

Week Ending Friday, June 20, 2003

### **The President's Radio Address**

*June 14, 2003*

Good morning. June 14th is Flag Day, which commemorates the date in 1777 when the Continental Congress officially made the Stars and Stripes the symbol of America. The Founders declared that the 13 stars gracing the original flag represented "a new constellation," just as America represented a new hope and a new light for mankind.

Over the past 226 years, our flag has been a symbol of freedom wherever it flies. It inspires hope in people suffering under tyranny or terror. It welcomes immigrants from every land searching for a better life, and it rallies our Nation in times of conflict and crisis.

Whenever the flag is raised, Americans are reminded of our unity in the great cause of liberty and justice for all. Our Nation's flag is hung proudly in homes and schools, honored in parades and stadiums, flown on the field of battle, and folded at the graves of heroes.

When Francis Scott Key saw the Stars and Stripes flying over Fort McHenry in 1814, he knew that liberty would persevere. That same faith was affirmed by marines who planted the flag at Iwo Jima and by the heroes of 9/11 who raised and saluted the flag at Ground Zero.

By showing respect for our flag, we show reverence for the ideals that guide our Nation. And we show appreciation for the men and women who have served and sacrificed in defense of those ideals, from the early patriots of the Continental Congress to the members of our military defending freedom around the world today.

This weekend, in communities across the Nation, Americans will have the opportunity to honor the flag and to thank the men and women who serve our country in uniform. As they continue to fight the war on terror in lands far from home, our troops rely on the support of their fellow citizens. I urge

all Americans to participate in Flag Day celebrations honoring American Armed Forces and recognizing our veterans.

Our Nation is strengthened every time a citizen steps forward to serve a cause greater than self-interest. And each of us can serve and strengthen America by reaching out to neighbors in need. There are so many ways to improve the lives of fellow Americans, by answering the call to feed the hungry or caring for the elderly or teaching a child to read or joining with neighbors to support the police, fire fighters, and medics who respond to emergencies. Every action you take will strengthen the bonds of community that unite all Americans and extend the promise of American life to another citizen.

Between now and the Fourth of July, Americans will reflect often on the foundations of our freedom. Our country's founding generation established liberty and justice on this continent more than two centuries ago, and every generation is expected to protect and defend those ideals. Our duty as Americans is to serve our country, to defend the cause of liberty, and to extend the realm of freedom across the Earth. Our generation can proudly say that we are answering that call.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:05 a.m. on June 12 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 14. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 13 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

### **Exchange With Reporters in Kennebunkport, Maine**

*June 15, 2003*

#### **Situation in the Middle East**

**The President.** Good morning.

**Q.** How are you?

**The President.** Good.

**Q.** Do you want to visit a bit?

**The President.** Sure.

**Q.** What's your assessment of things in the Middle East?

**The President.** My assessment is, is that there are people that want peace to go forward, and there are people that don't. And for those of us who want peace to go forward, we must combine our efforts to prevent people like Hamas from sabotaging peace.

I'm confident we can achieve peace. It's going to be a tough road, but I am determined to continue to lend the weight of this Government to advance peace.

**Q.** Sir, why haven't you called Prime Minister Sharon and Abbas?

**The President.** We're in touch with the Governments. We're in contact with the Israeli Government as well as the Palestinian Authority. The message is clear: Prime Minister Abbas wants peace; Prime Minister Sharon wants peace; America wants peace; the European Union wants peace. But there are clearly killers who don't. And for those of us who are interested in moving the process forward, we must combine our efforts to cut off all money, support for anybody who tries to sabotage the peace process.

**Q.** Will you send Dr. Rice to the region?

**The President.** I'll let you know if we decide to. Of course, we just got out—Ambassador Wolf\* is there now, and he's working the process.

**Q.** Are you willing to give money or arms to the Palestinian Authority to help them out with Hamas—

**The President.** We would like for the Palestinian Authority to set up a security force under Mr. Dahlan that will do the job that Prime Minister Abbas assured me that they're interested in doing, which is to defeat those terrorists who will do everything they can to deny the establishment of a peaceful Palestinian state. And a peaceful Palestinian state is in the interests of the Palestinian people.

**Q.** [Inaudible]—have enough arms, enough money?

**The President.** We are in the process of helping them implement a strategy which is—was described to us in Aqaba as to how the Palestinian Authority want to reconstitute a security force in order to make sure the terrorists, the haters of peace, those who can't stand freedom, do not have their way in the Middle East.

