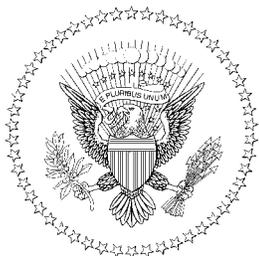


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, July 5, 2004
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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on July 2, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, July 2, 2004

The President's Radio Address

June 26, 2004

Good morning. This week I'm traveling to the U.S.-EU Summit in Ireland, homeland to so many Irish Americans and one of the fastest growing and modern economies in the European Union. I will also be attending the NATO Summit in Turkey, a proud nation that successfully blends a European identity with secular democracy and Islamic traditions.

I will discuss with our European Allies our common struggle to defeat the forces of global terror, our common interest in the spread of prosperity, and our common efforts to help the people of Iraq secure for themselves a future of freedom.

Next Wednesday, full sovereignty in Iraq will be in the hands of the free Iraqi people. As that day approaches, the enemies of freedom in Iraq are growing ever more desperate. Last Tuesday, a young man from South Korea, Kim Sun-il, was viciously murdered by terrorists. That coldblooded act demonstrated once again the evil nature of the enemy. Their barbaric violence is designed to destabilize Iraq's new government, intimidate the Iraqi people, and shake the will of our coalition. Yet, our will is firm. South Korean President Roh has reaffirmed his determination to send more troops to help rebuild Iraq. Iraq's leaders, in a daily display of courage, refuse to be deterred from their dream of democracy, stability, and prosperity for the Iraqi people.

The international community has a responsibility to promote the rise of a free Iraq, and it is meeting that responsibility. Today the nations of the European Union pledged their support for the new government of Iraq. Next week, at the NATO Summit, we will discuss Iraqi Prime Minister Alawi's request for NATO help in training Iraq's security forces. NATO has the capability to help the Iraqi people defeat the terrorist threat

facing their country. As Iraq moves toward the transfer of sovereignty next week, NATO, the European Union, and the United States are united in our determination to help the people of that nation.

The world's free nations also have a responsibility to advance the blessings of liberty that have lifted our own nations. Earlier this month, the nations of the G-8 pledged their energies and resources to working in partnership with the peoples of the broader Middle East to advance human dignity, freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and economic opportunity. The United States, the European Union, and NATO are looking beyond the borders of Europe to support the momentum of freedom in the broader Middle East.

At these summits, we will seek to strengthen the security of our homelands from the threat of terror. We have taken steps to freeze and block terrorists' finances, make transportation safer, and improve information sharing. We will discuss ways to further improve transportation safety and border security. Travel between our nations is the lifeblood of our friendship, our economies, and our alliances, and that travel must be safe.

One important way to make the world safer is to make the world better. The United States and Europe share a fundamental interest in the health of the global economy. Our trade and investment relationship is the largest in the world. It creates millions of jobs on both sides of the Atlantic. Open trade has the power to lift nations out of poverty, so we will reaffirm our commitment to free and fair trade and the removal of obstacles to global economic growth.

We believe that freedom has the power to defeat poverty and hopelessness and ignorance. We believe the advance of freedom makes the world safer for all nations. And we believe that when free nations work together, freedom will always prevail.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:45 a.m. on June 25 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 26. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 25 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea; and Prime Minister Ayad al-Alawi of the Iraqi interim government. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

The President's News Conference With European Union Leaders in Shannon, Ireland

June 26, 2004

Prime Minister Ahern. Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to begin this press conference of the E.U.-U.S. Summit here in Dromoland by welcoming President Bush to Ireland for this important summit and thank him for coming to us and for the participation with President Romano Prodi and under the Irish Presidency.

Our meeting has not only been extremely productive, I think it's, for us, also been historic, because it's the first summit between the enlarged E.U. of 25 and the United States. And it's also the first since we succeeded in concluding the negotiations in the European constitution last weekend.

From the outset, the transatlantic relationship has been a core focus of our Presidency, and it is my steadfast belief that a close transatlantic partnership is essential for prosperity and for growth on both sides of the Atlantic as well as for the broader international community. And I'm pleased that this summit has reaffirmed the strength, the depth, and the significance of our relationship in the spirit of partnership.

The economic relationship between the European Union, United States has been a central focus of our discussions today. It's a relationship that generates 12 million jobs on both sides of the Atlantic. We agreed at joint declaration on strengthening our economic partnership, which includes a commitment to work for successful outcome of the World Trade Organization negotiations. And we also launched a comprehensive review to maximize investment and reduce barriers to trade

across the Atlantic. And the review will be concluded in time for the next summit this time next year.

We also focused on common challenges facing the European Union and the United States, including the pressing need to promote peace in the Middle East, on how we can best work together to support the people of Iraq as they start the process of building a sovereign, secure, and democratic country. We discussed and have issued joint declarations on Iraq as well as on counterterrorism, on nonproliferation, the fight against HIV and AIDS, Sudan, and partnership with the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

So the European Union and United States share, ladies and gentlemen, a common set of values based on the unshakeable commitment to democracy, to human rights, and the rule of law. And it's these shared values which make us enduring partners, a partnership that has been fundamental to the stability and prosperity of both Europe and America over the last 50 years.

And this summit has added significantly to our close relationship, and I thank the President, and I thank President Prodi for the good work that we've done today.

Mr. President.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. Thanks for your hospitality. Thanks for doing such a great job at the E.U. President Prodi as well, thanks for your welcome.

Taoiseach, we—Laura and I thank you for your hospitality. And we appreciate the people of this great country for welcoming us as well.

I want to thank the people who work at this beautiful resort for their warmth and their great service. It's a wonderful place. Not only is it beautiful, but the people who work here are really fine people.

I congratulate the nations of Europe on the enlargement of your Union at 25 members. With this historic achievement you are erasing the last traces of the Iron Curtain and creating a new beginning for the continent.

Tomorrow I will travel to Turkey for the NATO Summit—actually, today I will travel to Turkey. [*Laughter*] Tomorrow is the NATO Summit. Turkey is a proud nation that successfully blends a European identity with

the Islamic traditions. As Turkey meets the E.U. standards for membership, the European Union should begin talks that will lead to full membership for the Republic of Turkey.

Europe and America are linked by the ties of family, friendship, and common struggle and common values. We're also bound to each by common responsibilities. Because we met our responsibilities in the last century, we realized the vision of a continent that is whole, free, and at peace. As we meet our responsibilities in this new century, we will defeat the forces of terror and help to build a freer, safer, and more prosperous world.

The advance of freedom led to peace and prosperity in Europe, and it can do the same for the wider world. And so our Alliance is looking beyond the borders of Europe to support the momentum of freedom in the broader Middle East. The people of that region are eager for reform, and we are listening to their voices.

Earlier this month, the nations of the G-8, four of them members of this Union, pledged their energies and resources to working in partnership with the peoples of the broader Middle East to advance the universal values of human dignity, freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and economic opportunity.

A free and democratic Iraq is rising in the heart of the broader Middle East. We just concluded a constructive discussion on our common efforts to help the Iraqi people achieve the stability, prosperity, and democracy they seek. As Iraq moves toward the transfer of sovereignty next week, the E.U. and the United States are united in our determination to help the people of Iraq.

We also discussed the many actions our nations are taking to secure our homelands from the threat of terror. We took new steps to strengthen our efforts to freeze and block terrorist finances. And to make travel and transportation safer, we established new guidelines for sharing airline passenger records to improve the way we screen for terrorists while protecting the privacy of innocent travelers. We agreed to increase and improve the sharing of information and intelligence. We pledged to build on this progress by launching a new dialog on transportation

and border security. Travel between our nations is the lifeblood of our friendship, our economies, and our Alliance, and our travel system must not only be safe but efficient.

Earlier today, we also signed an agreement that ensures compatibility between America's Global Positioning System and its future European counterpart, Galileo. This agreement will protect our common security, improve the delivery of emergency services, and further our economic cooperation. This was a hard agreement to make, but because we worked together, we now have an agreement. The two systems will be compatible and interoperable. And users from business to science to government in America and Europe will benefit.

The U.S. and E.U. share a fundamental interest in the health of the global economy. Our trade and investment relationship is the largest in the world, one that creates millions of jobs on both sides of the Atlantic. Yet we're always exploring ways to make it stronger, and we did so in these meetings. Lowering trade barriers increases the prosperity of all our nations. And so we're looking at new ways to open markets on both sides of the Atlantic. Free and fair trade has the power to lift nations out of poverty. So we reaffirmed our commitment to the Doha Development Agenda, which seeks to remove obstacles to global trade and growth in the developing world.

As I said, tomorrow I'm going to go to Turkey for the NATO Summit. Today I'm going to Turkey—tomorrow is the summit. [*Laughter*] I look forward to working with our European Allies on many of the same issues we addressed here in Ireland. The unity of the Transatlantic Alliance in the face of new challenges and the advance of freedom in the world—that's what we're going to talk about.

NATO continues to transform itself to meet the new threats of the 21st century. The NATO mission in Afghanistan is helping the people of that country establish democracy after years of tyranny. And NATO has the capability—and I believe the responsibility—to help the Iraqi people defeat the terrorist threat that's facing their country. I look forward to discussing NATO's response to Prime Minister Alawi's request to help train Iraq's new security forces. Together, we

can forge a new relationship between NATO and the Iraqi people.

Taoiseach, this has been a very useful summit. I appreciate your leadership. I appreciate President Prodi's leadership as well. I look forward to working with the nations of the European Union to increase our common prosperity, to strengthen our common security, and to advance our common interest in the spread of liberty.

Thank you.

Prime Minister Ahern. Mr. President. President Prodi.

President Prodi. Thank you, George, and thank you, Bertie, for the success of this summit. This is, for me, the last summit in which I have taken part as the President of the Commission. And over the past 5 years, Europe has gone through an enormous transformation. We have helped to deliver the euro, and now the single currency is the currency of more than 300 million people.

We have negotiated and completed the biggest expansion in the history of the European project by bringing in 10 new countries. And together, with the skillful Irish Presidency, we have negotiated and completed the biggest step ahead in our institution, adopting a new European Constitution. As a consequence, this Union has become an important and political actor in the global scene.

And now, in discussion with President Bush, we, Prime Minister Ahern and myself, have today spoken in the name of more than 450 million Europeans. This is the new reality in Europe and the new reality in European Union-United States relations.

Everyone here knows how close the ties between Europe and U.S. are. We know as well that these ties are not based only on our historic, cultural, political links but on our rock solid economic partnership as well. I remind you only one figure, \$2 billion per day flow across the Atlantic—per day—in investment or trade. In this summit, our cooperation has broken new frontiers. The agreements on cooperation between our two global satellite navigation systems, Galileo and GPS, is a win-win situation. I am certain that the repercussion for the global market of civilian uses of satellite navigation systems are very positive. And this system will be-

come operational in 2008 and will create 150,000 jobs in Europe alone.

Galileo is also good example of how European Union, strengthened by the euro, the constitution, and the reunification of the continent, can and will play its full part as an international actor. Together, European Union and U.S. can meet the global, regional challenge as well as threats to our security. But—and I want to emphasize this strongly—we must work together as true partners and friends can do.

Prime Minister Ahern. Thank you, President Prodi.

Mr. President, do you want the first question?

President Bush. I have to?

Prime Minister Ahern. Yes. [Laughter] We rotate them.

President Bush. I didn't ask for an answer. I just thought, "Do I have to?" [Laughter]

AP.

NATO and Iraq

Q. Mr. President, today's statement talks about shared commitments in Iraq and support for training Iraqi security forces. Does that mean that NATO is going to shoulder a larger military role in Iraq and that the bitter differences over the war are over?

President Bush. Let me start with the latter half of that question. I think the bitter differences of the war are over. I think people—some people didn't agree with the decision that I made and others made as well, but we all agree that a democratic Iraq, a peaceful Iraq, an Iraq which is—has its territorial integrity intact is in the benefit of the—is in all our benefit. And so there is a common interest and a common goal to work together to help the Iraqi people realize the benefits of a free society.

Prime Minister * Alawi has written a letter to NATO asking for training and equipment. And I hope NATO responds in a positive way, because the ultimate success inside of Iraq is going to depend upon the ability of the Iraqi citizens to defend themselves.

* White House correction.

We'll be turning over full sovereignty on June the 30th. That means complete, full sovereignty. The Iraqi government will now make the decisions that are necessary to rebuild their country and to get to free elections. They have asked for our help, but they fully recognize what I've just described as necessary, that they have to have their forces, their police well-trained and well-prepared to meet the threat of the few who want to derail the ambitions of the many.

Q. Do you think NATO will take that step?

President Bush. Well, we'll find out tomorrow. That's why I'm traveling to Turkey today—[laughter]—to be——

Q. Mr. President——

President Bush. Which President?

Northern Ireland

Q. Number 43. [Laughter] Mr. President, your predecessor, Number 42, has, I understand, described Northern Ireland as the passion of his Presidency. Where does it sit on your list of priorities? And do you regard it as a model for the resolution of conflicts like the Middle East? Thank you.

President Bush. That's a great question. I do view it as a model for resolution of conflict, whether it be in the Middle East or elsewhere. And we view this issue as a very important issue in my administration and stand ready to help. There's a special envoy from our Government that is participating in the process. I have constantly asked the Prime Minister today whether or not the envoy is doing his job the way the Prime Minister thinks he ought to do the job, and the answer has been yes.

I'm fully aware that the Prime Minister of both Great Britain and Ireland are going to advance the process this early September. And we stand ready to help. I wish them all the best, because when this conflict is resolved, it will be an example for others that long-simmering disputes can be put behind them and free societies and peaceful societies can emerge for the interest of the peoples which have been involved in those disputes.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters]. Go ahead and yell it out. If I don't like the question I'll—[laughter]——

Abu Musab Al Zarqawi

Q. Thank you. Should America see the June 30th handover as the beginning of an exit strategy from Iraq? And how big a threat is Zarqawi to the new government?

President Bush. Yes, well, Zarqawi has been a threat to lot of people. He was such a threat that he was the person that ordered the killing of Mr. Foley, who worked for the USAID. He was an American citizen working for our Government, worked for Colin Powell. Zarqawi ordered him to be killed. He had been in and out of Baghdad, by the way. This is prior to the liberation of Iraq.

