

U.S. officials serving in undemocratic countries to maintain regular contact with political dissidents and democracy activists.

With all these steps, we're helping defeat the forces of violent extremism by offering a more hopeful vision of freedom. And as this vision takes hold in more nations around the world, America will be safer here at home.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on July 25 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 26. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 25 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Transfer of Defense Articles to Iraq

July 25, 2008

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to section 1228(f)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, Public Law 110-181 (NDAA), I hereby provide notice that the effective date of section 1228 of the NDAA is delayed for a period of 90 days.

I certify that it is in the vital interest of the United States to continue to provide defense articles to the Government of Iraq for this additional period of 90 days in order to develop and sustain the military and security forces of Iraq. Additional time is needed to review the export and transfer program for Iraq and to implement necessary measures to ensure compliance with the registration, monitoring, and record-keeping requirements of section 1228. Halting the provision of defense articles to Iraq during this period of review and implementation would be contrary to the national security of the United States.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Carl Levin, chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee

on Foreign Relations; Christopher J. Dodd, chairman, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Ike Skelton, chairman, House Committee on Armed Services; and Howard L. Berman, chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 28.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani of Pakistan

July 28, 2008

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome. It's been a very constructive morning. We've had a good meeting in the Oval Office. And then I'm going to have lunch with the Prime Minister here in the main White House. And that's fitting. After all, Pakistan is a strong ally and a vibrant democracy. And the United States supports the democracy and supports the sovereignty of Pakistan.

We talked about areas of concern. Of course, we're going to spend a lot of time on the economy, about how the United States and Pakistan can continue to cooperate to—for economic benefits for all the people of Pakistan and for our own country, for that matter. And of course, we talked about the common threat we face: extremists who are very dangerous people. We talked about the need for us to make sure that the Afghan border is secure as best as possible. Pakistan's made a very strong commitment to that. I told the Prime Minister that the United States is committed to helping the Afghan democracy succeed, which is in Pakistan's interest. After all, the Prime Minister wants there to be a peaceful country on his border.

The U.S., I repeat, respects the sovereignty of this democracy. And we also appreciate the Prime Minister's strong words against the extremists and terrorists who not only would do us harm but have harmed people inside Pakistan.

So we welcome you here, Mr. Prime Minister, and looking forward to having a good lunch with you after your statement.

Prime Minister Gilani. Thank you so much. Now?

President Bush. Please, yes; absolutely.

Prime Minister Gilani. First of all, I want to thank Mr. President Bush for inviting me

to United States, and this is my second meeting with the President. Previously, I met Mr. President in Sharm el-Sheikh, and today again I am meeting Mr. President.

And I appreciate what he has said about supporting democracy, supporting sovereignty, looking after the interests and on a lot of other areas we are—there's a cooperation between us—we are both—Pakistan, United States have a very cordial relations and bilateral relations. And this is not of today—this is of—for over 60 years since the creation of Pakistan. We were inspired with their slogan of liberty and self-determination. And now we want to further improve our relations.

We are committed to fight against those extremists and terrorists who are destroying and making the world not safe. And that is—this is our own war; this is a war which is against Pakistan. And we'll fight for our own cost. And that is because I have lost my own leader, Benazir Bhutto, because of the militants, and therefore, I assure United States and the people of United States, that majority of the people of Pakistan and the people of those areas, the NWFP and FATA, they are the patriarch, the loyalists. They want the peace in the world, and they want to cooperate. And there are few militants—they are hand-picked people, militants, who are disturbing this peace. And I assured Mr. President we'll work together for democracy and for the prosperity and peace of the world.

Thank you very much.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:47 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. Prime Minister Gilani referred to former Prime Minister and Opposition Leader Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, who was killed in a suicide attack in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, on December 27, 2007. He also referred to NWFP, the North-West Frontier Province, and FATA, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, of Pakistan.

Joint Statement by the United States of America and Pakistan on Strategic Partnership

July 28, 2008

President George W. Bush welcomed Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani to Washington today for his first visit to the United States as the leader of Pakistan's democratically elected civilian government. The President and Prime Minister reaffirmed their commitment to the long-term Strategic Partnership between the United States and Pakistan, which is based on shared values and holds immense potential for the enduring peace, security, stability, freedom, and prosperity of Pakistan and of the region. The President affirmed his support for Pakistan's sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity. The two leaders agreed that the focus of the broad-based Pakistan-U.S. relationship should remain on ensuring the well being of the people by assisting Pakistan to implement its national development agenda in a comprehensive manner. Pakistan and the United States will work together to eliminate the threat of extremism, build strong democratic institutions, modernize education, and increase economic growth and opportunity.

President Bush and Prime Minister Gilani reaffirmed their condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. They acknowledged that terrorism and violent extremism pose a common threat to Pakistan, the United States, and the international community. The two leaders pledged to work together to address this threat and to deny any space to militants or terrorists through increased cooperation. The President recognized the sacrifices the people of Pakistan and the Pakistani security forces have made in the ongoing fight. The President and Prime Minister reiterated that success in countering terrorism will require a comprehensive strategy, including increased security, improved governance, and opportunity for socio-economic development for the people especially in the less developed regions of Pakistan. The President and the Prime Minister expressed deep sympathy for the families of those who have fallen victim