facilitate peaceful international uses of the oceans. We recognize that all nations

have an interest and responsibility in protecting those rights and freedoms.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: This memorandum and its attached annex were released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 14.

## **Remarks Following a Meeting With Military Leaders**

*June 14, 2007*

It's been my honor to receive General Dempsey and his wife here to the Oval Office to thank both of them for their service to the country. General Dempsey has just come out of Iraq, where he is working with the Iraqi troops to prepare for—to prepare them for the day when they will be responsible for the security of their country. He explained to me the progress that has been made over the years that he has been there. Obviously, we have still more work to do.

But I—my main purpose of inviting the general here is to hear his summary, but to thank him. It's an extraordinary country where people volunteer to go into combat zones to protect the security of the United States of America. No more important mission for our military than Iraq and Afghanistan.

And General Dempsey and his family have been very much involved in this war on terror. And we appreciate you and thank you and wish you all the best in your next assignment.

Thanks for being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:22 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Participating in the meeting were Vice President Dick Cheney; Gen. Peter Pace, USMC, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Lt. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, USA, former commander, Multi-National Security Transition Command—Iraq, and his wife, Deanie.

## **Remarks to the Associated Builders and Contractors**

*June 14, 2007*

Thank you all. Thank you. Thanks for coming. I'm proud to be with you; glad to be

back with the Associated Builders and Contractors. I appreciate your organization. I didn't realize you were founded in 1950, about the same time a piano nearly fell through the roof at the White House—*[laughter]*—thereby causing Harry Truman to decide to renovate it. And for that, Laura and I are very grateful. *[Laughter]*

I am grateful for your organization as well. I thank you for being builders, doers, and dreamers. I thank you for being people who are willing to take risk to help build our Nation and, at the same time, employ people. I want to talk to you today about how to keep the entrepreneurial spirit strong, how to keep this economy growing, and our need to protect the American people from harm. And I appreciate you giving me a chance to come and do so.

David Meyer, thank you, and I thank your board for inviting me. Joining us today is one of my finest Secretaries, Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, Secretary of the Department of Commerce. I appreciate you coming, Carlos, and thank you for being here. Carlos was born in Cuba. His folks decided that it would be best that he and they come to a free society. He rose to become the CEO of a major U.S. corporation, and now he sits in the Cabinet of the United States of America. That's what the American Dream is all about, and it's in this Nation's interest to preserve dreams.

I want to thank Congressman Todd Platts from Pennsylvania for joining us. Todd—there you are. How you doing, Todd? Thanks for being here; honored you're here. His mother is a manufacturer. She manufactures peanut fudge, and Platts always brings me some of it. *[Laughter]* I can't ride enough mountain bikes to—*[laughter]*. Give her my best.

Thanks for letting me come by. I love entrepreneurs, and I like to be with them. Entrepreneurs are folks that really work hard. Nothing more exciting than having your own business. I'm sure some of you probably wondered growing up whether it'd be possible, whether you'd be able to have the ingenuity and the capacity to say, "This is my business." But you've obviously overcome the difficult hurdles that face small-business owners and businessowners, and you're succeeding. And

I'm grateful. The role of government is to make your jobs easier, not harder. It makes sense to encourage entrepreneurship.

And that begins with tax policy. I believe if you have more money in your pocket, you're more likely to buy a piece of equipment or hire a new worker. I think the best way to overcome economic difficulties that we've had in the past is to cut the taxes on everybody who pays taxes. That requires fundamental trust, for those of us in government, in your capacity to spend your money better than the government can spend it. But that's what I believe.

And I also believe that with more money in circulation in private hands, it encourages small-business growth and activity and commerce. And that's why we cut taxes not only on people with children and people who are married, but we cut taxes on small businesses. As a matter of fact, I thought it was fair to cut taxes on everybody who pays taxes, not to say, "Okay, well, this group pays, and you get a tax cut, but this group pays, and you don't get a tax cut." That's not good tax policy, as far as I'm concerned.

We put the—cut taxes on dividends and capital gains to encourage investment. We put the death tax on the road to extinction. I say, "on the road to extinction"; it's not totally extinct. And I would hope that you would prioritize getting rid of the death tax as part of your legislative agendas for not only this year but next year and the years to come, to make sure that we get rid of the death tax once and for all. It would be good for our farmers and small-business owners. I don't think you ought to be taxed twice, once when you're living and once when you die. *[Laughter]*

There is a lot of political debate in Washington about tax cuts, if you can imagine. Some would rather have your money to increase the size of government. Others, like me, say, "Well, we got plenty of money. You ought to have more money." I just want to point out the facts. Since we enacted major tax relief in 2003, in the face of recession and corporate scandals and attacks, our economy has added more than 8 million new jobs in 45 months of uninterrupted job growth. Unemployment is low. Inflation is down. The

entrepreneurial spirit is strong. Small businesses are growing. This economy is good, and the way to keep it good and to keep it strong is to make the tax cuts we passed permanent.

You'll hear people say, "No, we can't do that because we must balance the budget." Now really, I've been around here long enough to know how it works in Washington, and that is—they'll say, "Well, we're going to raise your taxes. Don't worry, we're just only going to tax the rich." Well, first of all, it doesn't work that way. You can't raise enough money on the so-called rich in order to whet the appetite of some of the spenders here. *[Laughter]*

And secondly, the money is not going to go to balance the budget. The money inevitably goes to new programs, expanded government. The best way to balance the budget, in my judgment, is to keep taxes low, so the economy grows, and be wise about how we spend your money. And our strategy is working. This just isn't theory; it's actually working. This year, the Treasury Department reported that Federal revenues through May are up 8 percent over the same period last year. In other words, a revenue stream is growing because of economic activity. And because we worked with the Congress last year to hold down spending, the budget deficit this year is about a third lower than it was at this time last year.

