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he gave thanks, because he believed America would weather the storm and emerge into a new era of liberty.

During this holiday season, we give thanks for those who defend our freedom. America's men and women in uniform deserve our highest respect, and so do the families who love and support them. Lately, I have been asked what I will miss about the Presidency. And my answer is that I will miss being the Commander in Chief of these brave warriors. In this special time of year, when many of them are serving in distant lands, they are in the thoughts and prayers of all Americans.

During this holiday season, we give thanks for the kindness of citizens throughout our Nation. It is a testament to the goodness of our people that on Thanksgiving millions of Americans reach out to those who have little. The true spirit of the holidays can be seen in the generous volunteers who bring comfort to the poor and the sick and the elderly. These men and women are selfless members of our Nation's armies of compassion, and they make our country a better place, one heart and one soul at a time.

Finally, I have a special note of thanks to the American people. On this my last Thanksgiving as your President, I am thankful for the good will, kind words, and heartfelt prayers that so many of you have offered me during the past 8 years. I have been blessed to represent such decent, brave, and caring people. For that I will always be grateful, and I will always be honored.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on November 26 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 29. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 26. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Approval of a Strategic Framework Agreement and a Status of Forces Agreement in Iraq

November 27, 2008

Earlier today, in another sign of progress, Iraq's Council of Representatives approved two agreements with the United States, a strategic framework agreement and a security agreement, often called a status of forces agreement or SOFA. The strategic framework agreement sets the foundation for a long-term bilateral relationship between our two countries, and the security agreement addresses our presence, activities, and withdrawal from Iraq. Today's vote affirms the growth of Iraq's democracy and increasing ability to secure itself. We look forward to a swift approval by Iraq's Presidency Council.

Two years ago, this day seemed unlikely, but the success of the surge and the courage of the Iraqi people set the conditions for these two agreements to be negotiated and approved by the Iraqi Parliament. The improved conditions on the ground and the Parliamentary approval of these two agreements serve as a testament to the Iraqi, coalition, and American men and women, both military and civilian, who paved the way for this day.

As the two agreements move to Iraq's Presidency Council for final approval, we congratulate the members of the Council of Representatives for coming together to approve these historic agreements that will serve the shared and enduring interests of both our countries and the region.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

Statement on the Terrorist Attacks in Mumbai, India

November 28, 2008

Laura and I are deeply saddened that at least two Americans were killed and others injured in Wednesday's horrific attack in Mumbai. We also mourn the great loss of life suffered by so many people from several other countries, and we have the wounded in our thoughts and prayers.

My administration has been working with the Indian Government and the international community as Indian authorities work to ensure the safety of those still under threat. We will continue to cooperate against these extremists who offer nothing but violence and hopelessness.