

for this assessment, and Members of Congress should withhold judgment until they have heard it.

The stakes in Iraq are too high and the consequences too grave for our security here at home to allow politics to harm the mission of our men and women in uniform. It is my hope that we can put partisanship and politics behind us and commit to a common vision that will provide our troops what they need to succeed and secure our vital national interests in Iraq and around the world.

I always leave these meetings inspired by our men and women in uniform and resolved to do everything I can to support them. The brave men and women of our Armed Forces and their families are making heroic sacrifices to secure our country. America will honor these sacrifices by ensuring that our children and grandchildren inherit a more peaceful, just, and democratic world.

NOTE: The statement referred to Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq.

Message on the Observance of Labor Day

August 31, 2007

I send greetings to those celebrating Labor Day 2007.

Our country's economy is built on the hard work and ingenuity of the American people. There is no limit to what our citizens can accomplish when they have the skills to compete and the freedom to achieve their dreams. Through vision and determination, American workers are transforming their neighborhoods, strengthening our economy, and realizing the great promise of our Nation.

Today, productivity is high, consumers are confident, and incomes are rising across our country. Our economy has experienced one of the fastest growth rates of any major industrialized nation. More than 8.3 million jobs have been created in America since August 2003, and the unemployment rate remains low. My Administration is committed to promoting pro-growth economic policies, keeping taxes low, and supporting small busi-

nesses to keep our economy strong and growing.

On Labor Day, we honor the hard work and dedication of the men and women of our workforce. Their efforts contribute to the prosperity of our great Nation.

Laura and I send our best wishes.

George W. Bush

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

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 25

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

August 26

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales and his wife, Rebecca Turner Gonzales.

The President declared a major disaster in Wisconsin and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on August 18 and continuing.

August 27

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Albuquerque, NM, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Pat Dee. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had separate telephone conversations with President Jalal Talabani, Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, and Vice Presidents Tariq al-Hashimi and Adil Abd Al-Mahdi of Iraq, and Masoud Barzani, president, Kurdistan region in Iraq.

In the afternoon, at a private residence, the President attended a People for Pete