

the war was over, we worked with the Japanese to build a democracy. There's a lot of people in this country who were skeptical about that action, skeptical about whether an enemy could ever become an ally, skeptical about whether Japan would become a democracy, skeptical about efforts to help them after they had hurt many of our citizens. But people believed. And as a result of that belief, today, I sit down with Prime Minister Koizumi, talking about how to keep the peace that we all want.

Someday, a duly elected leader of Iraq will sit down with an American President, talking about how to keep the peace in the Middle East, and our children and our grandchildren will be better off for it.

I believe that millions in the Middle East plead in silence for freedom. I believe that women in the Middle East want to grow up in a free society, and they want to raise their children in a free society. I believe that if given a chance, the people of the Middle East will embrace the most honorable form of government ever devised by man: democracy. I believe all these things because freedom is not America's gift to the world; freedom is the Almighty God's gift to each man and woman in this world.

For all Americans, these years in our history will always stand apart. There are quiet times in the life of a nation when little is expected of its leaders. This isn't one of those times. This is a time that requires firm resolve, clear vision, and a deep faith in the values that make us a great nation.

None of us will ever forget that week when one era ended and another began. September the 14th, 2001, I stood in the ruins of the Twin Towers. It is a day I will never forget. Workers in hardhats were there yelling at me at the top of their lungs, "Whatever it takes." I remember a fellow grabbed me by the arm, and he looked me in the eye, and he said, "Do not let me down." Ever since that day, I wake up every morning thinking about how to better protect our

country. I will never relent in defending America, whatever it takes.

Four years ago, as I traveled your great State in the caucuses and then in the general election, I pledged that if you honored me with the high office of President, I would uphold the honor and the dignity. With your help, with your hard work, I will do so for 4 more years.

God bless. Thank you all for coming. Thank you all for being here. On to victory.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:55 p.m. at the U.S. Cellular Center. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan.

Message on the Observance of Ramadan

October 15, 2004

I send warm greetings to Muslims in the United States and around the world as they begin observance of Ramadan, the holiest season in their faith.

Ramadan commemorates the revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammed. By teaching the importance of compassion, justice, mercy, and peace, the Qur'an has guided many millions of believers across the centuries. Today, this holy time is still set aside for Muslims to remember their dependence on God through fasting and prayer, and to show charity to those in need.

American history has taught us to welcome the contributions of men and women of all faiths, for we share the fundamental values of religious freedom, love of family, and gratitude to God. Americans who practice the Islamic faith enrich our society and help our Nation build a better future.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

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.

October 9

In the morning, in St. Louis, MO, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Waterloo, IA, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Jim Glaza.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Chanhassen, MN, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Ken Porvoll. Later, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, where he was joined by Mrs. Bush.

October 10

In the evening, the President participated in a debate preparation session.

October 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Hobbs, NM, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Jamie Gaston.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Denver, CO, arriving in the afternoon. Upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Ashley Stieb.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Morrison, CO. Later, he returned to Denver, CO. While en route, he participated in a debate preparation session.

October 12

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Colorado Springs, CO, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteers Bob Carlone and Joe Henjum.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Paradise Valley, AZ, arriving in the afternoon. Upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Marcelo Chan.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Phoenix, AZ.

Also in the afternoon, the President participated in debate preparation sessions.

In the evening, the President participated in a debate preparation session. Later, he and Mrs. Bush, who joined the President earlier in the day, had dinner with Senator John McCain of Arizona and his wife, Cindy.

October 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Tempe, AZ. Later, they returned to Phoenix, AZ.

October 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Las Vegas, NV, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Dick Cancellier.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Reno, NV, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Frank Schnorbus.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Central Point, OR, arriving in the evening. Upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Lois Rodger.

Later in the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Jacksonville, OR.

October 15

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Cedar Rapids, IA. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had an intelligence briefing. Upon arrival in Cedar Rapids, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Linda Peterson.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Oshkosh, WI, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Jeff Kemp. Later, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a Victory 2004 rally at the Experimental Aircraft Association Building.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to designate Darrell Irions and Dee J. Kelly, Jr., as members of the Board of Governors on the United Service Organizations, Inc.

The President announced his intention to designate William A. Moorman as Acting Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Management.