And if we continue to be wise about how we spend the money and keep the economic vitality alive, we can balance the budget by 2012. Now this is going to take discipline here in Washington, DC. Sometimes this city may be short of fiscal discipline, but that's why they give the President the veto. And I'm looking forward to working with the Congress to make sure that we're wise about how we spend your money.

A couple of other issues I want to talk briefly about. Look, I understand the health care issues you face. Health care needs to be affordable and available, no question. But we've got to make sure we do it without asking the Federal Government to run the health care program. We want decisions made by providers and patients.

I heard the word Dave said about regulation and redtape. I understand your con-

cerns. I also understand your concerns about these junk lawsuits. The country needs to make sure we put an end to junk lawsuits that threaten job providers and job creators such as yourself.

You know, I just returned this week from Poland—Gdansk, Poland. We had a great trip, by the way. And it was really fantastic to represent the United States of America overseas. We're such a beacon of hope and a beacon of liberty. And anyway, we just came—and that's a city, by the way, where trade union activists once risked and gave their lives for the right to elect their government freely under a secret ballot. *[Laughter]*

And for the last 60 years in our country, secret ballots have allowed workers to vote their conscience on whether to form a union or remain unaffiliated. The House has passed, as you well know, and the Senate is considering what they call card check legislation. It simply means that workers would be denied the right to have a secret ballot. The legislation would expose workers to intimidation. It violates the principle of our democracy. And if it ever makes it to my desk, I'm going to veto it.

Supporting free enterprise also means building an immigration system that upholds our laws and keeps this economy strong. You have made comprehensive immigration reform one of your top legislative priorities, and I thank you for your commitment on this vital issue. And it is a vital issue. We have worked—Carlos Gutierrez and Michael Chertoff, two members of my Cabinet, have worked very closely with others in my administration, with Republicans and Democrats in the United States Senate to produce a bipartisan immigration bill. And it took a lot of work. It took many months of intense negotiations. And it represents the best hope for lasting reform.

I was disappointed last week when the bill was temporarily withdrawn by the Senate majority leader. Leaders of both parties since then have expressed their commitment to resolving the issues that led to the setback and bring the bill back to the floor. And I appreciate that commitment, and I urge them to do so as quickly as possible so Congress can pass and I can sign, this year, comprehensive immigration reform.

The need for reform is urgent. Our immigration system has been broken for many years. Most Americans agree that the 1986 immigration law failed; it didn't work. It failed because it did not secure our border. It failed because it did not create a reliable system for employers to verify the legal status of their workers. And it encouraged more people to come to America illegally. It didn't work, and it needs to be fixed. When you find something that doesn't work, you have a responsibility to fix it.

The number of illegal immigrants in our country has continued to grow, and illegal immigration is now supported by criminal enterprises. In other words, there are people who are preying on these folks that are coming to do work that Americans aren't doing. You've got a whole system of *coyotes*; those are smugglers, human smugglers taking advantage of a broken system. You've got document forgers—people wanting to work and they know they've got to have some papers, and there are people, a whole industry of people providing them with false documents. People are being exploited as a result of a broken system, and this isn't right. We can do better.

I understand Americans are skeptical about immigration reform. There's a lot of people saying, "Well, there's just no possible way that they can achieve important objectives. After all, they tried in '86, and it failed." People are—got a lot of emotions on this issue. You probably hear it at the coffee shops, talking about the issue. People are very emotional about immigration reform, and people have got different perspectives on a course of action. Most say—many say the most important issue is to secure the border. Others say an important part of immigration reform is to find the workers they need to help a growing economy. Still others say that it's important to resolve the status of 12 million people already here illegally and help immigrants assimilate into our society. There's varieties of opinions about this subject.

I believe that we must address all these concerns in order to have an effective system, and that's why I strongly support comprehensive immigration reform. And I appreciate you understanding that in order to have a

system that works, all the issues must be addressed.

By moving forward with the bill in the Senate, we will make our border more secure. In other words, if you're worried about border security, you ought to be supporting this bill. For decades, we have not been in complete control of the border. I was honored to be the Governor of Texas. I know something about a large border with Mexico—*[laughter]*—and we weren't in control of that border. A lot of people then say, "Well, if you hadn't been in control, do you have the capacity to secure the border?" You'll hear a lot of people here say, "Well, since you didn't do it in the past, you can't do it in the future." In other words, people are worried about that issue.

The first step to comprehensive reform must be to enforce immigration laws at the border and at worksites across the country. The administration—our administration has taken significant steps, by the way, to increase border security and worksite enforcement. Since I've took office, we've more than doubled funding for border security. I mean, there's a focused effort, by the way, to do what many Americans want us to do, which is to secure that border. We've expanded the number of Border Patrol agents from about 9,000 to about 13,000. We've set our Nation on the course to double the size of Border Patrol during my Presidency. In other words, we're going to add another 5,000 agents.

I was in Artesia, New Mexico, to a border training center. I watched these good folks prepare for this very important job. We've increased the number of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents—I'm sure you understand what an ICE agent is—from about 8,000 in 2002 to more than 11,000. In other words, on the enforcement side, we've made some serious efforts to do what the American people expect us to do.

There used to be a problem with catch-and-release. Our Border Patrol agents would find somebody trying to sneak into our country illegally. They would say, "We caught you; now report back to the local immigration court so you can have your hearing," because there was no place to hold these good people—or these people. And guess what would happen? They'd head off into society and say,

“See you later,” and never return for the court date. So we worked with Congress and expanded the number of beds on our border, and we’ve effectively ended catch-and-release.

I want to tell you a statistic that may surprise you. Last year, we apprehended and sent home more than about 1.1 million people entering our country illegally. Now think about that. In one year alone, our Border Patrol agents and law enforcement agents found 1.1 million people coming into our country illegally and sent them home. They’re working hard down there, and they’re making progress. People are doing the jobs we expect them to do, and now we’re going to build on this progress.

