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of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 6.

Remarks Following a Visit With Wounded Troops at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and an Exchange With Reporters

July 3, 2007

The President. Thank you very much. General, thank you very much for your hospitality. It's a true honor to come to Walter Reed to be able to see the docs and nurses, the physical therapists who are working with our wounded soldiers. The care here is remarkable. There has been some bureaucratic redtape issues in the past that the military is working hard to cure. But when it comes time to healing broken bodies, this is a fabulous place.

I am constantly amazed at the character and courage of those who wear our uniform. And that's no more vividly displayed than here in this place of healing. I want to thank our soldiers, sailors, and marines, airmen, coast guards men and women for their service to the country. I thank their families. As we head into the Fourth of July, we're a fortunate nation to have people who are willing to volunteer in the face of danger to help secure this country in the long run.

I'll be glad to answer two questions from you.

I. Lewis Libby

Q. Mr. President, are you willing to rule out that you will eventually pardon Scooter Libby?

The President. First of all, I had to make a very difficult decision. I weighed this decision carefully. I thought that the jury verdict should stand. I felt the punishment was severe, and so I made a decision that would commute his sentence but leave in place a serious fine and probation. As to the future, I rule nothing in and nothing out.

Q. Mr. President, Federal sentencing guidelines call for jail time in these kinds of cases of perjury and obstruction of justice. Why do you feel otherwise, and are you worried that this decision sends a signal that you won't go to jail if you lie to the FBI?

The President. I took this decision very seriously on Mr. Libby. I considered his background, his service to the country, as well as the jury verdict. I felt like the jury verdict ought to stand, and I felt like some of the punishments that the judge determined were adequate should stand. But I felt like the 30-month sentencing was severe. I made a judgment, a considered judgment that I believe is the right decision to make in this case, and I stand by it.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:08 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, USA, commanding general, North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Joint Declaration by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on Nuclear Energy and Nonproliferation Joint Actions

July 3, 2007

We are determined to play an active role in making the advantages of the peaceful use of nuclear energy available to a wide range of interested States, in particular developing countries, provided the common goal of prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons is achieved. To this end, we intend, together with others, to initiate a new format for enhanced cooperation.

Bearing this in mind, we acknowledge with satisfaction the initialing of the bilateral Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the United States of America for cooperation in the field of peaceful use of nuclear energy. We share the view that this Agreement will provide an essential basis for the expansion of Russian-U.S. cooperation in the field of peaceful use of nuclear energy and expect this document to be signed and brought into

force in accordance with existing legal requirements.

We share a common vision of growth in the use of nuclear energy, including in developing countries, to increase the supply of electricity, promote economic growth and development, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels, resulting in decreased pollution and greenhouse gasses.

This expansion of nuclear energy should be conducted in a way that strengthens the nuclear nonproliferation regime. We strongly support the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and are committed to its further strengthening. We support universal adherence to the IAEA Additional Protocol, and call on those who have not yet done so to sign and ratify it. We support the activities of the IAEA with respect to both safeguards and promotion of peaceful nuclear energy, and fully understand the need for growth of its capabilities, including its financial resources, commensurate with the expanded use of nuclear energy worldwide.

We are prepared to support expansion of nuclear energy in the following ways, consistent with national law and international legal frameworks. These efforts build on, reinforce, and complement a range of existing activities, including the work at the IAEA for reliable access to nuclear fuel, the initiative of the Russian Federation on developing Global Nuclear Infrastructure, including the nuclear fuel center in the Russian Federation, the initiative of the United States to establish the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, the IAEA International Project on Innovative Nuclear Rectors and Fuel Cycles, and the Generation IV International Forum.

