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United Nations; Srgjan Kerim, President, 62d Session of the U.N. General Assembly; President Fidel Castro of Cuba; President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe; and President Nicolas Sarkozy of France. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq in New York City

September 25, 2007

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, it's good to see you again. We generally meet via TV screens—[*laughter*]—and now it's good to see you in person. And I appreciate your delegation coming. You brought a very distinguished delegation—Ministers in this Government, the Foreign Minister, the Speaker of the Assembly is with us today—Mr. Speaker, thank you.

We talked about a lot of issues and spent time talking about reconciliation and law. And the Prime Minister and the Speaker are dedicated to getting good law out of the Assembly. And the political parties in Iraq must understand the importance of getting these laws passed. Some politicians may be trying to block the law to gain special advantage. And these parties have got to understand that it's in the interests of Iraq to get good law passed. And so I want to thank you for your dedication and your commitment to laws that will help this young democracy reconcile and move forward.

The Prime Minister and I have talked about a variety of concerns. And I assured him we want his security forces well-trained, mobile, and capable of handling Iraqi security on their own. I have made it clear to the American people that our troop levels will depend upon success. When General Petraeus reported to the country, you know, I talked about troops coming home based upon success. And success in Iraq is important to the future of our country, and it's obviously important to the people of Iraq.

You're sitting in a vital region and when you succeed—which I'm confident you will—it'll send a message to other people who believe in peace. It'll make it easier for people to grow up with a hopeful future in the Middle East. When that happens, it makes America more secure. If we were to leave before the job is done, chaos could ensue, innocent people would lose their life, extremists would be emboldened, nations that are worried about the United States would—about our commitment would lose their nerve, the countries of the Middle East would be endangered, and that would cause America to be endangered as well.

And so we're with you, Prime Minister. We thank you for the courage of the Iraqi people. We expect there to be reconciliation and law, just like you expect there to be reconciliation and law. And I appreciate your time today. Appreciated your remarks yesterday; I thought they were strong remarks about a hopeful Iraq. And it's good to be with you.

Prime Minister Maliki. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I am grateful to be here with you. I thank you for the meeting with your distinguished delegation and with my delegation.

During the meeting with the President, we have reviewed a number of issues. We have discussed a variety of issues. All of them are common issues that we strongly believe that they represent the mutual goal that we have, the mutual goal of confronting and defeating terrorism, as well as building and continuing to build the Iraqi institutions and the Iraqi Government.

The Iraqi side is fully prepared to assume all the responsibilities and to work for a better future for all of Iraq. We have made it very clear and emphasized that the future of Iraq goes through the gates of national reconciliations, of political agreements. That is the way to make the states, and that's the way to ensure and assure the future of Iraq.

The task before us is gigantic. We have succeeded in ridding Iraq of the dictatorship and the regime that governed there. Now we have another challenge, which is to get rid of terrorism, terrorist organizations. The road will be long; it requires cooperation from everyone and the international community in order to uproot terrorism and secure a better future for everyone.

We believe and we feel that there is a development and progress that's happening every day in our political life, in the way to

manage and administer the country in the security situation. Of course, as the President referred, also we have some spending legislations—that we will continue to exert every possible efforts to have those spending legislations passed. They've been sent to the Iraqi Parliament. But also, we continue to work on the basis of the existing law, and we continue to work to have those legislations passed.

We also discussed the importance of the region where we live. It is a vital region. It is important for Iraq and the region to be away from conflicts, to have a stable region and a stable Iraq, and to uproot terrorism in that part of the world and in that country. Iraq's security is very important, and we have talked about the importance of mutual respect between our two sides and working together for our mutual goals. We have a great deal of confidence that we will be victorious. *Shukran*.

President Bush. *Shukran*.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:33 a.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Minister of Foreign Affairs Hoshyar Mahmud Zebari and Speaker of the House of Representatives Mahmud al-Mashhadani of Iraq; and Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq. Prime Minister Maliki spoke in Arabic, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting on Democracy in New York City

September 25, 2007

Thank you all for coming. This is a meeting of people who love liberty and who understand that freedom is universal. I appreciate the ability to share thoughts about how to embolden those who seek reform to stand with those who are willing to fight tyranny, and ways for us all to be effective.

As you know, there are people around the world who are desperate to live in free societies. I think, for example, of those in Burma. And it's incumbent upon those of us who live in free societies to help them. I can think of no better way to work toward freedom than to strategize with leaders from around the world who are willing to take the hard steps necessary to spread liberty.

And so I'm looking forward to our strategy session. I appreciate your time. I want to thank you very much for your interest in this vital subject. Thanks.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:34 p.m. at the United Nations Headquarters.

Remarks During a Meeting With the United Nations Security Council in New York City

September 25, 2007

Mr. President, thank you. And thank you for convening this meeting of the United Nations Security Council. I appreciate the opportunity to join you. And I appreciate your focus is—your focus on the challenges to peace and security in Africa, particularly in Sudan and Darfur.

The reason I say that is, my Nation has labeled what's taking place in Darfur as genocide, and when we find genocide, it's time to do something about it. Time is of the essence. And so, Mr. President, you're focusing our attention on this crucial matter.

I want to thank the Secretary-General, as well, for your support of the people of Darfur. I appreciate your determination to make relieving their suffering a priority of the United Nations.

And I want to thank Chairperson Konare for the leadership of the African Union. After all, you deployed 7,000 troops. But 7,000 troops is not enough, if you believe what's taking place on the ground is genocide. Now maybe some don't think it's genocide, but if you've been raped, you think it's—your human rights have been violated. If you're mercilessly killed by roaming bands, you know it's genocide. And the fundamental question is, are we the free world willing to do more? You've made a strong effort, and we appreciate you. But you know better than me that the area of Darfur is bigger than France, or Texas, and both are plenty big for 7,000 troops.

Your Excellencies, the fighting in Darfur between the rebels and the Government continues. Two hundred thousand people have lost their lives; 200,000 innocents are no