So this bill sets clear benchmarks for border security that must be met before other elements of this legislation are triggered. We make a priority of securing the border. These benchmarks include further increasing Border Patrol agents, building miles of fencing, and modernizing the border. You can’t fence the whole border, but you can use fencing in a way to help known—to help stop people at known crossing points. It’s a smart part of making sure the border is secure, along with other ways to modernize the border—berms and electronics and UAVs. We’re going to improve our surveillance capability. In other words, we’re modernizing the border. It hadn’t been that way. And we’re making progress to modernize that border.

It also includes benchmarks for giving honest employers the tools to verify that they’re hiring legal workers. Most people want to comply with the law. I know you do. Yet it’s awfully hard for you to be a document verifier. That’s not what you—[*applause*]. It’s a burden to place on small-business owners, to be—say, “Okay, you’ve got to make sure that the documents that look real are real.” These document forgers are good. They know what they’re doing. They’re preying on innocent people who want to simply find work to put food on the table back at home.

And so the bill we’re talking about says, okay, enough is enough when it comes to document forgery. We’ll create a tamper-resistant identity card for foreign workers and a mandatory electronic system for verifying employment eligibility. This will make sure

that you’re complying with the law, that you don’t have to guess, that you don’t hope you’re dealing with some forged document. It will make it easier for you to do your—run your businesses, and at the same time, it will make it easier for the government to punish those who hire illegal immigrants—knowingly hire illegal immigrants. In other words, it gives us a chance to enforce the law, and that’s what the American people want.

It’s important for the people to know that their government is serious about meeting these benchmarks. One common concern is whether the government will provide the resources to meet the goals in the bill. People say, “It’s fine to talk about it; are you actually going to do something?” To answer these concerns, I support an amendment that will provide \$4.4 billion in immediate additional funding for securing our borders and enforcing our laws at the worksite. This funding will come from the fines and penalties that we collect from those who have come to our country illegally.

By matching our benchmarks with these critical funds, we’re going to show the American people that the promises in this bill will be kept. And so I call on the Senators to pass this amendment and to show the American people that we’re going to do our jobs of securing this border once and for all.

But by moving forward with this bill, we’ll also help meet the needs of a growing economy. When the economy grows, people are looking for workers. That’s economics one. [*Laughter*] You’re probably some who are looking for workers. As you get expanded work orders, you’re wondering whether you can find the workers to meet the needs. That’s what happens when the economy grows. You need workers to make the economy grow.

The reality is, in America, that the construction industry and other sectors depend on foreign workers to fill jobs Americans are not doing. That’s the reality of the world we live in. So once our border security and worksite enforcement measure is in place, this bill will create a new temporary-worker program. The program will establish a lawful and orderly process for foreign workers to come to America on a temporary basis. This will help

reduce the number of people trying to sneak across our border. If you're truly interested in border security, it makes sense to give people a legal way to come to do work Americans aren't doing, on a temporary basis.

See, people are sneaking in because they want to work. It makes sense, to me, to say, "Instead of sneaking in, here's a temporary-worker card that's tamper-proof, that you can go fill jobs that Americans aren't doing. Therefore, you don't sneak across." Such a system will take pressure off the border and let our Border Patrol agents focus on drug runners or gun runners or terrorists. I strongly believe that it's in our economic interest and in our security interest to have a temporary-worker program.

This legislation will also create a merit-based point system for admitting new immigrants to our country. The system will reward new applicants based upon skills and education so we can ensure that America continues to have the world's most talented workforce. It's a reform of an immigration system that hadn't worked. The bill is a practical way to address problems that have sprung up as a result of an immigration system that hasn't worked. By moving forward, this bill will resolve the status of those who are here illegally—already here illegally.

Look, we need to do this without animosity and without amnesty. I know there are some people who, I guess, believe that we could just kick them out of the country. That's just totally impractical. It won't work. We need a practical solution to a problem that has arisen as a result of a bill that didn't work, the 1986 immigration bill.

Amnesty is forgiveness with no penalty for people who have broken our laws to get here. In contrast, this bill requires illegal workers to pay a fine, to register with the government, to undergo background checks, to pay their back taxes, to hold down a steady job, and to learn English in a set period of time.

At the end of 8 years, if they want to apply for a green card—in other words, get in line for citizenship—after 8 years, they'll have to return to their home country so they can apply from there, pay an additional fine. In short, they will prove themselves worthy of a great land.

The legislation will also help newcomers to our country assimilate into our society. One of the great beauties of America has been, people can come to this country with a dream and become Americans; that's assimilate.

Carlos Gutierrez's story is a great story. Mel Martinez's parents put him on an airplane from Cuba to Florida because a tyrant emerged on that island. He was in my Cabinet. I was at the Coast Guard Academy the other day; the number-one graduate at the Coast Guard Academy talked about his migrant worker grandfather who came to America with a dream. And now the grandson stands in front of the President talking about the beauties of America. You know, Americans must be confident in our ability to assimilate newcomers. We have done so in the past, and we will do so in the future. People newly arrived with dreams lift our soul; they invigorate our society; they work hard to become Americans. And it's important for us to help them assimilate.

And the key to that, the key to unlocking the full promise of America is the ability to read, write, and speak English. And so the bill affirms that English is the language of our land. And the bill will expand opportunities to help new immigrants learn our language and the shared ideals that make us all Americans.

We have an historic window of opportunity to act now. Now is the time to get it done. We've got to summon the political courage to move forward on comprehensive reform. Doing nothing is not a solution. If we fail to act, the problems of 1986 will continue. The pressures on our border will not be alleviated. Employers will be left without a reliable system for verifying the legal status of their workers. Jobs will go unfulfilled. Hard-working immigrants will remain in the shadows of our society. And our Nation will continue to have a broken immigration system.

The American people expect people in Washington, DC, to solve problems. I believe we can express our feelings, disagree on certain elements of the legislation, and still come together on a solution. I'm confident that we can pass a bill into law this year, and it will show the American people that we can

prove we're serious about confronting the great issues of our time.