He is a problem because he's willing to kill people, innocent people, in order to shake our will and shake our confidence. In other words, he's willing to use death to stop the advance of freedom. He recruits suiciders, orders suiciders, and has them attack on a regular basis. Because he wants us to withdraw from Iraq, he wants Prime Minister Alawi to lose his will. He wants him to quit and surrender.

I spoke to the Prime Minister the other day. I believe he is a man of courage and backbone and a man who does believe in the aspirations of the Iraqi people. I believe he is one of the key ingredients to making sure that we move toward a free society.

In terms of exit strategies, listen, Steve, we will work to stand up an Iraqi security force and police force that is able to function, to work up a chain of command where the Iraqi police and security folks know that they're working for Iraqis, not for Americans. And we will stay as long as necessary, and then we will leave. We will complete the mission. And the faster the Iraqis take over their own security needs, the faster the mission will end.

Prime Minister Ahern. Charlie.

Iraq/Treatment of Prisoners

Q. *Taoiseach*, the President has said that the bitter differences over the war are over. This morning President McAleese paid a courtesy call on President Bush. She expressed a certain disquiet on behalf of the people of Ireland over some of the differences of what's happened in Iraq. Did you echo those sentiments? And if I could also put the same question to the President, how

did he respond to what President McAleese had to say?

Prime Minister Ahern. And the answer is, I did, Charlie, and not on the first occasion. When I had the opportunity of meeting the President on Saint Patrick's Day, as he kindly does every year for us, we raised these issues. We discussed these issues at the G-8 meeting. How prisoners have been dealt with in some of the—in one of the prisons, what has happened in some of the—from Afghanistan in Guantanamo, that's been an issue. The President has answered those. The President is concerned about his own troops and some of the issues that happened as much as I am or anybody else in this country, and we've discussed that issue.

And I think it is a great thing that—where we have such good relationships with the United States, where we have so much cooperation, where today we can clear eight declarations, but still we are all interested in progress, we're all interested in human rights and the dignity of the person—that we can raise these issues. That is a good thing, as far as I'm concerned. The President has given us comprehensive answers, which I think both the *Tánaiste* and Minister Cowen and myself were very glad to hear his perspective on this and want to admire it, because these things, unfortunately, happen. And of course, we wish they didn't, but they do. And what's important then is how they're dealt with, how things are improved for the future. And the questions were answered to—as far as we were concerned, to our satisfaction, and the progress for the future of what the President is doing is also impressive.

President Bush. Of course, the Prime Minister brought the issues of Iraq up, as did the President. And I told them both I was sick with what happened inside that prison, and so were the American citizens. The action of those troops did not reflect what we think, and it did harm. It did harm, because there are people in Ireland and elsewhere that said, "This isn't the America we know. This isn't the America that we believe exists." And both leaders, of course, brought the issue up, and they should. And I assured them that we'll deal with this in a transparent way—which stands in stark contrast to how a tyrant would deal with it. Had these

abuses—well, these abuses did take place in Iraq prior to our arrival. There were rape rooms, mass graves. I don't remember any international investigation of what took place in Iraq. You'll—we are investigating, and you'll be able to see exactly what takes place, and you'll be able to see the legal process that unfolds.

And in terms of the decision to go to war, I can understand why people were disquieted about that. Nobody likes war. But remember—let me take a step back and remind you about what happened: There was that resolution out of the United Nations called 1441. It was voted on unanimously, where the world said, "Disclose, disarm, or face serious consequences." That's what the world said. And Saddam Hussein deceived. He didn't allow the inspectors to do their job. And so we had an issue—either you say something and mean it, or you don't. I happen to believe when you say something, you better mean it. And so with other nations, we acted.

And now the task is to see to it that Iraq becomes a free country where people are able to realize their dreams. Free countries are peaceful countries. And the best way to defeat terror as a tool to promote a sick ideology is to promote freedom around the world. And that's one of the key initiatives that we discussed today, which is the initiative to promote democracy and stand with the reformers of the broader Middle East.

Hutch [Ron Hutcheson, Knight Ridder].

Irish Public Opinion

Q. Thank you. Mr. President, you don't appear to be a very popular fellow here in Europe. Do you have any explanation for your poor poll standings? And is that something that should concern Americans?

President Bush. Well, Hutch, I must confess that the first polls I worry about are those that are going to take place in early November of this year. I—listen, I care about the image of our country. We've got a country that—we've just got 2½ trillion dollars worth of trade or \$2.2 trillion worth of trade with the EU. Obviously, something positive is happening.

I don't like it when the values of our country are misunderstood because of the actions of some people overseas. As far as my own

personal standing goes, Hutch, my job is to do my job. I'm going to do it the way I think is necessary. I'm going to set a vision. I will lead, and we'll just let the chips fall where they may.

Prime Minister Ahern. Romano.

President Prodi. Somebody in the back—nobody in the back.

President Bush. You look like a nice fellow. I don't know why they don't call on you. [Laughter]

Successor to President Prodi

Q. *Taoiseach*, could I ask you to confirm that the Portuguese Prime Minister Barrosa has emerged as the likely successor to Mr. Prodi, and if you'll be proposing his name next Tuesday night as you're meeting with the foreign ministers?

Prime Minister Ahern. When I go back to Dublin this evening, I have to talk to still about half of my colleagues, which I hope to do that between about 5 o'clock and 9 o'clock tonight. I also have to talk to Jose Manuel Barrosa, the present Prime Minister of Portugal. But we do hope, sincerely hope, that I would be in a position to both have the meeting and to make a recommendation and get a positive decision on Tuesday evening.

President Bush. Thanks, *Taoiseach*. We've got to go to Turkey.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 2:14 p.m. at Dromoland Castle. The President met with Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland, in his capacity as President of the European Council, and President Romano Prodi of the European Commission. In his remarks, President Bush referred to Prime Minister Ayad al-Alawi of the Iraqi interim government; U.S. Special Envoy for Northern Ireland Mitchell B. Reiss; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and President Mary McAleese of Ireland. Prime Minister Ahern referred to Deputy Prime Minister Mary Harney and Minister of Foreign Affairs Brian Cowen of Ireland.

Statement on United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

June 26, 2004

Today, on United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, the United States reaffirms its commitment to the worldwide elimination of torture. The nonnegotiable demands of human dignity must be protected without reference to race, gender, creed, or nationality. Freedom from torture is an inalienable human right, and we are committed to building a world where human rights are respected and protected by the rule of law.

To help fulfill this commitment, the United States has joined 135 other nations in ratifying the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. America stands against and will not tolerate torture. We will investigate and prosecute all acts of torture and undertake to prevent other cruel and unusual punishment in all territory under our jurisdiction. American personnel are required to comply with all U.S. laws, including the United States Constitution, Federal statutes, including statutes prohibiting torture, and our treaty obligations with respect to the treatment of all detainees.

The United States also remains steadfastly committed to upholding the Geneva Conventions, which have been the bedrock of protection in armed conflict for more than 50 years. These conventions provide important protections designed to reduce human suffering in armed conflict. We expect other nations to treat our service members and civilians in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. Our Armed Forces are committed to complying with them and to holding accountable those in our military who do not.

The American people were horrified by the abuse of detainees at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. These acts were wrong. They were inconsistent with our policies and our values as a Nation. I have directed a full accounting for the abuse of the Abu Ghraib detainees, and investigations are underway to review detention operations in Iraq and elsewhere.

It is often American men and women in uniform who fight for the freedom of others

from tyrannical regimes that routinely use torture to oppress their citizens. From Nazi Germany to Bosnia and Afghanistan to Iraq, American service members have fought to remove brutal leaders who torture and massacre. It is the American people and their contributions that have helped to rebuild these traumatized nations to give former victims hope.

A little over a year ago, American service members and our coalition partners freed the Iraqi people from a dictatorship that routinely tortured and executed innocent citizens because of what they believed in or what ethnic or religious group they came from. In torture chambers, innocent Iraqis were brutalized and the bodies of the dead left in mass graves. Throughout the past year, Americans have assisted the Iraqi people in establishing institutions to ensure accountability so that such acts do not occur again and to help victims recover.

Despite international efforts to protect human rights around the world, repressive regimes continue to victimize people through torture. The victims often feel forgotten, but we will not forget them. America supports accountability and treatment centers for torture victims. We contribute to the U.N. Fund for the Victims of Torture and support the work of nongovernmental organizations to end torture and assist the victims. We also provide protection, counseling, and where necessary and possible, relocation in the United States. We stand with the victims to seek their healing and recovery and urge all nations to join us in these efforts to restore the dignity of every person affected by torture.

These times of increasing terror challenge the world. Terror organizations challenge our comfort and our principles. The United States will continue to take seriously the need to question terrorists who have information that can save lives. But we will not compromise the rule of law or the values and principles that make us strong. Torture is wrong no matter where it occurs, and the United States will continue to lead the fight to eliminate it everywhere.

Proclamation 7799—National HIV Testing Day, 2004

June 26, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Every day, 8,000 lives are lost in the global AIDS pandemic. In our country, nearly 1 million people are infected with HIV, and approximately 40,000 more contract it each year. National HIV Testing Day is an opportunity for Americans to increase their awareness of this terrible disease and to get tested for HIV/AIDS. By working together to end this pandemic, our Nation's citizens contribute to a brighter future for themselves and for people around the world.

New drugs and new treatments are bringing hope and enhancing the quality of life for those who are affected by HIV/AIDS. However, these advances can only help individuals if they know their HIV status. The National HIV Testing Day theme, "It's better to know," highlights the importance of education in helping people make healthy decisions about preventing and treating HIV/AIDS. Approximately one-quarter of people who are HIV positive do not know that they are carriers. Without knowing their status, they cannot get the treatment they need and may unknowingly spread new infections. Today, testing is easier than ever. It is imperative that those at risk for HIV/AIDS get tested.

To reach out to HIV/AIDS sufferers in need, I recently announced \$20 million in immediate new funding to deliver lifesaving drugs to Americans who are awaiting them. I have proposed in my 2005 budget to spend more than \$17 billion here at home to expand prevention efforts such as regular testing and abstinence education, care and treatment, and research efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. In addition, this budget proposal doubles funding for abstinence-only programs, because abstinence is the only sure way to avoid sexually transmitted diseases. My Administration is working through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advancing HIV Prevention initiative to encourage routine testing as a normal part of health care.

At-risk individuals who make the decision to get tested are taking a step toward saving their own lives and the lives of others.

My Administration is also fully engaged in the global fight against HIV/AIDS. I have proposed a record \$15 billion over 5 years to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS around the world, with a focus on some of the hardest-hit countries of Africa, the Caribbean, and Asia. This money will be used to prevent 7 million new infections, treat 2 million HIV-infected people with life-extending drugs, and care for 10 million individuals impacted by this disease, including orphans.

And, working with international partners, we will support intensified research to create a vaccine and find a cure. While AIDS remains a source of great suffering for many individuals, worldwide efforts are bringing us closer to the day when AIDS will be defeated.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 27, 2004, as National HIV Testing Day. I encourage the American people to support the battle against HIV/AIDS. I also urge those at risk to get tested for the disease and to learn more about how to end this health threat in America and around the world.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 29, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 30.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey in Ankara, Turkey

June 27, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. You're right, this is my first trip to your beautiful

country as President. It also happens to be my first trip to your beautiful country ever, and we're honored to be here. We appreciate the hospitality of the Turkish people.

We look forward to meaningful discussions on a variety of subjects, bilateral relations, how we can strengthen NATO. I would remind the people of this good country that I believe you ought to be given a date by the E.U. for your eventual acceptance into the E.U. I also look forward to working with you on matters regarding the neighborhood, Iraq and elsewhere. I appreciate so very much the example your country has set on how to be a Muslim country and, at the same time, a country which embraces democracy and rule of law and freedom.

And so I'm so grateful for your invitation. Thank you very much for it, and I look forward to a fruitful discussion with you and with our NATO partners.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 9:40 a.m. at the Prime Minister's residence. Prior to the President's remarks, Prime Minister Erdogan spoke in Turkish, and no translation was provided. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With Religious Leaders in Istanbul, Turkey

June 27, 2004

All right. It has been my honor to welcome these very important leaders of different faiths to this dialog. They represent the very best of Turkey, which is a country that is secular in politics and strong in its faith. And we've had a wonderful discussion. I'm so honored that these leaders would take time and share their thoughts with me. And I welcome them, and I thank them for being so faithful to the Almighty God.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:55 p.m. at the Hilton Istanbul. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With Secretary General Jakob Gijssbert de Hoop Scheffer of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and an Exchange With Reporters in Istanbul

June 27, 2004

President Bush. This man is doing a great job, and we're proud to call him friend. He believes in freedom and peace. And I really appreciate what you've done, sir.

Secretary General de Hoop Scheffer. Thank you. It's a challenge, but NATO is worth it.

President Bush. It is worth it.

Secretary General de Hoop Scheffer. NATO is worth it, and the transatlantic relationship is worth it, more than just in words but all in deeds.

President Bush. Right. I was hoping to change the mission of NATO so it meets the threats of the 21st century, and we're going to work together to help make sure NATO is configured militarily to meet the threats of the 21st century as well. But you're the right man for the job, and we're honored you took it. I really appreciate working with you.

Secretary General de Hoop Scheffer. We're defending values, and values never come out. And I think they should be defended every single day and every single hour. We see examples of that everywhere around that NATO is—it's about values, has always been about values, and it's still about values. But Turkey has changed. We have terrorism everywhere. There's fights everywhere, be it here in this city, be it in New York, Uzbekistan, Mombasa, Yemen, you name it. This Alliance has to participate in fighting it first and winning it.

President Bush. Thank you.

Kidnaping of Turks

Q. Does the kidnaping of the Turks cast a pall over this meeting?

[President Bush responded to the question by shaking his head to indicate no.]

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:04 p.m. at the Hilton Istanbul. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom in Istanbul

June 28, 2004

Transfer of Sovereignty in Iraq

President Bush. Good afternoon. Earlier today, 15 months after the liberation of Iraq, and 2 days ahead of schedule, the world witnessed the arrival of a free and sovereign Iraqi Government. Iraqi officials informed us that they are ready to assume power, and Prime Minister Alawi believes that making this transition now is best for his country. After decades of brutal rule by a terror regime, the Iraqi people have their country back.