- Facilitating the supply of a range of modern, safe, and more proliferation resistant nuclear power reactors and research reactors appropriate to meet the varying energy needs of developing and developed countries.
- Arranging for participation in national and multinational programs to develop requirements for nuclear reactors for participating countries.
- Facilitating and supporting financing to aid construction of nuclear power plants through public and private national and multinational mechanisms, including international financial institutions.
- Providing assistance to states to develop the necessary infrastructure to support nuclear energy, including development of appropriate regulatory frameworks, safety and security programs to assist states in meeting international standards, and training of personnel.
- Developing solutions to deal with the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, including options for leasing of fuel, storage of spent fuel, and over time development of technology for recycling spent fuel.
- Ensuring that the IAEA has the resources it needs to meet its safeguards responsibilities as nuclear power expands worldwide.
- Supporting expanded IAEA Technical Cooperation to help states build the necessary infrastructure for safe, secure, and reliable operations of nuclear power plants.
- Assisting development and expansion of regional electricity grids, to permit states without nuclear reactors to share in the benefits of nuclear power.
- Providing nuclear fuel services, including taking steps to ensure that the commercial nuclear fuel market remains stable and that states are assured of reliable access to nuclear fuel and fuel services for the lifetime of reactors, including through establishment of international nuclear fuel cycle centers, to provide nuclear fuel cycle services, including uranium enrichment, under IAEA safeguards.
- Supporting negotiation of long-term contracts for power reactors and research reactors, including assured supply of fuel and arrangements for management of spent fuel.

We are prepared to enter into discussions jointly and bilaterally to develop mutually beneficial approaches with states considering nuclear energy or considering expansion of existing nuclear energy programs in conformity with their rights and obligations under the NPT. The development of economical and reliable access to nuclear energy

is designed to permit states to gain the benefits of nuclear energy and to create a viable alternative to the acquisition of sensitive fuel cycle technologies.

The energy and nonproliferation challenges we face today are greater than ever before. We are convinced that this approach will permit substantial expansion of nuclear energy and at the same time strengthen nonproliferation. We welcome the cooperation of states that share this common vision and are committed to jointly taking steps to make this vision a reality.

The President of the United States of America:	The President of the Russian Federation:

Washington, Moscow
July 3, 2007.

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

Remarks on Independence Day in Martinsburg, West Virginia

July 4, 2007

Thank you all. Thanks for the warm welcome. Happy Fourth of July. I'm thrilled to be here in Martinsburg. This is the fourth Independence Day that I have spent in the great State of West Virginia since I've been your President. I appreciate General Tackett's introduction. Thank you, sir. You read it just like I wrote it. [*Laughter*]

I love coming to your State because it's a State full of decent, hard-working, patriotic Americans. And I can't think of a better way to celebrate the Fourth of July than to spend it with some of what we call the Mountain State's bravest and most dedicated citizens, the men and women of the West Virginia Air National Guard.

I am proud to stand with the 167th Airlift Wing. I like your slogan: "Mountaineer pride, worldwide." I'm also honored to be with West Virginia's great military families. Some of you have your loved ones deployed overseas on this Fourth of July. I know that. And I know it may be hard to enjoy the fireworks and the picnics and the other celebrations while they're away on dangerous duty in a faraway land. And so I've come today to express our affection—the affection of the United States of America for the military families who stand strong in the face of the difficult struggle we face to secure the United States of America. We're blessed to have our military families in the United States, and I'm blessed to be here with you. Thanks for letting me come by.

Speaking about Laura—speaking about families, Laura sends her love. She would be with me, but I told her to fire up the grill. [*Laughter*] Don't tell her I said that. [*Laughter*]

I thank Brigadier General Terry Butler, commander, West Virginia Air National Guard, and his wife, Susan. I want to thank Eric Vollmecke—he's the 167th Wing Commander—and his wife, Sigrid.

I appreciate being here today with a really fine United States Congresswoman, Shelley Moore Capito, and her husband, Charlie. You don't have to worry about her supporting the military. When we've got somebody in harm's way, she understands what I understand, that that military person and his or her family deserve the very strongest support from the Federal Government at all times.

I enjoyed reciting the Pledge of Allegiance with some of the children from our military families. I thought they handled their tasks quite well. I appreciate Major Dave Reynolds, chaplain, for giving the blessing. I thank the 249th Army Band of the West Virginia Army National Guard for playing here today. But most importantly, thank you all for coming. Thanks for being here.

The Fourth of July is a day for celebration and a day for gratitude. Across America, our citizens are going to come together for parades and pyrotechnic displays and readings from our Declaration of Independence. It's a grand celebration. It's a great day to be an American.

And when we carry on these festivities, it's important you know we're carrying on a grand tradition. This isn't the first time our country has celebrated the Fourth of July. As a matter of fact, I would like to read a couple of paragraphs from a 1777 newspaper. And here's what it said on the first anniversary of the declaration, as it described the scene in Philadelphia: "The Fourth of July was celebrated with joy and festivity, fine