Now is the time to set aside all the political wrangling that tends to dominate the scene here in Washington, DC, and do hard work and pass a comprehensive immigration bill. And I'm counting on your help to get it done. [Applause] Thank you all.

As we work on this legislation at home, we're meeting important responsibilities abroad. On September the 11th, 2001, we saw that problems originating in a failed and oppressive state 7,000 miles away could bring murder and destruction to our cities. Nine-Eleven was a turning point for our Nation. We learned that our Nation's security depends on fighting our enemies overseas so we do not have to face them here at home. And we learned that to secure our country, we must advance the cause of freedom as the great alternative to tyranny and terror.

We're in an ideological conflict with ambitious men who have a different view of government than we do. They don't believe in dissent. They don't believe in freedom to worship as one sees fit. They want to extend their power and reach throughout the Middle East. They want to reestablish a caliphate. And they murder to achieve their objectives. You can't talk reason to these people. You cannot negotiate with them. We must stay on the offense and bring them to justice before they hurt us again.

We went into Afghanistan and helped remove an oppressive government that harbored the terrorists who planned the 9/11 attacks. Today, because we acted, the terrorist camps in Afghanistan have been shut down. Al Qaida lost its safe haven. Twenty-five million people have been liberated. The Afghan people have elected a Government that is fighting terrorists instead of harboring them. It's in our Nation's security interests, it's in our national interest to stand with that young democracy in Afghanistan and give their people a chance to live in liberty.

In Iraq, we removed a cruel dictator who was an enemy of the United States of America, had used—who had used weapons of mass destruction, who was paying the families of suicide bombers, who had invaded his neighbors, who was given a chance to disclose or disarm by the U.N. Security Council

not once, but numerous times. He made the wrong choice. I made the choice to uphold what the free world said. The world is better off without Saddam Hussein in power, and so are the Iraqis.

And now we're undertaking the difficult and dangerous work of helping Iraq establish a functioning democracy that can protect our people and be an ally in this struggle against radicals and extremists who use murder to achieve an ideological objective. And the stakes are high, and it's tough work.

In December 2005, if you can remember that far back—[laughter]—nearly 12 million Iraqis went to the polls. I was pleased but not surprised. I believe in the universality of freedom. I believe people want to be free. And here, after years of tyranny, when given a chance, 12 million people went to the polls. And by going to the polls, they chose a new Government under the most progressive, democratic Constitution in the Arab world.

A thinking enemy watched all this. And in 2006, Al Qaida—the folks who orchestrated the attack on the United States of America on September the 11th, 2001—and other Sunni extremists ramped up their attacks, which led to a tragic escalation of sectarian violence. In the face of the violence, I had a choice to make: to withdraw our troops, or to send reinforcements to help the Iraqis quell the violence.

Had I been polled during that period of time, I'd have said I was—I didn't approve of what was happening in Iraq. I'd have been one of the, "You can put me down as not approving." The sectarian violence was getting more severe, and I had a choice. It's what Presidents do. They make decisions. And that's what you do. You make decisions. I made a decision. I decided to send more troops with a new mission to help the Iraqi Government secure the population and get control of Baghdad. I put our troops under a new commander, General David Petraeus, who wrote the Army's new manual on counterinsurgency warfare.

It is too early to judge the results of this new strategy. General Petraeus recently put it this way: "We haven't even started the full surge yet." He just got his troops on the ground. Only at the end of this week will

the last of the five reinforcement brigades become fully operational.

Under our new strategy, American and Iraqi forces are now living side by side in Baghdad neighborhoods. As Iraqis see forces patrolling their streets, they're gaining the trust, and they're getting new cooperation from the residents.

Now, just as an example of what I'm talking about, Iraqi and coalition forces have captured more weapon caches since the beginning of the year than they did all of last year. Why? Because people are beginning to trust that the security situation will improve. They're willing to step forward. Most people want to live in peace. Iraqi mothers want their children to grow up in a peaceful world, just like our mothers do. There's something universal about motherhood, isn't there? They want something better for their children, and they don't like the violence, and they're expecting their Government to help them. And that's what we're doing; we're helping to provide security.

We're also seeing gains from our new strategy in Anbar Province. Anbar is a large Sunni area west of Baghdad that has been a hotbed for insurgents and Al Qaida. This is where Al Qaida said they were going to establish a new safe haven. They have made it clear they want safe havens. Why? Because they want to attack again; they want to spread their ideology. This is what the enemy has said. And I take the words of the enemy very seriously, and so should the American people.

With the help of tribal sheikhs, American and Iraqi forces have cleared and held terrorist strongholds in Ramadi and Fallujah. The population is tired of Al Qaida. They're tired of murder. And we're striking powerful blows against Al Qaida in Anbar, and that helps our security here at home.

The summer is going to be a critical period for our new strategy. I've cautioned that the enemies of free Iraq will—particularly Al Qaida and illegal militias—are going to continue their campaigns of terror and intimidation to stop the progress of a free society. We can expect heavy fighting in the coming weeks. We can expect more casualties, both American and Iraqi casualties.

Just yesterday, two minarets of the Golden Mosque of Samarra were blown up in an attack that had all the hallmarks of Al Qaida. The mosque is one of the most sacred places in Shi'a Islam. The same mosque that was blown up last year—the Golden Dome was blown up, and that caused the sectarian violence to get out of hand, which caused me to make a decision to send more troops in, as opposed to withdrawing them.

You see, these killers hope that their attacks, like this one, will create enough confusion and chaos that we will abandon this young democracy. They have objectives; they have goals; they want to drive us out. They thrive on chaos. Why? Because it enables them to develop safe haven. If they ever gain safe haven, the United States becomes even more vulnerable to attack. One of the lessons of September the 11th is, what happens overseas matters to the security of the United States of America. It is better to defeat them overseas than face them here on our soil again.