This is a day of great hope for Iraqis and a day that terrorist enemies hoped never to see. The terrorists are doing all they can to stop the rise of a free Iraq. But their bombs and attacks have not prevented Iraqi sovereignty, and they will not prevent Iraqi democracy. Iraqi sovereignty is a tribute to the will of the Iraqi people and the courage of Iraqi leaders.

This day also marks a proud moral achievement for members of our coalition. We pledged to end a dangerous regime, to free the oppressed, and to restore sovereignty. We have kept our word.

Fifteen months ago, Saddam's regime was an enemy of America and the civilized world. Today Iraq's Government is an ally of both. Fifteen months ago, Iraq was a state sponsor of terrorism. Today Iraq's leaders, with our support, are systematically fighting terrorists across their country. Fifteen months ago, we faced the threat of a dictator with a history of using weapons of mass destruction. Today the dictator is a threat to no one, from the cell he now occupies. Fifteen months ago, the regime in Baghdad was the most aggressive in the Middle East and a constant source of fear and alarm for Iraq's neighbors. Today Iraq threatens no other country, and its democratic progress will be an example to the broader Middle East. Fifteen months ago, Iraq was ruled by a regime that brutalized and tortured its own people, murdered hundreds of thousands, and buried them in mass graves. Today Iraqis live under a Government that strives for justice, upholds the

rule of law, and defends the dignity of every citizen.

Iraq today still has many challenges to overcome. We recognize that. But it is a world away from the tormented, exhausted, and isolated country we found last year. Now the transfer of sovereignty begins a new phase in Iraq's progress toward full democracy. Together with the Iraqi Government, we're moving forward on every element of our five-part plan for Iraqi self-government.

Iraq's Interim Government has gained broad international support and has been endorsed by the U.N. Security Council. The United States and our coalition partners are helping prepare Iraqis for the defense of their own country, and we appreciate NATO's decision to approve Prime Minister Alawi's request for assistance in training Iraqi security forces—in training the Iraqi security forces. We're helping Iraqis rebuild their country's infrastructure, and Iraq will move—continue moving toward free elections, with important assistance from the United Nations.

All this progress is being attacked by foreign terrorists and by thugs from the fallen regime. The terrorists know they face defeat unless they break the spirit and commitment of the civilized world. The civilized world will not be frightened or intimidated. And Iraq's new leaders have made their position clear: Prime Minister Alawi recently said that "The insurgents are trying to destroy our country, and we're not going to allow this."

The struggle is, first and foremost, an Iraqi struggle. The Prime Minister said of his people, "We're prepared to fight and, if necessary, die for these objectives." America, Great Britain, our coalition respect that spirit, and the Iraqi people will not stand alone.

The United States military and our coalition partners have made a clear, specific, and continuing mission in Iraq. As we train Iraqi security forces, we'll help those forces to find and destroy the killers. We'll protect infrastructure from the attacks. We'll provide security for the upcoming elections. Operating in a sovereign nation, our military will act in close consultation with the Iraqi Government. Yet coalition forces will remain under coalition command. Iraq's Prime Minister and President have told me that their goal

is to eventually take full responsibility for the security of their country, and America wants Iraqi forces to take that role. Our military will stay as long as the stability of Iraq requires and only as long as their presence is needed and requested by the Iraqi Government.

Today, at the moment sovereignty was transferred, the mission of the Coalition Provisional Authority came to an end. Ambassador Jerry Bremer has been tireless and dedicated, and he returns home with the thanks of his country. Thousands of American civilians have labored for progress in Iraq under difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions. They also have our gratitude.

From the first hours of Operation Iraqi Freedom and to this very hour, in their battles against the terrorists, America's men and women in uniform have been unrelenting in the performance of their duty. They've had staunch allies, like Great Britain, at their side. We asked a lot of our military, and there's still much hard work ahead. We're grateful for the sacrifice of all who've served. We honor the memory of all who've died. The courage of our military has brought us to this hopeful day, and the continued service of our military assures the success of our cause.

In Iraq, we're serving the cause of liberty, and liberty is always worth fighting for. In Iraq, we're serving the cause of peace by promoting progress and hope in the Middle East as the alternative to stagnation and hatred and violence for export. In Iraq, we're serving the cause of our own security, striking the terrorists where we find them, instead of waiting for them to strike us at home.

For all these reasons, we accepted a difficult task in Iraq, and for all these reasons, we will finish that task.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Blair. Thank you, Mr. President.

Today is, obviously, an important staging post on the journey of the people of Iraq towards a new future, one in which democracy replaces dictatorship, in which freedom replaces repression, and of which all the people of Iraq can look forward to the possibility

and the hope of an Iraq that genuinely guarantees a future for people from whatever part of Iraq they come.

I think it's just worth reflecting for a moment on what we now have before us, because today, of course, is extremely important. It's the transfer of real and full sovereignty to the people and the Government of Iraq. From now on, the coalition changes. We are there in support of the Iraqi Government and the Iraqi people.

And what you have very clearly, therefore, is on one side you have the Iraqi Government, the Iraqi people, the international community that has now spoken through the United Nations, who want a free, stable, pluralist, democratic Iraq. And on the other hand you have some of the former Saddam supporters; you have outside terrorists; you have fanatics and extremists of one sort or another who want to stop the possibility of that new Iraq happening.

And of course, it's going to carry on being difficult and dangerous. There was the tragic loss of a British soldier today, and many American servicemen have died. Many Iraqi civilians have died. Many of those who are joining up to the new Iraqi security services have died, have given their lives. But they've all given their lives in the cause of trying to provide a different and better future for the people of Iraq.

And I think what is interesting about this situation is that for those people who are there in Iraq causing this death and destruction, they have a very, very clear and simple objective. And the objective is not just to destabilize Iraq, to produce chaos, to produce bloodshed, to try and prevent democracy. The strategy of these terrorists is to try and prevent Iraq becoming a symbol of hope not just for the Iraqi people but, actually, for that region and the wider world.

And that is why, in a very real sense, because Al Qaida and other terrorist groups are actually there in Iraq now, what is happening in Iraq, the battle in Iraq, the battle for Iraq and its future, if you like, is, in a genuine sense, the frontline of the battle against terrorism and the new security threat that we face.

And that security threat is what has dominated our discussion here at the NATO Sum-

mit. And that security threat, which is about this new and poisonous and evil form of extremism linked to a perversion of the true faith of Islam and repressive, unstable states that proliferate in and deal in chemical, biological, nuclear weapons—that security threat is the threat of our times.

And the reason why it is so important that NATO fulfills its functions in respect of Afghanistan and Iraq is that in both those countries, the same struggle for democracy and freedom is going on. And you can see in Afghanistan—yes, of course, there are still tremendous difficulties—but 2½ million refugees have returned there; girls are now allowed to go to school—several million of them at school were banned from school under the Taliban; economic growth rates of 30 percent last year, 20 percent this year.

What is the struggle? The struggle in Afghanistan is the struggle between the majority of Afghans, 4 million of whom have already registered to vote, against Taliban elements, Al Qaida elements, people who want to drag the country backwards, who want to turn it back into a failed and repressive state.

And so that's why it's right for NATO to step up to the mark today and say, "We are going to extend the role of the security force." It's quite right for us to say, as the U.K., "We will make a contribution in putting the ARRC force forward in 2006 to allow NATO to continue with its responsibilities." It's why it's right for us to look at the measures we need urgently in order to give the protection for the Afghans as they approach their September election date.

And in respect to Iraq, exactly the same issues arise. As I say, there again—you have people trying to get towards freedom and democracy and people trying to stop them. And so our job's got to be, again as an international community, to give them help. And that's why it's important that NATO helps with the training of the Iraqi security forces.

And everybody knows that ultimately we can be there in support, but as the Iraqis themselves will tell you, they know that ultimately their task, their responsibility is to make their country safe. And they want us to help. So that's what we're going to do, help with the training and equipping of the Iraqi security forces.

Just one final point I want to make. I thought we had an interesting set of discussions this morning and at lunch today. But there was a very powerful speech that was made by the President of Latvia at our lunch today when we were discussing the question of what NATO should do to help Afghanistan and Iraq. And I think it's sometimes a very useful reminder for some of the newest democracies in our world to tell us, from a standpoint of immense moral force, just what democracy means to people who have faced repression for so many years. And she made a very powerful intervention that reminded us and reminded me, certainly, again, of what it is we are here to do. We know the security threat we face. We know the ultimate answer to it is not just force of arms and security measures; it is ultimately the values of democracy and freedom and justice and the rule of law. And that's what we're trying to do.

And for NATO, after the end of the cold war, after all the changes that have happened, I think it has its role today. It is to support that process of transition and change, the world over, because ultimately our best guarantee of security lies in the values that are not values that are American or British or Western values but the values of humanity.

Thank you.

President Bush. We'll answer a couple of questions. Dick [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News], you got a question?

Q. I do, Mr. President.

President Bush. Why don't you ask it?

Possibility of Martial Law in Iraq

Q. Mr. President, Iraq's new Prime Minister has talked in recent days about the possibility of imposing martial law there as a way of restoring security. Is that something that you think a new, emerging Government should do, and particularly with the use of U.S. forces, who would have to be instrumental in doing it?

President Bush. You know, Prime Minister Alawi has fought tyranny. He's a guy that stood up to Saddam Hussein. He's a patriot, and every conversation I've had with him has been one that recognizes human liberty, human rights. I mean, he's a man who

is willing to risk his life for a democratic future for Iraq.

Having said that, he may take tough security measures to deal with Zarqawi, but he may have to. Zarqawi is the guy who beheads people on TV. He's the person that orders suiciders to kill women and children. And so Prime Minister Alawi, as the head of a sovereign Government, may decide he's going to have to take some tough measures to deal with a brutal, coldblooded killer. And our job is to help the Iraqis stand up forces that are able to deal with these thugs.

I mean, it's tough; there's no question about it. Look, they can't whip our militaries. They can't whip our militaries. What they can do is get on your TV screens and stand in front of your TV cameras and cut somebody's head off, in order to try to cause us to cringe and retreat. That's their strongest weapon. And we just—as Prime Minister Alawi has said publicly many times, he will not cover in the face of such brutal murder, and neither will we—neither will we.

Prime Minister Blair. I think you've got to distinguish very carefully between two separate things. The first is, undoubtedly, the new Iraqi Government will want to take tough security measures. They have to. They've got a situation where they've got these terrorists who are prepared to kill any number of innocent people. And remember, the innocent Iraqis who are dying in Iraq today are dying because of these terrorist acts.

On the other hand, I know perfectly well from the discussions I've had not just with the Prime Minister but with the other Iraqi ministers, their purpose is to take tough security measures but in order to guarantee freedom for people, not to take it away. So they're not going to be wanting to introduce martial law that takes away the basic freedoms of the people. On the contrary, they will be wanting to take tough security measures, and we will want to help train their forces able to guard and get after the people doing this killing. But it's not going to be about taking away people's freedoms. It's going to be about allowing those freedoms to happen.

Andy.

***Iraqi Government Action Against Terror/
Germany and France***

Q. Andrew Martin, BBC. Could I ask both leaders, following on from that, do we, in some sense, then give the new Iraqi administration carte blanche to go after these people? The Iraqi Defense Minister was talking this morning about hunting down and eliminating the insurgents. And if I could also just ask, do you now regard Germany and, in particular, France as shoulder to shoulder alongside you, after the difficult times you've had with them over the past 18 months?

Prime Minister Blair. On the first point, I don't think there's any question of the Iraqis—no Iraqi minister has said this to me, of wanting to hunt people down, in the sense of kill people without a proper trial and end up taking away people's basic liberties. They don't want that at all. But you've got to understand what they're faced with there. They're faced with a group of people who will kill any number of people and who will do the most terrible acts of barbarity. And why—in order to stop them getting a democratic and stable country.

As I keep saying to people, there are lots of things that we thought might happen as a result of the conflict in Iraq. I mean, we were confident of military victory. But there were lots of things that we thought might happen. We thought there might be a humanitarian crisis, and we made a lot of provisions for that. We thought that maybe—and we were told this by many people, many so-called experts who said, "Well, the Iraqis, they'll want a theological state. They won't want a proper democracy." These issues have actually either been dealt with or resolved themselves.

What we've got is a very simple problem to describe and a complicated problem to overcome. We have groups of terrorists and insurgents who will use suicide bombs, who do not care in the least about killing innocent people, who will do whatever it takes to stop the country functioning properly.

Now, in those circumstances, I don't blame at all the Iraqi ministers—any of us would be doing this, as politicians in the same situation—of wanting to get after those people and hunt them down. But they're not getting after them and hunting them down in

defiance of basic freedoms but in order to help basic freedoms. And so I don't think we should set this new thing away that somehow the new Iraqi Government wants to—somehow wants to put aside democracy and freedom and all the rest of it. The reason they're trying to stop the terrorists is so that democracy and freedom can flourish in Iraq.

Secondly, in relation to France and Germany, look, I mean, there's no point in thinking—we haven't overcome the disagreement there was about whether the conflict was justified. I mean, there's no point in us standing here and saying, "All the previous disagreements have disappeared." They haven't. On the other hand, what is important is you've got a United Nations resolution that has blessed the new Government in Iraq, and you've got a situation in which we have accepted today that there is a good and sound NATO role, which is actually the only role we ever sought for NATO, of training and helping to train the Iraqis so that they can do their own security work, which is the request that they have made to us. And in that sense, I think the international community has come together, and I welcome it.

President Bush. Yes, my sense is, is that there's a hope that we succeed with all the nations sitting around the table. Everybody understands the stakes. And the stakes are high, particularly for those of us who recognize that the long-term defeat of terror will happen when freedom takes hold in the broader Middle East. It's a long-term solution.

And if you really think about what's happened since September the 11th, there's been some amazing progress. Pakistan has now joined the battle against Al Qaida. President Musharraf has made a concerted decision to go after Al Qaida, which hides in remote regions of his country on the Afghanistan border. Libya has declared and produced its weapons programs that we're now destroying. You know, Turkey is solid. There's a solid democracy here in the broader Middle East which is a great example.

