

full sovereignty.” I then told him that we’re working closely in the United Nations to get a new Security Council resolution, and we’re making progress on that resolution.

I spoke to Vladimir Putin this morning about the resolution, and we agreed to work together on behalf of the Iraqi people and the new government. I told him that we would come up with an arrangement that would enable us to help the Iraqi people secure their country so that the country can move toward elections. I told him I would continue to work with countries around the world to build support for the new Iraqi government so that the Iraqi people have a chance to live in a free and just society, just like we do.

I also want to thank the people of Denmark for their love of freedom, their support for human rights, and the commitment of troops to Iraq. The moms and dads of those troops need to know they’re performing brilliantly, Mr. Prime Minister. They’re good, strong soldiers who bring great credit to your country. I’m proud to have you here. Thanks for coming.

Prime Minister Rasmussen. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I’m happy to be back in the White House. I’m here as a friend and ally. And today I have confirmed that the Danish troops will stay in Iraq. We will stay and finish our job. Our common goal is to assist the Iraqi people in building a new, modern, and democratic society.

We have a lot of negative news from Iraq. What we need now are—is some positive news. And I welcome the efforts to achieve consensus in the U.N. Security Council on a new Security Council resolution which can pave the way for the building of a democratic society in Iraq.

We need a transfer of full sovereignty to an Iraqi government, an Iraqi government which will be provided with all the signs and principles of a sovereign government. From June 30, international military presence in Iraq will be provided at request from this new Iraqi government. Our troops will stay in Iraq as long as the Iraqi government decides.

Finally, we have discussed the tragic events of prisoner abuse in Iraqi prisons. I welcome the assurance that these cases will

be fully investigated and the people responsible will be held accountable. And I welcome that the necessary steps will be taken to make sure that nothing like this will happen in the future.

Finally, I would like to emphasize the importance of strength in transatlantic relations. In a few days’ time, we will commemorate the 60-year anniversary of the Allied invasion of Europe. We owe a great deal to the United States and Europe. Thousands of Americans lost their lives in Europe in the fight against Nazi tyranny, in the fight for freedom. And let this commemoration also be a reminder of our shared values and shared destiny.

Thank you.

President Bush. Good job, Mr. Prime Minister. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:01 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Adviser to the U.N. Secretary-General; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Statement on the National Economy

May 28, 2004

One year ago today, I signed into law the jobs and growth tax relief package to jumpstart the economic recovery and create jobs for American workers. With our economy growing at the fastest pace in nearly 20 years and more than 1.1 million more Americans working since last August, it is clear the tax relief is working.

Take-home pay for workers is up, and disposable income for families has increased to record levels. The incentives in our plan for small businesses are producing results as more manufacturers have been reporting increased activity and new orders than at any time in 20 years. I am encouraged to see that the unemployment rate has fallen in 47 of 50 States, because we want everyone who wants to work to be able to find a job.

There is more to do. We must continue to build on this success by expanding growth and increasing prosperity for all Americans. I look forward to working with Congress to pass my six-point plan for economic growth, including making the tax cuts permanent,

and to ensure that our workers have the skills to compete in the changing world.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 22

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Austin, TX, where they attended a dinner celebrating their daughter Jenna's graduation from the University of Texas at Austin. Later, they returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

May 23

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to New Haven, CT, arriving in the afternoon. Later, they attended a dinner celebrating their daughter Barbara's graduation from Yale University.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

May 24

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, the President traveled to Carlisle, PA. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President has invited the leaders of Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, and Yemen to meet with G-8 leaders on June 9 in Sea Island, GA.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Hamid Karzai to the White House for a meeting and working lunch on June 15.

The President announced his intention to nominate Carin M. Barth to be Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate John H. Hager to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services at the Department of Education.

The President announced his intention to nominate Veronica Vargas Stidvent to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Council on the Humanities: Craig Haffner, Richard Quinones, Iris Love, Thomas Mallon, Thomas K. Lindsay, Tamar Jacoby, Harvey Klehr, James Davison Hunter, and Herman Julius Belz.

May 25

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Jacques Chirac of France to express his condolences concerning the deaths and injuries resulting from the collapse of a roof at Charles de Gaulle International Airport in Paris on May 23, the proposed U.N. Security Council resolution on Iraq, the situation in the Middle East, and other issues. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Vienna, OH, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Sidney Harris. Later, he traveled to Youngstown, OH.

Later in the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared a major disaster in Iowa and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on May 19 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Nebraska and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on May 20 and continuing.

May 26

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India to congratulate him on assuming his post and to discuss relations between India and Pakistan and other issues. He then had an intelligence briefing.