The act of cruelty that took place yesterday and has taken place by these car bombs that destroy innocent life reveals the terrorists for what they are: the enemy of every Iraqi who seeks to live in peace. That's what they are. They're the enemy of people who want to live in peace.

I call on Iraqis to reject this provocation. America will continue to stand behind the Iraqi people as they fight these extremists and terrorists, people who want to destroy both our countries. With our help, we expect the Iraqi Government to pass laws that help the people of that troubled land reconcile their differences so that the people who voted for democracy can raise their families in a secure environment. We all have obligations to make sure that this young democracy survives. That's what the Iraqi people expect our Government to do, and that's what the American people expect us to tell the Iraqi Government to do.

Obviously, this is more than a military mission; there must be a political track at the same time. This is a difficult fight, and the temptation is to look for an easy way out. Some in Washington who—want to declare defeat before our troops even had the chance

to make it work. The consequences of failure would be grave.

If we withdraw before the Iraqi Government can defend itself, we would leave a dangerous security vacuum, which extremist forces like Al Qaida would compete to fill. Sectarian violence would multiply on a horrific scale. Fighting could engulf the entire region in chaos. The extremists who emerge victorious in this struggle could use Iraq as a base to launch new attacks against America. Ultimately, our troops might have to return to Iraq in order to protect ourselves, and confront an entrenched enemy that is even more dangerous. The stakes are high.

We will not abdicate our responsibility and leave this problem to future generations. Now is the time to confront the danger. Now is the time to do the hard work necessary for this democracy to survive. Now is the time to stand with the Iraqi people, not only for their security but for our own. And that is why we will complete the mission.

For all the talk about consequences of failure, we also need to remember the consequences of success in Iraq. Success will give us a new ally in the war on terror. This is a global war that we're fighting against ideologies who use murder as a weapon to achieve their objectives. It's important for us to support forms of government that defeat an ideology of hate. And the best form of government that defeats ideology of hate is one of hope, and that's liberty. And it's worked throughout the history of the United States of America and the world, for that matter. We have seen freedom's power to transform societies before.

My dad, like many of your relatives, defended our Nation in a bloody war against the Japanese and the Germans. I doubt right after World War II somebody would have predicted that one of George W. Bush's—well, they wouldn't have predicted I'd have been President anyway, but—[*laughter*]—particularly my friends in Midland, Texas. [*Laughter*] But I doubt somebody would have said a future President would be sitting down at a table with the Japanese, keeping the peace. After a bloody war, with the sworn enemy being the Japanese and the Germans, I doubt anybody would have said—had the confidence necessary to say that liberty has

got the capacity to transform enemies into allies. But that's what happened.

I went to the G-8, and Angela Merkel, who is a really fine leader for Germany, was at the table. And Shinzo Abe from Japan was at the table. We're talking about peace. We're talking about dealing with the conditions that cause radicalism to prevail, dealing with forms of government that frustrate people so much that 19 kids get on an airplane and kill nearly 3,000 Americans. But we've got to be confident as we look at the future. Liberty has transformed enemies to allies. Liberty has got the capacity to defeat an ideology based upon hate. Liberty has got the ability to bring light into societies.

We've done this kind of hard work before. And it's in our interests to secure a young generation of Americans against the threats of the 21st century, to do this work again. I'm optimistic about our future. I believe the United States can achieve anything she sets her mind to. And so I come to you today to talk about making this economy stronger, to dealing with problems, and to how the United States intends to handle the biggest issue facing us, and that's to make sure we protect the American people. The challenges are great, but this country can handle any challenge that comes our way.

Proud to be with you. May God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:39 a.m. at the Capital Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to David R. Meyer, chairman, Associated Builders and Contractors National Executive Committee; and President Fidel Castro Ruz of Cuba.

### **Statement on the Death of Ruth Bell Graham**

*June 14, 2007*

Laura and I are deeply saddened by the death of Ruth Bell Graham, a remarkable woman of faith whose life was defined by her belief in a personal, loving, and gracious God. She was an encouraging friend, accomplished poet, and devoted mother of 5 and grandmother of 19.

Ruth's marriage to her husband, Billy, was a true and loving partnership. As the wife of the world's most beloved evangelist, she inspired people around the world with her

humor, intelligence, elegance, and kindness. Laura and I offer our prayers and condolences to Billy and the Graham family.

**Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency Blocking Property of Certain Persons Undermining Democratic Processes or Institutions in Belarus**

*June 14, 2007*

On June 16, 2006, by Executive Order 13405, I declared a national emergency and ordered related measures blocking the property of certain persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Belarus, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706). I took this action in response to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons that have undermined democratic processes or institutions; committed human rights abuses related to political repression, including detentions and disappearances; and engaged in public corruption, including by diverting or misusing Belarusian public assets or by misusing public authority.

Because these actions and policies continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on June 16, 2006, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond June 16, 2007. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13405.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
June 14, 2007.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:01 p.m., June 14, 2007]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on June 15.

**Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency Blocking Property of Certain Persons Undermining Democratic Processes or Institutions in Belarus**

*June 14, 2007*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of certain persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Belarus are to continue in effect beyond June 16, 2007.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. These actions include undermining democratic processes or institutions; committing human rights abuses related to political repression, including detentions and disappearances; and engaging in public corruption, including by diverting or misusing Belarusian public assets or by misusing public authority. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of certain persons with respect to Belarus.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
June 14, 2007.

## Remarks at the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast

June 15, 2007

*Gracias. Sientese, por favor. Buenos dias. Si.* I thank my friend Luis. This isn't the first time he's introduced me. I'm proud to be back. I thank you for the chance to come to the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast. Appreciate the opportunity to be with Hispanic American pastors and priests and community leaders and faith-based activists from all over the United States. I thank you for coming, and thanks for having me come. I appreciate your leadership; I appreciate your compassion; and I thank you for your abiding faith in the power of prayer.