Afghanistan, which was a terrorist haven—this is where the terrorists plotted and trained to come and kill, not only in America but elsewhere—is now heading toward elections. Who ever thought Afghanistan was

going to have elections? Three years ago you said, “Gosh, you think Afghanistan is going to have elections,” I probably would have said, “No.” And so is Iraq—Iraq is headed towards elections too. It’s substantial change in a quick period of time. And I think everybody sitting around the table is hopeful that democracy will serve as an agent of change in this part of the world.

In terms of hunting them down, look, I think the Iraqis understand what we know, that the best way to defend yourself is to go on the offense and find the killers before they kill. I presume that’s what he was saying; I haven’t asked him his language. I have sometimes used that language myself. And I’ve used it because my most solemn duty is to defend my country, is to defend it from people that obviously are willing to kill innocent life just like that. And my position is, is the best way to defend yourself is to find the few, the few—and I believe that’s what he’s saying—that we’re going to find those few before they continue to bomb whoever happens to be in their way. And we’ll support him. We’ll help him.

Let’s see—Jim [Jim Angle, FOX News].

Opposition to Coalition Action in Iraq

Q. We were reminded by the anniversary of D-day that 60 years ago it took an massive invasion to end the occupation of France and other European nations. Now, in Iraq, the coalition has gladly and willingly returned sovereignty to the Iraqis. And I wonder, is there any sign that this has changed the views of your more skeptical NATO brethren, any evidence that the critics are now persuaded to the view that you both argued, that it was, in fact, a liberation? Or at this point, does it matter to each of you what the critics say?

President Bush. Yes, it matters to me what you say. I mean, it matters to me what—[laughter]—sorry. [Laughter] Just a little humor. [Laughter] Yes, it matters. It matters because it is important for nations that are blessed by freedom to come together to help nations that are struggling to be free, and that’s why it matters. The more people participating in the process, the better off it is. The more reconstruction there is, the more people willing to help with the education of children, the more people willing

to help rebuild hospitals, the more people willing to help to rebuild this destroyed infrastructure, infrastructure destroyed by the Taliban or by Saddam Hussein, the better off the world will be.

And so, yes, the more people who say this is worthwhile, the more likely it is 50 million people are going to realize the blessings that we have, and the world will be better off for it.

And the examples of free societies in their neighborhoods are going to make a huge difference in the lives of others. Listen, there are people inside of Iran who are watching what’s happening, young, vibrant, professional people who want to be free, and they’re wondering whether or not they’ll have that opportunity. And I think a free Iraq and a free Afghanistan are going to set such a vibrant, bright example for others.

And so, yes, it matters. And I think people are beginning to see that we were, in fact, liberators and that we’re not only going to liberate, we’ll follow through, no matter how tough it gets on the ground.

Prime Minister Blair. I think, speaking as someone with a largely uncritical media—[laughter]—I think that, sure—I’m not sure that we will have persuaded all our critics, no. But I think that—I think it’s just worth emphasizing the degree to which our own strategy has evolved, post-September the 11th. Sometimes people talk about this issue to do with international terrorism today as if somehow it was because of what we have done in Afghanistan or Iraq that this terrorist threat exists. This terrorist threat was building up there for a long time. September the 11th did—and should have—changed our thinking. And the way our strategy has evolved is that I think we know now that it is important not simply to go in and get after the Taliban in Afghanistan but also to say, “No, we’re going to do something else. We’re also going to give that country democracy and freedom, because that is actually part of the battle against terrorism as well.”

And that’s why it’s important to see this as a whole picture. The fact is, if Iraq becomes a stable and democratic country—and I’m not underestimating for a single instant the difficulties in doing that, incidentally—

but if it does, that is a huge blow to the propaganda and to the effort of the extremists. That's, in fact, why sometimes I think they have a clearer idea of how important it is to stop us than sometimes the Western world has of why it's so important that we get there with Iraq and with the Iraqi people.

And so the Greater Middle East Initiative and the idea of spreading democracy there, resolving the Israeli-Palestinian issue on the basis of two states, both democratic states—because what we want for the Palestinians is not just their own state; we want a democratic state for them, where they have proper freedoms as well.

So I think that you can see this as part of an evolving strategy, where we realize we've got to be prepared to take tough security measures and tough action where necessary, but we know that that is not all that it's about. It's also about trying to show that there is a value system there that isn't related to any religion or one religion, one civilization. It's about these basic values of humanity that, wherever they're implemented and tried, you get greater security, because basically democracies—well, they have to fight sometimes when they have to defend themselves, but they don't have the same aggressive intent that these unstable or extreme or fanatical regimes do.

So part of what we're trying to do—and yes, it's tough at the moment, and of course, you get into a situation where people will fight us very hard. That's in the nature of any of these struggles that you undertake, but our honest belief is the world will be a safer place if we're able to make this work. And I don't know whether we've convinced people of this or not, but I do think—the one thing that interests me is occasionally when people who opposed our action in Iraq will say, “The really important thing now is to get those democratic elections.” And I think that's fantastic, but let's be clear: We wouldn't be talking about democratic elections in Iraq if Saddam was still there.

Timing of Transfer of Sovereignty in Iraq

Q. A question for both of you. How do you counter the impression you've created today that you couldn't hand over the burden of Iraq quickly enough and the way that it

was done is proof, is a symbol, if you like, of a shambles in Iraq?

Prime Minister Blair. It's a little bit tough there, Bill—I mean, you know—[laughter].

President Bush. Well, let me try it then. You know that last Friday we handed over the final ministry to the Iraqi interim government. In other words, we have been making a transfer of sovereignty all along. And the—actually, we've been contemplating this move for a while. But the final decision was by Prime Minister Alawi, and he thought it would strengthen his hand. And so that's why the handover took place today, as opposed to 48 hours later. And so, not only is there full sovereignty in the hands of the Government, but all the ministries have been transferred, and they're up and running.

I supported the decision. I thought it was a smart thing to do, primarily because the Prime Minister was ready for it. And it's a sign of confidence. It's a sign that we're ready to go, and it's a proud moment—it really is—for the Iraqi people. And frankly, I feel comfortable in making the decision, because I feel comfortable about Prime Minister Alawi and President al-Yawr. These are strong people. They're gutsy. They're courageous. They're, as we say in Texas, standup guys. You know, they'll lead. They'll lead their people to a better day. And it's going to be very hard for them and very trying, but they just—they and the Iraqi people need to hear, loud and clear, they'll have our friendship and our support, no matter how tough it gets.

Prime Minister Blair. I think it's worth just pointing out as well—I agree, obviously, with what's just been said, but I think you've got somewhere in the region of, is it 10 or 11 ministries that are already effectively run by the Iraqis themselves. I mean, their health and education ministries are already run by Iraqis. But it's a sign of their confidence and their desire to get on with it. They want to do it. They know that in the end, they've got to do it. They want that responsibility.

And I think one of the exciting things about the last few weeks is that the Iraqi people, in a sense, through their Prime Minister and President, have indicated, “We want the responsibility.” Now, we then stay and support, however, and we're not walking out of

this at all. We stay and support them, and we'll stay for as long as it takes to make sure that that support is there for them, so that we help them to that freedom and democracy they want to see. And it's a—I think that, in a way, the relationship between us and the Iraqi Government has been—it's a healthier, better relationship now that there's this transfer of sovereignty there, and where they really want the responsibility of running their own country. But they know the practical fact is, for the moment, until their own security forces are built up properly, they need our support, and they have our support.

President Bush. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 4:55 p.m. at the Hilton Istanbul. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ayad al-Alawi and President Ghazi al-Ujayl al-Yawr of Iraq; L. Paul Bremer III, former Presidential Envoy to Iraq; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; and President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan. Prime Minister Blair referred to President Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia. A reporter referred to Minister of Defense Hazim Qutran al-Khuzai al-Shalan of Iraq.

Remarks at Galatasaray University in Istanbul

June 29, 2004

Thank you all very much. Distinguished guests, the rector of this fine university, ladies and gentlemen: Laura and I are grateful for the warm and gracious hospitality we have received these past 3 days in the Republic of Turkey. I am honored to visit this beautiful country where two continents meet, a nation that upholds great tradition and faces the future with confidence. America is honored to call Turkey an Ally and a friend.

Many Americans trace their heritage to Turkey, and Turks have contributed greatly to our national life, including, most recently, a lot of baskets for the Detroit Pistons from Mehmet Okur. I know you're proud of this son of your country, and there's a lot of people in Detroit really grateful for his talents.

I'm grateful to my friend the Prime Minister for his leadership and his hospitality. I also want to thank my friend the President, President Sezer, for his hospitality. These

men and your country have hosted members of NATO in an historic time in our Alliance. For most of its history, NATO existed to deter aggression from a powerful army at the heart of Europe. In this century, NATO looks outward to new threats that gather in secret and bring sudden violence to peaceful cities. We face terrorist networks that rejoice when parents bury their murdered children or rejoice when bound men plead for mercy. We face outlaw regimes that give aid and shelter to these killers and seek weapons of mass murder. We face the challenges of corruption and poverty and disease, which throw whole nations into chaos and despair. These are the conditions in which terrorism can survive.

Some on both sides of the Atlantic have questioned whether the NATO Alliance still has a great purpose. To find that purpose, they only need to open their eyes. The dangers are in plain sight. The only question is whether we will confront them or look away and pay a terrible cost.

Over the last few years, NATO has made its decision. Our Alliance is restructuring to oppose threat that arise beyond the borders of Europe. NATO is providing security in Afghanistan. NATO has agreed to help train the security forces of a sovereign Iraq, which is a great advantage and crucial success for the Iraqi people. And in Istanbul, we have dedicated ourselves to the advance of reform in the broader Middle East, because all people deserve a just government and because terror is not the tool of the free. Through decades of the cold war, our great Alliance of liberty never failed in its duties, and we are rising to our duties once again.

The Turkish people understand the terrorists, because you have seen their work, even in the last weeks. You've heard the sirens and witnessed the carnage and mourned the dead. After the murders of Muslims and Christians and Jews in Istanbul last November, a resident of this city said of the terrorists, "They don't have any religion. They are friends of evil." In one of the attacks, a Muslim woman lost her son Ahmet, her daughter-in-law Berta, and her unborn grandchild. This is what she said: "Today I am saying goodbye to my son. Tomorrow I'm saying farewell to my Berta. I don't know what the

killers wanted from my kids. Were they jealous of their happiness?”

The Turkish people have grieved, but your nation is showing how terrorist violence will be overcome, with courage and with a firm resolve to defend your just and tolerant society. This land has always been important for its geography, here at the meeting place of Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Now Turkey has assumed even greater historical importance because of your character as a nation. Turkey is a strong, secular democracy, a majority Muslim society, and a close ally of free nations. Your country, with 150 years of democratic and social reform, stands as a model to others and as Europe's bridge to the wider world. Your success is vital to a future of progress and peace in Europe and in the broader Middle East, and the Republic of Turkey can depend on the support and friendship of the United States of America.

For decades, my country has supported greater unity in Europe to secure liberty, to build prosperity, and to remove sources of conflict on this continent. Now the European Union is considering the admission of Turkey, and you are moving rapidly to meet the criteria for membership. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk had a vision of Turkey as a strong nation among other European nations. That dream can be realized by this generation of Turks. America believes that as a European power, Turkey belongs in the European Union.

Your membership would also be a crucial advance in relations between the Muslim world and the West, because you are part of both. Including Turkey in the EU would prove that Europe is not the exclusive club of a single religion. It would expose the “clash of civilizations” as a passing myth of history. Fifteen years ago, an artificial line that divided Europe, drawn at Yalta, was erased. And now this continent has the opportunity to erase another artificial division by including Turkey in the future of Europe.

Turkey has found its place in the community of democracies by living out its own principles. Muslims are called to seek justice, fairness to all, care for the stranger, compassion for those in need. And you have learned that democracy is the surest way to build a society of justice. The best way to prevent

corruption and abuse of power is to hold rulers accountable. The best way to ensure fairness to all is to establish the rule of law. The best way to honor human dignity is to protect human rights. Turkey has found what nations of every culture and every region have found: If justice is the goal, then democracy is the answer.

In some parts of the world, especially in the Middle East, there is a wariness toward democracy, often based on misunderstanding. Some people in Muslim cultures identify democracy with the worst of Western popular culture and want no part of it. And I assure them, when I speak about the blessings of liberty, coarse videos and crass commercialism are not what I have in mind. There is nothing incompatible between democratic values and high standards of decency. For the sake of their families and their culture, citizens of a free society have every right to strive peacefully for a moral society.

Democratic values also do not require citizens to abandon their faith. No democracy can allow religious people to impose their own view of perfection on others, because this invites cruelty and arrogance that are foreign to every faith. And all people in a democracy have the right to their own religious beliefs. But all democracies are made stronger when religious people teach and demonstrate upright conduct, family commitment, respect for the law, and compassion for the weak. Democratic societies should welcome, not fear, the participation of the faithful.

In addition, democracy does not involve automatic agreement with other democracies. Free governments have a reputation for independence, which Turkey has certainly earned, and that is the way that democracy works. We deal honestly with each other. We make our own decisions, and yet, in the end, the disagreements of the moment are far outweighed by the ideals we share.

Because representative governments reflect their people, every democracy has its own structure, traditions, and opinions. There are, however, certain commitments of free governments that do not change from place to place. The promise of democracy is fulfilled in freedom of speech, the rule of

law, limits on the power of the state, economic freedom, respect for women, and religious tolerance. These are the values that honor the dignity of every life and set free the creative energies that lead to progress.

Achieving these commitments of democracy can require decades of effort and reform. In my own country, it took generations to throw off slavery, racial segregation, and other practices that violated our ideals. So we do not expect that other societies can be transformed in a day. But however long the journey, there is only one destination worth striving for, and that is a society of self-rule and freedom.

