

spend time with America's real heroes, our courageous wounded warriors.

I wish those of you going to pro ball all the very best. Some of us are going to be out of work soon. We may be looking for loans. [*Laughter*] I welcome you to the White House. Good luck next season. And may God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Cindy Self, wife of University of Kansas men's basketball head coach Bill Self; Mary Brownback, wife of Senator Sam Brownback; Stephen Moore, wife of Representative Dennis Moore; former Senator Bob Dole; and Brandon Rush and Mario Chalmers, guards, and Danny Manning, assistant coach, University of Kansas men's basketball team.

### Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel

June 4, 2008

**President Bush.** Mr. Prime Minister, welcome back. First of all, I want to thank you and your good bride for being such gracious hosts to Laura and me. I loved my trip to Israel. It was really a meaningful trip, and a lot of it had to do with your gracious hospitality. So I welcome you back here to Washington. You come back as my friend. I'm glad to see my friend.

I'm looking forward to our discussions on the issues that we have spent a lot of time discussing up to now. We'll be, of course, talking about the Palestinian issue, the peace process. Now, we'll be talking about Lebanon. I'm looking forward to your wisdom about how you see the Syrian issue. And finally, we're going to spend a lot of time talking about Iran. Iran is an existential threat to peace, and it's very important for the world to take the Iranian threat seriously, which the United States does, as the Prime Minister will tell you. And we will continue our discussions about that subject as well.

So, glad you're here. Good to see you.

**Prime Minister Olmert.** Thank you very much, President.

**President Bush.** Yes, sir.

**Prime Minister Olmert.** Thank you. Well, I am delighted to be again at the Oval Office as a guest of my friend President Bush. We enjoyed tremendously your visit in Israel. From a national point of view, people of Israel were absolutely excited and moved by your spectacular speech in the Knesset, which was the best expression of the United States commitment to the security and the well-being of the State of Israel, which was appreciated by everyone in the State of Israel.

And we had many discussions, that you have mentioned, on the main issues: the peace process with the Palestinians; situation in Lebanon; the contacts that hopefully may lead to pull out Syria from the axis of evil, which is very important; and also, naturally, about the main threat to all of us, which is Iran. And as you said, President, indeed we talked all about this.

From a personal point of view, I can only say that I admire your friendship and your commitment and your emotions, as they were expressed in such a powerful manner in your visit to the State of Israel.

**President Bush.** Thank you.

**Prime Minister Olmert.** And they loved you and Laura very much. And part of my mission is to make you feel this way. Thank you very much.

**President Bush.** Thank you very much.

**Prime Minister Olmert.** Thank you.

**President Bush.** Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:54 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Aliza Olmert, wife of Prime Minister Olmert.

### Memorandum on Suspension of Limitations Under the Jerusalem Embassy Act

June 4, 2008

Presidential Determination No. 2008-20

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Suspension of Limitations Under the Jerusalem Embassy Act

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws

of the United States, including section 7(a) of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–45) (the “Act”), I hereby determine that it is necessary, in order to protect the national security interests of the United States, to suspend for a period of 6 months the limitations set forth in sections 3(b) and 7(b) of the Act. My Administration remains committed to beginning the process of moving our Embassy to Jerusalem.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress, accompanied by a report in accordance with section 7(a) of the Act, and to publish the determination in the *Federal Register*.

This suspension shall take effect after transmission of this determination and report to the Congress.

**George W. Bush**

### **Message to the Senate Transmitting the Bulgaria-United States Taxation Convention**

*June 4, 2008*

*To the Senate of the United States:*

I transmit herewith, for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion With Respect to Taxes on Income, with accompanying Protocol, signed at Washington on February 23, 2007 (the “Proposed Treaty”), as well as the Protocol Amending the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion With Respect to Taxes on Income, signed at Sofia on February 26, 2008 (the “Proposed Protocol of Amendment”). The Proposed Treaty and Proposed Protocol of Amendment are consistent with U.S. tax treaty policy. Also transmitted for the information of the Senate is the report of the Department of State with respect to the Proposed Treaty and Proposed Protocol of Amendment.

The Proposed Treaty generally reduces the withholding tax on cross-border dividend,

interest, and royalty payments. Importantly, the Proposed Treaty generally eliminates withholding tax on cross-border dividend payments to pension funds and cross-border interest payments made to financial institutions. The Proposed Treaty also contains provisions, consistent with current U.S. tax treaty policy, that are designed to prevent so-called treaty shopping. The Proposed Protocol of Amendment further strengthens these treaty shopping provisions.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Proposed Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification to both the Proposed Treaty and the Proposed Protocol of Amendment.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
June 4, 2008.

### **Remarks at a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the United States Institute of Peace**

*June 5, 2008*

Thank you all. Please be seated. Mr. Secretary, thank you for your kind introduction. And thank you for inviting me to join you to break ground for the United States Institute of Peace’s new home. I’m really pleased to be here. I appreciate what you do to resolve conflict and support new democracies and to build peace by promoting effective diplomacy. And speaking about effective diplomacy, it seems like you used some to get this special piece of land. I congratulate you on picking a wonderful site.

I thank Robin West, the Chairman; Dick Solomon, the President. Members of the Board of Directors, thank you for being here. I’m so pleased to be with the Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, and some of her predecessors. Thank you for being here. I appreciate Admiral Mullen joining us. I want to thank members of my administration for coming. Madam Speaker, you grace us with your presence. Thank you for coming. I also want to pay homage to Ted Stevens for helping to secure the funding for this important site, as well as Members of the United States