I'm pleased that two Senators who have got *corazones grandes*—[laughter]—on the immigration bill are with us today, Senator Ted Kennedy and Senator Mel Martinez. Thank you all for coming. *Y tambien*, Congresswoman Grace Napolitano *y* Luis Fortuno—thank you all for coming; proud you're here.

I thank the veterans and members of the military who are here today. I thank the pastors and community leaders.

At this breakfast, we set aside our politics and come together in prayer. That's what we're doing. When we pray, we acknowledge our total dependence on Almighty God, we put our future in His hands, and we find that prayer lifts our spirits and changes our lives.

This morning we have many things to pray for. We pray for our families and our loved ones and our friends. We pray for the strength and safety of our Nation. We pray for wisdom and grace in times of trial. And we pray to give thanks for the many blessings that God has bestowed upon America.

Among those blessings are millions of talented men and women of Hispanic origin who call this country home. Our Nation is more vibrant because of the contributions made by Hispanic Americans in all sectors of our society—from the arts to business to religion to education. Our Nation is more hopeful because of the Hispanic Americans who serve in the armies of compassion, who are surrounding neighbors in need who hurt with love; people who are helping to change

America one heart and one soul and one conscience at a time.

Many of you at this breakfast devote your lives to serving others. By doing so, you're answering a timeless call to love your neighbor as yourself. You really represent the true strength of America, and I thank you for being of service to our country.

This prayer breakfast has come a long way since it started 5 years ago. We could have held it in a little tiny closet. And now, as Luis tells me, it's oversubscribed the minute it gets announced. It's a good sign for our country, isn't it? People want to come together in prayer.

Instead of a single morning meeting, you have now come to Washington for a 3-day conference. And I appreciate the chance—you've had a chance to go to Congress and discuss your concerns with Members of Congress. I appreciate your support for policies that expand homeownership. We want more Americans saying, "Welcome to my home. Come and see my piece of property." I appreciate the fact that you're promoting small businesses. We want more Americans realizing the dream of owning their own business. And by the way, the Latino small-business community is strong, and we intend to keep it that way.

I appreciate your working to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS. I appreciate you working hard to make sure every child gets a good education. Thank you for your concern for our country. You're demonstrating *el Sueno Americano es para todos*.

And I thank you for making comprehensive immigration reform your top priority. I share that priority. These Senators share that priority. I appreciate the fact that you understand that this debate can be emotional, and it's complex. I appreciate the fact that you understand that Members need to hear from you about where you think this country ought to go when it comes to immigration reform. There's a lot of emotion on this issue, and it makes sense to have people from around the country come and sit down with Members of Congress to talk rationally about the issue.

Our responsibilities are straightforward. We've got to enforce the border, a basic duty of a sovereign nation. We've got to create

a lawful way for foreign workers to fill jobs that Americans are not doing. Our economy depends on them. And we must resolve the status of illegal immigrants already in our country without amnesty and without animosity, because that is the only practical way to fix the problem that has been decades in the making. We must help new immigrants assimilate. That's what has always made our Nation strong. People in America must have confidence in this country to help people assimilate.

Mel Martinez's parents put him on an airplane because they didn't want him raised in a tyrannical society on the island of Cuba, and here he now sits as a Member of the United States Senate. I was deeply touched at the Coast Guard Academy, when I was sitting there as the Commander in Chief of a bunch of kids who just got bars on their shoulders, and the head of the class got up to speak, and he talked about his migrant grandfather. This Hispanic American started his speech to his classmates—because I was there, there was a lot of cameras, maybe the country—talking about his migrant grandfather. Isn't it a fabulous country where a migrant grandfather can come and have a dream and work hard, and there's his grandson talking about the promise of America in front of the President of the United States and his classmates? That's the beauty of America.

We must meet our moral obligation to treat newcomers with decency and show compassion to the vulnerable and exploited, because we're called to answer both the demands of justice and the call for mercy.

Most Americans agree on these principles. And now it's time for our elected leaders in Congress to act. You don't have to worry about these two Senators; they're acting; they're in the lead. Each day our Nation fails to act, the problem only grows worse. I will continue to work closely with members of both parties to get past our differences and pass a bill I can sign this year.

One of the reasons that America leads the world is that we've always welcomed people who are determined to embrace our democracy and stand for freedom. We see that termination every day in the hundreds of

thousands of Hispanic Americans who wear the uniform of the United States military.

Today we're joined by a group of Hispanic American soldiers from Walter Reed Army Medical Center. I thank these brave men for stepping forward to protect our freedom. I join all of you in praying for their full recovery. And I'm honored to be their Commander in Chief.

Our Nation is blessed to call these men fellow Americans. We thank God for sending us such brave and selfless people. We ask that He give His—give us the wisdom and grace to be worthy of the sacrifices they make and the ideals of liberty they defend.

Thank you very much for letting me come by again. *Y tambien, que Dios los bendiga.* Amen. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:15 a.m. at the JW Marriott Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Luis Cortes, Jr., president and chief executive officer, Esperanza USA.

## Remarks on Arrival in Wichita, Kansas

June 15, 2007

Thank you all for coming out to say hello. Thank you for making this a really comfortable airplane. [*Laughter*] I can't tell you what an honor it is to fly overseas in Air Force One and have that big bird park, have people around the world see the great majesty of our country reflected in this airplane.

And I know many of you are working hard to outfit its companion. I appreciate your hard work. I will assure you one thing: I will ride that airplane with great pride. I mean, there's nothing better than representing the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

I appreciate your hard work. Thanks for coming out to say hello. I'd like to kind of work along here and make sure I don't lose my touch and shake a few hands. I'm honored to be here with Senator Pat Roberts and Vicki Tiaht. They're strong supporters of the programs here, strong supporters of Boeing.

I appreciate you coming out to say hello. And I ask for God's blessings on your families and on our country. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. at McConnell Air Force Base. In his remarks, he referred to Vicki Tiahart, wife of Representative Todd Tiahart of Kansas.

