

We don't know the course of—our own struggle will take or the sacrifices that might lie ahead. We do know, however, that the defense of freedom is worth our sacrifice. We do know that the love of freedom is the mightiest force of history. We do know the strength and character that our troops and military families bring to the fight, and we do know that the cause of freedom will once again prevail.

These are historic times. It's a vital time for our Nation and the world. And I want to thank you for your courage and thank you for your sacrifice. May God bless your loved ones. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:33 a.m. at Bolling Air Force Base. In his remarks, he referred to Jonnie Nance, chairman, Joint Armed Forces Officers' Wives Luncheon; Lynne Pace, wife of Gen. Peter Pace, USMC, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; Cindy Giambastiani, wife of Adm. Edmund P. Giambastiani, USN, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; Linda Odierno, wife of Lt. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, USA, Assistant to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; Joyce Rumsfeld, wife of Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld; Meryl J. Chertoff, wife of Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff; Dorothy "Doty" England, wife of Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England; Mary Harvey, wife of Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Ayman Al-Zawahiri, founder of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad and senior Al Qaida associate; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; Mohammed Bouyeri, who was convicted of the murder of Theo van Gogh; Anneke van Gogh, mother of Theo van Gogh; Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, Al Qaida's chief of operations for the Persian Gulf; Nurjaman Riduan Isamuddin (also known as Hambali), Al Qaida's chief operational planner in Southeast Asia; A.Q. Khan, former head of Pakistan's nuclear program; President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan; Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, former commander, Multi-National Security Transition Command—Iraq; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Massoud Barzani of the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government

October 25, 2005

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome President Barzani of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq to the Oval Office. He's a man of courage. He's a man who has stood up to a tyrant.

He wore this outfit because it wasn't all that long ago, if he had worn this outfit and was captured by Saddam Hussein's thugs, he would have been killed for wearing it. He feels comfortable wearing it here because we're a free land, and he feels comfortable wearing it in his home country because Iraq is free.

We had a very good discussion. The President was very helpful on the current constitution. I assured him that America will stand with the people that desire a free and democratic Iraq. The President is—has got a clear vision of the future of Iraq, one where different religions and different backgrounds—people of different religions and backgrounds can live together in peace.

And so, Mr. President, welcome. It's an honor to have you here.

President Barzani. Mr. President, allow me on behalf of the people of Kurdistan and myself to thank you very much. We in Kurdistan, particularly, and also in Iraq, generally, we highly value the courage and bravery of your leadership. I hope that everybody would realize what the fact on the ground is about Iraq. It was a brave decision that you have made. You have liberated a people from a dictatorial regime that has hurt a lot of the people.

At this time we express our condolences, and we express our sympathy to the families of your brave men and women in uniform, those who have sacrificed their lives in order to make other people free and liberated. There is no doubt that if we step back from this and not be determined, be rest assured that the terrorists will come to the gates of you and us, and they will fight us. Therefore, we have to think about nothing else but victory. And I'm quite confident that with your leadership, with your support and support of

the United States military and United States people and also the—heroes of the people of Iraq, in general, the people of Kurdistan, we will achieve success at the end.

For those who are antidemocratic and also those who are against the process, they are very limited, and those who are supportive of your leadership, supportive of democratic process, they are many, and they highly appreciate the sacrifices that have been made by the American people and the American army. There are also many in Iraq, in general, and also in Kurdistan, all of them are appreciative.

Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:46 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. President Barzani spoke in Kurdish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Executive Order 13388—Further Strengthening the Sharing of Terrorism Information To Protect Americans

October 25, 2005

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 1016 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–458), and in order to further strengthen the effective conduct of United States counterterrorism activities and protect the territory, people, and interests of the United States of America, including against terrorist attacks, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. To the maximum extent consistent with applicable law, agencies shall, in the design and use of information systems and in the dissemination of information among agencies:

(a) give the highest priority to (i) the detection, prevention, disruption, preemption, and mitigation of the effects of terrorist activities against the territory, people, and interests of the United States of America; (ii) the interchange of terrorism information among agen-

cies; (iii) the interchange of terrorism information between agencies and appropriate authorities of State, local, and tribal governments, and between agencies and appropriate private sector entities; and (iv) the protection of the ability of agencies to acquire additional such information; and

(b) protect the freedom, information privacy, and other legal rights of Americans in the conduct of activities implementing subsection (a).

Sec. 2. Duties of Heads of Agencies Possessing or Acquiring Terrorism Information. To implement the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, the head of each agency that possesses or acquires terrorism information:

(a) shall promptly give access to the terrorism information to the head of each other agency that has counterterrorism functions, and provide the terrorism information to each such agency, unless otherwise directed by the President, and consistent with (i) the statutory responsibilities of the agencies providing and receiving the information; (ii) any guidance issued by the Attorney General to fulfill the policy set forth in subsection 1(b) of this order; and (iii) other applicable law, including sections 102A(g) and (i) of the National Security Act of 1947, section 1016 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (including any policies, procedures, guidelines, rules, and standards issued pursuant thereto), sections 202 and 892 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Executive Order 12958 of April 17, 1995, as amended, and Executive Order 13311 of July 29, 2003; and

(b) shall cooperate in and facilitate production of reports based on terrorism information with contents and formats that permit dissemination that maximizes the utility of the information in protecting the territory, people, and interests of the United States.

Sec. 3. Preparing Terrorism Information for Maximum Distribution. To assist in expeditious and effective implementation by agencies of the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, the common standards for the sharing of terrorism information established pursuant to section 3 of Executive Order 13356 of August 27, 2004, shall be used, as appropriate, in carrying out section 1016 of