

of America cares about the form of government in Russia, that we believe in the universal values embedded in democracy. We believe in rule of law; we believe in human rights; we believe everybody has a right to be treated equally.

I explained to them that our own government and our country took a while to evolve, but nevertheless, it's important to be aiming toward a better tomorrow.

I hope my visit here was encouraging to them; it certainly was instructional for me. I explained to them my strategy of dealing with Vladimir Putin, who is my friend. Some asked me to deliver messages, which I'd be more than happy to do. I explained to them that it's in the U.S. interests to remain engaged with Russia—Russia is a great country with a fantastic future—and that the foreign policy of my administration will be to work with Russia to solve common problems and at the same time be in a position where we can have a frank exchange of ideas and philosophies and views.

I told the young leaders here that this has been a very enriching experience for me. I shared the thought—shared the idea that I'm the father of 24-year-old twin daughters. I'm looking at some folks here at the table who are their age; I'm impressed by their courage and their idealism and their desire to make their societies a better place.

So I want to thank you all for your visit. Thank you for your frank exchanges. I will you all the very best, and I ask for God's blessings on the people of Russia.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:06 p.m. at the Counsel General's residence. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Ambassador to Russia William J. Burns; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Statement Honoring Former President Gerald Ford's Birthday**

*July 14, 2006*

President Gerald Ford's story is a true American story. It is the tale of a son of the Midwest who achieved great things through hard work, dedication, courage, and humility. President Ford played football at Michigan,

received a law degree from Yale, served in the Navy during World War II, and for decades he represented western Michigan as a Republican Congressman from Grand Rapids.

Then came his appointment with history. He assumed the Presidency at a perilous moment for our country. A President had resigned; the United States was involved in a cold war; the economy was sputtering; and America's confidence was deeply shaken.

Few leaders have ever faced such challenges upon taking office. Yet President Ford met them with steadfastness and courage. His leadership helped heal a wounded nation.

Since leaving office, President Ford has set a high standard for grace and character. He has never forgotten his roots or lost sight of the things that matter—including his deep love for his wife and partner, Betty.

Laura and I join all Americans in wishing President Ford a happy birthday.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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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.

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#### **July 8**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

#### **July 10**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, in the State Dining Room and the East Room, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a social dinner and entertainment in honor of the Special Olympics.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to Abuja, Nigeria, to attend the Leon H. Sullivan Summit on July 19: Alphonso Jackson (head of delegation); John Campbell; John A. Simon; Herbert H. Lusk II; and Anita Smith.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to attend the 800th anniversary of the Great Mongolian State from July 12–13: Mike Johanns (head of delegation); and Robert M. Peck.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to Turkey to attend the opening of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline on July 13: Jeffrey Clay Sell (head of delegation); and Ross Wilson.

### **July 11**

In the morning, the President had breakfast with Republican congressional leaders. Later, he had an intelligence briefing. Then, in the Oval Office, he and Mrs. Bush met with President Alejandro Toledo of Peru and his wife, Eliane Karp de Toledo.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a telephone conversation with crew members of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. He then participated in a photo opportunity with members of the National Council on the Arts.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Port Washington, WI. Later, he traveled to Milwaukee, WI.

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

The President announced his intention to nominate Cindy Lou Courville to be U.S. Representative to the African Union with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Philip S. Goldberg to be Ambassador to Bolivia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Henry M. Paulson, Jr., to be U.S. Governor of the following organizations: the International Monetary Fund; the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; the Inter-American Development Bank; the African Development Fund; the Asian Development Fund; and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate John C. Rood to be Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Non-Proliferation.

The President announced his appointment of Peter W. Tredick as a member of the Presidential Emergency Board No. 239.

The President announced his intention to designate C.W. Bill Young as the President's Personal Representative at the Farnborough International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition and Air Show from July 17–23.

The President announced his appointment of Kevin Sullivan as Assistant to the President for Communications.

### **July 12**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Heiligendamm, Germany, arriving in the evening.

### **July 13**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He and Mrs. Bush then traveled to Stralsund, Germany. Later, in the Kollegien Room at the Town Hall, they participated in a guestbook signing ceremony and a greeting with local community representatives.

In the afternoon, in the Achtmannskammer Room of the Town Hall, the President had a working lunch with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany. Later, he and Mrs. Bush toured St. Nikolai Church.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Trinwillershagen, Germany, where, at the Zu den Linden restaurant, they attended a social dinner and entertainment hosted by Chancellor Merkel. They then returned to Heiligendamm, Germany.

The White House announced that the President will host Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq at the White House on July 25.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard W. Graber to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic.

The President announced his intention to nominate Christopher A. Padilla to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce (Export Administration).

The President announced his intention to nominate Calvin L. Scovel to be Inspector General at the Department of Transportation.

The President declared a major disaster in Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding from June 23 to July 6.

#### **July 14**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia. While en route aboard Air Force One, the President had separate telephone conversations with King Abdallah II of Jordan, President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, and Prime Minister Fuad Siniora of Lebanon to discuss the situation in the Middle East. Upon arrival, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Monument to the Heroic Defenders of Leningrad.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Strelna, Russia.

In the evening, in the Italian Guest Room at Konstantinovsky Palace, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a social dinner hosted by President Vladimir Putin of Russia and his wife, Lyudmila.

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### **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

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#### **Submitted July 12**

Philip S. Goldberg,  
of Massachusetts, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Bolivia.

Henry M. Paulson, Jr.,  
of New York, to be U.S. Governor of the International Monetary Fund for a term of 5 years; U.S. Governor of the International

Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of 5 years; U.S. Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of 5 years; U.S. Governor of the African Development Bank for a term of 5 years; U.S. Governor of the Asian Development Bank; U.S. Governor of the African Development Fund; U.S. Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, vice John W. Snow, resigned.

John C. Rood,  
of Arizona, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Security and Non-Proliferation), vice Stephen Geoffrey Rademaker, resigned.

#### **Submitted July 13**

Cindy Lou Courville,  
of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Nora Barry Fischer,  
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, vice Robert J. Cindrach, resigned.

Richard W. Graber,  
of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Czech Republic.

Sara Elizabeth Lioi,  
of Ohio, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, vice Lesley Brooks Wells, retired.

Christopher A. Padilla,  
of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, vice Peter Lichtenbaum.

Calvin L. Scovel,  
of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Transportation, vice Kenneth M. Mead, resigned.