### Remarks at the Boys & Girls Club of South Central Kansas—21st Street Club in Wichita

June 15, 2007

**The President.** I have come to this fantastic facility to, first of all, thank the people that have supported the programs that exist here. I like the idea of mentors reaching out to children to set good examples and to encourage them to achieve big goals in life. And that's what happens here in this Boys and Girls Club in Wichita. This is a place where dreams are fostered and skills are given so that people can realize their dreams.

This is a community-based program. It gets some help from the government, but it gets a lot of help from the local community. And I think it's very important for the people of Wichita to support program such as this—after all, we can change our country one heart and one soul at a time. So I'm really pleased to be here. It's a beautiful facility full of beautiful people.

And so thank you for giving me a chance to come by and say hello. Yes, you won an award didn't you?

**Ciera Ivy.** Yes.

**The President.** What award did you win?

**Ms. Ivy.** Youth of the Month.

**The President.** Youth of the Month. That's good. Congratulations to you.

**Ms. Ivy.** Thank you.

**The President.** I want to thank the counselors who are here and all the adults that are working with the boys and girls.

Anyway, nice to see you all. Thanks for coming by. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

### Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Deployments of United States Combat-Equipped Armed Forces Around the World

June 15, 2007

*Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

I am providing this supplemental consolidated report, prepared by my Administration and consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148), as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed about deployments of U.S. combat-equipped Armed Forces around the world. This supplemental report covers operations in support of the war on terror and Kosovo.

#### THE WAR ON TERROR

Since September 24, 2001, I have reported, consistent with Public Law 107-40 and the War Powers Resolution, on the combat operations in Afghanistan against al-Qaida terrorists and their Taliban supporters, which began on October 7, 2001, and the deployment of various combat-equipped and combat-support forces to a number of locations in the Central, Pacific, European (KFOR), and Southern Command areas of operation in support of those operations and of other operations in our war on terror.

I will direct additional measures as necessary in the exercise of the U.S. right to self-defense and to protect U.S. citizens and interests. Such measures may include short-notice deployments of special operations and other forces for sensitive operations in various locations throughout the world. It is not possible to know at this time either the precise scope or duration of the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces necessary to counter the terrorist threat to the United States.

United States Armed Forces, with the assistance of numerous coalition partners, continue to conduct the U.S. campaign to pursue al-Qaida terrorists and to eliminate support to al-Qaida. These operations have been successful in seriously degrading al-Qaida's training capabilities. United States Armed Forces, with the assistance of numerous coalition partners, ended the Taliban regime and are actively pursuing and engaging remnant al-Qaida and Taliban fighters in Afghanistan.

The total number of U.S. forces in Afghanistan is approximately 25,945, of which approximately 14,340 are assigned to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. The U.N. Security Council authorized the ISAF in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1386 of December 20, 2001, and has reaffirmed its authorization since that time, most recently, for a 12-month period from October 13, 2006, in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1707 of September 12, 2006. The mission of the ISAF under NATO command is to assist the Government of Afghanistan in creating a safe and secure environment that allows reconstruction and the reestablishment of Afghan authorities. Currently, all 26 NATO nations contribute to the ISAF. Twelve non-NATO contributing countries also participate by providing military and other support personnel to the ISAF.

The United States continues to detain several hundred al-Qaida and Taliban fighters who are believed to pose a continuing threat to the United States and its interests. The combat-equipped and combat-support forces deployed to Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in the U.S. Southern Command area of operations since January 2002 continue to conduct secure detention operations for the enemy combatants at Guantanamo Bay.

The U.N. Security Council authorized a Multinational Force (MNF) in Iraq under unified command in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1511 of October 16, 2003, and reaffirmed its authorization in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1546 of June 8, 2004. In U.N. Security Council Resolution 1637 of November 8, 2005, the Security Council, again noting the Iraqi government's request to retain the presence of the MNF, extended the MNF mandate for a period ending on December 31, 2006. In U.N. Security Council Resolution 1723 of November 28, 2006, the Security Council extended the MNF mandate until December 31, 2007. Under Resolutions 1546, 1637, and 1723, the mission of the MNF is to contribute to security and stability in Iraq. These contributions have included assisting in building the capability of the Iraqi security forces and institutions as the Iraqi people drafted and approved a constitution and established a constitutionally elected government. The U.S.

contribution to the MNF is approximately 153,553 military personnel.

In furtherance of our efforts against terrorists who pose a continuing and imminent threat to the United States, our friends and allies, and our forces abroad, the United States continues to work with friends and allies in areas around the globe. These efforts include the deployment of U.S. combat-equipped and combat-support forces to assist in enhancing the counterterrorism capabilities of our friends and allies. United States combat-equipped and combat-support forces continue to be located in the Horn of Africa region, and U.S. forces conducted air and sea-launched strikes against al-Qaida targets in Somalia.

In addition, the United States continues to conduct maritime interception operations on the high seas in the areas of responsibility of all of the geographic combatant commanders. These maritime operations have the responsibility to stop the movement, arming, or financing of international terrorists.

#### **NATO-LED KOSOVO FORCE (KFOR)**

As noted in previous reports regarding U.S. contributions in support of peace-keeping efforts in Kosovo, the U.N. Security Council authorized Member States to establish KFOR in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999.

The original mission of KFOR was to monitor, verify, and when necessary, enforce compliance with the Military Technical Agreement (MTA) between NATO and Serbia (formerly the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia), while maintaining a safe and secure environment. Today, KFOR deters renewed hostilities and, with local authorities and international police, contributes to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment that facilitates the work of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

Currently, there are 24 NATO nations contributing to KFOR. Eleven non-NATO contributing countries also participate by providing military personnel and other support personnel to KFOR. The U.S. contribution to KFOR in Kosovo is about 1,584 U.S.

military personnel, or approximately 10 percent of KFOR's total strength of approximately 15,498 personnel.

