

**Message to the Senate Transmitting Amendments to the International Telecommunication Union Constitution and Convention**

July 10, 2006

*To the Senate of the United States:*

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the amendments to the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (Geneva, 1992), as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) and the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), together with the declarations and reservations by the United States, all as contained in the Final Acts of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Marrakesh, 2002).

I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State concerning these amendments.

The Plenipotentiary Conference (Marrakesh, 2002) adopted amendments that would expand the field of individuals eligible for election to the Radio Regulations Board; provide for functional privileges and immunities for members of the Radio Regulations Board; strengthen the finances of the International Telecommunication Union by, among others, providing for sector member contributions to defray the expenses of regional conferences in which they participate and clarifying that operational plans prepared by the International Telecommunication Union Secretary-General and Directors of each of the International Telecommunication Union sectors must reflect the financial implications of the activities proposed; provide for sector members to be represented as observers at meetings of the Council; and recognize the authority of the Radiocommunication Assembly, the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, and the World Telecommunication Development Conference to adopt working methods and procedures for their respective sectors.

Consistent with long-standing practices, the United States, in signing the 2002 amendments, made certain declarations and reservations. Subject to those declarations and reservations, I believe the United States should ratify the 2002 amendments to the

International Telecommunication Union Constitution and Convention. Those amendments will contribute to the International Telecommunication Union's ability to adapt to changes in the telecommunication environment and, in so doing, serve the needs of the United States Government and United States industry. It is my hope that the Senate will take early action on this matter and give its advice and consent to ratification.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
July 10, 2006.

**Remarks at a Dinner Honoring the Special Olympics**

July 10, 2006

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for coming—Mrs. Shriver and Special Olympics athletes, friends and family. Mr. President—the President of Iceland has joined us—proud you're here, President Grimsson. And First Lady of Panama, First Lady Torrijos, is with us as well. We've got Members of the Congress and Members of the Senate. Laura and I are glad you all are here. Welcome to this special occasion.

We're here to celebrate the Special Olympics and to honor a woman who made them possible—Eunice Kennedy Shriver. And we're here to celebrate her birthday. [*Laughter*]

In a moment we'll hear from this woman who has made it her life's work to create opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities. She founded the Special Olympics in 1968 to get people with intellectual disabilities the chance to develop physical fitness, to create friendships, and experience the joy of sports competition and achievement. Today, the Special Olympics includes more than 2.25 million athletes in 150 countries. The games have become a source of unity and excitement for its participants. They've helped raise awareness of the challenges facing those with intellectual disabilities.

America upholds the values of every person and the possibilities of every life. And the Special Olympics are an example of America at its best. We share with the entire

world the spirit of joy and kindness that the Special Olympics brings.

If you ever had any doubt about how much good one person can do, look no further than this kind and gracious lady. On this special occasion, I ask you to join me in a toast to the Special Olympics and to Eunice Kennedy Shriver and to her contributions to our Nation—past, present, and future. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:40 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder and honorary chairman, Special Olympics; President Olafur Grimsson of Iceland; and Vivian Fernandez de Torrijos, wife of President Martin Torrijos Espino of Panama.

## Interview With Foreign Journalists

July 10, 2006

**The President.** I'm looking forward to it. I'm going to see Angela Merkel on her home turf. She kindly invited me to go to her part of the country. I always view that as a sign of generous hospitality, when somebody says, "Come by my home area." And I'm looking forward to going, and I'm looking forward to having a good discussion with her on a variety of subjects.

I've spoken frequently with the Chancellor since she's gotten in, and that's important, because Germany has got a very important role to play, not only in Europe but around the world. So I'm looking forward to that a lot.

And then, of course, I'll be going to Russia and have—Laura and I and the Putins will be having dinner, which is a good chance to continue our friendship. We've got a good friendship with the Putins. We're comfortable around them. And then, of course, the next day we'll have a bilateral meeting, which will be more business than pleasure. I also am looking forward to that. I've spoken to Vladimir Putin frequently over the last couple of weeks on a variety of subjects. And the world is complex. There are problems that are surfacing. I've always felt like it's best to work with friends and allies to solve the problems. And so we'll have a variety of topics on the agenda.

And then we've got the G-8. I think the topics there are relevant—energy security. I view energy security, from my perspective, as how do we diversify away from hydrocarbons. That's the definition of security from an American perspective. I will be—it just so happens, it's a really interesting moment where there's the need to be—protect our national security and economic security comes at a time when there's great concern about global warming, and it turns out that you can achieve economic and national security and protect the environment at the same time. For example, civilian nuclear power—that's going to be an important subject, as far as I'm concerned.

If you truly are concerned about protecting the environment, then it seems like to me that civilian nuclear power is a good way to go. Technologies have changed; we'll discuss that. Some agree; some don't agree. But nevertheless, it's going to be a part of the dialog. I look forward to talking to them about our research and development efforts into new types of batteries that will be able to power automobiles for the first 40 miles without using gasoline, or talk about use of ethanol or our experimentation and our work with hydrogen. In other words, there's a variety of things we can talk about to help with energy—on the energy security issue.

We'll talk about infectious diseases. I thank the Russian President for putting that on the agenda. That's going to be a very important topic—if there were to be a pandemic flu outbreak. It's important for us to have discussed our individual plans and how we intend to work collectively on the problem.

We'll talk about education matters. I intend to talk about trade. We've got—the Doha round is out there, kind of—people are wondering whether or not we'll be able to move it. I'm still upbeat about it, by the way. I think we can get something done. I just finished meeting with my trade minister and our team involved on the subject. But this will be a good forum to talk about it, not only at the first days of the G-8 but when the members of the G-20 come. There will be an important discussion with the leader of Brazil and others.

As well, one of the things we will talk about are common values that are important—