Democracy leads to justice within a nation, and the advance of democracy leads to greater security among nations. The reason is clear: Free peoples do not live in endless stagnation and seethe in resentment and lash out in envy, rage, and violence. Free peoples do not cling to every grievance of the past. They build and live for the future. This is the experience of countries in the NATO Alliance. Bitterness and hostility once divided France and Germany, Germany and Poland, Romania and Hungary. But as these nations grew in liberty, ancient disputes and hatreds have been left to history. And because the people of Europe now live in hope, Europe no longer produces armed ideologies that threaten the peace of the world. Freedom in Europe has brought peace to Europe, and now freedom can bring peace to the broader Middle East.

I believe that freedom is the future of the Middle East, because I believe that freedom is the future of all humanity. And the historic achievement of democracy in the broader Middle East will be a victory shared by all. Millions who now live in oppression and want will finally have a chance to provide for their families and lead hopeful lives. Nations in the region will have greater stability because governments will have greater legitimacy. And nations like Turkey and America will be safer, because a hopeful Middle East will no longer produce ideologies and movements that seek to kill our citizens. This transformation is one of the great and difficult tasks of history. And by our own patience and hard effort and with confidence in the

peoples of the Middle East, we will finish the work that history has given us.

Democracy, by definition, must be chosen and defended by the people themselves. The future of freedom in the Islamic world will be determined by the citizens of Islamic nations, not by outsiders. And for citizens of the broader Middle East, the alternatives could not be more clear. One alternative is a political doctrine of tyranny, suicide, and murder that goes against the standards of justice found in Islam and every other great religion. The other alternative is a society of justice, where men and women live peacefully and build better lives for themselves and their children. This is the true cause of the people of the Middle East, and that cause can never be served by the murder of the innocent.

This struggle between political extremism and civilized values is unfolding in many places. We see the struggle in Iraq, where killers are attempting to undermine and intimidate a free government. We see the struggle in Iran, where tired, discredited autocrats are trying to hold back the democratic will of a rising generation. We see that struggle in Turkey, where the PKK has abandoned its cease-fire with the Turkish people and resumed violence. We see it in the Holy Land, where terrorist murderers are setting back the good cause of the Palestinian people, who deserve a reformed, peaceful, and democratic state of their own.

The terrorists are ruthless and resourceful. They will not prevail. Already more than half of the world's Muslims live under democratically constituted governments, from Indonesia to West Africa, from Europe to North America. And the ideal of democracy is also powerful and popular in the Middle East. Surveys in Arab nations reveal broad support for representative government and individual liberty. We are seeing reform in Kuwait and Qatar, Bahrain and Yemen, Jordan and Morocco. We're seeing men and women of conscience and courage step forward to advocate democracy and justice in the broader Middle East. As we found in the Soviet Union and behind the Iron Curtain, this kind of moral conviction was more powerful than vast armies and prison walls and the will of dictators. And this kind of moral conviction is

also more powerful than the whips of the Taliban, the police state of Saddam Hussein, or the cruel designs of terrorists. The way ahead is long and difficult, yet people of conscience go forward with hope. The rule of fear did not survive in Europe. The rule of free peoples will come to the Middle East.

Leaders throughout that region, including some friends of the United States, must recognize the direction of the events of the day. Any nation that compromises with violent extremists only emboldens them and invites future violence. Suppressing dissent only increases radicalism. The long-term stability of any government depends on being open to change and responsive to citizens. By learning these lessons, Turkey has become a great and stable democracy, and America shares your hope that other nations will take this path.

Western nations, including my own, want to be helpful in the democratic progress of the Middle East, yet we know there are suspicions rooted in centuries of conflict and colonialism. And in the last 60 years, many in the West have added to this distrust by excusing tyranny in the region, hoping to purchase stability at the price of liberty. But it did not serve the people of the Middle East to betray their hope of freedom. It has not made Western nations more secure to ignore the cycle of dictatorship and extremism. Instead we've seen the malice grow deeper and the violence spread, until both have appeared on the streets of our own cities. Some types of hatred will never be appeased. They must be opposed and discredited and defeated by a hopeful alternative, and that alternative is freedom.

Reformers in the broader Middle East are working to build freer and more prosperous societies, and America and Turkey, the G-8, the EU, and NATO have now agreed to support them. Many nations are helping the people of Afghanistan to secure a free government. And NATO now leads a military operation in Afghanistan, in the first action by the Alliance outside of Europe. In Iraq, a broad coalition, including the military forces of many NATO countries, is helping the people of that country to build a decent and democratic government after decades of

corrupt oppression. And NATO is providing support to a Polish-led division.

The Government of Iraq has now taken a crucial step forward. In a nation that suffered for decades under tyranny, we have witnessed the transfer of sovereignty and the beginning of self-government. In just 15 months, the Iraqi people have left behind one of the worst regimes in the Middle East, and their country is becoming the world's newest democracy. The world has seen a great event in the history of Iraq, in the history of the Middle East, and in the history of liberty.

The rise of Iraqi democracy is bringing hope to reformers across the Middle East and sending a very different message to Tehran and Damascus. A free and sovereign Iraq is a decisive defeat for extremists and terrorists, because their hateful ideology will lose its appeal in a free and tolerant and successful country. The terrorists are doing everything they can to undermine Iraqi democracy, by attacking all who stand for order and justice and by committing terrible crimes to break the will of free nations. These terrorists have the ability to cause suffering and grief, but they do not have the power to alter the outcome in Iraq. The civilized world will keep its resolve. The leaders of Iraq are strong and determined, and the people of Iraq will live in freedom.

Iraq still faces hard challenges in the days and months ahead. Iraq's leaders are eager to assume responsibility for their own security, and that is our wish as well. So this week at our summit, NATO agreed to provide assistance in training Iraqi security forces. I am grateful to Turkey and other NATO Allies for helping our friends in Iraq to build a nation that governs itself and defends itself.

Our efforts to promote reform and democracy in the Middle East are moving forward. At the NATO Summit, we approved the Istanbul Cooperative Initiative, offering to work together with nations of the broader Middle East to fight terrorism, to control their borders, and to aid victims of disaster. We're thankful for the important role that Turkey is playing as a democratic partner in the Broader Middle East Initiative.

For all of our efforts to succeed, however, more is needed than plans and policies. We

must strengthen the ties of trust and good will between ourselves and the peoples of the Middle East. And trust and good will come more easily when men and women clear their minds and their hearts of suspicion and prejudice and unreasoned fear. When some in my country speak in an ill-informed and insulting manner about the Muslim faith, their words are heard abroad and do great harm to our cause in the Middle East. When some in the Muslim world incite hatred and murder with conspiracy theories and propaganda, their words are also heard by a generation of young Muslims who need truth and hope, not lies and anger. All such talk, in America or in the Middle East, is dangerous and reckless and unworthy of any religious tradition. Whatever our culture differences may be, there should be respect and peace in the House of Abraham.

The Turkish writer Orhan Pamuk has said that the finest view of Istanbul is not from the shores of Europe or from the shores of Asia but from a bridge that unites them and lets you see both. His work has been a bridge between cultures, and so is the Republic of Turkey. The people of this land understand, as that great writer has observed, that “What is important is not a clash of parties, civilizations, cultures, East and West.” What is important, he says, is to realize “that other people in other continents and civilizations” are “exactly like you.”

Ladies and gentlemen, in their need for hope, in their desire for peace, in their right to freedom, the peoples of the Middle East are exactly like you and like me. Their birthright of freedom has denied—been denied for too long. We will do all in our power to help them find the blessings of liberty.

Thank you for your hospitality. May God bless Turkey. May God continue to bless the United States.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:13 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and President Ahmet Necdet Sezer of Turkey; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Memorandum on Administration of Certain Appropriations Relating to Iraq

June 29, 2004

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Subject: Administration of Certain Appropriations Relating to Iraq

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 632 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2392), I hereby direct as follows:

1. The unobligated balances as of the end of June 30, 2004, of the funds appropriated to the President under the heading, “Operating Expenses of the Coalition Provisional Authority,” in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004 (Public Law 108–106) and any funds appropriated to the President under that heading in any Act enacted subsequent to Public Law 108–106 are transferred to the Secretary of State. Such amounts shall exclude those made available to the Inspector General of the Coalition Provisional Authority, and the amount reappropriated to “Operating Expenses of the Coalition Provisional Authority” on June 25, 2004. The Secretary of State shall ensure use of such funds in a manner consistent with Presidential guidance concerning United States Government operations in Iraq.

2. Effective at the end of June 30, 2004, this memorandum supersedes paragraph 1 of the Presidential Memorandum entitled, “Transfer of Funds Appropriated to the President under the heading Operating Expenses of the Coalition Provisional Authority, and Delegation of the Functions of the President under the heading Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund, in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004” (December 5, 2003).

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:21 a.m., July 1, 2004]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 30, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on July 2.

**Proclamation 7800—To Modify
Duty-Free Treatment Under the
Generalized System of Preferences**

June 30, 2004

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

1. Pursuant to section 503(c)(1) of title V of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “1974 Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(1)), the President may withdraw, suspend, or limit designation of specified articles provided for in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) as eligible for preferential tariff treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) when imported from designated beneficiary developing countries.

2. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)), beneficiary developing countries, except those designated as least-developed beneficiary developing countries or beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(D) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(D)), are subject to competitive need limitations on the preferential treatment afforded under the GSP to eligible articles.

3. Section 503(c)(2)(C) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(C)) provides that a country that is no longer treated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to an eligible article may be redesignated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to such article if imports of such article from such country did not exceed the competitive need limitations in section 503(c)(2)(A) during the preceding calendar year.

4. Section 503(c)(2)(F) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(F)) provides that the President may disregard the competitive need limitation provided in section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) (19 U.S.C.

2463(c)(2)(A)(i)(II)) with respect to any eligible article from any beneficiary developing country if the aggregate appraised value of the imports of such article into the United States during the preceding calendar year does not exceed an amount set forth in section 503(c)(2)(F)(ii) (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(F)(ii)).

5. Pursuant to section 503(d) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(d)), the President may waive the application of the competitive need limitations in section 503(c)(2)(A) with respect to any eligible article from any beneficiary developing country if certain conditions are met.

6. Pursuant to section 503(c)(1) of the 1974 Act, and having considered the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c) (19 U.S.C. 2461 and 2462(c)), I have determined that it is appropriate to withdraw the designation of certain articles as eligible articles under the GSP when imported from any beneficiary developing country. In order to do so for two of the articles, it is necessary to subdivide and amend the nomenclature of existing subheadings of the HTS.

7. Pursuant to section 503(c)(1) of the 1974 Act, and having considered the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c), I have determined to limit the application of duty-free treatment accorded to a certain article from a certain beneficiary developing country.

8. Pursuant to section 503(c)(1) and 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that certain beneficiary countries should no longer receive preferential tariff treatment under the GSP with respect to certain eligible articles that were imported in quantities exceeding the applicable competitive need limitation in 2003.

9. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(C) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that certain countries should be redesignated as beneficiary developing countries with respect to certain eligible articles that previously had been imported in quantities exceeding the competitive need limitations of section 503(c)(2)(A).

10. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(F) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that the competitive need limitation provided in section

503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) should be waived with respect to certain eligible articles from certain beneficiary developing countries.

11. Pursuant to section 503(d) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that the competitive need limitations of section 503(c)(2)(A) should be waived with respect to certain eligible articles from certain beneficiary developing countries. I have received the advice of the International Trade Commission on whether any industries in the United States are likely to be adversely affected by such waiver, and I have determined, based on that advice and on the considerations described in sections 501 and 502(c), that such waivers are in the national economic interest of the United States.

12. Section 604 of the 1974 Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2483), authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including but not limited to title V and section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2461-7, 2483), do proclaim that:

(1) In order to provide that one or more countries that have not been treated as beneficiary developing countries with respect to one or more eligible articles be redesignated as beneficiary developing countries with respect to such article or articles for purposes of the GSP, and, in order to provide that one or more countries no longer be treated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to one or more eligible articles for purposes of the GSP, general note 4(d) to the HTS is modified as provided in section A of Annex I to this proclamation.

(2) In order to withdraw the designation of certain articles as eligible articles for purposes of the GSP, the HTS is modified by amending and subdividing the nomenclature of certain existing HTS subheadings as provided in section B of Annex I to this proclamation.

(3) (a) In order to provide preferential tariff treatment under the GSP to a beneficiary developing country that has been excluded from the benefits of the GSP for certain eligible articles, the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for such HTS subheadings is modified as provided for in section C(1) of Annex I to this proclamation.

(b) In order to provide that one or more countries not be treated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to certain eligible articles for purposes of the GSP, the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for such HTS subheadings is modified as provided for in section C(2) of Annex I to this proclamation.

(c) In order to withdraw preferential tariff treatment under the GSP for a certain article imported from any beneficiary developing country, the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for such HTS subheading is modified as provided for in section C(3) of Annex I to this proclamation.

(4) A waiver of the application of section 503(c)(2)(A) (i)(II) of the 1974 Act shall apply to the eligible articles in the HTS subheadings and to the beneficiary developing countries listed in Annex II to this proclamation.

(5) A waiver of the application of section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act shall apply to the eligible article in the HTS subheading and to the beneficiary developing country listed in Annex III to this proclamation.

(6) Any provisions of previous proclamations or Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(7) (a) The modifications made by Annex I to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after July 1, 2004.

(b) The actions taken in Annex II to this proclamation shall be effective on July 1, 2004.

(c) The action taken in Annex III to this proclamation shall be effective on the date of this proclamation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of

the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 3:07 p.m., June 30, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 1.

Remarks at a Swearing-In Ceremony for John C. Danforth as United States Representative to the United Nations July 1, 2004

The President. Please be seated. Good afternoon. It's an honor to welcome Jack and Sally Danforth and their wonderful family to the White House. I want to thank Justice Thomas and Ginny, Deputy Secretary Armitage, and all the other distinguished guests for joining us here today.

In his remarkable career, Jack Danforth has been called Attorney General, Senator, Special Counsel, Special Envoy, and Reverend. [*Laughter*] He's been called "Saint Jack." It's a little beyond my power to confer. [*Laughter*] Today I am very proud to name this good man and superb public servant America's next Ambassador to the United Nations.