The U.S. forces have been assigned to the eastern region of Kosovo. For U.S. KFOR forces, as for KFOR generally, maintaining a safe and secure environment remains the primary military task. The KFOR operates under NATO command and control and rules of engagement. The KFOR coordinates with and supports UNMIK at most levels; provides a security presence in towns, villages, and the countryside; and organizes checkpoints and patrols in key areas to provide security, protect minorities, resolve disputes, and help instill in the community a feeling of confidence.

In accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244, UNMIK continues to transfer additional competencies to the Kosovo Provisional Institutions of Self-Government, which includes the President, Prime Minister, multiple ministries, and the Kosovo Assembly. The UNMIK retains ultimate authority in some sensitive areas such as police, justice, and ethnic-minority affairs.

NATO continues formally to review KFOR's mission at 6-month intervals. These reviews provide a basis for assessing current force levels, future requirements, force structure, force reductions, and the eventual withdrawal of KFOR. NATO has adopted the Joint Operations Area plan to regionalize and rationalize its force structure in the Balkans. The UNMIK international police and the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) have full responsibility for public safety and policing throughout Kosovo. The UNMIK international police and KPS also have begun to assume responsibility for guarding patrimonial sites and established border-crossing checkpoints. The KFOR augments security in particularly sensitive areas or in response to particular threats as needed.

I have directed the participation of U.S. Armed Forces in all of these operations pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. Officials of my Administration and I communicate regularly with the leadership and other

Members of Congress with regard to these deployments, and we will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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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.

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#### **June 9**

In the morning, in Rome, Italy, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush went to Quirinale Palace. He then met with President Giorgio Napolitano of Italy.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Vatican City where he met with Pope Benedict XVI. Later, he and Mrs. Bush and members of the U.S. delegation met with the Pope. The President then met with Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone of the Holy See.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Rome, Italy, where they toured the Basilica of Santa Maria. Later, he went to Chigi Palace where he met with Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy. They then had a working lunch.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush went to Villa Taverna where they met with U.S. Embassy staff and their families. Later, he met with former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy.

#### **June 10**

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Tirana, Albania, where, at the Palace of Brigades, they participated in an arrival ceremony with President Alfred Moisiu of Albania. He then met with President Moisiu.

Later in the morning, the President met with Albanian military personnel who served in Iraq. He then went to the Council of Ministers where he met with Prime Minister Sali Berisha of Albania.

In the afternoon, at the Tirana-Rinas Airport, the President and Mrs. Bush met with U.S. Embassy staff and their families. They then traveled to Sofia, Bulgaria, arriving in the evening.

### **June 11**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush went to Nevsky Square where they participated in an arrival ceremony. Then, in Plenary Hall, he met with President Georgi Parvanov of Bulgaria.

Later in the morning, the President went to the Council of Ministers where he met with Prime Minister Sergei Stanishev of Bulgaria.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush went to the American Embassy Sofia and met with U.S. Embassy staff and their families. Later, they returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

### **June 12**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President went to the U.S. Capitol where he participated in a Senate Republican Policy Committee lunch.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lisa E. Epifani to be Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs).

The President announced his intention to nominate Gracia M. Hillman to be a member of the Election Assistance Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gail Dennise Mathieu to be Ambassador to Namibia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Harry K. Thomas, Jr., to be Director General of the Foreign Service and, upon confirmation, appoint him as Chairman of

the Board of the Foreign Service at the Department of State.

The President announced his intention to appoint Bonnie McElveen-Hunter to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the American National Red Cross.

The President declared a major disaster in Missouri and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on May 5–18.

### **June 13**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President met with the Congressional Global War on Terror Consultative Group.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, Poland, on June 26: Tevi Troy (head of delegation); Victor Henderson Ashe; Cheryl Feldman Halpern; and Michael M. Kaiser.

### **June 14**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

### **June 15**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Wichita, KS, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Alex Robinson.

In the afternoon, at a private residence, the President made remarks at a luncheon for senatorial candidate Pat Roberts. He then traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Montebello, Quebec, Canada, to meet with Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada and President Felipe de Jesus Calderon Hinojosa of Mexico at the North American Leaders' Summit on August 20–21.

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## Nominations Submitted to the Senate

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The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

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### **Submitted June 11**

Thomas J. Barrett,  
of Alaska, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation, vice Maria Cino, resigned.

### **Withdrawn June 11**

Michael J. Burns,  
of New Mexico, to be Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, vice Dale Klein, resigned, which was sent to the Senate on January 9, 2007.

### **Submitted June 13**

Lisa E. Epifani,  
of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs), vice Jill L. Sigal, resigned.

Gracia M. Hillman,  
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2009 (re-appointment).

Joseph N. Laplante, Jr.,  
of New Hampshire, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of New Hampshire, vice Joseph A. Diclerico, Jr., retired.

Gail Dennise Mathieu,  
of New Jersey, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Namibia.

Gustavus Adolphus Puryear IV,  
of Tennessee, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, vice Robert L. Echols, retired.

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## Checklist of White House Press Releases

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

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### **Released June 10**

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino

### **Released June 12**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Missouri

### **Released June 13**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Transcript of remarks by Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael O. Leavitt after presentation of the "Report to the President on Issues Raised by the Virginia Tech Tragedy"

Fact sheet: The Consequences of Inaction

### **Released June 14**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush To Meet With CARICOM Leaders

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 214

### **Released June 15**

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott M. Stanzel

Statement by the Press Secretary: USNS *Comfort* Deployment to Latin America and the Caribbean

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush To Attend North American Leaders' Summit in Canada

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1675 and S. 1104

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**Acts Approved  
by the President**

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***Approved June 14***

S. 214 / Public Law 110-34  
Preserving United States Attorney Independence Act of 2007

***Approved June 15***

H.R. 1675 / Public Law 110-35  
Preservation Approval Process Improvement Act of 2007

S. 1104 / Public Law 110-36  
To increase the number of Iraqi and Afghani translators and interpreters who may be admitted to the United States as special immigrants, and for other purposes