I believe peace is possible, and I believe we've got a lot of work to do to get there.

**Q.** Do see a break in the violence right not, in the last several days?

**The President.** It seems like it, but you know—but until these people are brought to justice, those who are killing people in order to deny the establishment of a Palestinian state, there will be violence. And so the mission of the free world, those who care for peace, is to deny the people like Hamas the ability to destroy and to kill. And I believe that the agents of peace, the people who love, those who care about a decent future for the suffering Palestinian people, and those who live in Israel, will prevail. But it's going to take a lot of work.

Listen, have a wonderful Father's Day.

### Iran

**Q.** —think of the unrest in Iran?

**The President.** I think that freedom is a powerful incentive. And I am—I believe that someday freedom will prevail everywhere, because freedom is a powerful drive for people to—and it's the beginnings of people expressing themselves toward a free Iran, which I think is positive.

### Hamas

**Q.** Sir, have the Israelis been justified in going after Hamas—

**The President.** Wait for us to succeed peace. Wait for us to have two states, side by side—is for everybody coming together to deny the killers the opportunity to destroy. And that's what they want to do. There are people in the Middle East who hate the thought of a peaceful Palestinian state. That's what they can't stand. And the objective of this Government and my objective as the President is to move the process forward so a state is established. It will be a peaceful state, a free state, a prosperous state, so people have hope. And in the meantime, before

\* White House correction.

that state is established, it is clear that the free world, those who love freedom and peace, must deal harshly with Hamas and the killers. And that's just the way it is in the Middle East.

But we've laid out the way forward, and I intend to keep the process moving. And I believe we can have a peaceful Palestinian state living side by side with the Israelis.

Have a great Father's Day. We'll be out there catching fish.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:50 a.m. outside Cape Arundel Church. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) and Minister of State for Security Affairs Mohammed Dahlan of the Palestinian Authority; and Assistant Secretary of State for Nonproliferation John S. Wolf. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

### Remarks to the Business Community in Elizabeth, New Jersey

June 16, 2003

Thanks for the warm New Jersey welcome. Thanks for giving me a chance to come by and share some thoughts with you about the challenges that this country faces.

First, I'll tell you it was good to be with my dad over Father's Day. I hope you all had a good Father's Day as well. Spent a lot of time fishing together and caught a few fish—[laughter]—but thanks for letting me come by.

I just came from Orange, New Jersey, and—went by the Andrea Foods pasta factory. That's you. The Savignanos and the Wilkinsons were there, Rose Marie and Michael. They're the sons and daughters of Andrea and Dora, who started the business. It's so refreshing to see the American Dream alive and well, just like it is at Andrea Foods.

I was struck by the diversity of Orange, New Jersey. I saw a lot of different nationalities as I drove through. It reminded me of a couple of things about our country, one, that we are the land of opportunity and the land of hope and we will keep it that way. We're also a—part of being a land of opportunity means that we must continue to foster what I call the ownership society, to encour-

age value and honor, owning—people owning their own business or owning their own home, maybe someday owning their own pension plan in the security—Social Security system, having the right to make choices in the health care sector. Those things that makes America strong and unique is not only are we a hopeful land and a diverse land, but we're a land that honors ownership.

Today I want to talk about the importance of small businesses. I want to herald the entrepreneurs. I want to say thanks to those who have taken risk. And I want to remind our fellow citizens that in order for our economy to recover, we must remember the strength and the importance of the small-business owner in America.

So I want to thank all the small-business owners who are here today. Thank you for taking risk. Thank you for employing a lot of our fellow Americans. I want to thank the associations who helped put this event together.

I want to thank Hector Barreto, who is the Administrator of the Small Business Administration. I want to thank him for his kind introduction. I want to thank him for his work in helping to create an environment in which people from all walks of life are willing to risk capital to own their own business.

I want to thank the mayors who are joining us today. I want to thank the folks that I had a chance to visit with at Andrea Foods. I visited with entrepreneurs, visited with taxpayers; I mentioned Michael and Rose Marie. I also talked to John Cicero and the Harveys, Paul and Lisa. These are people who will benefit from the tax relief plan because they're married, because they pay taxes, and because they have children.

And I met the Mommelaars, father and son, of Royal Master Grinder, a small business company right here in this part of the world. I met Pat Mulhern of Mulhern Belt-ing ° Company. We sat around the table, and I listened to the concerns of both taxpayer employee as well as small-business owner. And the concerns are great, but the concerns can be solved.

Probably the greatest concern about making sure that—that our country is confident

° White House correction.