As our Ambassador, Jack Danforth will succeed a good man with an important new mission. On Tuesday, former U.N. Ambassador John Negroponte presented his credentials to President al-Yawr as America's first Ambassador to Iraq since 1990. We appreciate his continuing service to our country.

For his own new assignment, Jack Danforth is exceptionally well-prepared. During his years on Capitol Hill, he earned the admiration of colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Jack is a man of strong convictions, unquestioned integrity, and great decency. He is a man of calm and judicious temperament who goes about his work with deliberation and a good will that draws others to his cause. These qualities were evident during his 18 years as Missouri's United States Senator and during his recent assignment in the Sudan. I'm confident that his good judgment and

wisdom will serve America well at the United Nations.

Jack Danforth now heads to New York at a critical time, when the United States and the United Nations are facing new tests. We are called to defend the peace against ruthless terrorist networks and against outlaw regimes that support and shelter them. We are called to preserve the peace by building good relations among the great powers. We're called to extend the peace by replacing poverty and repression and resentment around the world, especially in the broader Middle East. America is determined to lead all in these great objectives.

Yet, no nation can achieve them alone. Global challenges must be answered by active, effective, multilateral institutions. So we're working with many nations on the Proliferation Security Initiative, for example, to interdict dangerous weapons and materials in transit. We're helping to transform the NATO Alliance, which is now acting beyond Europe, bringing security to Afghanistan and soon providing training assistance for Iraqi security forces. And we're challenging the United Nations to rise to its responsibilities in a changing world.

The U.N. must fulfill its mission of peace by holding outlaw states to account, by aiding the rise of stable democracies, and by encouraging development and hope as alternatives to stagnation and bitterness. The U.N. is serving these great purposes in many different places. In Iraq, the U.N. is helping that newly sovereign nation to prepare for free and fair elections and will help to draft a new constitution. From Africa to the Caribbean, the U.N. is helping to turn societies away from old conflicts, to overcome persistent poverty, to fight AIDS and other diseases.

America supports all these efforts, and we know that more will be necessary. So I'm sending Jack Danforth to the U.N. with a clear mandate. America will work closely with the United Nations to confront terror and to fight the suffering and despair that terrorists exploit. In all our work at the U.N., Ambassador John C. Danforth will be a strong voice for the humane and decent conscience of America.

One of Jack's many virtues is an eye for talent. Three decades ago, in Jefferson City, he took a chance on a promising lawyer from Pinpoint, Georgia. Since then, Attorney General Danforth has moved on to some other impressive jobs, and so has his young assistant. Today it is my honor to ask Justice Clarence Thomas to swear in Jack Danforth as the Representative of the United States to the United Nations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:40 p.m. in Room 450 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Sally Danforth, wife of Ambassador Danforth; and Virginia Thomas, wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Ambassador Danforth.

Remarks on the 40th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

July 1, 2004

Thank you all for coming, and welcome to the White House. I am so pleased you could join us to celebrate a great anniversary of justice and equality in America.

I appreciate members of my Cabinet being here and a lot of members of my administration. I want to thank many of our distinguished guests who have joined us today. I'm so pleased to see Dr. Dorothy Height. Thank you so much for coming.

We've got two Lieutenant Governors, Michael Steele and Jennette Bradley, with us. Thank you both for being here today. Marc Morial—where are you, Marc? He must be somewhere. There he is. Thanks for coming. I didn't recognize you outside the "Big Easy." *[Laughter]*

Lou Sullivan is with us. I'm honored you're here, Lou. Thanks for coming, sir. My friend Bob Woodson, president of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, is here. Thanks for coming, Woody. Glad you're here. Bill Coleman, former Secretary of Transportation, I'm honored you're here. Thurgood Marshall, Jr., is with us today. Thank you so much for being here. Appreciate—I'm honored you're here. It's pretty neat to have a great father, isn't it? *[Laughter]*

I'm going to save one announcement for a little later, a special announcement. But I do want to recognize Jack Valenti, who was the Special Assistant to President Lyndon Johnson. Jack, we're honored you're here. Thank you for coming.

Forty years ago, in many parts of America, basic rights were observed or denied based entirely on race. Offensive laws regulated every detail of society: where you could get your hair cut; which hospital ward you could be treated in; which park or library you could visit. A person looking for a job or even a place to stay the night could be turned away merely because the color of the skin. And that person had very little recourse under Federal law. Forty years ago this week, that system of indignity and injustice was ended by the Civil Rights Act signed into law in this very room.

As of July the 2d, 1964, no longer could weary travelers be denied a room in a hotel or a table at a restaurant. No longer could any American be forced to drink from a separate water fountain or sit at the back of a bus just because of their race. All discrimination did not end that day, but from that day forward, America has been a better and fairer country.

Today we have here on display, outside this room, the first and last pages of the Civil Rights Act and one of the pens that President Lyndon B. Johnson used for the signature. That law was a long time in coming, and before it arrived, the conscience of America had to be awakened. That conscience was stirred by men and women who held sit-ins at lunch counters, who rode the buses on Freedom Rides, who endured and overcame the slurs and the firehoses and the burning crosses. The conscience of America was outraged by the ambush of Medgar Evers, by kidnappings and terror bombings, and by the murder of four young girls in a church on a Sunday. Our Nation's conscience was moved by hundreds of thousands who marched right here in the Nation's Capital to demand the full promise of the Declaration and America's founding law.

President John F. Kennedy heard the voices of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and others, and took up the challenge. Five months before his death, the

President said our Nation was confronted with a moral issue as old as the Scriptures and as clear as the American Constitution, and he called on Congress to pass civil rights legislation.

After President Kennedy was assassinated, some wondered if the new President, a son of the South, would carry forward the work of civil rights. Very soon they would know the answer. During the Senate debate on the Civil Rights Act, one of the longest debates in Senate history, President Lyndon Johnson used all his powers of persuasion, and they were considerable. [Laughter] No one escaped the LBJ treatment—[laughter]—not Senators, not their staffs, not even their families. It is said that when President Johnson called reluctant Senators at home and a child answered, he would say, “Now you tell your daddy that the President called.” [Laughter] “And he’d be very proud to have your daddy on his side.” [Laughter]

It was more than the force of Johnson’s personality that helped win the day; it was the force of President Johnson’s conviction on behalf of a just cause. As a young man, he’d seen the ugly effects of discrimination. As President, he was determined to fight it by law, regardless of the political risk. One Southern Senator warned him, “It’s going to cost you the election.” He replied, “If that’s the price I’ve got to pay, I will pay it gladly.”

Lyndon Johnson is known to history as the President who championed and signed the Civil Rights Act. And we recognize and remember the contributions of this strong Texan and great American. And we’re honored to have his daughter, Luci Baines Johnson, with us today. We’re honored you’re here. Thanks for coming. I appreciate you coming.

We also remember the legislators of both parties who worked tirelessly to bring the bill to passage, in particular, Senators Mike Mansfield of Montana, Senator Edward Dirksen of Illinois, and Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota. When it mattered most, these principled men rose to the responsibility of their time, and our Nation honors them today.

After the Civil Rights Act became law, the change was felt immediately all across America. In 1964, Dale Long was a 12-year-old

boy living in Birmingham, Alabama. One day, before the law was passed, Dale and his brother convinced their father to take them to a movie where blacks had to enter through an alley and could only sit in the upstairs balcony. “I could see the look of humiliation on my dad’s face,” he remembers. A few months after the Civil Rights Act, the Long brothers returned to that theater. As they remember it, they were with a friend. “We went to see a James Bond movie,” Dale says, and this time they entered through the front door and sat where they pleased.

The indignity of Dale Long’s first experience at that movie theater seems like something that happened many lifetimes ago. Yet, such experiences are within the living memory of millions of our citizens. These past four decades in American life give witness to the power of good laws to prevent injustice and encourage the finest qualities of our national character.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 gives all Americans another reason to be proud of our country. The work of equality is not done because the evil of bigotry is not finally defeated. Yet, the laws of this Nation and the good heart of this Nation are on the side of equality. And as Dr. King reminded us, “We must not rest until the day when justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

I’m honored you all are here today. We’ll have a reception on the other side of this beautiful house. Thank you for coming. May God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:01 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to civil rights leader Dr. Dorothy I. Height; Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele of Maryland; Lt. Gov. Jennette B. Bradley of Ohio; Marc H. Morial, president and chief executive officer, National Urban League; and Louis W. Sullivan, chair, President’s Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Remarks Following a Discussion With Small-Business Entrepreneurs

July 2, 2004

The President. Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Thanks for coming. I am

glad you're here. We're here today to talk about the economic security of our fellow citizens. One of my most important jobs is to help create an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit flourishes, because I believe that the fact that America is a heaven for the entrepreneur is one of the real strengths of our country. I know that when the entrepreneur feels confident, when the small-business owner invests, it's more likely people will be able to find a job.

I'm interested in people working. I want people being able to go to work and coming home, saying, "I'm doing my duty as a mom or a dad to put food on the table," or "I've got an opportunity to set aside hard-earned money for my child's education." That's what I'm interested in. And one way to do that is to make sure the small-business part of our economy is vibrant, strong, energized, and confident. And I think it is.

The economy of the United States has been through a lot. If you really think about it, it's pretty remarkable to be able to stand up and say to you that our economy is strong and getting stronger, that we're witnessing steady, consistent growth. After all, we've been through a recession, a national emergency, a war, corporate scandals. We've got an economy which is changing. The nature of the job base is changing. And all that means it's been a difficult period of time. Yet we're strong. We're getting stronger. We're witnessing steady growth—steady growth. And that's important. We don't need boom- or bust-type growth, we want just steady, consistent growth so that our fellow citizens will be able to find a job and so that the small-business sector will feel confident about expanding.

I was pleased to see that consumer confidence is at a 2-year high. That's an indication that the economy is strong and getting better. When people are confident, they tend to be a part of the decisionmaking process amongst millions of deciders that say the future is going to be better.

I've just met with some small-business owners. I'm going to introduce them here in a second. They're confident. The first thing I listened for was, do they have confidence in their voices? Were they saying to me, "Gosh, I'm confident enough to make

investment"? That's what you listen for if you're somebody trying to be able to report to the economy about the nature of our economy. To a person, to a business, they were saying, "You bet; I'm confident about the future of the country. Therefore I'm going to invest more," which I'm going to talk a little bit about here in a second.

Real after-tax incomes are up 11 percent since December of 2000. To me, that's a vital statistic. Real after-tax incomes—that means that the amount of money in somebody's wallet is increasing. That's what we want to hear, isn't it, particularly if you're somebody who has got a wallet. [Laughter] It's a good sign when people are working and keeping more of their own money. That's what we want.

Homeownership rates are at an alltime high. That's an important statistic, particularly if you believe the more people that own something, the better off our society is. That's what I believe. We want more people owning their own small business. We want more people owning their own home. See, when somebody owns their own home, they can say, "This is my property. Welcome to my home." They don't say, "Welcome to the Government's home." They say, "Welcome to my home," which is an important part of not only consumer confidence but it's an important part of making sure people have an interest in the future of our country. If you own something, you want to make sure Government makes the right decision so you can continue to own it.

And we've got—homeownership rate is at an alltime high. And a particularly important part of that statistic is minority homeownership rates are at an alltime high. See, we not only want—when I'm talking about ownership, I'm talking about ownership for all people, not just a certain type of person. We want ownership to be a part of every neighborhood. And it's happening in America. It's really what makes us such a wonderful country, isn't it, when people from all walks of life can say, "I own something." And this administration will continue to make sure the ownership society, or the ability for people to own their own business or home, remains strong and vibrant.

Manufacturers are reporting increased activity more than any time in 20 years. We've

had concern in the country about whether or not the manufacturing sector would remain vibrant and strong, and the reports are that the activity is as good as it's been over the past 20 years. That's a pretty good sign, isn't it? I was told today—reminded today that the Purchasing Managers Index is now above 60 for its 8th straight month. That doesn't mean anything unless you're somebody who follows all the numbers that comes out of Washington. But what it does mean is it confirms the notion that manufacturing activity is as good as it's been in 20 years. And that's very positive.

Today we got a new jobs report out. The jobs increased by 112,000 in June, which means we've had a total of 1.5 million new jobs since last August. To me, that shows the steady growth. It's one thing to be reporting the GDP numbers are up; it's another thing to be able to say more Americans are working. And that's what we want. We want people going to work. We want people to be able to come home and say, "Boy, how was work—it was great." [*Laughter*] "I enjoy working."

I met two good workers from North Carolina here today. I'm about to introduce the owners of their company. But they were here. They said, "We're working and feeling good about it." And that's really good news for our economy.

I want to thank you all for coming. I appreciate—I can see a lot of members of my administration here. I don't want to try to go through them all except for Secretary Evans, the Secretary of Commerce. He's doing a fantastic job of running a very important Cabinet office of my Government.

But thank you all for being here. I see a lot of familiar faces. I see a lot of entrepreneurs. I see a lot of people who represent entrepreneurs here in Washington. You're doing a fine job of helping the United States Congress understand the proper role of Government is to encourage investment, encourage business formation. And that's why the tax relief package we passed was so important, particularly in the face of a recession and in the face of an emergency. It came at the right time. And I want to thank the people here who worked with us to convince Congress to trust the people with their own

money. That's really what the debate was about, wasn't it: Who do you want to spend your money? Obviously, the Government needs to spend some of it to make sure we've got a military and make sure we fulfill certain functions. But at this point in our economic history, it made sense to let you have your own money to spend so that the economy would grow.

We based a lot of our decisionmaking on the knowledge that if you have more money in your pocket, if there's more after-tax pay in your pocket, you'll demand additional goods and services. And when you do so, in a market economy, if it's functioning properly, somebody will produce the goods or services. And when that happens, it kind of stabilizes the job base and then, eventually, allows for more people to go back to work. And that's what we're seeing—and that's what we're seeing.

Much of the job growth—the stimulus package was aimed at small businesses, because we knew that 70 percent of new jobs are created by small businesses. We were aware of that. And so therefore, when we went to Congress, we said, "As you reduce the tax burden on the American people, make sure you understand the effect that tax reductions can have on the decisionmakers who hire most of the new people—that would be your small-business owner." A vital part of our package was to encourage investment in the small-business sector of our country, and it's paying off.

