

Georgia's Possible NATO Membership

Q. Georgia is seeking NATO membership.

The President. Yes.

Q. How big is chance?

The President. It's good. But remember, this is a performance-based criterion. In other words, there's a way to get into NATO. And I will tell President Saakashvili that there's—to look at the countries that have recently been admitted and see what decisions they made and how they—what they did. And I would hope it's good. But just remember, it's a process. It just doesn't happen overnight. And that's not only what I have told your President, but I've told the President of Ukraine and other countries that are interested in joining NATO.

Q. Thanks for your precious time, Mr. President.

The President. Glad you're here. Looking forward to going to Georgia. It's going to be an exciting trip.

Q. I wish you a successful and safest trip.

The President. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 10:07 a.m. in the Map Room at the White House for later broadcast and was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 6. In his remarks, the President referred to President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine.

**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.

April 30

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

May 2

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office,

he and Mrs. Bush met with 2005 Preserve America Presidential Award recipients.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in an interview with Al Roker of NBC television for later broadcast.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Abel Pacheco of Costa Rica, President Leonel Fernandez of the Dominican Republic, President Elias Antonio Saca of El Salvador, President Oscar Berger of Guatemala, President Ricardo Maduro of Honduras, and President Enrique Bolanos of Nicaragua to the White House for a meeting on May 12.

The President announced his intention to nominate R. Thomas Weimer to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior (Policy, Management, and Budget).

The President announced his intention to designate David A. Sampson as Acting Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

May 3

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Canton, MS, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Ruth Wilson.

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

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of the Presidential delegation to the Czech Republic to attend the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Pilsen, on May 6: Jim Nicholson (head of delegation); William J. Cabaniss; Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady, USA (Ret.); Linda Maynor; and Julian Niemczyk.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert M. Kimmitt to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

May 4

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy to express his regret concerning the death of an Italian intelligence agent who was killed at a U.S. checkpoint in Iraq on March 4. He then had a telephone conversation with President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia to discuss his upcoming visit to Georgia and other issues.

Later in the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then met in the Oval Office with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

May 5

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hu Jintao of China to discuss the situation in North Korea, economic issues, China-Taiwan relations, and other issues. He then had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Nigerian President and Chairman of the African Union Olusegun Obasanjo.

May 6

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush departed for Riga, Latvia.

Later in the morning, while en route to Riga aboard Air Force One, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to congratulate him on his May 5 reelection. He then had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush arrived at Riga, Latvia.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia to the White House on May 25.

The President announced his intention to nominate Edmund S. Hawley to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration).

The President announced his intention to nominate Jill L. Sigal to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs).

The President announced his intention to nominate James M. Derham to be Ambassador to Guatemala.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Johann Dieter to be Ambassador to Belize.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rodolphe M. Vallee to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic.

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 May 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Presidents From Central America and Dominican Republic To Visit Washington

Released May 3

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Trent Duffy

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Defense Policy and Strategy at the National Security Council

Released May 4

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley on the President's upcoming visit to Latvia, the Netherlands, Russia, and Georgia

Released May 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 19 and H.J. Res. 20

Released May 6

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of President Yudhoyono of Indonesia