See, when the small-business owners of America feel confident and feel comfortable in investing in plant and equipment or in new services, it stimulates a vibrant part of our economy. That's what happens. The cornerstone of our policy, if the truth be known, was to trust individuals with their own money and to encourage the small-business sector to grow so people could find work.

And we did so in two specific ways. One, we encouraged investment by allowing for accelerated depreciation. That basically is a fancy word for saying if you buy a plant or equipment or new computer programs, it will really cost you less because you're able to deduct it faster from your income. That's an important part of encouraging people to make investment decisions.

The other thing was, is that we reduced all taxes. You see, our theory was if you pay taxes, you ought to get a tax relief, not if you're a certain—in a certain bracket you get tax relief. If you're going to have tax relief, the best, most fairest way to have tax relief is to say everybody gets tax relief, not just a few people. And that's what we did. Here in Washington, you know, there tends to be class warfare. It says only certain people get tax relief, or if you're labeled "the rich" you don't get tax relief. Our view was, all tax relief was the fairest way to do it.

And all tax relief, the theory of giving everybody tax relief who paid taxes, was especially beneficial to the small-business owners, because most small businesses pay tax at the individual income-tax rate. See, most small businesses structure their companies as what they call Subchapter S companies—you work for a Subchapter S company—or sole proprietorships. And therefore, when you reduce individual income taxes, you're reducing income taxes on small businesses as well. And the more money a small business has in their treasury, the more likely it is they're going to be able to expand and hire, presuming they've got a good product.

Now, Government can't make you have a good product. [Laughter] We can't say to you, "Gosh, we'll help you align what you supply with demand." You've got to figure that out yourself. That's not the role of Government. But once you figure it out, once you've figured out how to meet demand in the marketplace, we can provide incentives to encourage you to expand. And that's what we've done. And that's why the economy is steady and strong. I'm telling you, people are going back to work because the small-businesses sector of America is strong and vibrant and confident.

Ed Kostenski is with us. There he is. Ed, stand up and be recognized. Thank you. He is from Jacksonville, Florida. I said—and by the way, he's got a business called Nationwide Equipment. I said, "Did you start this business?" He said, "Yes, at my kitchen table." It sounds pretty American to me, doesn't it? [Laughter] You know how many small businesses have been started at their kitchen table or in their garage? Thousands by, by the way, people from all walks of life

too. Ed is one who did that. He's got an S corporation—S corp, which means that when he sees the—all rates get reduced, he's really saying, "The Congress wisely reduced the taxes on my business." That's an important part of encouraging Ed to move on. By the way, he said that his—the tax relief we passed in '01 helped him stay in business. And he is—not only is he in business, he's adding employees this year. He's added 14 this year. He'll hire another six before the year is out.

He's excited about his business. If you don't believe me, just go ask him after the meeting. [Laughter] He's moving used Caterpillars overseas. He buys them, refurbishes them, and finds a market and sells them, which means we'd better not have trade barriers. I mean, when you hear people talk about open trade, fair trade, and free trade, think about Ed. He's able to sell machines. There's a need for them. He's able to compete globally, even though he is a small-business owner. A lot of small businesses benefit because our Government has decided to open markets as opposed to close markets. It's an important part, by the way, of making sure America is a good place to do business, is to be confident in our ability to compete, so long as the playing fields are fair across the world, which we'll make them fair. That's part of my job. Ed's job is to meet demand. My job is to make sure he's got the ability to do so with free and fair trade.

He will invest \$300,000 this year. That's a lot of money for a small business. One of the reasons he says he'll do so is because the tax savings on that investment will be about \$50,000. See, that's what—when you hear me talk about incentives, that's what the tax relief plan does. It says, "Ed, invest 300,000 and you'll save 50,000 from what you normally would have." It's called an incentive.

And our American citizens have got to understand the connection between investment and jobs. When Ed invests \$300,000 to build a warehouse and a painting facility, somebody has got to come and build the warehouse. Somebody has got to manufacture the material for the warehouse. Somebody is going to provide the new painting equipment for the painting facility. Investment equals jobs. When somebody invests, like Ed, somebody has to provide the goods that he needs.

And when somebody provides the goods he needs, somebody is working to provide the good he needs. And that's how this economy works. He says, "With that money I don't send back to the IRS, I can expand right here." [Laughter] Those are his words.

What Ed is saying is what a lot of people around the country tell me, is, "I can spend my money far wiser than the Federal Government can." And I appreciate that spirit and that attitude. That's why the tax relief we passed was so important.

The Maxwells are here—Joan and Owen Maxwell. You two know them. See, they're their boss. No, those aren't the Maxwells. The Maxwells are over here. There they are. Thanks for coming. They're from Edenton, North Carolina. They've got their own boat manufacturing company. I asked them how the fishing was off the coast of North Carolina. [Laughter] They manufacture center console boats. That's a pretty neat little business, isn't it? And they said their business is good. As a matter of fact, they're wisely trying to presell their inventories. That's a smart idea.

Demand is up for their boats, I suspect because they produce a good-quality boat at a reasonable price. If you make a lousy-quality boat at a high price, no one's going to buy them. [Laughter] So they're good businesspeople. They've added 20 workers in the last 6 months. They're expanding their business. They're going to invest \$750,000 this year in molds for their boat-building business. Somebody has got to make the molds. There's some worker making the molds that they're buying. And the tax relief plan we passed will save them \$100,000 on that investment.

You see, there's a connection between good tax policy and decisionmaking. They're more likely to purchase \$750,000 worth of molds when they realize they have \$100,000 worth of savings in so doing. And that's why it's important for our citizens to be able to draw the connection between tax relief and decisionmaking that leads to more jobs.

One of the interesting things the Maxwells have done—and I really appreciate this—is that they have teamed up with a local community college to devise a course to train them for people coming into their industry,

the boat-manufacturing industry. That's a wise, wise use of a very important community asset, which is the community colleges.

I've met some people in North Carolina who, because of the changing economy, had to go from the textile industry to the health care industry. A lot of people in North Carolina used to work for textiles and are looking for new work. And, wisely, the health care industry has used the community college system to train people—for really good jobs, by the way.

Now, the person is going to have to want to be trained. But the community college and the local businesses have to provide the curriculum. Government, by the way, helps pay the salary in a lot of cases. And it's a wise use of taxpayers' money, and it's a wise use of local taxpayers' money, to provide training for people so they can find work.

One of the real bottlenecks we're going to have in America as our economy changes and continues to grow is whether or not the worker is going to have the skills necessary to fill the jobs of the 21st century. One of the real challenges to make sure that America is the best place to do business in the world, so people will be able to continue to find work, is to make sure our education system functions well. And one way to make it function well is for the Federal Government to work with community colleges and local businesses to devise curriculum to train people for the jobs which actually exist. And I want to thank the Maxwells for being a part of this kind of practical move in education all across the country.

Joan says, "There are a lot of opportunities where people can use these skills. We're literally building our workforce for the future here." That's the way we think in the administration. We're thinking about the future. We're thinking about how to make sure that the momentum that we have developed in the economy not only stays strong in the immediate years, but how is it going to look 10 years from now. So we've got to start planning for the future. We've got to understand the decisions we're making today are going to make it more likely that the small-business sector, the entrepreneurial spirit of America will remain very strong tomorrow.

And part of that is to make sure the education system not only teaches our youngsters how to read, write and add and subtract now, before it is too late, but it's also to make sure that our community colleges are able to put curriculum in place to train people for jobs which will exist.

So I want to thank the Maxwells for being here. I appreciate your spirit, and thank you for hiring people.

We've got—John Biagas is with us. John, thank you for coming—Newport News, Virginia. Newport News, Virginia—John purchased his business in 1997. He took a gamble and said, "I'm going to buy the business from the previous owner." I think he said they might have had a million dollars' worth of sales in 1997. They're over 14 now. That's pretty good growth, isn't it, in a 5-year period of time. This entrepreneur has taken a business that had a pretty good sales base, but he's expanded it 15 times in 5 years. I can't wait to see what you look like 5 years from now, John. [Laughter] By the way, it won't be very good if they raise taxes on you. See, one of the things—if John is thinking about what his business will look like 5 years from now, I can predict to him if we run up the taxes on Subchapter S corporations by raising, for example, the top rate, his business isn't going to look quite as good as it would if—when we keep taxes low.

John is an S corp. In other words, all the talk about running up the top rate affects his business. When you hear them in Washington saying, "We're going to run up the top rate," just remember this is a tax on small businesses. And you don't want to tax small businesses, because small businesses are providing the economic momentum necessary for us to have created 1.5 million jobs since August. We want that job creation to continue to go on.

Raising taxes will make it more likely somebody won't be able to find a job. You know why? Because it affects businesses like John's, that's why. When you start taking money out of John's coffers, it means he's less likely to expand. He is a full-service electrical and general contractor. That's his job. He hired 8 people in the last 2 months. He wants to hire 8 to 10 more this year. That's positive.

I think we're beginning to see a trend here. [Laughter] Small businesses are hiring—8 people here, 10 people there—but it adds up, because there's millions of small businesses all across America. Small business is the cornerstone of the great American enterprise system. Not only that, it's the cornerstone of a hopeful country, isn't it, the kind of country you have where John, who was one of 14 raised in Lake Charles, Louisiana—the youngest of 14, I might add—can go to the family reunion, which I suspect is quite large—[laughter]—and says, "By the way, my business is doing pretty darn good." It's a great American story, isn't it, where somebody who has a dream and is willing to work to realize a dream is able to do so. Our job is to make sure those dreams stay alive—the dreams stay alive.

He'll save \$60,000 in taxes this year on \$350,000 of investment in new trucks. When you hear the investment numbers in small businesses, it is heartening, because, I repeat, when people invest, they create jobs. That's how jobs are created. John says, "The cash we're able to keep in the business helps a lot. It helps us look forward to the future." That's what he said. That's what you want to hear. You want to hear your CEO of a small business saying, "It helps me look forward to the future." You don't want people saying, "Oh, gosh, life is going to be miserable because when we've been able to come through tough times." You want to say, "I'm looking forward." Good policy in Washington always looks forward, not backwards.

I'm going to talk about some things we can do to make sure, as John and others look forward, the environment is encouraging and conducive to economic investment. I just told you one, and that is to make sure the education system functions well. If you're a—somebody trying to hire people and you see that the education system is working well, you'll be able to look forward with confidence, because you'll know you'll be able to fulfill your workers' needs. You can't look forward if you're worried about finding somebody to meet a skill that you need.

Joan Thompson is with us. She was talking about the level of worker—the skill level of the worker she needs. She's an owner in a—thank you, Joan—she's an owner in a—part-

owner of the Minnesota Wire and Cable Company in St. Paul, Minnesota. I say “part-owner”—she’s got nine other family members who own a piece of the business?

Joan Thompson. Nine children and both parents—

The President. Yes, 11 people, 11 owners. [Laughter] Family-owned business—it’s got a nice ring to it, doesn’t it, and it’s got an American ring to it. There’s a lot of family-owned businesses around our country. And one of the real difficulties for family-owned businesses is the fact that we tax a family’s assets twice because of the death tax. It’s important that Congress understand what the death tax does to capital formation and the ability for the small-business sector to invest.

The—and I say “you tax it twice”—when the Minnesota Wire and Cable Company makes a profit, it gets taxed. And I suspect you pay property taxes at the local level as well, and State taxes. And then when the—mom and dad move on, in many cases, that asset will be taxed again. And therefore, if the asset is illiquid, some people have to sell their business. You can’t pass it on. I believe you ought to be able to pass your business on to whomever you choose without the Federal Government being in between you and the—and those who you designate to own the company.

And so Congress, by the way, needs to hear from small-business owners and farmers and ranchers and—to tell Congress to complete the task we started. We put the death tax on the way to extinction; unfortunately—I think it’s 2011—it pops up again. That’s going to make the year 2010 an interesting year for estate planners. [Laughter] “How do you want to handle this one,” you know? [Laughter] “I think I’ll go ahead and keep on living.” [Laughter] They just need to make the repeal of the death tax a permanent part of the Tax Code. It will be a major part of the simplification of the Tax Code too. I understand it takes up about 30 percent of the Tax Code, which is a real thick book. And it just doesn’t—to me, it’s bad policy. And it’s bad policy for the Thompson family and a lot of other small-business owners around America.

Joan’s business is a custom design—custom wire and cable assembly business.

They’ve got customers with defense contractors and, particularly, health care. She likes to say, “We’re a part of the armies of healers that are all across the country. We’re helping people save lives.” That’s kind of a neat way to frame your business, isn’t it?

And it’s going well. They’ve added 14 workers this year, tax savings of about \$80,000 on \$600,000 worth of investment. I said, “What are you going to invest in?” She said, “Robotics.” It’s pretty interesting to hear a small business say, “Robotics.” I don’t know whether small businesses were saying they were investing in robotics 20 years ago or not, but I bet they are over the next 20 years if the incentives are properly structured, if small businesses are encouraged to invest, if the tax structure is such that it will make it easier for them to survive by making sure Government doesn’t take too much of their money.

She also invests in C&C machines. Everybody knows what they are. [Laughter] Somebody is making it. [Laughter] Somebody is a part of the manufacturing process that is making the C&C machine. In other words, there is a C&C machine maker—[laughter]—that is employing people.

And that’s how it works. That’s how the economy works. I’ve asked these four small-business owners to come and see us, because I want to share with you a couple of things. Let me tell you what she said. She said, “The savings on the tax side gave us the confidence to launch another division in our small business.” We’re talking about investment in America. Investment equals jobs, and people are now confident to make investment because of good tax policy.

The role of the Government is to create a sense of confidence by doing some smart things. In other words, the more money people have of their own money the more confident they’ll be, particularly as this economy picks up steam.

These are great stories, and I appreciate you all coming and letting us talk about your stories. They’re uniquely American stories.

And as we look forward with confidence, we want to make sure that we make good decisions. There’s a couple of good decisions we need to make. One is—a bad decision

would be to raise taxes on the American people. And some of the tax relief is set to expire. And if Congress doesn't make it permanent, that's called a tax increase. And they will be tagged with raising taxes on the American people. They should not raise taxes. We need good, consistent tax policy.

If you're a small-business owner, you want there to be a constant in your life when it comes to planning. You've got too much to worry about—markets, your customer base—and you need to have certainty in the Tax Code. And the Congress needs to know that. And raising taxes creates uncertainty and will make it difficult for small-business owners to plan and invest.

Secondly, health care costs are on the rise, and that makes it difficult for employer and employee. We must not allow the Federal Government to run our health care system in America. What we must do is to put good policy and plan in place, which will connect the patient-doctor relationship and give people choices and decisionmaking powers in the marketplace. That's why I'm such a strong backer of health savings accounts. These can be tailored for small businesses. I would urge every small business in America to look at a health savings account. It's a good way to help control costs, and it's a good way to provide benefits for your workers.

We need association health plans, which allows—small businesses will be able to share risk. And big business are able to get pretty good buys in health care because they're got a lot of employees. They can spread risk across a large number of employees. Small businesses don't have that same ability, unless Government allows them to share risk across jurisdictional boundaries. And that's what association health plans do.

We need tort reform in America. Small businesses are threatened by—if you ask people what affects their confidence in the future, they'll tell you, when they see junk lawsuits or have junk lawsuits filed against them. It threatens their existence. It makes it very difficult for people to plan with confidence. And let's face it, our society is too litigious. There's too many lawsuits, a lot of them frivolous and junk lawsuits. And there is a role for the Federal Government in this. We need to have class action reform. We

need to have asbestos reform. Congress needs to get these bills passed and to my desk.

We need medical liability reform as well at the Federal level. You see, junk and frivolous lawsuits cause docs to practice defensive medicine. And defensive medicine basically means, "I'm going to prescribe more procedure than needed, so that when I get in a court of law, I'll be able to defend myself." And that runs up the cost of medicine, which hurts the patients, and it hurts the Federal Government because the Federal Government pays a lot of money for health care in Medicare and Medicaid and our veterans' benefits. And our budgets are affected by frivolous and junk lawsuits here at the Federal level. Therefore, I think it is a Federal problem that does require a Federal solution. And we proposed such a solution. The House of Representatives passed it. It got stuck in the Senate, because the trial lawyers are powerful in the Senate; that's why. And for the sake of small-business growth and for the sake of having a good economy in the future, we need to convince the United States Senate to pass meaningful and real tort reform. It's an important part—[*applause*].

And finally, if you're a small-business owner, you need to know that you're going to have reliable and affordable sources of energy. There's a lot of concern about the manufacturing sector in America, and there should be. But a manufacturing sector has got a real problem if there are disruptions of energy supply, spikes in energy prices, and doesn't have reliable electricity.

And so my administration recognized this early on. And we knew that if we were dependent upon foreign sources of energy it would create not only an economic security risk but a national security risk. And so we proposed ways to increase conservation. We promoted new technologies that will come into play in the out-years that will make us less reliable upon foreign sources of energy. We recognized that we can explore for energy in environmentally-friendly ways that we couldn't 20 years ago. We promoted new electricity reliability standards. We've done a lot of things. And we proposed it to the United States Congress, and, of course, it's

stuck. They're playing politics with the national energy policy.

But if we're interested in making sure people can find work in America, if we want to be the best place to do business, if we want the entrepreneurial spirit to remain strong, we've got to develop an energy policy that makes us less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

I've told you Ed relies upon trade. He's moving used Cats, used John Deere, and used Case equipment overseas. He said when you look at it, you can't tell it's used, though, because he's got such good workers. [*Laughter*] They take a used piece of equipment and redo it, make it look like new, make it run like new, and sell it like old. [*Laughter*] And as he said, "I am a small-business guy utilizing free trade."

America must reject economic isolationism if we're going to be a confident, growing nation. Listen, we're good at things. Look at old Ed; he's good at something. [*Laughter*] All he needs is a chance to sell it. And if we fall into trade wars because of politics, we will be doing a disservice to the entrepreneur in America. We're good at growing things. Our farmers ought to be selling soybeans everywhere in the world. And that's what we're trying to make sure other countries hear this—hear the philosophy of this administration. "We're opening up our markets. Open up yours." That's what we're telling them.

See, we know what's good for consumers: when people have more choice. If you're a consumer in America and you've got more goods to choose from, you're going to get better quality at a better price. That's how it works. And so we've said—not only have I said but other Presidents have said—Presidents before me have said, "For the good of the American consumer, sell us your goods and services here in America."

And now you've got an administration who is saying, "Since we do that for you, you open up your markets." I told Evans and Zoellick, "When we need to get tough with foreign nations that shut us out, get tough, because all we're interested in is a level playing field." That's what we want. We want our people treated fairly.

You'll hear people say, "Well, the best way to deal with this is to find out ways not to trade fairly, is to isolate us." That would be terrible for small businesses. And so this administration is confident in America because we're confident in Americans. We know we can—we're really good. We're really good at building things and growing things and selling things. And I intend to make sure that they have a good chance to do so, for the sake of American workers.

This economy of ours is steady and strong—it's steady and strong. It's steady and strong, which means people are going back to work—1.5 million jobs since last August. That is steady growth. And it's steady and strong because the American entrepreneur is strong and capable and willing to take risk. The entrepreneur is employing more people. The entrepreneur is investing. And the role of Government is to promote good policy that encourages the American entrepreneur.

And the other thing about the entrepreneurial spirit that is so wonderful about our country is it doesn't matter whether you're the fourth generation to own your business or you're a first-generation American. Either way, you've got the opportunity to say, "This is my business. I own it. I'm going to nurture it and grow it and, therefore, help others to find work." That's the cornerstone of the Bush economic policy. And it's working.

I'm glad you all are here. God bless your efforts, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:08 a.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Provide for the Transfer of the Nebraska Avenue Naval Complex

July 2, 2004

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4322, "An Act to provide for the transfer of the Nebraska Avenue Naval Complex in the District of Columbia to facilitate the establishment of the headquarters for the Department of Homeland Security, to provide for the acquisition by the Department of the Navy of suitable replacement facilities, and for other purposes." This legislation will

allow the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to consolidate headquarters staff at the Complex for the foreseeable future.

The executive branch shall construe section 1(g)(3) of the Act, which purports to make consultation with specified Members of Congress a precondition to execution of the law, as calling for, but not mandating, such consultation. Construing the provision as a mandate to consult would be inconsistent with constitutional provisions concerning the separate powers of the Congress to legislate and the President to execute the laws.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 2, 2004.

NOTE: H.R. 4322, approved July 2, was assigned Public Law No. 108–268.

Memorandum on Delegation of Certain Reporting Authority

July 2, 2004

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Delegation of Certain Reporting Authority

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby delegate to you the functions and authority conferred upon the President by section 4 of the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002, Public Law 107–243, and by section 3 of the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution, Public Law 102–1, to make the specified reports to the Congress.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Letter to Congressional Leaders Submitting Proposed Legislative Changes To Implement the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement

July 2, 2004

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

On May 18, 2004, the United States Trade Representative signed the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement on behalf of the United States. Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(B) of the Trade Act of 2002, I am submitting a description of the changes to existing laws, prepared by my Administration, that would be required to bring the United States into compliance with that agreement.

I look forward to working with the Congress in developing legislation to implement this free trade agreement with an important economic partner and close ally.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

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.

June 26

In the morning, at Dromoland Castle in Shannon, Ireland, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush paid a courtesy call on President Mary McAleese of Ireland and her husband, Martin. The President then met with Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland.

Later in the morning, at Dromoland Castle, the President participated in a European Union Summit meeting.

In the afternoon, at Dromoland Castle, the President participated in a European Union Summit working lunch. Later, he met with the chairs of the Transatlantic Business Dialogue.

Later in the afternoon, at Shannon International Airport, the President and Mrs. Bush greeted U.S. Embassy personnel. They then traveled to Ankara, Turkey, arriving in the evening.

June 27

In the morning, at the Hilton Ankara, the President and Mrs. Bush greeted U.S. Embassy personnel. Later, at the Prime Minister's Residence, the President met with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush went to Ataturk's Mausoleum, where they participated in a wreath-laying ceremony and book signing. Later, at the Cankaya Presidential Palace, they participated in an official welcome ceremony with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer of Turkey and his wife, Semra. The two Presidents then met in President Sezer's office.

In the afternoon, at the Cankaya Presidential Palace, the two Presidents and Prime Minister Erdogan participated in a working lunch.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Istanbul, Turkey. Upon arrival at Ataturk International Airport, they were greeted by U.S. Consul General David L. Arnett and his wife, Vivi. Later, at the Hilton Istanbul, the President met with religious leaders and then NATO Secretary General Jakob Gisjbert de Hoop Scheffer.

In the evening, at the Dolmabahce Palace, the President participated in a NATO leaders group photo. He and Mrs. Bush then participated in a dinner for NATO leaders and their spouses.

June 28

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Center, he participated in a working session of the North Atlantic Council.

In the afternoon, at the center, the President participated in a working lunch of the North Atlantic Council.

Later in the afternoon, at the Hilton Istanbul, the President met with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

In the evening, at the Hilton Istanbul, the President and Mrs. Bush greeted U.S. missions staff.

Later in the evening, at the Topkapi Palace, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a cultural event and a gala dinner for heads of state and government.

June 29

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Center, he participated in a working session of the NATO-Ukraine Commission.

Later in the morning, at the center, the President participated in photo opportunities with leaders of the Adriatic Charter countries and with the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. He then participated in a working session of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush went to Galatasaray University. Later, they returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

June 30

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President-elect Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania to congratulate him on his June 27 election victory. He then had an intelligence briefing and met with the National Security Council. Later, he met with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines to congratulate her on her reelection and to discuss counterterrorism efforts.

In the afternoon, in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, the President and former Presidential Envoy to Iraq L. Paul Bremer III dropped by a meeting of Iraqi Americans. Later, in the President's private dining room, they had lunch.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister David Oddsson of Iceland to the White House on July 6.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Elias Antonio Saca of El Salvador to the White House on July 12.

The President announced his selection of Brian H. Hook as Special Assistant to the President for Policy.

July 1

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The White House announced that the President will welcome King Mohamed VI of Morocco to the White House on July 8.

The President announced his intention to nominate Valerie Lynn Baldwin to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management) at the Department of Defense.

The President announced his intention to nominate Christopher J. LaFleur to be Ambassador to Malaysia.

The President announced his intention to recess appoint Theodore William Kassinger as Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

The President announced his intention to recess appoint Michael D. Gallagher as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

The President announced his intention to recess appoint Floyd Hall as a member of the Reform Board (Amtrak).

The President announced his intention to recess appoint Jack Edwin McGregor as a member of the Advisory Board of the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.

The President declared a major disaster in Michigan and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on May 20–24.

The President declared a major disaster in Arkansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on May 30 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in California and ordered Federal aid to supple-

ment State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by flooding as a result of a levee break on June 3 and continuing.

July 2

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then met with the Homeland Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released June 26

Text of U.S.-EU Declaration Supporting Peace, Progress, and Reform in the Broader Middle East and in the Mediterranean

Text of U.S.-EU Declaration of Support for the People of Iraq

Text of U.S.-EU Declaration on Sudan

Text of U.S.-EU Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis

Fact sheet: U.S.-EU Summit: Fighting the Challenge of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic

Text of U.S.-EU Declaration on Combating Terrorism

Fact sheet: U.S.-EU Summit: Cooperation To Combat Terrorists and Other Serious Criminals

Text of U.S.-EU Declaration on the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Fact sheet: U.S.-EU Summit: Declaration on the Nonproliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Text of U.S.-EU Declaration on Strengthening Our Economic Partnership

Fact sheet: U.S.-EU Summit: Strengthening the Transatlantic Economic Partnership

Fact sheet: U.S.-EU Summit: Agreement on GPS-Galileo Cooperation

Fact sheet: U.S.-EU Summit: Cooperation on the Development of the Hydrogen Economy

Fact sheet: U.S.-EU Summit: Continuing Our Cooperation To Expand Transatlantic Trade

Released June 27

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released June 28

Text of Letters on Iraq Sovereignty as Read by Scott McClellan to the Travel Pool

Fact sheet: Allied Contributions in Iraq

Fact sheet: Trafficking in Persons

Fact sheet: NATO's Role in Afghanistan

Fact sheet: NATO's Role in the Balkans

Fact sheet: NATO-Russia Relations

Fact sheet: NATO Contributions to Olympic Security

Fact sheet: Partnership for Peace and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council

Released June 29

Statement by the Press Secretary: Elections in Afghanistan

Statement by the Press Secretary on the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Darfur region of Sudan

Advance text: Remarks by the President in Istanbul, Turkey

Fact sheet: NATO-Ukraine Relations

Released June 30

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister David Oddsson of Iceland

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Antonio Saca of El Salvador

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 4589, H.R. 4635, and S. 2238

Released July 1

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by His Majesty King Mohamed VI of Morocco

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Michigan

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Arkansas

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to California

Released July 2

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Fact sheet: Over 1.5 Million Jobs Created Since August With 10 Straight Months of Job Gains

Acts Approved by the President

Approved June 30

H.R. 4589 / Public Law 108-262
TANF and Related Programs Continuation Act of 2004

H.R. 4635 / Public Law 108-263
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004, Part III

S. 2238 / Public Law 108-264
Bunning-Bereuter-Blumenauer Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004

S. 2507 / Public Law 108–265
Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization
Act of 2004

Approved July 2

H.R. 3378 / Public Law 108–266
Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004

H.R. 3504 / Public Law 108–267
To amend the Indian Self-Determination
and Education Assistance Act to redesignate
the American Indian Education Foundation
as the National Fund for Excellence in
American Indian Education

H.R. 4322 / Public Law 108–268
To provide for the transfer of the Nebraska
Avenue Naval Complex in the District of Co-
lumbia to facilitate the establishment of the
headquarters for the Department of Home-
land Security, to provide for the acquisition
by the Department of the Navy of suitable
replacement facilities, and for other purposes

S. 1848 / Public Law 108–269
To amend the Bend Pine Nursery Land Con-
veyance Act to direct the Secretary of Agri-
culture to sell the Bend Pine Nursery Admin-
istrative Site in the State of Oregon